

Coushatta Camellia Society



October 2015 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

Fall is the time for cooler temperatures, but our friendships stay warm, despite the weather.

Our first meeting of the year, October 4, went very well with good attendance and a fine meal with all the homemade pot luck dishes and desserts. There was a business meeting and discussions led by several of our members about seedlings and grafted plants.

With our camellia show coming up in mid-January, we are fortunate to have Tommy Weeks as our program for the November meeting. He will be doing a presentation on flower preparation and gibbing in time to get us ready with our best blooms.

In addition we will be deciding what we should do to have a group celebration of the holidays at our December meeting. Come and bring your ideas.

We owe a big thank you to our members Dick Eidem, Bill McCranor and Don Marcotte for working at the Texas Pollinators Symposium of the Master Gardeners in Huntsville selling camellia plants. They sold 18 plants and netted our Club \$450. Not only were they there to sell the plants, but they got plants to the event and took back the unsold ones to the Eidems. What a busy day!

Upcoming Events

November 8 November meeting
2:30 p.m. social; 3:00 p.m. Mtg.
Our speaker – Tommy Weeks
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336W, Conroe

December 13 ... December meeting
Format for this meeting
To be determined at November
Meeting

January 10 ... January meeting
2:30 p.m. social; 3:00 p.m. Mtg.
Our speaker – TBD
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336W, Conroe

January 14 ... Conroe Show Set up
Come and help

January 15 ... Conroe Show
Bring some of your best
Camellias to show

A Message from the Treasurer:

Our treasurer would like to thank all of you who have already paid your dues, and to remind those who have not yet sent in their money - NOW is the time to PAY THOSE DUES! Its \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a joint membership, a price which can't be beat.

You may call **Dick Eidem**, our Treasurer, if you are not sure whether or not you have paid your dues for 2015-2016.

Mail your check to him at 11363 Newton Circle, Conroe, TX 77303-3249

Officers and Directors:

President	Don Marcotte
1 st Vice President, Programs	TBD
2 nd Vice President, Show Person	Randy McDaniel
Recording Secretary	Sarah Eidem
Treasurer	Dick Eidem
Immediate Past President	Oscar Schank
At-large-Director	Bill McCranor
At-large-Director	Hal Vanis
At-large-Director	Dudley Boudreaux



Brief Calendar for the Year

- Oct 4 - Kickoff Meeting
- Oct 16 - Annual Plant Sale
- Nov 8 - Regular Meeting
- Dec 13 - Meeting - Possible Party to be decided
- Jan 10 - Regular Meeting Nominating Committee
- Jan 15 - Setup Conroe Show
- Jan 16 - Conroe Show
- Feb 5 - Huntsville Show setup
- Feb 6 - Huntsville Show
- Feb 21 - Home Tour
- Mar 13 - Regular Meeting Election of officers
- Apr10 - End of year Meeting

Selecting and Locating Your Camellia Plants

By *William L. (Bill) Wilson*, Decatur, Georgia

First of all let us establish that there will be no attempt at humor in this article; far from it, for the business of selecting a camellia plant is an important matter; actually a matter of LIFE or DEATH. There are a number of things that should be taken into consideration in the selection of a plant but never let anyone take from you the privilege of making this weighty decision. Therein lies a great deal of the fun, as well as the responsibility.

Your local nurseryman makes the first selection of many plants, from which you have an opportunity to choose. These are the major points which both you and he should consider:

- (1) The largest plants are not always the best buy. The 2 to 3 ft. size is very desirable.
- (2) Plants grown (not recently lifted into) in containers have all their roots available at the time of sale
- (3) There are many varieties of camellias, but not all are good outdoors in this area.
- (4) You may think that you prefer formal double or imbricated flower, but in general they do not perform best outdoors.
- (5) If you select a balled-and-burlap plant, and the soil is very heavy, use caution and avoid getting cheese-like clay. Soil of this kind must be very carefully removed from the roots before planting or they may never develop in the new location.
- (6) Do not choose plants with yellow leaves, dead wood, or blemishes on the bark, but rather look for good green color, crisp leaves, and general vigorous appearance. (It should be noted that a drooping habit of growth is characteristic and normal with certain varieties.)
- (7) Look for healthy growth buds, and don't judge a plant by the number of bloom buds.
- (8) Grafted plants are not necessarily better plants, for trouble can later develop at the point of union of scion and understock.
- (9) Early (fall) and late (March 1-April 15) varieties have certain advantages since they bloom at times when we have less cold weather. However, there are many more midseason (January-February) varieties and most of the ones we have do bloom at this time. Therefore, do not discount midseason flowers, for many *are* suitable for outdoors and give us some of our most beautiful blooms.

Now as to locating your plant; the book may say to select a spot on the north side of the house. However, we have to remember that your north side is the south exposure of your neighbor. So rather keep in mind these general principles:

- (1) Semi-shade is desirable especially that provided by pine trees. Certain varieties, however, do perform well in full sun. Your nurseryman should be able to inform you as to these. The color of the plant will be better in semi-shade, while you may get a few more bloom buds in a sunny area.
- (2) It is most important to keep the cold north and west wind off the plant. Use natural means, such as protection by hillside or terrain or windbreak of evergreen plants, or you may employ structural means, as fence.
- (3) Camellias should always be located where they can be assured of good drainage. This is a matter of location as well as correct planting.