

Coushatta Camellia Society

Late November 2017 Newsletter

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday that gives us a good nudge to remember all for which we are thankful. Among many things in life for which we can be thankful are the beautiful camellias that we all like to grow and show. We can also be thankful that we have the Coushatta Camellia Society to give us opportunities to learn more and to enjoy fellowship.

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Our November meeting went well with a number of items discussed and with great feedback from the members

Prior to the meeting, Dudley Boudreau taught a class for judges whose terms were expiring in 2017. It is necessary for them to review and update their information. We are fortunate that we have Dudley, who has rejoined us after a lengthy illness, to provide this training. Very pleased to have you back, Dudley.

At our social period prior to the meeting, we enjoyed refreshments provided by several of our members. We are grateful to the members who brought food or drink.

The December 2-3, Texas Camellia Show was discussed and members were advised of the help needed (see the article later in the Newsletter). Regarding the January show on the 13-14 weekend, similar activities will need support. Sunday, January 14 is the date for our regular meeting and it was agreed that we should go ahead and have our meeting, but it will be held in one of the rooms in the Gym since we will be hosting the Show from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. that day.

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 10. We usually eat out but a suggestion was made that we perhaps have a pot luck instead, but the group chose to have the meal at a restaurant. The members generally preferred Italian food so a suitable restaurant will be determined /The members were reminded that the meal will be Dutch Treat. For the last several years CCS had chosen to pay for the dinner; however, this and other expenses have greatly reduced our funds. It was also agreed that to avoid difficulty with paying for the bill that each attendee would pay \$20 which would cover the meal. Should some wish to have wine then that will be an added expense for them to pay separately. (More information on the dinner is provided later in this Newsletter)

(continued next page)



Upcoming Events

December 1, 2017

Set up for Camellia Show
2:30 p.m

December 2, 2017

Camellia Show –
First Christian Church Gym
7:30am =10:00 set out camellias
10:30 Judging begins

December 3, 2017

Texas Camellia Show –
Open to public
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m
Then clean up

December 10, 2017

Christmas Dinner Party
Luigi's Italian Restaurant

January 12, 2018

Set up for Camellia Show

January 13, 2018

Camellia Show
First Christian Church Gym
7:30am =10:00 set out camellias
10:30 Judging begins

January 14, 2018

Camellia Show – Open to
public
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m
Regular Meeting 2:30- 4:00

Regarding the trip to Peckerwood Gardens which has been previously discussed, it was agreed that late February or late March would be a good time. Further information on this will be provided at the January meeting.

The program for the day was to allow members to ask questions to which our expert members would comment. Tommy Weeks had brought a tray of camellia blossoms and some of the other members brought flowers and we are grateful to them.

Texas Camellia Show

December 2-3, 2017

**First Christian Church, Fellowship Hall
3500 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe, Texas**

Enter Blooms: Saturday – 7:00a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Judging Saturday – 10:30 a.m. – Noon

Judges Luncheon Saturday - 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

SHOW HOURS – PUBLIC IS WELCOME - 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Camellia plants available for sale - Starting at 1:00 p.m.

As the calendar shows, **Friday, Dec. 1, 2:30** there will be a need for volunteers to set up for the show. On **Saturday**, there is a need for volunteers to help with clerking, moving flowers to proper table after judging, and various other needs. The Judges and volunteers lunch will be served in the right back room and Su and Peter Chan will be overseeing that dining room – several volunteers could be used to help them. On **Sunday** there is a need for volunteers to be available to help tear down at 4:00 – several people have signed up to be at the desk as the public arrives and several people are needed to help otherwise. For Questions – Frank Ohrt - 713-865-6482
Or Randy McDaniel - 936-718-8728

Please do not hesitate to bring blooms for the show – it is fun and you learn. If you do have blooms to enter be sure that you have the proper name and size for the camellia. You will need to fill out a card that morning to go with your display.

ANNUAL CCS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 10, 2017

5:00 p.m.

Luigi's Italian Restaurant

3708 W Davis St, Conroe, TX 77304

So that we will have adequate seating it will be necessary to make a reservation. At our November meeting 23 members signed that they would attend. If you have not indicated your intention to attend and wish to, please contact:

Henry Wei, 225-284-9418 or jfwei@yahoo.com

Remember it is Dutch Treat and your cost will be \$20.00 which you may pay that evening or you may pay to Henry at 50Barley Hall St, The Woodlands, TX 77382. That amount covers your dinner, tax and tip – please be aware of this when ordering. If you choose to have wine that will be extra for you to pay that evening.

Brief Calendar for the Year

September 10, 2017

Cancelled

October 8, 2017

First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe
Regular Meeting

November 12, 2017

Regular Meeting

December 2-3, 2017

Camellia Show –
First Christian Church Gym

December 10, 2017

Christmas Dinner Party

January 12, 2018

Set Up and Pre-Show Pizza Party
First Christian Church

January 13-14, 2018

48th Annual Coushatta Camellia
Show
First Christian Church

January 14, 2018

Regular Meeting

February 11, 2018

Regular Meeting

March 11, 2018

Regular Meeting

April 8, 2018

End of Year Party

HISTORY OF CAMELLIAS

Today there are recognized over 200 different species of Camellia - all native to the Orient. The Camellia is known in Japan as Tsubaki. For many centuries, before the westernization of Japan, the native tsubaki or "tree with shining leaves" held a special place in Japanese thought. It was a belief of the Shinto religion that the gods in spirit form made the flowers of the tsubaki their home when on an earthly visit. Plantings of the tsubaki were an essential feature of temple gardens, graveyards, and other areas associated with the religious life of the community. Today, many old varieties of camellia may be found in the old temple compounds of Japan. Camellias are not as popular as cut flowers in Japan because they are associated with "beheading". The camellia blossom often falls off the plant in its entirety, symbolic of a man's head being cut off.

The total number of named camellia varieties is believed to be as high as 20,000, although this figure is constantly increasing. The International Camellia Society published the International Camellia Register, an accumulation of over thirty years of research. This multi- volume book contains all but the latest camellia varieties from all countries of the world.

The most popular camellia throughout the world is often not even recognized as a member of this family. This plant is *Camellia sinensis*, better known as the tea plant. The word tea comes from the Chinese Amoy dialect for the word t'e. Tea is better known in China and Japan as ch'a from the Cantonese dialect. Tea first became popular in China during the reign of the Emperor Nung around 1700 B.C. During the period of trade, the East India Company brought tea from China to Europe where it became very popular. It may have first arrived in London in 1650, where it was known as Tay or Tee.

Tea quickly became a part of life and was known as "the cup that cheers but does not inebriate". After tea became so universally popular, the government decided to place a tax on it which led to the Boston Tea Party and later to the American Revolution. So you might say that a camellia was the origin of the Revolution which created the United States as a separate country from Great Britain.

It is generally agreed that the *Camellia japonica* arrived in London aboard a boat of the East India Company. Tea was brought to Europe aboard boats of the East India Company from China. Officials tried to bring tea plants to England for propagation, but either by mistake or on purpose, plants of *Camellia japonica* were sent by the Chinese instead. The first japonica was growing in England some time before 1739 in the greenhouse of Lord Petre. Since that time, this has become the most popular of the ornamental camellias, with thousands of varieties having been named

The Camellia was named by Linnaeus in honor of a Jesuit priest serving in the Philippines - Joseph Kamel. He probably never saw any plants, but this is not really known. Of the approximately 200 species of camellia known today, only a few are grown in the United States for their ornamental value.

(Courtesy of American Camellia Society)

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Several years ago Don Marcotte talked about interesting websites on camellias. He said that in his opinion the best one is Atlantic coast camellia society. His reasoning for this is that they have pictures of more than 2500 different flowers. The American Camellia Society (ACS) also has pictures but nothing compared to Atlantic Coast. However, the ACS provides considerable information and references that are helpful and interesting. Some others are Gulf Coast Camellia Society, International Camellia Society, and last but not least our own website Our website has many Utube videos on such things as gibbing, air layering, growing seedlings and many others. Take time to visit these websites. Their addresses are:

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society --- atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org

American Camellia Society --- americancamellias.com

Gulf Coast Camellia Society – gulfcoastcamellias.org

Coushatta Camellia Society -- coushattacamelliasociety.com.

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