

# *Coushatta Camellia Society*



## *November 2018 Newsletter*

### *A Message from Our CCS President*

#### **Greetings Fellow Camellia Lovers**

It's fall now, and time for some serious preparations for another season of lovely blooms. If your plants have tea scale, it's a great time to get after them with a non-toxic horticultural oil spray. If you have multiple buds in clusters, you might consider de-budding. (Gently twist off all but one of them for better show flowers.) If you have camellia varieties that are mid or late season bloomers, now is the time to start "gibbing" for earlier blooms for our January camellia show.

We will have gibberellic acid available at the November 11th meeting, a great program on organic gardening for the next meeting, and details of the Christmas dinner, and I hope to see you all there.

Frank Ohrt  
President

### *Upcoming Events*

#### **November 11, 2018**

Regular Meeting  
First Christian Church Parlor  
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe  
Social 2:30 pm – Meeting 3:00  
"Organic Gardening"

#### **December 9, 2018**

Christmas Party  
Plans to be made shortly

#### **January 11, 2019**

Set Up and Pre-Show Pizza Party  
First Christian Church Gym

#### **January 12-13, 2019**

44th Annual Coushatta Camellia Show  
First Christian Church Gym

#### **January 13, 2019**

Regular Meeting

#### **44th Annual Coushatta Camellia Show**

It is not too early to be planning your participation in our camellia show which will be on January 12, 2019. This is the most important event of our CCS year and you can help. There are many ways that you can help - set up is on Friday (11th), the day of the show there is clerking, staffing the front desk and the plant sales, setting up lunch for the judges, etc, being available for various little jobs as needed, greeting visitors in the afternoon. Each of us should be working with our camellia plants toward having beautiful blooms to enter. The more blooms we have, the better our show. Frank referred to "gibbing" – see the article further in the Newsletter.

Our Show Chair is Randy McDaniel [mcpuli@consolidated.net](mailto:mcpuli@consolidated.net) . let him know you can help



## Organic Gardening Made Simple

Our November meeting program on organic gardening will be given by Lucy Harrell. You don't want to miss this very special presentation. (Specially arranged for us by Linda Estrada) Lucy is a Lecturer/Author/ Instructor/ Designer/ Consultant and A Specialist on Demanding Landscape Environments with Advanced Horticultural Studies from Texas A&M. Lucy is a specialty landscape designer, gives workshops and classes on Organic Gardening, Texas Natives, Landscape Design, and Crafting with Herbs and Flowers. She works with individuals and professionals, consults for organic garden centers, trains lawn maintenance companies and lectures to the public on using organic products and her proven techniques all over Texas. Lucy's website [lucyharrell.com](http://lucyharrell.com)

### **"Beekeeping and Honey"**

Our October program was presented by Phyllis Martin and Nanette Davis from Montgomery County Beekeepers Association. It was a very interesting program with much lively and many questions. Thanks to Phyllis and Nanette for a very special presentation. And, thank you, Linda Estrada for arranging this.

### **Officers and Directors:2018-2019**

President	Frank Ohrt
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs	Edward Estrada
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Show Chair	Randy McDaniel
Recording Secretary	Kelli Hornsby
Treasurer	Henry Wei
Immediate Past President	Jo Ann Treat
At-large-Director	Bill McCranor
At-large-Director	Don Marcotte
At-large-Director	Dudley Boudreaux

### **Brief Calendar for the Year**

#### **September 9, 2018**

Kickoff - Social  
First Christian Church Parlor  
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

#### **October 14, 2018**

Regular Meeting

#### **November 11, 2018**

Regular Meeting

#### **December 9, 2018**

Christmas Party

#### **January 11, 2019**

Set Up and Pre-Show Pizza  
Party  
First Christian Church Gym

#### **January 12-13, 2019**

44th Annual Coushatta  
Camellia Show  
First Christian Church

#### **January 13, 2019**

Regular Meeting

#### **February 10, 2019**

Regular Meeting

#### **March 10, 2019**

Regular Meeting

#### **April 14, 2019**

End of Year Party

## **CHEMICAL BLOOM STIMULATION** “Gibbing”

(A Garden Book for Houston and the Gulf Coast)

Chemical treatment of camellias with a natural plant hormone, **gibberellin (GIB)**, to accelerate the normal blooming cycle and increase the size of the blooms has been widely adopted by the camellia flower show group. The same hormone is used more commonly in commercial agriculture to accelerate the normal maturation cycle and increase the crop yield. For camellias, GIB can be used in the acid or potassium salt form in a 10,000 ppm solution. It is usually applied by removing a growth adjacent to a mature flower bud and placing one drop of the solution in the vegetative cup at the base of the growth bud, as illustrated below. This supplies the flower bud with an excessive amount of the same growth hormone that produces the normal flower. The effect of the treatment varies with species, variety and bud. It speeds up blooming time in varying degrees, increases the bloom size, improves the quality of many blooms, damages others, does not damage mature plants if used in moderation, damages smaller plants if used to excess, and may kill very small plants.

GIB is useful to the camellia show hobbyists because it gives larger flowers early in the year so shows can be held before the flowers can be damaged by freezing weather and fungus diseases. Home gardeners are eligible to participate in all American Camellia Society shows, and some may desire to practice the GIB treatment for their own



### **WHAT'S A CAMELLIA TO YOU?**

Webster defines a camellia as “any of several shrubs or trees of the genus *Camellia*, native to Asia, esp. *C.japonica*, having shiny evergreen leaves and showy, variously colored flowers.” Sounds innocent enough, right? Wrong! Webster’s definition does apply, but what he doesn’t tell you is there is a hidden risk involved when you become the proud owner of your first seemingly innocuous camellia plant.

Sometimes it is love at first sight. Love of the gorgeous ‘Elegans Splendor’, love of the spectacular bloom of the ‘Betty Sheffield Supreme’, or love of the demure ‘Debutante’. But, sometimes it catches you completely unawares. You innocently purchase your first camellia, plant it in just the right spot in your garden, perhaps thinking you will just use one as a specimen plant. But it creeps up on you. Pretty soon you are transplanting your old favorite flower of the past to another spot so you can have just one more camellia. Soon you are planting a hedge row of them or using them in wooden tubs.

You look out on your garden one winter morning and realize you’re entranced by the shrub of the genus *Camellia*. You’ve run out of places to plant them. Now you just leave them in the ugly black plastic containers as they came from the nursery. You are uncontrollably attending local and distant camellia flower shows. You haunt all the nurseries near and far searching for that certain variety you just must have. You join the local camellia society and even, yes, join The American Camellia Society!

So, what’s a camellia to you? The camellia can start out as a casual whim, but can develop into a consuming lifelong passion!

*You have been forewarned! It happened to me!*

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