

Coushatta

Camellia



November 2008 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

Society

GREETINGS CAMELLIA LOVERS!

It's the season to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives, not the least of which is the lovely camellia!



HELPING HANDS: CCS members gathered at the home of Bill & Laurie McCranor to help clear Hurricane Ike damaged trees from the camellias. Insurance adjusters estimated 40 tons of trees fell. Pictured from the left - Dennis Bilyeu, Mike Mendeck, Bill McCranor, Laurie McCranor, Sarah Eidem, Dick Eidem, Judy Weidner, Meg Mendeck.

Houston Camellia Show

The Houston Camellia Society, with the help of many Conroe helpers, had a successful Camellia Show on November 8 & 9th. Gordon Rabalais won Gold Sweepstakes and Hal Vanis won Silver Sweepstakes. Hal Vanis won both Very Large and Runner up Very Large Japonicas, Best Retic and Best Non Retic Hybrid Awards.. Tommy Weeks won Best Min-Med Non Retic Hybrid with Joe Nuccio while pheasant hunting in N. Dakota. Morris Waller won Runner Up in Sasanquas with his Plantation Pinks. Dennis Bilyeu won Tray of Three with three Debutantes. Greg Davis won both Small and Miniature Japonicas. Gordon Rabalais won all of the remaining—nine top awards. Mr. Jim Campbell of Riverside Camellias in Covington LA. brought a truck load of grafted camellias to the Show and sold all of them. The Green Chile and Chicken Enchilada Casserole catered lunch topped off the festive event. *by Greg Davis*

Upcoming Events

December 2 December Social
Berkshire Plantation
Chicken stuffed with cranberries,
plus Roast Beef -\$25.00 per person
Cost includes salad, vegetable, bread,
dessert & soft drink. Cash bar available.

December 6 Slidell, LA
Ozone Camellia Club Show

December 20 Covington, LA
Northshore Camellia Club Show

January 6, 2009 January meeting
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program
Program: Preparation for Show
Speaker: Tommy Weeks
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

January 10 Metairie, LA
Camellia Club of New Orleans Show

January 16-18 Conroe, TX
Coushatta Camellia Society Show
January 16 - Set-up & Pre-Show party
January 17 - 7 am bloom preparation &
set-out; brunch @ 10:30; judging @ 11:30;
doors open to public at 1:00 p.m.

Program Essentials: Members = Volunteers

By The Membership Committee

The CCS continues to have a great program each year with many activities including: • The Plant Sale • The Show • The CCS Garden Tour. Each of these activities provides the public and our members with opportunities to appreciate the camellia and learn more about this beautiful plant.

While the program is wonderful, each activity needs a chairman and volunteers to make it happen. Since the volunteers are provided from the membership, if membership is low, there will be a limited number of volunteers available.

Membership

As of last month, we actually have 44 memberships (single and family) listing 71 people. The current directory includes past members who declined to renew last year's or this year's membership. At the time of printing the directory, it was uncertain who was late rejoining the CCS or who had dropped out. Also listed in the directory are our sponsors and honorary life members.

Looking over the membership list, it appears there are 40-45 people who consistently volunteer each year for multiple positions. Our thanks to all of you for contributing your time and energy to bring our programs to completion.

In addition to our thanks to the volunteers, we are also asking all our members, if you are physically able, to please volunteer to fill the positions we currently have vacant for this year's programs. For the past several years, we have not been able to fill all the volunteer positions needed for these programs and the chairpersons have shouldered the extra load. If everyone chips in, it makes our projects easier to accomplish and reduces the workload for others. In short, more volunteers means less individual time required, a better program, and more fun for everyone.

Next Step

Okay, we have fewer members than we thought. Where do we go from there? The key is to increase membership, leading to an increase in available volunteers. How do we do that? Dennis Bilyeu shared several studies by the ACS on the topic of bringing and keeping new members. We have incorporated them into the following points. Please look them over and contribute where you can:

- Look for New Members: Each of us should be on the lookout!
- Membership Flier: Review the membership flier on our website and be ready to discuss this information in your conversations with others. Print several copies of the flier to give people who show an interest.

Support Our Sponsors!



16159 Rabon Chapel Road
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- Talk with friends and neighbors who are interested in gardening. Much of what we do also applies to many other plants in our gardens, and besides, where else can they find great social activities for only \$10 per year, and, maybe car pool to the meetings with a member living nearby?
- Invitation: After talking with a person about CCS, contact them a week later with an invitation to one of our meetings with a guest speaker, or to one of our dinner sessions so they can see and meet other members.
- During our three activities: As you talk with attendees, bring up the \$10 membership as an easy and inexpensive way to find out more about:
 - The camellia plants they are buying at the plant sale.

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Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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MARGARITA & PEPPERS
MEXICAN GRILL & BAR

- o The camellia flowers they are seeing in the show.
- o The camellias they see in the yards on the tour.
- o Plus, they will have easy access to the best camellia experts in Montgomery County who can answer their questions and provide them advice on any camellia problem they may encounter.
- o In addition they will:
 - Receive our monthly newsletter.
 - Be able to join our activities and get to know some pretty good people.

Using this approach, we were able to sign up 5 new members during the recent Plant Sale. It Does Work!

Adoption

This year we will also add the new process of having our experienced members “adopt” a new member to aid in transition. About a week before a function or activity, our experienced member will contact the new member to personally invite them to the activity, answer their questions, and ask if they would like to help with it.

Any members interested in participating in this program, please contact The Membership Committee (Mike or Meg Mendeck). The Committee will provide the initial contact with each new member to go over our events and activities then provide them the name and number of their personal guide within the CCS.

Thanks to Everyone

While getting volunteers for our projects is important in the short run, the reality is that we need to increase our membership numbers to have those volunteers. With everyone’s help and participation, we can do this!

Happy Birthday!

November

Nancy Dupré
Sarah Eidem

Melanie Frampton

Ruby Knox

Ron Liston

Beverly Roche

December

Reneé Bilyeu

Jack Dyer

Margaret Lewis

Linda McCrayer

Tomi Plew

Maxine Schank



Anne Stodghill

Milton Surles

Kim To



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Fall Plant Sale

by Dennis Bilyeu

We had a very successful plant sale, selling about 80-85 camellias plus a variety of other plants. I’d like to thank all the volunteers who came out to help and made it such a success.

A coupon for 3 flats of bedding plants from Grower’s Outlet will be up for raffle at the December meeting.

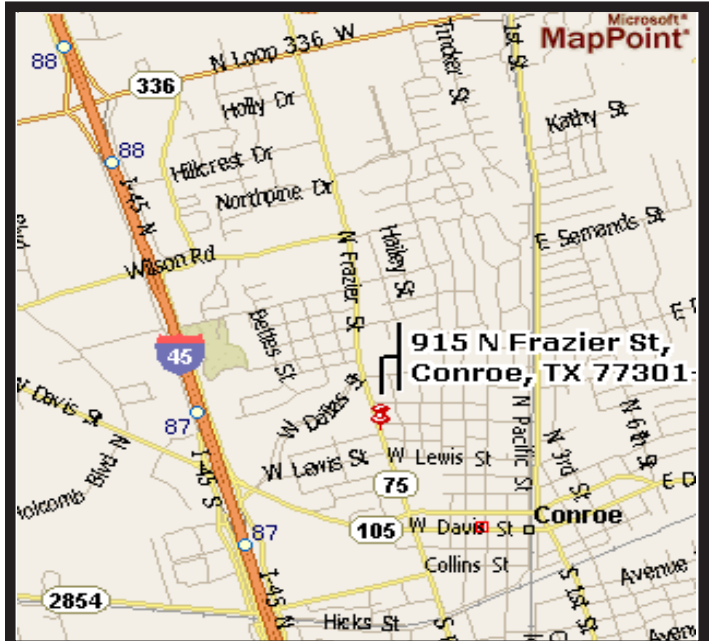
TIPS FOR THE CAMELLIA GARDENER

By Dennis Bilyeu

- 1 This is a very good time to spray dormant oil if anyone has scale problems on their camellias. When you spray, add the Nickel fertilizer-if you have it-and it will jump start the growth of your camellia next spring. If you didn't get any from Mark Crawford, use any kind of soluble fertilizer that has nitrogen in it.
- 2 Also a great time to start gibbing blooms for our January camellia show. Start with 30 to 40 buds this week, then come back with more each week. Gibbing will not only control the time your flowers mature, but will also result in larger, showier blooms.
- 3 If you bought camellias at our plant show, there are two options you need to consider. Take the plant out of the pot and take a look at the root system. If there are lots of roots and the plant looks almost root bound, it is ready to put in the ground. This time of year is a great time to be planting camellias. The other option is, if you don't see a lot of roots at the edge of the dirt, you should repot the plant. Leaving the plant in pine bark will require frequent fertilizing and daily watering, plus the root system will not develop in a way that sustains the plant in the ground. Carefully remove the pine bark and use a good potting mix, perhaps a camellia-azalea mix, to nurture the camellia and encourage good root growth. Don't plan on planting in the ground for about a year.

December Christmas Dinner at Berkshire

Driving directions: Going North on I 45, take exit #87, (Hwy 105, also Lake Conroe Parkway). At the light on the access road, take a right on 105, then go to the first light, Frazier (Hwy 75), and take a left. Go through the next light at Lewis, go one more block and turn left on W. Austin St. It is on the corner of W. Austin and Frazier, directly across the street from Subway, but you cannot see it from Frazier, as the property is surrounded by large trees.



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