

Coushatta

Camellia



*Camellia
"Lois Boudreaux"
Grown by Dudley Boudreaux
featured on the 2006 Garden Tour brochure*

December 2005 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

Society

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

Ninth Annual Open Garden Tour

We are in for a treat this year, as the Coushatta Camellia Society Garden Tour expands to two days to include more homes. In addition to the "old favorites" featured during the last few years, look for some gardens that have not been seen on the tour for awhile, some gardens that feature "discovered treasure" camellias, and some gardens that are new to camellia cultivation.

New Garden Tour Chairman Dennis Bilyeu is the motivator for the expansion. Last year, Dennis was "in training" as he helped Perry Liston during Perry's last year as Garden Tour Chairman. This year, Dennis has the big job, and he is going forward in a really big way!

Dennis wanted to make the tour more exciting and more accessible to the community, so he decided to expand it to a two-day event. This year there will be eleven gardens featured on the tour, including quite a few that are new to the tour.

Some of these gardens have plants that were "discovered" by members exploring property they had recently purchased. An example would be our new members, Bill and Laurie McCranor, who bought a home in the Old Waverly area.

When Bill and Laurie moved to their new country home, they were unaware there were camellias growing in the woods.

Looking out their windows at this time of year, they were surprised to see splashes of color in the distance. When Bill walked into the woods for a closer look, he discovered blooming shrubs in the underbrush, and on closer inspection

Continued page 2 - see Garden Tour



Upcoming Events

January 3, 2005 January meeting
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program
Rivershire Community Bldg.
206 Scarborough, Conroe

Speaker: Greg Davis
President, International Camellia Soc.

Topic: ... Yellow Camellia Development

January 13 Pre-show social
5:30-8:00 p.m.; #4 Briarwood

January 14-15 36th Annual
Coushatta Camellia Show
Fifth Annual ESCAP - 2 pm Jan. 14
First Christian Church
3500 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe

January 28-29 Baton Rouge
Camellia Club Show

February 4-5 Tyler Camellia
Society Show

February 7 February meeting
Rivershire Community Bldg.

Speaker: Mrs. Barbara Lopez
Owner, Hope Farms

Topic: Introduction to Daylilies

February 11-12 9th Annual
Open Camellia Garden Tour

Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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Garden Tour *Continued from front page*

he saw that many had tags with people's names on them. He quickly learned they were camellias, and began clearing the area around them. The McCranors have now cleared access to about 100 of some of the largest camellia plants in the area.

Also on the tour is the McCranor's neighbor, John Browder. John started planting camellias on his place in 1980, along with a large variety of other plants that include azaleas, magnolias, mulberry, redwood, cypress, daffodils, irises and over 40 different kinds of ferns. John has won the Texas Forestry Association Tree Farm of the Year award twice, and has been on several garden tours. Both the McCranor and Browder gardens are on Browder Loop, east of New Waverly, in the vicinity of the Old Waverly cemetery. It's a little bit of a drive, but well worth the trip!

Returning to the Garden Tour after an absence of some years are Jeff and Becky Odum, owners of Container Grown Nursery that is such a wonderful supplier of camellias. Jeff and Becky have done a magnificent job of using camellias in a natural landscape. Cross the foot bridge over the stone lined creek in their front yard to enjoy the sasanquas and the japonicas, then follow the creek up and downstream to see how a great variety of plants have been blended into the natural setting. You won't want to miss this garden!

New to the tour are the gardens of Phyllis Hartman, Tena Koch, and Deborah and Malcom Vaughn. Tena has 30+ camellias in a 1 acre lot that is wooded with large pine and hardwoods. She also has 2 Koi in a container fish pond that deer use as a source for their drinking water. The entire landscape has an abundance of natural and planted ferns.

Malcom and Deborah are new members of CCS and describe their 7+ acres in the piney woods as an oasis in the oilfield. Deborah's romance with camellias is just

beginning, so many of her plants are young, but she does have one large Yuletide that is a favorite spot for family photos during the holiday season. The Vaughns have been working since 1978 to transform their property from rough woodland to a well-landscaped yard with abundant birds and other wildlife.

Phyllis Hartman says she is a little old school teacher who loves camellias but doesn't have the time to care for them. So she plants them and leaves them to Mother Nature. Come see how well ~20 camellias take care of themselves in this natural setting in McDade Estates.

Returning favorites will include the gardens of W.B. & Ruby Knox, Jack & Diane Dyer, Renee & Dennis Bilyeu, Tommy & Sandra Weeks, and Charlie & Linda Gambrill. Many thanks to CCS members (and neighbors) who will share their gardens on February 11-12, 2005.

Hours of the tour will be 11 am to 4 pm.

Schedule: **Saturday, February 11**

W.B. & Ruby Knox - 215 Sunset Blvd., Conroe
Jack & Diane Dyer - 623 Mosswood Drive, Conroe
Deborah & Malcom Vaughn - 12448 Roy Harris Loop, Conroe
Tena Koch - 10584 Champion Forest Loop, Conroe
Bill & Laurie McCranor - 1100 Browder Loop, Old Waverly
John Browder - 1201 Browder Loop, Old Waverly

Sunday, February 12

Dennie & Renee Bilyeu - 5275 Longmire Court, Conroe
Tommy & Sandra Weeks - 11281 Jake Pearson Rd., Conroe
Charlie & Linda Gambrill - 14023 Fountainview Dr., Montgomery
Jeff & Becky Odum - 14242 Austin McComb Rd., Conroe
Phyllis Hartman - 1602 Pine Oak, Conroe

Maps and brochures will be available at the January meeting, and at Kroger a couple of weeks prior to the tour. Camellia plants will be available for sale on the tour, at the gardens of W. B. Knox and Tommy Weeks. The traditional party for all CSS volunteers and hosts immediately following the Sunday Garden Tour will be held at the home of Tommy and Sandra Weeks. Volunteers to help at the tour are still needed, so look for a sign-up sheet at the January meeting.

ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS



Please make the following corrections to your Coughatta Camellia Society yearbook:

Greg Davis - new e-mail:

gedavis456@aol.com

Troy & Linda McCrary - new phone:

936-539-5205

Susie Pokorski - new e-mail:

smopokorski@cox.net

Tom & Beverly Roche - new e-mail:

bevtom@cox.net

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Coushatta Camellia Society

P.O. Box 1655
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Best Wishes for a Healthy and Productive New Year

The Coushatta Camellia Society's Christmas dinner was a lovely start to the holiday season. Approximately 40 members and guests met at the lovely home of Tommy and Sandra Weeks. After the opening prayer, it was a pleasure to welcome our guests. We had a wonderful meal in such great company! Jack Dyer built 2 beautiful, festive Christmas decoration and brought them for door prizes. Two of our guests, Sarah and Dick Eidem's daughter and son-in-law, were the lucky winners.

January will be a busy month for CCS. On January 3, we'll gather for our regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Rivershire Community Bldg. just across from the apartment complex on Scarborough in Conroe. Our own Greg Davis, President of the International Camellia Society, will speak about Yellow Camellia Development. The next day, Maxine Schank and her group of volunteers will begin making presentations at elementary schools.

Please brings seeds to the January meeting! Assistants are needed to hand out materials to students, gather completed pictures, and fasten recognition ribbons onto students. Flowers and seeds are needed for the demonstrations, so if you can't contribute your time, please help with providing camellias. The schools this year are Giesinger, B. B. Rice, Armstrong, Sam Houston, and Reaves elementary schools. It's a real thrill to see the children's enthusiasm and excitement as they learn about the camellia - don't miss out on this special experience!

The 36th Annual Coushatta Camellia Show will take place at the First Christian Church of Conroe January 14-15. Many thanks to Charlie Gambrell, who is doing an excellent job organizing this event, and to all our members who continue to be so generous with their time and talents.

All members are encouraged to participate in our show! Come kick off the fun with a Pre-Show social at the home of Troy & Linda McCraray on Friday, Jan 13, from 5:30 - 8 p.m., following set-up at the church.

The changes last year will continue this year. A new category of M-L was added to japonica blooms, for both protected & unprotected. We'll be starting early again this year to facilitate judging. Set-up will be from 7-10:30 am; with a brunch from 10:30-11:30 for judges, clerks, and CCS members. Judging will take place from 11:30 to 1:00, and the ESCAP program will begin at the usual time of 2:00 p.m. We will have no Gift Shop this year, although a few hand-crafted items (and our cook-books!) will be available for purchase.

Don't forget to enter your blooms for special memorial awards that can only be won by a CCS member: "Earle & Iola Gentry Award," Best large bloom grown by CCS member, presented by Susie Moore Pokorski; "A.B. 'Bud' Welter Award," Best medium bloom grown by CCS member, presented by Beverly Welter Roche; "Dr. Emil Carroll Award," Best Tray of Three grown in Conroe Area (Pass along for 1 year) presented by Morris & Jan Waller; "Special Award," Best Professor Charles S. Sargent grown by a member of CCS (Cannot be consecutive winner) presented by Jackie Wells.