

Coushatta

Camellia



Camellia
"Lois Boudreaux"
Registered by Hyman Norsworthy
featured on the 2007 Garden Tour brochure

December 2011 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

Society

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

ACS JUDGES REACCREDITATION SCHOOL

Date: January 7, 2012

Location: First Christian Church Gym

Time: 10am to 12:30 pm

Purpose: Reaccredit judges to new ACS guidelines

Comments:

- New accreditation is good for 5 years; i.e., judges will not need to be reaccredited until 2017.
- No fees for this course
- Material provided by ACS
- Novice judges may audit course but will not be certified as judges
- Judges should bring their new judges guideline book sent to them by ACS
- No judges schools are currently scheduled by CCS, so it may be several years before a judges school is available in this area; i.e., if a judges accreditation expires in the next few years, he(she) would need to travel to other Camellia club location to attend a school and maintain their ACS judges accreditation.
- All currently accredited ACS judges are urged to attend this reaccreditation school, if at all possible.
- Dudley Boudreaux will be conducting the school

Anyone who wants to know more about shows and judging is welcome to attend. Contact Dudley or Claudette.Shelfer.

Upcoming Events

January 3, 2012 January meeting
"Camellias & Companions" Dr. Creech
6:30; 7 p.m.; First Christian Church

January 7, 2012 Judges School

January 14, 2012 Camellia Club of
New Orleans Show, Metairie, LA

January 21-22 Camellia Club of
Mobile, Mobile, AL

January 27-29 Conroe, TX

40th Coushatta Camellia Society Show

January 27-Set-up & Pre-Show pizza party

January 28 - 7 am bloom preparation;

10:30 - judging; noon - lunch ;

1:00 open to the public 'til 4
continues Jan 29 12-3.

First Christian Church Gymnasium
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

February 1 February meeting
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program
"Japanese Red Maples & Rhododendrons"
William Caldwell

February 4-5 Brookhaven Camellia
Show, Brookhaven, MS

February 11-12 . Texas Camellia Show
Walker Education Center, Huntsville, TX

March 3-4 Garden Tour

*Coushatta Camellia
Society Newsletter*

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the Coushatta Camellia Society*

President Dennis Bilyeu

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

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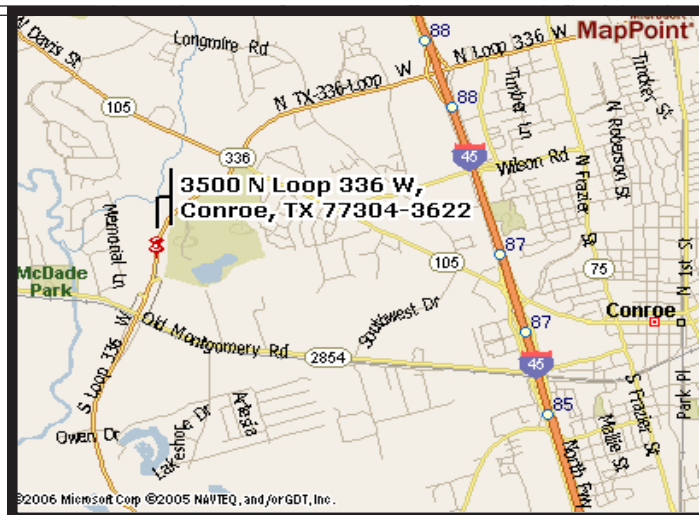


JANUARY PROGRAM

"Camellias and their Companions" is the title of the program that Dr. Dave Creech of SFASU will present to us on January 3, 2012. Dr. Creech often brings some rare plants to auction following his

presentation, so we are in for a double treat!

Dr. Creech, Regent's Professor, has been at Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX, since September, 1978. He is currently the Director of the 10-acre SFA Mast Arboretum, opened in 1985, and the 8-acre "Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden", which opened in 2000. This high pine canopy garden features over a mile of trails, 6000+ azaleas, over 200 varieties of Japanese maples, camellias and hydrangeas, plus numerous other special collections. He is also co-Director (with Dr. James C. Kroll, Forestry) of the 40-acre SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center, only the third garden affiliated with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX. CCS members have enjoyed field trips to these beautiful gardens in recent years.



New (and not-so-new) members! Come join us at the First Christian Church at 3500 North Loop 336 West, in Conroe. The church is not far from the intersection with highway 2854, and can be reached from Interstate Highway 45 most easily by taking either exit 84 (Loop 336 S) or exit 88 (Loop 336 N) and proceeding west around the loop to the church, which lies on the west side of the road.

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TIPS FOR THE CAMELLIA GARDENER

By Dennis Bilyeu



- 1) Continue gibbing buds for the upcoming Camellia shows. Since our Show is about a month away you should be gibbing Camellias that are normally mid to late season bloomers to make them bloom early enough for our Show.
- 2) Pick up the blooms that fall on the ground and dispose of them so they can't generate the spores that produce petal blight. If you have had a problem with petal blight in the past, you may want to take some extra steps to minimize it this year. Something I learned from the horticulturist at Bayou Bend is to: A-rake up all the organic material (leaves, mulch, etc) under your Camellias down to bare ground. This eliminates the source for the petal blight and destroys the tiny mushrooms that emit the spores that spread petal blight. And B-sprinkle corn meal over the bare ground. The best source for corn meal is your local feed store. That is where you get corn meal with minimal processing (no salt) and the cheapest price. The minimal processing makes the corn meal more effective as a fungicide. If you can't get it at the feed store, just plain yellow corn meal from the store works just fine. Also, if you can't rake up all the organic material under your Camellia, just sprinkling the corn meal on top of the organic material also works, just not as well.

The organic material removed from under your Camellias should be disposed of the same way as the fallen blooms. Bagging and placing in the trash works but I prefer to bury the organic material under at least 4 inches of soil. Burning the organic material also works. I am hoping after a year or two I will be able to dig up the buried organic material and use it in my garden without having live petal blight spores. I saw this burying technique at the Gordy home in Florida but I didn't learn how long it has to be buried before you can reuse it. I will let you know when I learn this bit of information.

- 3) If you are repotting your recently acquired plants (bought, air layered, rooted, grafted), as discussed last month don't forget to spray the leaves with a good fungicide/insecticide/miteicide mix. E. B. Smith uses a systemic spray from Ortho he claims works very well and his plants show his wisdom. I have looked for this product at Lowe's and Home Depot and have not found it. Our feed store sponsor Henderson has a systemic product I used and it worked well. Be sure and apply the product according to label directions and reapply at the recommended frequency.

-- Dennis



16159 Rabon Chapel Road
Montgomery, Texas 77316
936-588-3779

Happy Birthday!

December

Reneé Bilyeu
Carolyn Brown
Mabel Bryant
Cherokee Caddell
Jack Dyer
Ginny Glesener
Betsy Hunter
Margaret Lewis
Linda McCrary
Maxine Schank
Phyllis Shackelford
Anne Stodghill
Joan Stringer
Milton Surles



January

Dennis Bilyeu
Myra Liston
Troy McCrary
June Sadoti
Rex Stodghill
Victor Treat
Lewis Walker
Jan Waller
Monte West

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Greenhouse Workday

12/17/2011
by Dennis Bilyeu



On Saturday, December 17, 2011, Dennis Bilyeu, Renee Bilyeu, Judy Weidner and Bill McCranor worked on Gilmore Greenhouse projects. Judy and Renee continued repotting orchid plants, while Bill and Dennis completed installing the sprinkler irrigation system.

The irrigation duration and frequency was adjusted to compensate for the heater keeping the orchids at nice warm temperature but also drying out the other plants in the greenhouse. I believe we are over half way through repotting the orchids, but will need additional workdays and lots of volunteer help to complete this work. Some of the orchids have not survived, but many that have survived have multiplied, so part of the work is dividing and repotting these new plants. Beautiful blooms make a visit to the greenhouse very enjoyable, and as the plants enjoy their new pots, they will become even more lovely.

We now have lots of room for more plants in the greenhouse and have programmable controllers for the sprinkler system that allows us to tailor the watering needs for the different kind of plants in the greenhouse. I will be bringing some of my Camellia rootings and air-layers to the greenhouse to grow up to three gallon pot size so we can sell them. I will be spraying these new plants with a fungicide/insecticide/miteicide mix to prevent infection of the other plants in the greenhouse.

Club members are encouraged to bring their Camellia propagations to the greenhouse to speed up their growth and development. All we ask in return is 50% of your propagations go to the club plant sales program. Also, coordinate bringing your plants to the greenhouse with either Cherokee or me so we can make sure they get included in the next spraying program.

Bill and I resurveyed the storage building to determine if it could be salvaged. We also found a stack of used wood and an old chicken coup that we believe could provide materials to rebuild the storage shed. I will be checking with Gilmore's to see if we could use these resources to rebuild the storage shed and if they give us these materials to use for this purpose we will be organizing a workday to rebuild the storage shed. If the shed can be repaired, we plan to use this storage area for our show and garden tour materials that are currently being stored in a storage facility. As reported last month, our contract for this facility will expire this summer and the rental cost would be substantially higher next year.

TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER 2011

Beginning Balance: December 1, 2011 \$12,702.78

Income: Plant Sale 12/10/11 570.00

Expenses: Newsletter Printing 15.12

 Dinner Refund 154.00

 Sponsor Expense – Sign 16.24

 Total Expenses: 185.36

Ending Balance 12/26/2011 \$13,087.42

MINUTES DECEMBER 2011

The Christmas social meeting on December 6, 2011 was originally scheduled to be held at Hyden's Restaurant on Hwy 105 W. Last minute problems at that restaurant required a quick rescheduling and our sponsor **Margarita's and Peppers**, came to our rescue!

Pre-paid members were refunded their money, and paid directly to the restaurant, depending on their order. Holiday cheer was abundant and a good time was had by all. No business was conducted, although upcoming events were announced.

Garden Tour 2012

by Bill McCranor



The 2012 Garden Tour has new issues to deal with this time around. For a couple of different reasons there are fewer gardens slated for this year's tour. Presently we have only six (if we draft in E.B. Smith and count on my neighbor John Browder to join the bunch). This may be six gardens but really only 5 locations in that John Browder's home is just a short walk across the street from my own garden.

It has been suggested that the smaller tour take place on only one day this year. A one day tour would cover a considerably large area; from 1488 in the south all the way to the Huntsville area in the north. It would be reasonable to expect that most of the public visiting the gardens in one day would not visit all of them. That in itself would not be bad if as a society we are able to draw a large number of people to get out and make the tour.

From my perspective as chairman of the garden tour, the major problem with a one day tour is with the total number of volunteers needed to work the 'welcome tables' at all of the gardens. In the past many volunteers worked both days of the tour thus covering two gardens. Also, in the past, some of the home owners of the Saturday tour would volunteer to work on the Sunday tour. If we do have a one day tour that kind of "doubling" would be impossible making it necessary for more society members to volunteer their time to ensure the overall success of the 2012 Garden Tour.



To cut to the quick:

- 1) More gardens on the tour would be nice.
- 2) We all need to help get the word out in order to attract a large number of people to the tour.
- 3) Volunteer to work the "Welcome Tables".



You can bet that I'll have clip boards and sign-up sheets to cover all three of these wants and needs at Tuesday's meeting. Until then, may all of you have a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year.

Bill McCranor

CCS PREPARES FOR SHOW

January 27-29, 2012

by Randy McDaniel

As you enjoy this newsletter our CCS Camellia Show is just a few short weeks away. As a viable and growing member of the American Camellia Society, this is the most important event of the year for CCS. All CCS members and area non-members should be sure to enter blooms and to encourage friends and neighbors to come out and enjoy the great atmosphere and beautiful flowers.

We kick off with our Show set up on Friday, the 27th at 2 PM at the First Christian Church (see map and directions on page 2) and will have pizza afterwards for all our workers.

The doors open for bloom exhibitors at 7 AM on Saturday with bloom preparation and set out from 7–10:30 AM. This year we are requesting all participants to take special care to be sure that entry forms are completed correctly with properly classified and named blooms and placed in the correct area for judging. This year we are hoping to have a “classification” table set up to assist with this.

Judges and Clerks briefing will be at the end of set-up with Judging taking place from 10:30 to noon. A fine lunch put together by June Sadoti and a great group of volunteers is from noon to 1 pm for judges, clerks, and CCS members. Please consider donations of cookies for the show. Bring them to the Gym by 11:30 A.M. on Saturday and label the container for CCS, so they will not get mixed with church school goodies.

As with most programs there is always a job to be done. We look forward to the support and assistance from all our members beginning with set up at 2:00 PM on Friday through take down at 3 PM on Sunday. Randy McDaniel will update us on show details and make final calls for member assistance at the January 3rd meeting.

CCS members can exhibit blooms in the Open show or the CCS show for members only. Don't be shy, there are awards for Novice entries and in some years we have had categories that are not awarded because of no entries. We will have the Show Program available at the January meeting. Check it carefully for entry categories and the CCS “Special Memorial Awards”.

One thing for sure, a successful show makes us all winners! Your participation is needed and appreciated by all. To volunteer, make suggestions or if you have a question, contact: Randy McDaniel at Mcpuli@consolidated.net



Coushatta Camellia Society

P.O. Box 1655

Conroe, TX 77305