

Coushatta Camellia Society



Late November 2018 Newsletter

A Message from Our CCS President

Seasons Greetings Fellow Camellia Lovers

Thanks to all who signed up for the Christmas dinner on Dec. 9th. For those who have not, and wish to attend, please contact Jing Fong Wei (see below), and get on the list. There will be door prizes! If you would like to help with beverages and set-up, contact Linda McCraray (our hospitality Czarina) at Linda_mccraray@yahoo.com

As we will have no regular meeting for December, there will be a very brief meeting before we eat, concerning the January show. We will need everyone's help in making the show and plant sale a success.

We are ordering our prize plants for the show from Larry Bates, so if anyone wants to place a special order, please let me know soon, so I can add it to our order

Frank Ohrt
President

Upcoming Events

December 9, 2018

Christmas Party

First Christian Church Parlor

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

CCS Website:

<http://coushattacamelliasociety.com/>

Gibbing

One of the ways to get larger flowers for the show and for your own pleasure is by gibbing. Per Tommy Weeks - It's time to start gibbing now. You need to start about six weeks out from a show, then gib some five weeks out. Even buds that are large can be gibbed four weeks out. That way you bracket flowers that will hopefully open in time with the show date.

If you want to learn more about gibbing, there was an article in the last CCS Newsletter.

Also, at the American Camellia Society website you can find more information and a video

<https://www.americancamellias.com/care-culture-resources/acs-instructional-videos/disbudding-gibbing-video>



**JOIN US
COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**DECEMBER 9, 2018
First Christian Church, Conroe
2:00 p.m.**

**MENU
Bar-B-Que
Assortment of Meats
Potato Salad - Beans – Cole Slaw
Cobbler
Iced Tea, Coffee**

Door Prizes

**If you have not signed up
Contact – Henry & Jing-Fong Wei
jfwei@yahoo.com - 225-284-9418 or 225-445-9211**

Deadline – December 3, 2018

**\$20.00/ person
Mail your check to Henry & Jing-Fong Wei
50 Barley Hall, The Woodlands, TX 77382
Or
Bring your payment on the 9th**

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 & Pre-Show Pizza Party
First Christian Church Gym

January 12-13, 2019

44th Annual Coughatta
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

44th Annual Coughatta Camellia Show

Time 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.

Our Show Chair is Randy McDaniel mcpuli@consolidated.net . let him know you can help

Resources

If you are able to use the internet there are many resources out there regarding camellias. The American Camellia Society (ACS) and the Gulf Coast Camellia Society are excellent sites. In the comments earlier about gibbing there was a link to their article which included a video to show you exactly how to gib. Following are links that you can access which once you reach that site lead you to much interesting and useful information.

www.americancamellias.com

<https://www.americancamellias.com/care-culture-resources/history-of-camellias>

<https://www.gulfcoastcamelliasociety.org>

Officers and Directors:2018-2019

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

The following pages once again provide a very useful article by Art Landry from the *Camellian* (the quarterly publication by the Gulf Coast Camellia Society).

Also, an article about Container Camellias by Hyman Norworthy from the *Camellian* 2005 is included. Hyman (now deceased) was an active member of the Coushatta Camellia Society and of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society.



In the Winter Garden

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA

Winter is the Camellia Season we have waited for all year. Now we can enjoy those beautiful blooms and get ready for the winter chores of grafting, planting, re-potting and mulching.

Watering: The plants need ample moisture to bloom, so water every week if rainfall is sparse. Container grown plants need watering more frequently than growing in the ground. Check and water, if needed, 2-3 times a week.

Planting: Transplanting of plants can take place in December and continue through February. If you prepared your planting sites in October, the planting place should be in good shape by now if you've turned the soil over a few times. If you didn't do this earlier, do it now and wait a month or two. Container-grown plants can be planted into the ground at anytime. Spread out roots if root-bound or cut off badly bound roots. Do not allow to dry out.

Dig up those seedling plants which sprout under your plants and plant then in good potting soil in a pot or in a good garden location and in a year or so you will have a grafting size plant.

Grooming: Try to pick up spent blooms to control petal blight. Pin back leaves and branches with clothespins to prevent wind damage to your best buds.

January is a good time to do minor pruning while you are cutting flowers from the bush. If the branch is a weak one or will have no growth bud on it, then cut it off back at the main branch or the trunk. Don't leave a branch with leaves on it without growth buds; it is likely to die

back anyway. You are better off to prune it away at the time you cut the flower.

Spraying: If you have a plant with a scale problem, you can spray with oil emulsion such as Dormant Oil or Ultrafine Oil spray. Another good product is Neem Oil, also sold as a rose spray. Look for the active ingredient to be Neem Oil. (For example, Neem Oil is now 'the active ingredient in "Triple Action" spray by Fertilome which also contains a miticide and a fungicide.) As with other oil sprays, use in mild weather periods to avoid damage to the leaves. Always use as directed by manufacturer.

Mulching: Collect mulching materials (leaves, pine straw, etc) and spread a generous amount around your plants. Chopping leaves with the lawnmower will avoid matting. Covering leaves with pine straw will hold them in place and look good, too.

Grafting: Grafting can be started in January, but most grafting in this area is done in February. It can also be done in March if dormant scions are still available. If you are inexperienced at grafting contact your local camellia club about a demonstration or hands-on assistance in learning.

Attend camellia shows in your area and take flowers if you can. The clubs putting on shows always need plenty of flowers to make an impressive show.



CONTAINER CAMELLIAS FOR THOSE WITH LIMITED SPACE

By: Hyman Norsworthy

There are many garden enthusiasts who would like to grow a few camellias, but do not have adequate garden space. This dilemma is easily overcome by growing a few plants in containers; camellias are well-suited to container culture. Those residing in town houses, apartments with balconies and garden homes with patios are prime candidates for this type of culture. Care of the plants is much less involved than typical patio plants and the plants can provide blooms most of the winter months as well as attractive evergreen plants in between blooming.

Most all varieties of camellias are suitable for container culture. Varieties ranging in bloom size from miniature to very large and spanning the bloom period from early to late all do well in containers. A few that do well in containers for me are: 'Pink Perfection', 'Little Slam' and its mutants, 'Dixie Knight Supreme', 'Edna Bass', 'Helen Bower', 'Magic City', 'Margaret Davis', 'Ville de Nantes', 'Melissa Anne' and any of the 'Tomorrow' family. This list is by no means exclusive; many others do well in containers.

Camellias grown in containers require a little more care than in-ground plants. The potting soil must be loose so that water drains from the top of the soil within a few minutes. Due to the need for increased watering frequency nutrients are depleted and increased frequency of fertilization is necessary. Container plants are fed often but only with small amounts with each feeding. A good fertilizer for container camellias is a 50/50 mix of cottonseed meal and STA-GREEN 4-7-7. A small amount of this mix is applied each month. One to three teaspoons of the mix depending on the size of the plant, is applied each month. Other than the watering and fertilizing differences, container culture of camellias is very much the same as in-ground culture. Pruning, disbudding, spraying when needed are all the same.

When the camellia has been in the container for several years, it may become rootbound and have used up most of the soil. Re-pot into a larger pot with fresh soil when that happens. If it is in its final size container, then remove from the container, cut off about 2 inches of the root ball and replace in the container with fresh soil. Your plant should be fine for several more years before repeating the process. A yearly pruning can be used to maintain shape and size.

We, as camellia growers, should encourage friends with limited space to try growing camellias in containers. Results can be very rewarding; for the friend as well as us who helped. So, make a trip with them to the nearest source and come home with a few camellias plants. Help them plant them and tell them how to care for them and both of you will be glad to enjoy the results.

