

Coushatta Camellia Society

DECEMBER 2020 Newsletter



Greetings, Fellow Camellia Lovers!

CCS Members,

Hopefully everyone had a safe and blessed Thanksgiving this past month. It was unfortunate that so many people were not able to be together personally with their family and of course that goes for us as an organization being unable to meet together as a group of like minded camellia lovers.

Last month's general meeting was a success with our first speaker Mark Crawford giving us a great Zoom PowerPoint presentation on pruning and new varieties of camellias. I personally took on some of his pruning recommendations for this time of year and hopefully some or most of you did as well. On December 13 we are going to have another guest speaker from Mercer Arboretum discuss the camellias that have been on their property along with other news about the arboretum which was unfortunately flooded most recently with Hurricane Harvey. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit Mercer Arboretum I encourage you to go as it is a beautiful location with many different varieties of plants for all the seasons including a good number of camellias.

Lastly as we are entering the prime period of our camellias, I hope that each of you gets to enjoy the beauty that each of you no doubt have flowering right now or in the near future. Fortunately some things are not required to be socially distanced to be enjoyed and loved. Hope to see you at our general Zoom meeting December 13.

Edward Estrada
President CCS

Current Activity

December 13, 2020

Presenter: Jamie Hartwell,
Volunteer Coordinator,
Mercer Gardens

January 10, 2021

Regular Meeting

NOTE:

**Please be aware that meetings will
be held on Zoom -explanation
follows -**

CCS Website:

<http://coushattacamelliasociety.com/>

Program for December

All who joined in to hear and see the November presentation by Mark Crawford, owner of Loch Laurel Nursery, enjoyed learning more about Pruning Camellias – and some of the camellias he has were featured.

December is:

: Jamie Hartwell, Volunteer Coordinator, Mercer Gardens, who will be speaking about the “ Camellia Collection, Harvey Recovery, and Volunteer Opportunities at Mercer Botanic Gardens.”
If at all possible please join us for what is sure to be a beautiful presentation.

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For those of you who do not have access to the internet and thus cannot see the meeting through Zoom, Do you have a neighbor who does and would be interested in watching with you? If so, send their email access to DeeDee DeeDee.Martinson@Pearson.com so you and your friend can access the program.

IN THE WINTER GARDEN

While it is still fall, before long after you receive this Newsletter, we will enter the winter season. Therefore, Art Landry's article from the Gulf Coast Camellia Society's journal, the *Camellian* is inserted for your information as you move into that season.

As many of you know, his articles have been added to our newsletters from time to time and this one was inserted in one of our earlier ones. A little repetition of this kind is sometimes helpful.

Brief Calendar for 2020-2021

August 25, 2020
Board Meeting

September 6, 2020
Board Meeting

September 13, 2020
Opening year meeting

October 11, 2020
Regular Meeting

November 8, 2020
Regular Meeting

December 13, 2020
TBA

January 10, 2021
Regular Meeting

January 24, 2021
Show Setup

January 25-26, 2021
Annual Coushatta Camellia Show
First Christian Church

February 14, 2021
Regular Meeting

March 14, 2021
Regular Meeting

April TBD
End of Year Party

June/July 2021
Board Meeting





In the Winter Garden

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA

Winter is the time to enjoy those blooms you have waited for all spring, summer and fall and to get ready for the winter chores of grafting, planting, re-potting and mulching.

The plants need ample moisture to bloom, so water every week that they don't get enough rain. Try to pick up spent blooms to control petal blight.

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.

Collect mulching materials (leaves, pine straw, etc) and keep your plants well mulched.

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.

December

Camellia plants or books make wonderful Christmas presents. A gift membership in your local camellia society, the Gulf Coast Camellia Society or the American Camellia Society will also be appreciated by your camellia friends.

January

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.

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.

Get started with your grafting this month. The best days for grafting in 2015 to take advantage of any help the moon phases may be are M-W Jan. 26-28; Tues-Thur Feb. 24-26; and Thur-Sat Mar. 26-28. If you are inexperienced at grafting contact your local camellia club about a demonstration or hands-on assistance in learning.

February

February is usually the month of most profuse blooming of camellias in this area. The early bloomers are finishing, the midseason varieties are in full swing, and the late season bloomers are starting. We seldom have hard freezes in February to interrupt the blooming.

Check container grown plants if rainfall is sparse, and water as needed.



ZOOM

Due to the COVID-19 precautions our general meetings for this year will be done through Zoom. It provides for participants to sign in through an e-mail invitation to participate in a meeting. Each participant will be able to see others involved in the meeting – sometimes individually as someone is presenting (for instance the President making comments) or as cameos of those participating. Maximum time for a Zoom meeting is 40 minutes.

If you have e-mail service then you can be contacted to participate. You may choose not to; however, if you do you will not be provided the opportunity to see and hear the participants' comments and respond to those. All of our meetings this year will be done through Zoom.

For those unable to participate hopefully there will be a written report of that meeting as with the Board *minutes*

Camellia Websites (sometimes it is fun to see other club's activities)

American Camellia Society www.americancamellias.org

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org

Baton Rouge Camellia Society www.facebook.com/brcamellias

Birmingham Camellia Society www.birminghamcamellias.com

Brookhaven Camellia Society www.homerrichardson.com/camellia

Camellia Society of North Florida

www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html

Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society www.facebook.com/FWB

Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society
www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Gainesville%20CS.html

Gulf Coast Camellia Society
www.gulfcoastcamelliasociety.com
www.facebook.com/gulfcoastcamelliasociety

Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society
www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society

Mobile Camellia Society www.mobilecamellia.org

Northshore Camellia Society
www.northshorecamelliasociety.org

Officers – 2020-2021

<i>President</i>	Edward Estrada
1 st Vice President, Programs	Randy M cDaniel
2 nd Vice President, Show Chair	Frank Ohrt
Recording Secretary	Kelli Horns
Corresponding Secretary	Glynda Malleske
Treasurer	Jo Ann Treat
Immediate Past President	Frank Ohrt
At-large-Director	Bill McCranor
At-large-Director	Don Marcotte
At-large-Director	Dudley Boudreaux
At-large-Director	Tommy Weeks'