

Coushatta

Camellia

Society



December 2004 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

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 Bluebell and Rose Tearoom and Eatery, thanks to arrangements made by Beverly Roche. After the opening prayer, it was a pleasure to welcome Ruby Knox's sister Doris Carew, Maxine and Oscar Schank's daughter Catherine Stanley, and Judy & JR Weidner's daughter Rebecca McInteer. We had a wonderful meal in such great company!

Jack Dyer built a beautiful, festive Christmas decoration and brought it for a door prize. Doris Allwright was the lucky winner.

Following the meal, we were treated to the unveiling of the newly framed picture that was painted by Linda McCrary's mother. Club members have kept this a secret for almost 2 months now, and congratulations to you all - it was a total surprise to Troy and Linda! The frame will not only enhance the painting, but will serve to protect it during its appearance at CCS functions. If you were not able to attend the Christmas dinner, you can admire it at the January show.

January will be a busy month for CCS. Maxine Schank and her group of volunteers will begin making presentations at elementary schools on January 4. Later that day, 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 Hyman Norsworthy, past Texas Director of the American Camellia Society, will speak about the

Continued page 2 - see Camellia Show



Upcoming Events

January 4, 2005..... January meeting
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program
Rivershire Community Bldg.
206 Scarborough, Conroe

Speaker: Hyman Norsworthy
Past ACS Texas Director

Topic: .. Flower Preparation for a Show

January 8..... New Orleans
Camellia Club Show

January 15-16 35th Annual
Coushatta Camellia Show
Fourth Annual ESCAP - 2 pm Jan. 15

First Christian Church
3500 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe

January 29-30 Tyler Camellia
Society Show

February 1 February meeting
Rivershire Community Bldg.

Speaker: Tommy Weeks

Topic: Camellias - General Knowledge,
Placement and Care

February 13 8th Annual
Open Camellia Garden Tour

**NEED A RIDE? GIVE A RIDE?
CALL TOM ROCHE!**

If you are like me, you really don't enjoy driving after dark. Or maybe you just want some company! CCS has the answer for you! Call Transportation Chairman Tom Roche, 856-7744, and offer to share a ride or get a ride. It's fun, it's neighborly, and it's environmentally friendly!!

**Support Our
Sponsors!**

YEARBOOK ADDITIONS

Please note new e-mail addys for Judy and JR Weidner:
jbweidner@cox.net - Judy and jrweidner@cox.net - JR

**Coushatta Camellia
Society Newsletter**

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the Coushatta Camellia Society*

President .. Linda McCrary

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

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Camellia Show *Continued from front page*

best ways to prepare your flowers for presentation at camellia shows. I know our members who plan to show their flowers at the January show will be listening closely!

The 35th Annual Coushatta Camellia Show will take place at the First Christian Church of Conroe on the weekend of January 15-16. Many thanks to Charlie Gambrill, who is doing an excellent job organizing this exceptional event; to June Sadoti, for chairing the luncheon; to Maxine Schank, for her hard work on the Camellia Appreciation Project; and to all the 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 McCrary on Friday, Jan 14, from 5 - 8, following set-up at the church.

There have been a few other changes to our schedule. A new category of M-L will be added to japonica blooms, for both protected & unprotected. We'll be starting a little earlier this year to facilitate judging. Set-up will be from 7-10:30 a.m.; with a brunch from 10:30-11:30 a.m for judges, clerks, and CCS members. Judging will take place from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m., and the ESCAP program will begin at the usual time of 2:00 p.m.

School presentations for ESCAP will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 4, the same day as our meeting, and Maxine needs presenters, so please call her (445-1765) if you would like to help, or if you will have flowers or seeds for presenters to use.

Last year's Gift Shop did very well, earning about \$300 for CCS. Several members have hand-crafted items they would like to donate to be sold. We will again keep that project small this year, rather than order a large number of items for resale. Those who would like to make a donation of an item for the gift shop, please contact Linda McCrary (441-3143). Items for children were very popular last year. No White Elephants, please!

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 one year) presented by Morris I. & Jan Waller; "Special Award," Best Professor Charles S. Sargent grown by a member of CCS (Cannot be consecutive winner) presented by Jackie Wells

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Eighth Annual Open Garden Tour



For the seventh year, Perry Liston has taken the organization of the annual Camellia Garden Tour into his capable hands. Many thanks to CCS members who will share their gardens on February 13, 2005.

Tommy & Sandra Weeks
Renee & Dennis Bilyeu
Troy & Linda McCraray
Jack & Diane Dyer
Charlie & Linda Gambrill
W. B. & Ruby Knox

Even more thanks to Dennis Bilyeu, who is helping Perry coordinate plans for this year and training to take over as Chairman next year.

The traditional party for all CSS volunteers and hosts immediately following the Garden Tour needs a host. The Tynans had planned to have us all at their house again this year, but have run into a snag. CCS provides the funds for the food, now all we need is a location. Please let Perry or Dennis know if you can help.

Volunteers to help at the tour are still needed, so look for a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

CALLING ALL COOKS!

You know everyone loved that special dish you brought to the September meeting. And wouldn't you love to have the recipe for those wonderful cookies that disappeared before you could have seconds? Diane Dyer is collecting recipes from CCS members to put together a cookbook. Bring your recipes to the meeting or e-mail her at d.s.dyer@att.net.

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We'll need lots of volunteers to make this show a success, so be ready to sign up to help at the January meeting. Some of the jobs that will need doing include: greet attendees; direct them to work and/or display areas; man ACS and CCS tables; provide goodies for the luncheon and/or ESCAP; assist with luncheon and/or ESCAP; help set-up and/or take-down.



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An Open Letter to CCS

Dear CCS members,

Thank you so much for framing the Camellia picture and designating Troy and I as the "keepers". I appreciate the recognition for my mother, Dora Colley, who did the painting for CCS. It was a wonderful surprise. Judy, you were surely having a lot of problems with your computer....now I understand!!

For those of you who do not know. Mother began painting in mid-life. All the years my sister and I were growing up, Mother said she was going to paint someday. We had no idea that she could even draw. After we both left home, she was true to her word. It has been wonderful to have so much of her work in my home and to share the beauty she creates with others.

When we started the Elementary School Camellia Appreciation Project several years ago, I suggested to Mother that we would like to have a large painting of a Camellia similar to the one the children were coloring for display at our show. Mother created this image for CCS. We are pleased the club has enjoyed the results of her effort and has found many ideas for its use.

Both Mother and I appreciate your generosity, thoughtfulness and the effort you expended to have this picture framed. It is exquisite and brings out the real beauty of the painting. As "keeper" it will have a place of honor in my home when CCS does not have a need. Best of all, it will be a reminder of the many friends that Troy and I have in CCS.

We love each one of you.

Linda McCraray

HELP NEEDED FOR ESCAP!!

Please call Maxine Schank (936-445-1765) ASAP if you will be able to assist with presentations or provide flowers for demonstrations to the students. Assistants will help hand out materials to students, gather completed pictures, and pin 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!



Searching for a particular camellia?

Hal Vanis has offered to take special orders, to be delivered and paid for either at the CCS Camellia show on the 16th or at the Tyler show later in January. A 3 gallon plant will be \$18 each.

Call Hal Vanis (903-854-4517) for more information or to place your order.