

Coushatta

Camellia



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

December 2010 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

Society

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

TIPS FOR THE CAMELLIA GARDENER

By Dennis Bilyeu

- 1 Continue gibbing buds for the upcoming Camellia shows.
- 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 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 and the cheapest price. The minimal processing makes the corn meal more effective as a fungicide.

The organic material removed from under your Camellias should be disposed of the same way as the fallen blooms. Bagging and placing it 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 on this 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 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. I will be going to our feed store sponsor Henderson soon to see if they have it and let you know.

- Dennis

Upcoming Events

January 4, 2011 January meeting
Mini Camellia Show
presented by: Claudette Shelfer, Tommy Weeks, and Dennis Bilyeu
First Christian Church
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

January 8, 2011 Camellia Club of
New Orleans Show, Metairie, LA

January 14-16 Conroe, TX
40th Coushatta Camellia Society Show
January 14-Set-up & Pre-Show pizza party
January 15 - 7 am bloom preparation;
10:30 brunch; 11:30 judging;
1:00 open to the public 'til 4
continues Jan 16 12-3.
First Christian Church Gymnasium
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

January 29 Baton Rouge Camellia
Show, Burden Center, Baton Rouge, LA

February 2 February meeting
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program
"Poinsettias"
P.J. Ellison, Ellison Nursery, Brenham

February 12-13 Garden Tour

February 26 Texas Camellia Show
Walker Education Center, Huntsville, TX

Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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President Dick Eidem

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

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FEBRUARY PROGRAM

"POINSETTIAS"

by P. J. KALIL

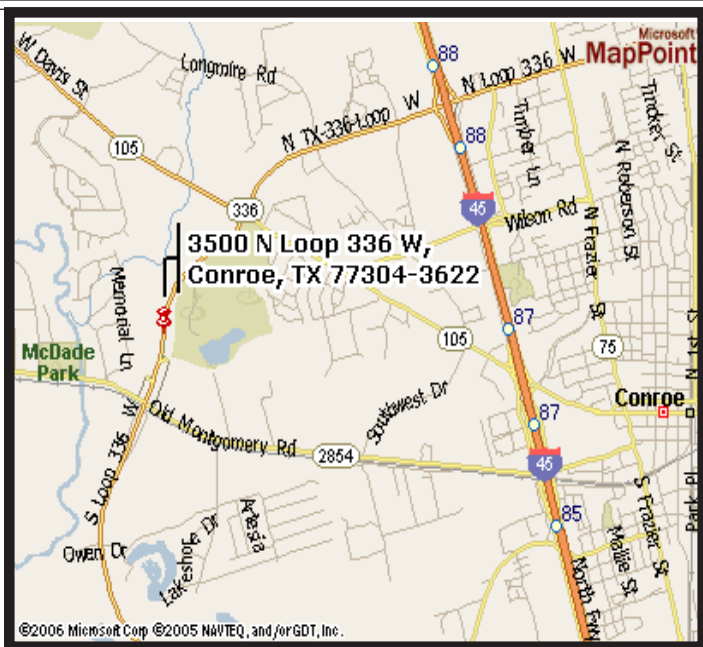
by JoAnn Treat

P.J. Ellison Kalil has been president of Ellison's Greenhouses, Inc. since

1996 and owner since 2000. She moved back to Texas from California after a 12 year absence, changed careers, purchased the greenhouses from her parents in July 2000 and became President/CEO of Ellison's Greenhouses, Inc. In 2002, she was named Grower of the Year by Greenhouse Grower magazine (the first woman to receive this award).

She received her B.S. at Texas A&M University, her M.B.A. at the College of Notre Dame and completed the Stanford Executive Management Program. She was selected Young Agriculturist of the Year 2002, Ft. Worth Star Telegram Farm and Ranch Award 1998, and Honorary Horticulture Major Texas A&M 2002.

Quoting from Laura Henne who wrote the article for the magazine, "By those who know her best--and even some who have only met her once--PJ has been described as passionate, unique, tenacious, focused, kind, witty, strong, generous, intelligent, genuine and charismatic."



New (and not-so-new) members! Come join us in the parlor (or the gym, look for a sign on the parlor door) 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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JANUARY PROGRAM: MINI-CAMELLIA SHOW



Our January program might be considered a "dress rehearsal" for the 40th annual Coushatta Camellia Show.

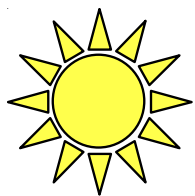
It is also a chance for members to learn more about camellia shows, so they can enjoy them more, even if they do not enter a blossom.

Bring your blooms, and nomenclature books (if you have them). Tommy Weeks, Dennis Bilyeu, and Claudette Shelfer will also be bringing flowers, so there will be plenty of blooms for all to use. Tommy, Dennis and Claudette will make the presentation. Come learn how to be a winner!

Here's what you can expect:

- Step by step instructions in filling out the blossom ID cards, and copies of the cards for you to take home and fill out. You will learn how to classify your blooms properly, so they will not be disqualified for improper identification.
- Step by step instructions in gathering your blossoms and transporting them to the show. You will also learn the best way to preserve them until showtime.
- Step by step instructions in grooming your blossoms and displaying them to their best advantage (including special tips!).
- A walk-through of a show, explaining how the blossoms are judged, and how the different parts of the show will take place.

Come learn more about camellias and camellia shows. You'll have fun, and you will gain knowledge and appreciation of the camellias you see in your garden and at the show. You might even decide to go for that "Novice" award this year.



SUNSHINE

Do you have news to share about a member? Maybe there is a special anniversary coming up, or perhaps one of our members is a little under the weather. Sarah Eidem would like to brighten up his or her day with a little Sunshine!

Send her an e-mail at seake@consolidated.net or call 936-264-2437.



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

Happy Birthday!



December

Reneé Bilyeu
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
Mike Mendeck
June Sadoti
Rex Stodghill
Victor Treat
Lewis Walker
Jan Waller

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CCS PREPARES FOR SHOW

January 14-16, 2011

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 14th 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.

A fine brunch put together by June Sadoti and a great group of volunteers is from 10:30-11:30 am for judges, clerks, and CCS members. Please consider donations of cookies for the show. Bring them to the Gym by 11:00 A.M. on Saturday and label the container for CCS, so they will not get mixed with church school goodies. Judges and Clerks briefing will be at the end of the brunch with Judging taking place from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

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 5 January 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 5 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



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