

Coushatta

Camellia

January 2012 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305



Society

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

The weather outside has been chilly, yet the beauty of the
camellia warms our hearts!

SHOW RESULTS

Thank you to all who participated in our annual show, and made it
such a wonderful success.

CERTIFICATES

Gold Certificate (unprotected): **Dennis Bilyeu**

Silver Certificate (unprotected): **Greg Davis**

Gold Certificate (protected): **Hal Vanis**

Silver Certificate (protected): **Dick Eidem**

OUTSTANDING BLOOM CERTIFICATES

C. japonica unprotected: Lg/VLg: 'White Nun', **C. Flores**; RU:
'Paul Haskee Var.', **Dudley Boudreaux**; Lg: 'Charlie Bettes', **W.
B. & Ruby Knox**; RU: 'Nuccio's Bella Rosa', **Greg Davis**; Md/
Lg: 'Carol Humphrey', **unknown**; RU: 'Candy Apple', **Dennis
Bilyeu**; Md: 'Margaret Davis', **Bill McCranor**; RU: 'Cherries
Jubilee', **Greg Davis**; Sm: 'Maroon and Gold', **Bill McCranor**;
RU: 'Ellen Daniel', **Greg Davis**; Mn: 'Little Slam Var.', **Dennis
Bilyeu**; RU: 'Man Size', **Greg Davis**

C. japonica protected: Lg/VLg: 'Tomorrow Dawn', **Hal Vanis**;
RU: 'Tomorrow Park Hill Marbury', **Hal Vanis**; Lg: 'Royal
Velvet Var.', **Hal Vanis**; RU: 'Elegans Spendor', **Hal Vanis**; Md/
Lg: 'Grand Marshal', **Hal Vanis**; RU: 'Kubal Kain', **Hal Vanis**;
Sm: 'Buddy Var.', **Hal Vanis**; RU: 'Ave Maria', **Hal Vanis**

C. reticulata (Inc. hybrids w/retic parent) unprotected:

Mn/Md-Lg: 'Lois Boudreaux', **Dudley Boudreaux**

C. reticulata (Inc. hybrids w/retic parent) protected:

Lg/VLg: 'Hall's Pride Var.', **Hal Vanis**; RU: 'Frank Houser Var.',
Dick Eidem; Mn/Md-Lg: 'Black Lace Peony', **Hal Vanis**

C. hybrid (w/no retic parent) unprotected:

Lg/VLg: 'Delores Edwards', **Greg Davis**; Mn/Md-Lg: 'Julie',
Dudley Boudreaux

continued on page 2- see "Show results"

Upcoming Events

February 4-5 Brookhaven Camellia
Show, Brookhaven, MS

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

February 11 Texas Camellia Show
Walker Education Center, Huntsville, TX
Set-up: Feb. 10, 2pm
Show: Feb. 11- Open 7 am,
Judging 10:30 am; Lunch @ noon

March 3 Garden Tour
Saturday - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
After-tour dinner for volunteers & hosts:
Margarita's & Peppers Restaurant
6 pm - 2259 N. Loop 336W
RSVP Maxine Schank (936) 445-1765

March 6 March meeting
6:30 p.m. - social, 7:00 p.m. - program
Speaker: P.J. Ellison
Ellison Nursery, Brenham
Program: "Poinsettias"

March 22-23 March Mart 2012
Mercer Arboretum



SHOW RESULTS - continued from page 1

TRAYS Tray of Three any species - same variety unprotected: *'Christmas Beauty'*, **Dennis Bilyeu**

Tray of Three any species - same variety protected: *'Royal Velvet'*, **Hal Vanis**

NOVICE C. japonica: Lg/VLg: *'Royal Velvet'*, **Dolores Rodriguez**; RU: *'Tick Tock'*, **Dolores Rodriguez**; Md/Md-Lg: *'Governor Mouton'*, **June Sadoti**; RU: *'Kumagi'*, **Bill Dupre**; Mn/Sm: *'Bonanza'*, **Dolores Rodriguez**

SPECIAL MEMORIAL AWARDS Best Large Bloom - Earle & Iola Gentry Award: *'Charlie Bettes'*, **W. B. & Ruby Knox**; Best Tray of Three - Dr. Emil Carroll Award: *'Christmas Beauty'*, **Dennis Bilyeu**; Best Large-Very Large Reticulata - Hyman R. Norsworthy Memorial Award: *'Hall's Pride Var.'*, **Hal Vanis**



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TEXAS CAMELLIA SHOW

Coushatta Camellia Society is again participating with the Texas Camellia Show sponsors. The show will be held in Huntsville, Texas, on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Activities for set up will be kicked off on Friday, the 10th at 2:00 pm at Gills Hall, on the lower floor of the Walker Education Center. It is located on 19th street at the western edge of the Sam Houston Museum property.

Directions: From I-45 North, take exit # 115 and proceed on the feeder road to the intersection of 19th street and then turn right. Proceed on 19th street about ½ mile to the Walker Education Center brick building on the left. Enter the building through the main entrance for the show.

From I-45 South, take exit # 115 and proceed on the feeder road to the next overpass, turn left after a horse shoe turn and go over the overpass, and then turn left on the feeder road and proceed to 19th street. Again, turn right and proceed about ½ mile to the Walker Education Center building located on 19th street. From the Courthouse, proceed on Sam Houston Avenue, to 19th street, turn right (only direction possible) and proceed several blocks to the Center.

Saturday morning, the door will be opened at 7:00 am for exhibitors to begin arranging blooms. Judging will begin about 10:30 am, and lunch will be about 12:00 noon for judges and exhibitors. Public viewing will be from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Camellia plants will be available for sale to the general public. The show is free to the public, and anyone with camellias is welcome to exhibit their blooms for judging.

A successful show depends on volunteers and participants. Without both, the Show just would not be possible. To volunteer, make suggestions if you wish, or if you have questions, contact Morris or Jan Waller (936 295-5160), Dick Eidem (936 264-2437, Hal Vanis (903 854-4517), or Dennis Bilyeu (936 760-6744).

See you there for an excellent show in a great facility!

MERCER MARCH MART 2012

by Dennis Bilyeu



Coushatta Camellia Society will participate again in Mercer March Mart, bringing about 300 Camellias to the sale for \$35 each. A portion of proceeds goes to Mercer, and CCS bears the cost of plants and shipping from a Mississippi Nursery which delivers directly to Mercer. CCS will provide volunteers to staff camellia tables and sell Camellia plants at March Mart. Each plant will have a CCS website tag so purchasers can get information on planting & care of their plants, or contact us for information or membership.

Ten thousand people visit March Mart each year, so we will need a large number of volunteers to help with plant sales March 21 - 24. The sale should net a significant profit for our society and introduce camellias and CCS to many new people. Last year we sold fewer plants than our first year when we sold nearly all our 300 plants and the sale became the single best fund raiser for the club. We hope to do as well and possibly better this year.

Dennis Bilyeu and Randy McDaniel will be our Mercer Coordinators this year and they will need much help from our membership to be successful. We will need to have our booth and plants set up and ready for sale by Noon Wednesday, March 21st. Wednesday afternoon is reserved for volunteers working at the plant sale so they can do some shopping. If you are a regular member of the Mercer Society you will get the opportunity to shop on Thursday afternoon. VIP members (donate over \$100) get to shop exclusively on Thursday morning and then Thursday afternoon with the regular members. The general public shops on Friday and Saturday.

Mercer Society members also have special check out privileges and areas to store their plants while they are shopping, along with discount coupons. The price of Mercer membership is generally considered well worth the benefits received during March Mart.

The Mercer people are still very excited about our relationship and are looking for ways to expand our involvement in Mercer activities. I believe this continues to be a great opportunity for CCS to spread the word about Camellias to a much wider audience. We are still in the planning process for our March Mart participation and should have additional information on this at our February and March meetings. If you would like to get involved call either Dennis (936)760-6744 or Randy (936)718-8728 or let either know of your interest at the meetings.

About This Year's Garden Tour

March 3, 2012

by Bill McCranor

This coming Coushatta Camellia Society meeting on Feb. 7th will be the last meeting before our annual garden tour. Therefore I will be distributing flyers and brochures to all members who have volunteered to, or those of you that just wish to help us get the word out to public. Plastic flyer and brochure holders will be available also. For the members whose gardens are on the tour, I will bring the roadside signs and the 'welcome table' packets which include guest books, invoice pads for plant sales and other pertinent information. Our March 3rd Garden Tour will visit the gardens of:

- A. Dick and Sara Eidem
- B. Dennis & Renée Bilyeu
- C. Bill & Laurie McCranor
- D. John Browder
- E. Don & Jenny Marcotte

I would like to ask all members to check your schedules to see if you can help at one of the above 'welcome tables' during the tour. I need a total of 10 volunteers (2 at each location). I presently have only 3. If you can; for a successful garden tour, please volunteer! Thank you.

Welcome new members!

Welcome to our newest members, who joined at our annual camellia show.

Please add this information to your yearbooks:

Benjamin J. and Dolores Rodriguez

164 Arizona Lane, Huntsville, TX 77320-1612

Phillip R. and Julia D. Williamson

9130 Northridge Dr., Conroe, TX 7304

936-441-8292 juliajd@aol.com

Coushatta Camellia Show 2012

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our annual show such a wonderful success. The list of winning blooms and exhibitors can be found on the first page, but that is not the whole story:

Attendance:	128
Exhibitors:	16
Blooms:	490
Enjoyment:	Tremendous!

Treasurer's Report

January 2012

This report does not include Show income and expenses, as that information was not available before the ending of the month.

Beginning Balance: January 1, 2012 \$13,087.42

Expenses: Newsletter Printing 19.84
Speaker Expense 87.45
Total Expenses 107.29

Ending Balance 1/16/2012 \$12,980.13

Minutes for CCS January 2012 Meeting

Jan. 03, 2012

The January meeting began at 7:00 p.m., with an opening prayer by Oscar Schank. Our guest speaker was Dr. David Creech, Stephen F. Austin University's Gardens Director. He spoke on camellias and their companions. Many types of plants compatible with camellias were covered and we were shown slides of plants from his travels in China, as well as plants in the gardens at SFA. He also showed us pictures of the "Camellia of Ten Thousand Flowers", planted sometime between 1465 and 1487. Dr. Creech was truly a very interesting speaker and was enjoyed by all.

Our business meeting followed Dr. Creech and began with Claudette Shelfer announcing the Judge's accreditation at First Christian Church this Saturday, January 07, at 10:00, lasting till noon. Members were invited to join in, as it can be helpful even to clerks and those helping with our shows.

Dennis stated someone is still needed to head up the Adopt-A-Park project. Also, help with the Club's website is still needed.

Dennis announced, starting in March, a strategic guidance committee will be selected to work on plans for future growth and projects to further improve the Club.

There were no minutes for the December meeting as it was our Christmas Party. The Treasurer's report, as printed in the newsletter, was approved by Morris Waller and seconded by Jan Waller.

The December plant sale held at J and D (Americas Country Store) on Hwy 105W made approximately \$570.00.

We will be selling camellia plants again this year at the Mercer March Mart. Reticulatas will likely be purchased and sold at Mercer. If there are any varieties a members may want please let Dennis or Randy know soon, so they may be purchased at the same time as the plants for Mercer.

Advertising for the CCS Camellia Show will be going out soon. Set-up for the show will begin at 2:00 o'clock Friday the 27th in the gymnasium. Maxine Schank will have pizza delivered for the preshow party. Judging will be followed by a brunch provided by our members. Members are encouraged to help with all aspects of our show.

Strategic Planning Committee

Coushatta Camellia Society 2012

Most of you have probably heard about Eastman Kodiak filling for bankruptcy recently. That is what happens to organizations that fail to change as the world changes all around them. I hope to avoid a similar fate for CCS by forming this Strategic Planning Committee that will be tasked with recommending to CCS changes that should be made to insure long term viability of the club.

We have seen the closing of the two other Texas Camellia clubs and my hope is that implementing recommendations of this Committee will avoid a similar fate for CCS.

The goal of this Committee should be to recommend actions by CCS that will attract new members and instill a passion for Camellias and gardening in its members. If we can do those things, I believe it will energize our membership and provide long term growth and stability for our club.

This Committee needs to have members willing to honestly evaluate new ideas and changes to the club that will make our club more attractive to a broader group of people. I would like to get at least five members to volunteer for this important Committee and will be asking for volunteers at our next meeting.

Morris Waller reported that the Huntsville Show would be February 11 at the Walker Education Building, in the newly refurbished downstairs. Set-up for the show will be 2:00 on the Friday the 10th. Help for this show would be appreciated.

Bill McCranor reported our home tour will be smaller this year, as we have lost some of our former homes. There will be 5 homes on a one-day tour. He will need approximately 10 volunteers to man the information tables. Also, volunteers are needed to put flyers with directions and information about our tour. Contact Bill for more information or to volunteer.

Renee, our membership and hospitality chairperson, reported we had two visitors at our meeting. Renee also requested someone take over the plans for the end of year party as our previous person resigned from this duty.

Debra Stallings, our Master Gardner Liaison, requested flyers for our show and stated if received in time she would report our functions to the Master Gardeners for their monthly meetings. Also, she reported their Fruit & Nut Tree sale will be January 28, the same date as our Show.

The next date for a Gilmore's Nursery workday was set is January 21 at 9:00 am. Members are encouraged to attend.

Randy reported he is waiting on permission for the Allie Dezelle memorial bench.

Joanne Treat has finished paperwork for non-profit status.

After answering questions from the audience and a discussion on shade cloth, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

*Coushatta Camellia
Society Newsletter*

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the Coushatta Camellia Society*

President Dennis Bilyeu

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

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Greenhouse Workday

Jan 21, 2012

Dennis, Bill, Renee, Judy, Cherokee and Debra met at the greenhouse for our January work day. Bill and Dennis disassembled the old shade house just behind the florist and began reassembling it just outside the greenhouse. We are about half done and hope to finish the shade house at our next workday. Cherokee and Renee began repotting orchids while Judy took inventory of the Camellia plants in the greenhouse. After completing the inventory Judy joined the other ladies repotting orchids. A little later Debra Stallings joined the repotting effort. Cherokee estimates one more workday should be enough to complete repotting of the orchids. Cherokee will plan our next greenhouse workday and hopefully make an announcement of that activity at our next meeting.

Bill and Dennis evaluated rebuilding the storage shed and Bill agreed to develop a cost estimate for this rebuild by using as much of the used free lumber as possible. Bill should have that estimate at our next meeting.

Dennis discovered three large cement slabs in the woods between where we currently have our latest shipment of plants and the road to the greenhouse. These slabs have sprinklers on either side of the slabs and are in working order. Dennis discussed use of these slabs with the Gilmores and they agreed to let us use these to store our plants. All we need to do is clean out the weeds and trash from around the slabs and we would have a great place to store our plants. We hope to work on this at our next workday.

Gilmore's has been very good to us and I encourage all our members to give them some business whenever possible.

Happy Birthday!

January

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



February

Dudley Boudreaux
Mary Feece
Marlene Hamm
Susan McDaniel
Claudette Shelfer
Edie Tong

Support Our Sponsors!

TIME AGAIN FOR DUES!

But it's only the first of the year! Yes, your dues are not really "due" until September, but we have only two more business meetings before our break for the summer. If you would like your information included in our yearbook, we need to have your dues paid before June.



Treasurer Claudette Shelfer will be happy to accept your payment at the February or March meeting. You won't find a better value than \$10 for a single or \$15 for a joint membership! Won't you please consider adding \$25 to your check and becoming a Friend of Coushatta Camellia Society?

Claudette asks that everyone who has receipts for reimbursement turn them in by the end of **March**.

FEBRUARY TIPS FOR THE CAMELLIA GARDENER

PLANTING

By Dennis Bilyeu

Continue planting potted plants that have root development to the outer edge of the pot. Do not plant or re-pot plants that had their roots disturbed in the last three months as when re-potting plants. February is also a good month to transplant large plants from one location to another. For more details on recommended techniques for transplanting large plants contact the author.

FERTILIZE

Now is a good time to apply a little fertilizer to your Camellias. This is the best time to use cottonseed meal, at these recommended concentrations: (note: check ingredients to make sure your cottonseed meal does not contain salt!)

- For small to large container plants use 1 to 2 tablespoons
- For small to large in-ground plants use 2 to 4 tablespoons
- For all planted/transplanted plants where you used filler soil with a high organic content, use 4 to 5 tablespoons

PRUNING

After your Camellia has finished blooming and before it starts putting on new growth is an excellent time to prune your plants. Generally pruning is done to create a desired shape or to remove internal branching that blocks light from the center of the plant. We will be pruning plants in the greenhouse at our next work day, so come join us if you want to see a demonstration on pruning Camellias. Contact Cherokee for more information on the date. If you can't come to the work day contact our acknowledged club expert in this area, Dick Eidem.

SPRAYING

After heavy pruning, spray or apply a paste fungicide to cut ends to prevent die back. An excellent fungicide is one tablespoon each of Captan and Cleary 3336 in a gallon of water or mix just enough water to make a paste a brush this mixture on the cut wounds. Also, check for spider mites and scale and spray for these if necessary. Use oil emulsion to treat both of these problems and add the insecticide Kelthane to the mix for spider mites and Malathion for scale. Kelthane has been difficult to purchase lately and I have found a Bayer product that specifically treats mites. It is labeled 'Insect, Disease and Mite control' and can be found at Lowes

and Home Depot. If you have lots of plants to spray, get the more economical 'mix your own' at Home Depot rather than the premixed spray at Lowes. Also, I am trying to develop a source for Cleary 3336 at our local Henderson Feed store.

PROPAGATION

February is the ideal month to do grafting. I have posted a grafting procedure on our web site and am available for advice. This is the best technique for generating a new large plant of a special variety you would like to have. A well cared for graft can grow from a 4 inch scion to 3 feet tall or more in one year. My procedure lists all the materials needed to do grafting but you need to start with a desired scion and good root stock (Sasanqua is generally preferred). I have lots of plants in my yard that would be good sources for scions and a limited supply of good root stock. We want to schedule a grafting work shop at the greenhouse and are trying to get some good root stock for this purpose. Rooting cuttings can be done in February, but April is the best month for this propagation technique. I will be scheduling a rooting demonstration/workshop at the greenhouse in April. I have developed a special rooting technique that has produced 90+% success rate and will be demonstrating this technique. I have recently rooted about 30 cuttings of the Mildred Gilmore Camellia and placed them in the greenhouse. We should be able to see how they are progressing during the workshop. Air layering Camellias is also best done in April or later and will have more information on this in our next newsletter.

PETAL BLIGHT

I received a note from Tom Leroy; he says corn meal has not been very effective in our area in the past and that the best method of preventing petal blight is still to pick up your blooms. Our speaker Bart Brechter (River Bend Gardens), said he has been using corn meal for years as an effective treatment for petal blight. Since he has personal experience in this area, I believe the corn meal is at least partially effective against petal blight. Bart also picks up his blooms, so how much effect the corn meal has is difficult to determine. Also, all Henderson has available is corn gluten and it does not work the same as corn meal. Enjoy your gardening, Dennis

Coushatta Camellia Society

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