

Coushatta Camellia Society



JANUARY 2021 Newsletter

Greetings, Fellow Camellia Lovers!

Dear CCS Members,

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday and that this New Year is much better than 2020. Fortunately, we do have our beloved camellias already brightening up the year and at least bringing their cheerful display of flowers for us to enjoy. Hopefully many of your plants are full of buds and will continue to flower throughout these difficult times.

This January 10 at 2:00pm our monthly Zoom meeting will have another guest speaker, **Randolph Maphis**, who has many years experience in growing camellias on the topic **“Everything We Have Learned About Growing Camellias”**.

Being that we have limited time for our meetings I'm sure he won't be able to go over “everything” but he will surely give a lot of information. Please be sure to be signed in for the Zoom meeting on time so that we can get in as much information as possible.

Happy New Year!
Edward Estrada

Current Activity

January 10, 2021

Regular Meeting
Randolph Maphis, Speaker

February 14, 2021

Regular Meeting
Forrest Latta, Speaker

March 14, 2021

Regular Meeting

NOTE:

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

CCS Website:

<http://coushattacamelliasociety.com/>

February Speaker -Forrest Latta *American Camellia Classics*

Forrest Latta, who lives in Mobile, Alabama, is a corporate trial attorney in a regional law firm of 400 lawyers. As a hobby, he has grown and collected camellias for over 25 years. He has held various offices in the American and International Camellia Societies and is the author of the book “Camellia Garden Field Guide” (Amazon Press), as well as numerous articles. His favorite camellia job is serving as Historian for the American Camellia Society, which he has done for the last 15 years

Tea in India:

By Frank Ohrt

Many of our members read the recent newsletter article on tea, the product of *Camellia sinensis*. Everyone knows that tea has been drunk by the Chinese since time immemorial, and has long been the national drink of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Well, not so fast! China, yes, but South Asia, not so much. Tea was popular in Britain long before it became widely consumed in British India. Tea actually became popular in India only after one of the first, and longest, marketing campaigns in history.

It all started in the early 1800s, when the British traders in Chinese tea decided that they could save money by growing it in the Himalayan foothills of northeast India, across the mountains from where it was grown in China. They then realized they could make a killing if they could convince the Indians to drink it. The merchants formed the India Tea Board to drum up demand. That took a very long time.

Most Indians had never drunk tea, and preferred plain water, or milk. The British tried using snob appeal, as tea was the preferred drink of the *sahibs* and *memsahibs*. That didn't work. They then sent sales teams from town to town, visiting homes with small stoves and tea sets, brewing tea one house at a time. If they visited an upper-caste house, they would use fancy porcelain tea pots and cups. That didn't work so well, either, since caste rules made the target households suspicious that they might be being served by lower-caste persons, and the lower castes couldn't afford the necessary equipment.

The British kept trying. They started setting up tea stalls in railway stations (separate stalls for Muslims and Hindus!). It was a good way to get some refreshment in a hurry, and slowly gained converts. However, it was the two World Wars that finally made the difference. Imperial troops, far from home, were exposed to the British tea habit of their officers, and castle-based dietary restrictions were loosened by the necessities of military efficiency. And, of course, tea was promoted in the same way Lucky Strike cigarettes were provided to American GIs. When the soldiers went home, they took their new tea-drinking habit with them, and by the 1950s the 100+ year-old marketing efforts had finally succeeded.

Of course, the Indians, being Indians, gave their own twist to the habit, ditching the lemon beloved by the British, and adding milk, lots of sugar, and a cupboard of spices - cardamom, clove, ginger, and even black pepper. The Indian version became so widely popular that most of us, and perhaps most Indians, don't really know how recent their tea-drinking culture is. The next time you're out singeing your tongue with some vindaloo, you can thank the India Tea Board for the refreshing drink that quenches the flames!

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 Coughatta 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



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.homerichardson.com/camellia
Camellia Society of North Florida
[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia Society North Fla.html](http://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](https://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'