

Coushatta

Camellia



January 2010 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!

TEXAS CAMELLIA SHOW

CCS in partnership with East Texas and Houston Camellia Societies are again sponsoring the Texas Camellia Show in Huntsville, TX. on February 27, 2010. We kick off activities with our Show set up on Friday, the 26th at 2 PM at the West Hill Mall Community Center room, in Huntsville. Directions: From I-45 exit to Hwy 190E and Hwy 30, go West about one block and turn left (South) into the Mall parking area. As you travel South along the East side of the Mall, the main entrance is near the center of the Mall. Enter here and take a left at the circle inside the Mall. The Community Center Room will be on your right about a hundred feet after the left turn.

Saturday morning, the Community Room back door will be opened for exhibitors at 7 am. Bloom preparation and set out will be from 7–10:30 am. A sign at the back entrance on the West side of the Mall will help exhibitors bring their blooms into the Community Center Room easily; members will be available to assist. Brunch will be provided for our volunteers from 10:30-11:30 am for judges, clerks, and members of the three sponsoring Societies. Judges and Clerks' briefing will be at the end of the brunch with judging taking place from 11:30 to 1:00 pm Saturday afternoon; take down will start at 5.

At the February CCS meeting, Morris and Jan Waller will update us on show details and sign up member assistance. We will have copies of the Huntsville Show Flyer available and encourage members to take several and distribute them to their friends.

A successful show depends on volunteers and participants. Without volunteers the Show is not possible; Without participants it is not worthwhile, so please plan on being one or the other if not both. To volunteer, make suggestions or if you have a questions, contact: Morris Waller (936-295-5160), Dick Eidem (936-264-2437), Hal Vanis (903-854-4517), or Dennis Bilyeu (936 7606744). Greg Davis, faithful regular, will not be available as he will be in China at a Congress of the International Camellia Society, of which he is the retiring President.

Upcoming Events

February 2 February meeting
6:30 p.m. - social; 7:00 p.m. - program
Speaker: Tom LeRoy
Montgomery County Extension
Program: Grafting Heirloom Tomatoes
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N. Loop 336 W, Conroe

February 13-14 Garden Tour
Saturday - Conroe gardens (6)
Sunday - Old Waverly gardens (2)
After-tour dinner for volunteers & hosts:
Margarita's & Peppers Restaurant
5 pm - 2259 N. Loop 336W
RSVP Maxine Schank (936) 445-1765

February 27 Texas Camellia Show
Set-up: Feb. 26, 2pm - West Hill Mall,
Community Center Room, Huntsville
Show: Feb. 27 - Open 7 am,
Brunch 10:30 am; Judging 11:30 am

March 2 March meeting
6:30 p.m. - social, 7:00 p.m. - program
Speaker: Douglas Rhuen
Program: "Highlights of Progress at
Massey Lane"
First Christian Church Parlor



END OF YEAR SOCIAL

Maxine and Diane are starting to plan our end of the year dinner and would like club members' input. Do you want to go back to McKenzies, or do you know someplace different you would like to try? It needs to be in the Conroe area and be reasonably priced and of course must have adequate seating for at least 40 to 45 people. Think about it and let us know at the February meeting.

Thank you, Diane and Maxine

THE BIG FREEZE

It was a big disappointment when freezing weather blighted our camellias, forcing the cancellation of this year's annual show. In spite of it all, CCS members gathered for a warm evening at **Margarita & Peppers**, and honored Charlie Gambrill for his many years of making our show such a grand success.



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



Thirteenth Annual Open Garden Tour

By Bill McCranor

As in the past couple of years, this year's garden tour schedule will be based on geographic locations and will again take place over a two day weekend period. In 2010 we will feature five gardens in the Conroe area, which will be open on Saturday, as well as four gardens in the Huntsville-New Waverly area slated for the tour on Sunday.

Saturday's tour will feature the gardens of some of the society's bedrock members; the Bilyeus, the Weeks, the Knoxs, the Eidems and, returning for a second time, the garden of E.B. Smith. Sunday's tour returns to Huntsville this year showcasing the gardens belonging to The Wallers and, for the first time, The Marcottes. The tour then continues down to Old Waverly visiting my garden and that of my neighbor, John Browder.

I'm quite sure that everyone's camellias were 'knocked for a loop' with all the hard freezes we experienced earlier this month, but camellias are tough and are coming back. I think in the next couple of weeks we will see a great resurgence of blooms, making for a grand tour weekend.

In the meantime I would like all society members to practice raising your hand so that you will know just what to do when I ask for volunteers to man the tour "welcome tables" at our February meeting. I still have quite a few slots open.

Saturday, February 13: 10 AM – 4 PM

(In and around Conroe)

Renée & Dennis Bilyeu – 5275 Longmire Ct., Conroe
Tommy & Sandra Weeks — 11281 Jake Pearson Rd., Conroe
W.B. & Ruby Knox -- 215 Sunset Blvd., Conroe
E. B. & Lois Smith — 600 Brook Hollow Dr., Conroe
Dick & Sarah Eidem -- 11363 Newton Circle, Conroe

Sunday, February 14: 11 AM – 3 PM

(Huntsville & Old Waverly)

Morris & Jan Waller – 417 Elkins Lake, Huntsville
Don & Jenny Marcotte – 11 Whippoorwill, Huntsville
Bill & Laurie McCranor - 1100 Browder Loop, New Waverly
John Browder -1201 Browder Loop, New Waverly

Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

Published monthly, August through March, for members of the Coushatta Camellia Society

President Dick Eidem

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

- GARDEN & LAWN SUPPLIES
- WEED & BRUSH KILLER
- FERTILIZER
- INSECTICIDES
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CCS GOES TO MERCER

Dennis Bilyeu

Thanks to new member Mabel Bryant, Coushatta Camellia Society has received an invitation to bring camellias to the Mercer March Mart 2010. CCS will sell 300 camellias at \$35 each, with a portion of the proceeds going to Mercer and CCS bearing the cost of the plants and shipping. The camellias will come from Georgia and shipped with the same reliable, economical trucking firm used by Mercer. CCS will provide volunteers to staff the camellia tables at the March Mart.

We will also have the opportunity to give out information about Camellias and our Coushatta Camellia Society. Ten thousand people visit the March Mart each year, virtually ensuring sellout of the camellias. The sale will net at least \$2,500 for our society and introduce camellias and CCS to many people.

Our Mercer project is growing each day. We had a good Mercer Committee meeting last week and are well on our way to getting ready for the Mercer March Mart plant sale.

In the last week we have agreed to have a mini Camellia Exhibit at Mercer on February 12 when Mercer has its annual Volunteer appreciation lunch. This should be great advertisement for our Garden Tour the following weekend. We hope to have a flyer on the Garden Tour available as handouts at this Exhibit. We also plan to have membership information available and could sign up some new members.

We have also tentatively committed to providing Camellias for the dedication ceremony of the Thelma Mercer garden that will take place on February 18 & 19. We will be needing lots of Camellias for all these events at Mercer and encourage all our members to help by cutting blooms and bringing them to either my house or Tommy Weeks house so they can be collected and transported to Mercer in a timely manner.

The Mercer people are very excited about our new relationship and are looking for ways to expand our involvement in Mercer activities. I believe this is a great opportunity for CCS that will allow us to spread the word about Camellias to a much wider audience.

Happy Birthday!



January

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

February

Dudley Boudreaux
Mary Feece
Marlene Hamm
Vicky Hawkins
Susan McDaniel
Claudette Shelfer
Edie Tong
Elizabeth Vanrooy
Vern Vanrooy

Support Our Sponsors!

TIME AGAIN FOR DUES!

Yes, it's that time of year again, and Treasurer Diane Dyer 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? Welcome to our new members who have joined at our show or plant sale - your payment will not come due until next year.

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



TIPS FOR THE CAMELLIA GARDENER

By Dennis Bilyeu

PLANTING

Continue planting potted plants that have root development to the outer edge of the pot. Do not plant or re-pot plants that have 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. Mrs. Henderson (**Henderson Feed and Supply**) has just ordered some 3 month Osmocote - an excellent slow release fertilizer for camellias and azaleas. If you want to use cottonseed meal, this season is the best time, at these recommended concentrations: (note: check ingredients to make sure your cottenseed 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. For more information on pruning 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 table-

spoon each of Captain 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. Kelthane has been difficult to purchase lately and I am currently trying to find a good replacement treatment for spider mites. Milton Surles says Neem oil works on spider mites but other members doubt it is very effective. Also, I am trying develop a source for Cleary 3336 at our local Henderson Feed store, still need the active ingredient to make this happen. So, if anyone has some Cleary 3336 please let me know what the active ingredient and concentration is on the label.

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 if anyone wants some.

PETAL BLIGHT

I received a note from Tom LeRoy on the use of corn meal to treat petal blight and 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. Also, all Henderson has available is corn gluten and Tom does not know if that is the same as corn meal or if it is effective against petal blight.

Hope you are doing well, Dennis

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