

# Coushatta

# Camellia

## January 2011 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

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



# Society

### FORTIETH ANNUAL COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SHOW

Jan 15 - 16, Coushatta Camellia Society held its annual show at First Christian Church in Conroe, TX. Due to cold weather, we had fewer (211), but beautiful blooms. Many thanks to all members who worked so hard to make our show a success! ACS Outstanding Bloom Certificates were awarded to:

**UNPROTECTED (GROWN IN OPEN) C. japonica:** Very Large *Han-Ling Snow* (Tommy Weeks); Large *Veiled Beauty* (Tommy Weeks); Medium-Large *Deep Secret* (Dudley Boudreaux); Medium *Tochi Domoto* (Tommy Weeks); Small *Ave Maria* (Greg Davis); Miniature *Emile's Jane* (Gregory Davis)

**C. reticulate & reticulate hybrids:** Large-VL *Gaels Dream* (Tommy Weeks); Miniature - Medium *Lois Boudreaux* (Dudley Boudreaux)

**C. non-retic hybrid:** Large - Very Large *Cile Mitchell* (Dudley Boudreaux); Miniature - Medium *Julie* (Dudley Boudreaux)

**Other Species:** *Vernalis Star Above Star* (W.B. & Ruby Knox)

**Best Tray of Three** *Doris Ellis* (Tommy Weeks)

**Court of Honor:** *Pink Perfection* (Tommy Weeks); *Rose Dawn* (Greg Davis); *Lady Laura* (Tommy Weeks); *Edna Bass Var.* (Tommy Weeks)

**Sweepstakes Gold Certificate:** *Tommy Weeks*; **Silver:** *Greg Davis*

**PROTECTED C. japonica:** Very Large *LaurenTudor Var.* (Hal Vanis); Large *Joy Hendrick* (HVanis); Medium-Large *Sea Foam* (HVanis); Medium *Cherries Jubilee Var.* (HVanis); Miniature *Little Slam Var.* (HVanis)

**C. reticulate & reticulate hybrids:** L-VL *Frank Houser Var.* (Hal Vanis)

**Court of Honor:** *Grand Marshall* (Hal Vanis); *Melissa Anne* (Hal Vanis); *Emil's Jane* (Hal Vanis)

**Sweepstakes Gold Certificate:** *Hal Vanis* **Silver:** *Dick Eidem*

### COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY MINI-SHOW

**EARLE & IOLA GENTRY AWARD** - Best Large Bloom Grown by CCS

Member *Mary Agnes Patin* (Dennis & Renee Bilyeu)

**DR. EMIL CARROLL AWARD** - Best Tray of Three Grown by CCS

Member (Susie Pokorski) *Professor Sargeant* (Oscar Schank)

**"SPECIAL AWARD"** (Jackie Wells) - Best Professor Sargent Grown by

CCS Member *Professor Chas. S. Sargeant* (Oscar Schank)

**C. japonica Large:** *Nuccio's Bella Rosa* (Victor Treat)

**Seedling:** *Rachel Claire* (Tommy Weeks)

**Court of Honor:** *Rachel Kendrick* (Jan Waller)

## Upcoming Events

**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" by P.J. Ellison  
Ellison Nursery, Brenham

**February 12-13** ..... Garden Tour  
Saturday - Conroe gardens (4)  
Sunday - North gardens (4)  
After-tour dinner for volunteers & hosts:  
Margarita's & Peppers Restaurant  
5 pm - 2259 N. Loop 336W  
RSVP Maxine Schank (936) 445-1765

**February 26** ..... Texas Camellia Show  
Walker Education Center, Huntsville, TX  
Set-up: Feb. 25, 2pm  
Show: Feb. 26 - Open 7 am,  
Judging 10:30 am; Lunch @ noon

**March 1** ..... March meeting  
6:30 p.m. - social, 7:00 p.m. - program  
Speaker: John Ferguson, Nature's Way  
Program: "The Soil Food Web"

**Judges:** Dennis Bilyeu, Dudley & Lois Boudreaux, Greg Davis, Charles Gambrell, Ed Holland, Bobby Jones (Salinas, CA), W.B. Knox, Oscar Schank, Claudette Shelfer, Hal Vanis, Tommy Weeks; **Novice Judges:** Dick & Sarah Eidem, Ruby McConnell, Randy McDaniel, Morris Waller. **Clerks:** Kali Arnold, Cherokee Caddell, Don & Jenny Marcotte, Bill McCranor, Victor & JoAnn Treat, Judy Weidner **Show Chairman:** Randy McDaniel



## GARDEN TOUR 2011

The 2011 Camellia Garden Tour is just around the corner. This year's tour will again take place over a two day weekend period. The dates are Saturday & Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. God willing, perhaps the temperatures will stay above 32° between now and then insuring a good show and a great time for our visiting guests.

Everyone who is hosting this year's tour is a returning host from last year. Saturday's tour will showcase the Camellias at Conroe area homes and it begins at the garden of E. B. & Lois Smith on Brook Hollow Dr. The tour will then travel north to Sunset Blvd. to the home of W. B. & Ruby Knox. From there it's over to the gardens of Dennis & Renée Bilyeu on Longmire Ct. The Saturday tour will finish up at Tommy and Sandra Weeks' gardens.

The Sunday tour could well be called the "East Conroe Country Tour" as the gardens are all within the boundaries of the Sam Houston National Forest. This tour will begin at the gardens of Dick and Sarah Eidem on Newton Circle, just north of Cut and Shoot. Next stop will be my home and the home of John Browder on Browder Loop in Old Waverly. The tour will then finish up at "Jenny's Garden" at the home of Don and Jenny Marcotte on Whippoorwill Dr., east of Huntsville.



GROWERS OF QUALITY ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

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



Most of the preparations for the tour are in order but we are still in need of 3 welcome table volunteers for Sunday; one volunteer each at Dick and Sarah's, John Browder's and Don and Jenny's table. Anyone wishing to help out can contact either me or Renée Bilyeu. If a husband and wife would like to volunteer and work together; that can be arranged.

At February's meeting I will be handing out road signs to the garden hosts, handing out brochures and brochure trays to those who volunteered to put them out and I will make flyers available for all to place around to help spread the word.

As in previous years, there will be an "after tour dinner" for the garden hosts and all the volunteers at Margarita's & Peppers Restaurant – 2259 N. Loop 336W. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday Feb 13<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 26, 2011, in a new (to us) location. Activities for set up will be kicked off on Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at the Walker Education Center. It is located on 19<sup>th</sup> street at the western edge of the Sam Houston Museum property.

Directions: From I-45 South, take exit # 115 and proceed on the feeder road to the intersection of 19<sup>th</sup> street and then turn right. Proceed on 19<sup>th</sup> 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 North, take exit # 115 and proceed on the feeder road to the next overpass, turn left after a horseshoe turn and go over the overpass, and then turn left on the feeder road and proceed to 19<sup>th</sup> street. Again, turn right and proceed about ½ mile to the Walker Education Center building located on 19<sup>th</sup> street. From the Court-house, proceed on Sam Houston Avenue, to 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Public viewing will begin at 1:00 pm. Camellia plants will be available for sale to the general public.

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!

## 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
- PET FOOD & SUPPLIES
- HORSE & POULTRY SUPPLIES
- BEEKEEPER SUPPLIES



# HENDERSON

## FEED & SUPPLY

"CONROE'S COMPLETE - ONE STOP FARM - RANCH - GARDEN CENTER"

SINCE 1970

# 936-756-2423

101 E. DAVIS • CONROE



MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

MON - FRI  
7:30 AM to  
6:00 PM  
SAT 7:30 AM to  
5:00 PM

## MERCER MARCH MART 2011

by Dennis Bilyeu

Coushatta Camellia Society will participate again in Mercer March Mart, bringing 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, delivered directly to Mercer. CCS will provide volunteers to staff camellia tables and sell Camellia plants at the 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 to have a large number of volunteers to help with plant sales March 23 - 26. The sale should net a significant profit for our society and introduce camellias and CCS to many new people. Last year (our first at Mercer) 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.

Tommy Weeks is our Mercer Coordinator this year and he will get much help from our plant sales group of Dick Eidem and Randy McDaniel. We will need to have our booth and plants set up and ready for sale by Noon Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This 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.

Last year Tommy and I cut Camellia blooms from our gardens and brought them to Mercer for one of their educational programs. We set the blooms up in the lobby of the visitor center and when the class took breaks they were oohing and aaahing at our beautiful blooms. I believe many of these same people returned to March Mart to buy our Camellia plants based on the blooms they saw at this event. We hope to do something similar this year.

The Mercer people are still very excited about our new 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. For your information Mabel was elected Vice President of the Mercer Society and I was elected to the Board of Directors.

January  
Dennis Bilyeu  
Myra Liston  
Troy McCraray  
Mike Mendeck  
June Sadoti  
Rex Stodghill  
Victor Treat  
Lewis Walker  
Jan Waller

## Happy Birthday!



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

## Support Our Sponsors!

### TIME AGAIN FOR DUES!

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

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



Tommy and Mabel have scheduled three grafting sessions at Mercer, to take place over the next six weeks, and we will be looking for volunteers to help with these hands on training schools. If interested in helping out give Tommy a call.

We are still early in the planning process for our March Mart participation and should have additional information on this in our next Newsletter. If you would like to get involved call either Mabel (281)397-7899, Tommy (281)723-9822, or Dennis (936)760-6744.

## **FEBRUARY 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 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 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 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

At this time of year you should only use slow release or low nitrogen fertilizer. Tommy Weeks has a source of low nitrogen fertilizer from Grow Power that works very well this time of year. Contact Tommy directly to acquire some of this excellent fertilizer.

### **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 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. Kelthane has been difficult to purchase lately and I am currently trying to find a good replacement treatment for spider mites. E.B. Smith has used a systemic insecticide from Henderson Feed Store that he says works great for both scale and spider mites. Personally I will be getting some of this systemic insecticide very soon. Milton Surles says Neem oil works on spider mites but other members doubt it is very effective. Also, I have been able to get Ms. Henderson to obtain a limited supply of the die-back fungicide Cleary 3336 at our local Henderson Feed store. I believe she is currently sold out of this product but if you ask her I believe she can get more in about a week. I know Cherokee Caddell has a supply of this Cleary product and is willing to share; So, if you need to get some quickly call Cherokee.

### **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. The brute force way to handle petal blight is the way E. B. Smith does it and that is to remove all of the organic material from under your Camellia plants and dispose of it. It is a good idea to spray the bare ground under your Camellias with a broad spectrum fungicide that lists petal blight as a fungi it controls, before adding more organic material around your Camellias. This brute force method has served E. B. well for many years.

Enjoy your gardening, Dennis

## **Coushatta Camellia Society**

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Conroe, TX 77305