

Coushatta

Camellia

February 2005 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305



Society

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

With winter coming to an end, isn't this the perfect time of year for garden lovers? When the gardening bug hits you, don't forget to make a stop at Container Grown Nursery and Henderson Feed and Seed.

The weather was stormy on February 1, but it didn't stop members from convening for our regular meeting. We were pleased to welcome guests Johni Hayes, friend of Ilka Swires, and Laurie & Bill McCranor. Tommy Weeks gave an excellent program about the care and placement of camellias. We are fortunate to have such knowledgeable members in CCS who are willing to serve as speakers.

Diane Dyer reported that the cookbook project needs more recipes. She asked that members turn in their favorites to her no later than the March meeting.

Renee Bilyeu announced that the April End-of-the-Year dinner will take place at Coronelli's Restaurant in downtown Conroe. This lovely little restaurant will be the perfect place to get together for a yummy Italian feast. Choice of entree will be either Beef Lasagna or Chicken with Cream Mushroom Sauce. Cost per person is \$22.

Jo Ann Treat reported about the April 9 field trip to Nacogdoches. Jo Ann has planned a fascinating day, including visits to Pineywoods Native Plant Center, SFA Mast Arboretum, and Ruby Mize Azalea Garden. Cost is \$27 per person, and thirty people are needed to book the bus. Jo Ann will hold all checks until the required number are signed up, and will return checks if the event has to be cancelled. This will be an excellent trip, so please support this project!

The Nominating Committee (Edie Tong, Linda McCraray, Tom Roche and W.B. Roche) presented the following proposed slate of officers: President, Edith Tong; Vice-President, Sarah Eidem; Treasurer, Ruby McConnell; Recording Secretary, Renee Bilyeu; Corresponding Secretary, Judy Weidner; Historian, Beverly Roche; Chaplain, W. B. Knox; and Parliamentarian, Victor Treat. Voting will take place at the March meeting.

Speaking of the March meeting, don't miss our own Dudley Boudreaux's presentation of "Landscaping with Camellias." See you soon!



Upcoming Events

March 1 March meeting
6:30 p.m. - social
7:00 p.m. - program
Rivershire Community Bldg.
206 Scarborough, Conroe

Speaker: Dudley Boudreaux
Coushatta Camellia Society

Topic: Landscaping with Camellias

April 5 End of Year Social
6:30 p.m. - Dinner
Coronelli's Restaurant
(formerly Villa Italia - downtown Conroe
- south of Courthouse - 203 Simonton)
hosted by Renee and Dennis Bilyeu

April 9 Spring Field Trip
See flyer inside for more information

*Have a wonderful summer - we'll
see you in September!*

September 6 September meeting
6:30 p.m. - social
7:00 p.m. - program
Rivershire Community Bldg.
206 Scarborough, Conroe

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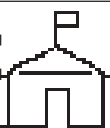
COURTESY COUNTS!

We have a wonderful group of people in CCS, so let's all work together to make our meetings even better!

- ♦ Avoid Interruptions - keep your questions and comments until the speaker is finished
- ♦ Be considerate - your neighbor can't hear the program if you are also talking
- ♦ Help with clean-up - put your cup and napkin in the trash and stack your chair in the rack
- ♦ Welcome a guest or new member - we love to see your smile!

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CALLING ALL COOKS!

Diane Dyer is collecting recipes from CCS members to put together a cookbook. We have some wonderful cooks in our organization, and this can be a great fundraiser for CCS. While some members have been generous in their responses, Diane says she only has about half the number of recipes she needs to go forward with this project.

Don't delay, because March is our deadline for submitting your goodies! Bring your recipes to the meeting or e-mail Diane at d.s.dyer@att.net.

Garden Tour Gets a Damp Start, but Ends Bright and Beautiful

by Perry Liston

The Eighth Annual Camellia Open Garden Tour was threatened with stormy weather, but despite a wet morning, a good attendance was enjoyed at most homes. Everyone enjoyed the lovely weather once the sun peeked out from behind the clouds.

A special thanks to all those who volunteered at the tour gardens, and especially to gardeners Dennis and Renee Bilyeu, Jack and Diane Dyer, Charlie and Linda Gambrell, W.B. and Ruby Knox, Linda and Troy McCraray, and Tommy and Sandra Weeks for opening their gardens.

The evening was capped with a wonderful lasagna dinner reception hosted by Tommy and Sandra Weeks at their home. Thanks for being such great hosts!

Note: Perry was ably assisted this year by Dennis Bilyeu, who will organize next year's Ninth Annual Camellia Open Garden Tour. We know he'll do another great job!

We got some great advertising again this year in the Houston Chronicle, which is only possible with early notification. It is very important to let Dennis know as early as possible if you will be featuring your garden in the February Garden Tour.

COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
FIELD TRIP
APRIL 9, 2005

Dear Members –

The Field Trip is set and all that is needed now to make it a success is for you (and your friends) to register by completing the form shown below.

It is always great fun for our members to get together and that is greatly enhanced when we have our field trips which allow us to see wonderful gardens and learn more about plants and their settings as well as having the opportunity to get to know one another better.

The agenda for this field trip is on the reverse side. We are very pleased that members of the department at Stephen F. Austin University responsible for these gardens and the Visitor Center staff of Nacogdoches have been so generous with their help in providing this wonderful opportunity for us.

The fee for the field trip is \$27.00 which covers the bus only. It is predicated on 30 people; therefore, the trip could be cancelled if we receive insufficient registrations by March 20. Your check will be held until then and returned if cancellation occurs. Lunch is Dutch Treat.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Jo Ann Treat, CCS Field Trip Chair

Please mail the following registration form to be received by me no later than March 20

Register me for the CCS Field Trip to Nacogdoches on April 9, 2005

Names _____

Address _____

Registration for _____ people @ \$27.00/each Total Check Amt. _____

Please make your check payable to: Coushatta Camellia Society

Mail to: Jo Ann Treat, P. O. Box 143, College Station, Texas 77841



Coushatta Camellia Society Tour
Itinerary for Saturday, April 9, 2005

- 8:30 a.m. **Bus departs Montgomery County Library Parking Lot**
- 10:45 a.m. **Pineywoods Native Plant Center**
The Pineywoods Native Plant Center is a vast and rich resource for environmental education. This 40-acre forest, in the middle of Nacogdoches, is the best-kept secret in East Texas. Demonstration gardens display species from dry upland, mesic mid-slope, riparian, bog and prairie plant communities.
- 11:45 a.m. **Depart the Pineywoods Native Plant Center for downtown**
- 12 p.m. **Downtown Shopping** 200 E. Main; 936-564-7351 or 888-OLDEST-TOWN
Stroll the brick streets downtown and shop the antique shops and art galleries. Our Visitor Center is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday.
The Art of Floral Design, Color & Textures from the Gardens
A showcase of floral arrangements highlighting the horticultural talents of local gardeners, designers and plant enthusiasts.
Lunch on your own downtown
Yakofritz Sandwich Shoppe
Sandwiches, salads & more

Lite Fare
Sandwiches, desserts & more

Café Fredonia
Enjoy lunch at the Café Fredonia, located inside the Fredonia Hotel. The Café offers hamburgers, sandwiches and much more.
- 1:30 p.m. **Depart Downtown for the SFA Mast Arboretum**
- 1:45 p.m. **SFA Mast Arboretum**
The first arboretum at a university in Texas began in 1985. This on-campus garden spills over 19 acres. Enjoy the wide diversity of plant life, including rare trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, herbaceous perennials, and a children's garden.
- 2:45 p.m. **Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden**
Take a guided tour through the eight acres of display gardens including azaleas, camellias and Japanese maples. This garden comprises over 6,500 azaleas from 500 named varieties.
- 3:45 p.m. **Tour Concluded**
- 6:15-6:30 **Bus Arrives at Montgomery County Library Parking Lot**

Welcome New Members!

Four new members joined during the January Show. Their contact information is listed below to be added to your yearbooks.

Lorry Stiner, 5962 Beech Drive, Montgomery, TX 77316-2735; 936-588-7587 (h) 936-521-3970 (w)

Tom and Marcia Tillman, 329 W. Rolling Hills, Conroe, TX 77304-1280; 936-228-0491

Ruth Vicchio, 2 Naples Lane, Montgomery, TX 77356-8362; 936-597-5227; vicchio@web.tv.net

Member updates - the following members have new e-mail addresses. Please update your yearbooks.

Eddie Tong: ebtheart@cox.net

Judy Weidner: jbweidner@cox.net

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEMBERS TO PAY THEIR DUES!

Treasurer Jan Waller is ready to collect your dues for 2005-2006. Make your payment (\$10 single, \$15 joint) at the March meeting and save postage. Thanks to all you members who have already paid your dues - we appreciate you.

Just joined in January or February? We're glad to have you! You need not pay dues until next year at this time.

Consider becoming a "Friend of CCS" this year. Your donation of \$25 will be recognized in the yearbook.

Is there a program you'd like to see or give? Eddie Tong would like to have your ideas! Thanks to all our members who have provided such wonderful programs this year!

George Hutzler

Dec. 21, 1916 - Feb. 13, 2005

CCS lost a friend and former president this month. George Hutzler was the loving husband of 45 years to the late Judy Hutzler, a beloved father, a wonderful grandfather and a good friend to many. He was a true gentleman of the old school and we all learned from him. George was born in San Antonio, and earned his degree in Business Administration from St. Edwards University, where he was also a multi-sport athlete and captain of the football, basketball and baseball teams. He served in the US Army Infantry during WWII, earning the Purple Heart and Bronze Star in his service in both France and Germany. He was a homebuilder for many years and was employed at Bison Building Materials for 36 years, still actively working at the age of 87. He was an active member of CCS until his health failed and will be sorely missed.



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Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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President .. Linda McCraray

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

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COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY APRIL END-OF-THE-YEAR FEAST

Don't be an April Fool! On Tuesday, **April 5th**, come celebrate a great camellia year with dinner at **Coronelli's Restaurant, 203 Simonton, Conroe.** This elegant but cozy restaurant was formerly Villa Italia and is located south of the Courthouse in downtown Conroe. We'll be meeting at **6:30 p.m.**

Will your taste buds be ready for a scrumptious meal? Dinner will include your choice of entree (see below), plus salad and dessert, as well as tea or soft drink, and coffee.

When paying, choose your entree of Beef Lasagna or Chicken with Cream Mushroom Sauce. Checks without a choice marked will be designated as lasagna.

Bring your check made out to **CCS** for **\$22.00** per person to the March meeting, or mail it to Renee Bilyeu by March 28.

Tax and gratuity are included in the price of the meal.



Driving directions:

Take the TX Highway 105 exit (Exit 87) from I-45 and proceed east on 105 (Davis Street) towards downtown for about 3/4 mile.

Turn right on Main Street and drive one block to Simonton Street. The restaurant will be near the SW corner of Simonton and Main.

