

Coushatta

Camellia

February 2005 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305



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 February 7th meeting of the Coushatta Camellia Society was called to order by President Edie Tong, and opening prayer was led by W.B. Knox. Thirty-five people in attendance including the following new members: Debra Stallings, Leo Hays, and Nancy Meyer. We also have four new members not in attendance: Jorge and Denise Ramirez and Slim and Shirley Fontenot.

Happy February birthdays to Dudley Boudreaux, Hazel Broyles, John Jonietz, and Edie Tong. Wish a happy birthday in March to Rosamay Davis, Ilka Swires, and Elizabeth Williams.

The president sadly reported that member Milton Surles fell and needed shoulder surgery.

Sarah Eidem introduced our guest speaker, Barbara Lopez, an expert on daylilies. Barbara conducts Hope Farms where 600 registered types of lilies grow. She informed us on how to grow, propagate, and protect lilies from pests. Two weekends in May, Hope Farms is open to the public to enjoy the wonderful gardens and have an opportunity to purchase plants.

The president thanked all volunteers involved in the annual camellia show including judges, clerks, ESCAP group, as well as those involved in preparing brunch and snacks. Congratulations to everyone for the excellent work which made the 2006 show a grand success. Thanks also to Linda & Troy McCrary for hosting the judges' dinner the night before the show. Charlie Gambrill is out of town but plans to give his report at the March meeting.



continued on page 3-see February meeting

Upcoming Events

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

Speaker: Hal Vanis
President, East Texas Camellia Society

Topic: .. "Care & Feeding of Camellias"

March 11 Master Gardener Plant Sale
Agricultural Extension Office
9020 FM 1484-Airport Rd.
Saturday, 9 am to 12:30 pm

March 29 (Wed) Field Trip #1
Martha's Bloomers - Navasota
lunch at the tearoom
Rose Emporium - Independence

April 4 End-of-Year Social
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Details TBA at March meeting

May 5 (Friday) Field Trip #2
Hope Farms - Grosville
(near Cut 'n Shoot)
18750 FM 1484 (.7 mi N of Hwy 105 E)

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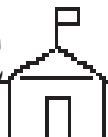
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February Garden Tour

The Ninth Annual Camellia Open Garden Tour was a wonderful success, with a good attendance enjoyed at most homes. It was cool and brisk on Saturday, and less windy and just a little warmer on Sunday, but despite the chilly temperatures everyone enjoyed the lovely sunshine and the great variety of gardens.

Thanks to all those who volunteered at the tour gardens, and especially to Dennis Bilyeu, who did such a fantastic job organizing the two-day event.

A special vote of appreciation to those who opened their gardens for the tour:

W.B. & Ruby Knox, Jack & Diane Dyer, Deborah & Malcom Vaughn, Tena Koch, Bill & Laurie McCranor, John Browder, Dennis & Renee Bilyeu, Tommy & Sandra Weeks, Charlie & Linda Gambrill, Jeff & Becky Odum, and Phyllis Hartman.

It was hard but interesting work for all the volunteers, and the reward was a wonderful King Ranch Chicken dinner reception hosted by Tommy and Sandra Weeks at their home. Thanks for being such great hosts! Thanks also to those members who brought yummy desserts to finish off the meal.

Dennis was excited to announce that the brochures were very popular - over 650 were distributed! The Master Gardeners helped to "get the news out" about our tour (don't forget to attend their plant sale on March 11.) Another place that helped to distribute the brochures was Garden Cafe. As always, Kroger and the Conroe Courier were important ways to advertise our Tour.

While not all costs and receipts have been turned in, the following is a ballpark estimate of our returns:

Home Tour Proceeds

Calendar Books = \$50.00

Cookbooks = 130.50

Donations = \$6.00

Plants = \$640.00 (deposited)

(Dennis still has \$100.00 to send in plus any sales that Phyllis Hartman had)

Membership = \$15.00

We had a few camellia plants left over from the tour. Rather than impose upon a member to care for these over the summer, it was decided to sell the remaining plants for slightly less than cost - that is, \$10 each. Camellias will be available at the March meeting, so be prepared to make your selection.

Welcome New Members!

Two new members joined during the February Garden Tour. Their contact information is listed below to be added to your yearbooks.

Meg & Mike Mendek, 13257 Brookfield Lane,
Conroe, TX 77302-3472; 936-788-5953 (h) 832-854-
7086 (w); megxstitch@yahoo.com

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

Elizabeth Williams: ElizaW45865@ev1.net

Judy Weidner: judy@cwew.net

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

Treasurer Ruby McConnell is ready to collect your dues for 2006-2007. 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? Sarah Eidem would like to have your ideas! Thanks to all our members who have provided such wonderful programs this year!

Please help our Treasurer close out the books for this year! Ruby asks that everyone who has receipts for reimbursement turn them in by the March meeting.

February meeting - continued from front

Field Trip Chairman Phyllis Hartman is organizing two field trips. Look for more details in this newsletter.

Debra Stallings announced the Master Gardeners' plant sale at the Ag. Extension Service Office, March 11, 2006, from 9 am to 12:30 pm. (Introductory program from 8 - 9.) She gave the members an informational flyer on the sale.

Due to our expanding membership, the small size of the kitchen, and unreasonable complaints from the Rivershire management, President Edie Tong asked the members to consider other locations for regular meetings. She asked for suggestions and will pursue these options for future meetings. She asked once again for us to assist Diane and Jack Dyer in the post meeting clean-up. To further aid in clean-up, refreshments will only be offered during the socialization time from 6:30 to 7.

The raffle prize, a camellia plant, was won by June Sadoti. Door prizes were won by Buffalo Allwright and Debra Stallings.



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Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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President Edie Tong

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

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COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS

MARTHA'S BLOOMERS ROSE EMPORIUM

Thanks to our Trip Chairperson, Phyllis Hartman, we have two interesting field trips to look forward to. On Wednesday, March 29th, we have reservations for an 11 A.M. luncheon at Martha's Bloomers Tearoom in Navasota prior to visiting the Rose Emporium in Independence. We are planning to carpool so if you are interested in driving, please advise Phyllis or Edie Tong either by phone or at the March 7th meeting. Maps will be available at the meeting.

We will vote for the choice of our menu at the March meeting. Our two choices are:

Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwich or
Ham Croissant Sandwich

both choices include Cup of Baked Potato Soup
Choice of Home-baked Cobbler or Chocolate Raspberry Cake/Tea/Coffee

Cost - \$12 (includes Tax & Tip)

Reservations will be taken at the meeting, with the deadline being March 19th. Payment can be made to Edie Tong or Phyllis Hartman as the payment must be made with one credit card.

HOPE FARMS

Phyllis has also planned for a second trip on Friday, May 5th, to Hope Farms near Conroe (Grosville). The address is 18750 FM 1484. Take Hwy 105 E to the junction of FM 1484, just E of Cut 'n Shoot. Go .7 mi N on FM 1484 to the lovely entrance to Hope Farms.

Members are asked to meet at 9:30 a.m. and to bring a sack lunch.

Our speaker last month - Barbara Lopez - is the owner of Hope Farms and opens her gardens only two weekends in May each year. Weekends are open to the public, but this will be a private showing for CCS members, and will include an informational program.

Hope Farms is known for its 600 registered varieties of daylilies. If you spot one of her unusual daylilies that you'd like to purchase, she will just dig it up for you.

Besides daylilies, you'll find all sorts of interesting plants, including perennials and gingers, plus a gift shop.

There will be more information on this trip in the next newsletter.

