Coushatta

Camellia

February 2007 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, Henderson Feed and Supply, and Texans AgriProducts.

The February 6th meeting of the Coushatta Camellia Society was called to order by President Edie Tong, and opening prayer was led by Morris Waller. Thirty people in attendance including the new members Bill and Nancy Dupre'. New members not in attendance: Jake and Patsy Durham Hoke, and Emory and Lois Smith.

Edie congratulated all on the excellent work done for the 2007 Camellia Show – it would not have been such a success without all the volunteers who worked together so productively. Charlie Gambrill reported that there were about 400 blooms at the show, which was a good showing considering the poor weather conditions and the loss of some of our regular participants due to death or illness. He thanked the CCS members for helping by bringing their blooms and helping to judge, and remarked that the number of blooms brought by CCS members was much higher than in previous years. CCS has often made a donation to the Church in appreciation for their making their facility available to us for our show. He suggested that this year we help them to refinish the gym floor, if they decide to go forth with that project. The idea was well received, and Charlie will investigate further with the church and bring details to the next meeting.

Judy Weidner reported that the ESCAP program went well this year. There were about 40 children and 25 second-graders who attended the Saturday awards program. Judy encouraged members to continue to participate with this worthwhile project and detailed ways that volunteers could help.

New Business: Charlie Gambrill talked about a memorial with ACS for Hyman Norsworthy. Dick Eidem reported that he had received all the past awards (glassware, pictures) that Hyman had collected for his blooms.

Dennis Bilyeu spoke about the upcoming Garden Tour. He and Meg & Mike Mendeck will travel to the homes the weekend before the tour to make final preparations. Dennis also reported on his appointment as Texas State Representative for ACS, and the ACS meeting that took place in Ocala. He has put a report on the details of the seminar on the CCS website. He shared a couple of strategies that were put forth at the meeting to address petal blight. He also talked about concern with increasing membership and keeping members involved.

Door prize winners were Doris Allwright and Jan Waller. After members were requested to help straighten up the room, the meeting was adjourned



Society

Upcoming Events

March 6...... March meeting 6:30 p.m. - social 7:00 p.m. - program First Christian Church 3500 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe

Montgomery County Extension Service Topic: .. "Landscaping with Red Plants"

March 17.... Master Gardener Plant Sale Agricultural Extension Office 9020 FM 1484-Airport Rd. Saturday, 9 am to 12:30 pm

April 3 End-of-Year Social
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Village Golf Club
(formerly Panorama County Club)
73 Greenbriar Drive, Panorama Village

April 25 (Wednesday) Field Trip
Hope Farms - Groceville
(near Cut 'n Shoot)
18750 FM 1484 (.7 mi N of Hwy 105 E)
9:30 am 'till ? - (bring a sack lunch)

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

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February Garden Tour

We just keep getting better! The Tenth Annual Camellia Open Garden Tour was a wonderful success, with a good attendance enjoyed at most homes. The weather started out cool but then became just about perfect, and 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, and Mike & Meg Mendeck, who did such a fantastic job organizing the two-day event, with help from their tour committee of Bob Koehl, Ruby McConnell, Edie Tong & Judy Weidner.

A special vote of appreciation to those who opened their gardens for the tour: Jeff & Becky Odum, Charlie & Linda Gambrill, Dennis & Renee Bilyeu, Tena Koch, Dick & Sarah Eidem, W.B. & Ruby Knox, Bill & Laurie McCranor, John Browder, and Morris & Jan Waller.

The reward for all our hard work was a wonderful dinner catered by Carmelita's and hosted by Meg & Mike Mendeck at their home. Thanks for being such great hosts! Thanks also to those members who brought yummy desserts & appetizers.

The Master Gardeners helped to "get the news out" about our tour (don't forget to attend their plant sale on March 17.) The following is a list of some of our returns:

Home Tour Proceeds

Calendar Books = \$60.00

Cookbooks = \$58.00

Plants = \$780.00 (deposited)

There are still plant monies to be turned in, plus expenses. "Extra" plants will be available for sale to members at the March meeting, for \$15-\$20 per plant.

Special recognition to Beverly Roche and Elizabeth Williams, who made a presentation about camellias to the Bentwater Garden Club. Beverly and Elizabeth were a big hit and not only publicized our Garden Tour, but also sold \$65 worth of our Camellia Calendar books. Their good work will not only help CCS, but will encourage interest in the beautiful camellia!

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!

Is there a member of CCS whom you believe has gone "above and beyond" in giving of themselves this year? The March meeting will be your chance to "vote" for your candidate. Simply write that person's name on a ballot (slip of paper) and drop it into the collection box or envelope. The results of the "election" will be announced at the April End-of-Year dinner.

We have so many great volunteers that the hard part will be narrowing it down to only one name!

Happy Birthday!

February Edie Tong John Jonietz **Dudley Boudreaux**



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March

Rosamay Davis Bob Koehl Ilka Swires Elizabeth Williams

April

Dick Eidem Daniel Paul **Brandon** To

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 vear 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? Dick 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.

Welcome New Members!

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

Alton & Marie Oliver, 17058 Gleneagles Dr. S., Conroe, TX 77385-4614; (936) 271-0502); C(254) 723-3349; e-mail: moliver3@consolidated.net



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

Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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President Edie Tong

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

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

April 3 is the day that CCS members will gather to celebrate the end of another wonderful year. This year we'll be dining at the Village Golf Club (formerly Panorama Country Club). The menu will be Monterrey Chicken, and includes a salad, rice pilaf, vegetable and dessert plus beverage of tea or coffee. A cash bar will be available during the social time of 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Cost of the dinner will be \$14.50. Please make your check payable to CCS and bring it to the March 6 meeting. If you are not able to attend the March meeting, but want to come to the April dinner, please mail your check as soon as possible to Ruby McConnell, 21

Snowbird Place, The Woodlands, TX 77381-4153.

To reach the Village Golf



Club, take the League Line Road exit (#91 on I-45 north), go west on League Line, then turn right on Panorama Dr., bear left onto Greenbriar Drive at the Y, then drive until you see the clubhouse on your left.

CCS FIELD TRIP

HOPE FARMS

CCS members had a wonderful time last year at Hope Farms near Conroe (in Groceville). 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. This year we'll be meeting on April 25 (Wednesday).

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

One of our speakers last year - Barbara Lopez - is the owner of Hope Farms and opens her gardens to the public, only on weekends, in May each year. 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.

