

Coushatta

Camellia



February 2009 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, Henderson Feed and Supply, and New Earth Soils and Compost.** Of course, **Danny Moore, John Wiesner and Margaritas & Peppers** will take care of any other needs that might arise.

The Second Annual **TEXAS CAMELLIA SHOW** will be held Saturday, February 28, in Huntsville, Texas at West Hill Mall Community Room. Exhibitors may begin preparations using the entrance at the West side of the Mall at 7:00 am. Public viewing will be from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The Mall is located one block west of I 45 using exit 116. Exhibitors from the area will have hundreds of blooms designated by name for viewing. The public is encouraged to come and see these beautiful blooms in person, and learn why the Camellia is fast becoming the star landscape plant in the Southwest.

APRIL END OF YEAR SOCIAL

Our end of the year dinner will be at McKenzies BBQ at 1501 N. Frazier in Conroe on Tuesday April 7th. The time is **6:00** and the cost of dinner is **\$9.71** per person, which includes the tax, and that will include two meats (chicken and sliced beef) with all of the trimmings, potato salad and cole slaw. Iced tea and coffee will also be available. McKenzies has a variety of cobblers and puddings available to you for \$1.99 each if your meal is not complete without something sweet. We will have a cowboy hat on the table for tips. Dress in your best country casual and join the fun! Please plan to give Diane Dyer your money at the March meeting or send it to her by March 31st as we will need to give the restaurant a final count of people planning to attend. We are hoping to see many of our new members there so we can all get to know you and welcome you to the club.

Upcoming Events

February 28 Texas Camellia Show
Set-up: Feb. 27, 2pm - West Hill Mall,
Community Center Room, Huntsville
Show: Feb. 28 - Open 7 am,
Brunch 10:30 am; Judging 11:30 am

March 3 March meeting
6:30 p.m. - social
7:00 p.m. - program
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

March 21 Judging School
8 am - 4 pm (with break for lunch)
First Christian Church
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

April 7 April meeting
6:00 p.m. - McKenzie's Barbecue
1501 N. Frazier, Conroe
RSVP Diane Dyer - (936) 321-6685

Summer 2009 ESCAP meeting
..... Time and place to be determined
All those interested in revamping the
ESCAP program, please contact Diane
Dyer (936) 321-6685 so a planning
meeting may be organized.

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Welcome new members!



Welcome to our newest members, who joined during the Garden Tour. Please add the following information to your yearbooks.

Joan Blum 10019 Pine Springs Drive, Conroe, 77304
jblum@consolidated.net; (H) 936-756-9086; B-day: Oct.

Linda Chidester (husband Rick), 9002 Crighton Crossing, Conroe, TX 77302; lmchid@msn.com; (H) 936-441-6604 Birthday: November

Bill & Mary Feece 13905 Kidd Road, Conroe, TX 77302; mjfeece@consolidated.net; (H) 936-273-3379; cell-936-523-0123 Birthdays: Bill-July, Mary-February

Beverly Fussell 2300 Bill Hales Road, Willis, TX 77378
john64081@peoplepc.com; 936-797-3445; B-day: July

Vicky Hawkins (husband Bob), 6 Vista Cove Circle, The Woodlands, TX 77381; vichaw@sbcglobal.net; 281-298-2794; work-281-376-2505; B-day: February

Marilyn Mays P.O. Box 472, Conroe, TX 77305
mjmays@consolidated.net; 936-321-2545; B-day: Nov

Evelyn Perry (husband Richard), 11997 Willowridge Cir., Conroe, TX 77304; (936) 756-0327

Claudette Shelfer 8713 Cedarspur Lane, Houston, TX 77055; ckshou36@comcast.net; 713-468-6803; B-day: Feb

Joan Stringer 21 Elkins Lake, Huntsville, 77340
ret2busy@suddenlink.com; 936-291-6009; B-day: Dec

Lewis & Sharon Walker, 1221 Cobblecreek Ct., Conroe, TX 77384; sswalker46@hotmail.com; (H) 936-273-1855; B-days: Lewis-Jan, Sharon-Sept

JUDGING SCHOOL COMING SOON

by Oscar Schank

Coushatta Camellia Society has reserved First Christian Church on March 21, 2009, for a judging school, which will run from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM with a break for lunch. Sign up for the school will be available at our March meeting.

Attending a judging school is one of the requirements for a Novice Certificate. There will be some cost and each person will need a Nomenclature Book. It has been quite some time since a judging school has been offered in this area, and we hope to find many interested persons signing up for the school.

ESCAP

Our Elementary School Camellia Appreciation Project was unable to proceed this year due to a lack of volunteers. Please help revitalize this worthwhile project! Call Diane Dyer (936) 321-6685, or sign up at the March meeting to indicate your interest.

Happy Birthday!

February

Dudley Boudreaux

Peggy Crozier

Mary Feece

Marlene Hamm

Vicky Hawkins

Susan McDaniel

Claudette Shelfer

Edie Tong



March

A. G. Cardona

Bud Crozier

Rosamay Davis

Bob Koehl

Denise Ramirez

George Shakelford

Carolyn Tynan

Elizabeth Williams

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

Treasurer Diane Dyer is ready to collect your dues for 2009-2010. Make your payment (\$10 single, \$15 joint) at the March meeting and save postage. Thanks to all you members who have already paid 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? We 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! Diane asks that everyone who has receipts for reimbursement turn them in at the March meeting or by the end of month.

CHANGE OF POLICY FOR ACS ORDERS

As of February 10th, 2009, ACS gift shop purchases must be paid at the time of ordering. There will be no more billing after shipping.



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Correction to January Show Results:

We apologize for the error - The winner of the Hyman Norsworthy Award for Best Large-Very Large Bloom was Milton Surles.



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Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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President Oscar Schank

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

March Tips for the Camellia Gardener

by Dennis Bilyeu

Planting

This is the last month before next fall that I recommend planting Camellias in the ground. If you elect to plant in March it is very important that you water this plant at least twice a week (three times a week if you have sandy soil) through the summer months and well into the cooler fall months. Plants put in the ground in the optimal planting months of October, November and December should continue to be watered once a week through the summer months.

Fertilizing

Repeat February recommended use of cottonseed meal and add:

- An equal volume of 8-8-8 commercial fertilizer, and
- A small amount (about 20% of the cotton seed meal volume) of wood ash (let me know if you need some)

For those who prefer avoiding commercial fertilizers, application of a compost tea every two or three weeks is a great alternative. Google 'compost tea' on the Internet for recipes and instructions for making your own compost tea, or purchase at Lowes.

Pruning

See the February recommendation. If your growth buds are starting to push (are showing the light green color of new growth) this will be the last good time for pruning your plant this year.

Spraying

See the February recommendations. If you are planning to bring blooms to the Huntsville Show, delay spraying your plants until after the Show. Some of the recommended chemicals can burn or discolor your blooms. The exception to this recommendation of delaying your spraying is the case of having an open wound where die-back fungus could enter your plant and eventually kill it. An open wound can be caused by many things, some of which are: leaf drop, which is when your plant naturally drops its leaves and it creates an open wound that allows die back to enter; scuffs or scratches caused by tools, falling limbs, etc.; and pruning. Leaf drop is probably the single

largest cause of die-back infection and one that is most often overlooked by the Camellia Gardener. Camellias typically start dropping leaves just before growing season, which is now, so be watching for it and take the preventive action recommended in the February Newsletter.

Propagation

See the February recommendation on grafting. Grafting can be done through the month of March, but this is the last good month of the year I recommend grafting. Check those air layers that are still on the mother plants and if not ready to cut, re-soak the sphagnum moss with the recommended root activator and water solution. Then re-wrap the air layer with cellophane and aluminum foil. If ready to cut (has sufficient root development), cut and soak in a root activator solution for at least two days before potting. After potting, spray foliage and soil with compost tea (see fertilizer comments). Identify blooms on plants you would like to propagate by tying a piece of surveyor tape on the branch. These will be branches you will want to air layer in April to clone that bloom into a new plant.

Mulching

March is a good month to remove old mulch (which likely contains old blooms or parts of blooms that are infected with petal blight) and dispose of it. Burying this mulch under at least 3" of soil is a good method of disposal. Add new mulch around your plants. The best mulch is pine straw. Not quite as good is pine bark mulch and less desirable is oak leaf mulch. Any kind of wood or leaf mulch is better than no mulch at all. I recommend waiting until your plants have finished blooming before replacing the mulch. Do your mulching before the fertilizing and be sure to water the fertilizer and mulch thoroughly. This sequence helps jump start the decomposition of the mulch into nutrients for your plants. The compost tea fertilizer works very well here because it also contains all the good bacteria needed for this decomposition process.

Do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions -- Dennis

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