

# Coushatta

# Camellia

## February 2011 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

# Society



### GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

We've had a long, tough winter this year, but the cold weather is finally leaving! 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, **Margaritas & Peppers** would be the perfect spot to meet friends when you are ready to take a break!

### GARDEN TOUR 2011

Our beloved winter bloomer has been taking a lot of hits from Mother Nature here lately and tour weekend was no exception. Hard freezes in January reduced the number of blooms that were available for our show. Follow that up with nearly two weeks of record-breaking lows in February (with 3 days in the first week of February where daytime temperatures did not rise over freezing) and our Garden Tour had to be canceled. Refusing to be daunted, however, CCS did not cancel the celebratory dinner at Margarita & Peppers that was scheduled to be held on Sunday.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard in preparation for this event: The owners of all the gardens for all their hard work in making them beautiful, all the people who volunteered to worked at the welcome tables and in the gardens, the people who did such a great job planning and making the brochures and fliers, those who worked to get the word out, whether passing out literature or contacting the various media sources, the people who went to get the plants we sold, and last but not least, the Camellia Society as a whole, for all of your support. Better luck next year!



### Upcoming Events

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

**March 2 .....** March meeting  
6:30 p.m. - social  
7:00 p.m. - program  
Speaker: John Ferguson, Nature's Way  
Program: "The Soil Food Web"  
First Christian Church Parlor  
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

**March 24, 25, 26 ...** Mercer March Mart  
Volunteers needed to help  
with plant sale, sign up at March meeting

**April 5 .....** April End of Year Dinner  
.. Home of Tommy Weeks (11281 Jake  
Pearson, Conroe, TX) - cost about \$15  
more details & sign-up at March meeting  
RSVP Maxine Schank- (936) 321-6685  
Renee Bilyeu - (936) 760-6744



## 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 Courthouse, 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!

**Correction:** In our Coushatta Camellia January Show, Oscar Schank's Professor Sargeants won both the CCS mini-show "Special Award" and the Dr. Emil Carroll award. Congratulations Oscar!

## MERCER NEWS

by Tommy Weeks



Mercer March Mart will take place on March 24, 25, and 26 (Thurs, Fri, Sat). We would like to have three volunteers (more on Thursday) helping sell Camellias at all times. We will have a sign-up sheet at the March meeting for volunteers. Volunteers will need to be at Mercer by 6:30 am Thursday (the Mercer-member only part of the sale) as the sale starts at 7 am and I believe concludes at 4 pm. Friday and Saturday will start just a little later. Volunteers who help with grafting may buy plants on Wednesday, but must pay with cash or a post-dated check (for Thursday) and take their plants that day. We are anticipating that this sale will be good for our group, especially since the Garden Tour (and the sale of plants associated with it) had to be canceled due to the freezing weather.

## Baton Rouge Camellia Show – 2011

January 29 - 30; 994 Blooms, 550 Attendees, 60 Exhibitors

**SWEEPSTAKES:** **Gold Certificate (unprotected):** Tommy Weeks

**Silver Certificate (unprotected):** Maurice & Lois Manuel

**OUTSTANDING BLOOM CERTIFICATES** **C. japonica unprotected:**

**Lg/VLg:** 'Mark Alan Var.', Tommy Weeks; **Md/Lg:** 'Betty Sheffield Blush',

Tommy Weeks; **Md:** 'Anita', Lynn Vicknair; **Sm:** 'Black Tie', Michael

Polozola; **Mn:** 'Tammia', Walter Krzymowski **C. japonica protected:** **Lg/**

**VLg:** 'Melissa Ann', Hal Vanis; **Md/Lg:** 'Nuccio's Gem', Hal Vanis; **Md:**

'Mary Edna Curlee', Hal Vanis; **Mn/Sm:** 'Miss Lillian', Hal Vanis

**C. reticulata (Inc. hybrids w/retic parent) unprotected:** 'Val Beilski',

Tommy Weeks; **C. reticulata (Inc. hybrids w/retic parent) protected:**

'Frank Houser', Hal Vanis; **C. hybrid (w/no retic parent)**

**unprotected:** 'Cile Mitchell', Tommy Weeks; **C. hybrid (w/no retic**

**parent) protected:** 'Marjorie Ramsey', Hal Vanis

**Best White Bloom:** 'Dr. David Sloan', Tommy Weeks

**Best Sasanqua & Species:** 'c. fraterna', Danny Breaud

**Tray of Three-japonica-same variety unprotected:** **Lg/VLg:** 'Flossie

Goodson', Tommy Weeks; **Md-Lg/Lg:** 'Clair Gotherd', Tommy

Weeks; **Sm/Mn:** 'Black Tie', Walter Krzymowski **Tray of Three-**

**hybrid-same variety protected or unprotected:** **BB:** 'Black Lace',

Tommy Weeks **Best Antique Bloom:** **BB:** 'Governor Mouton', Wil-

liam U. Stracener; **RU:** 'Magnolisflora', Kenn Campbell

**COURT OF HONOR** **Unprotected:** 'Emil's Jane', Jenny Marcotte;

'Toichi Domoto', Tommy Weeks; 'Tama Glitters', Tommy Weeks;

'Magic City', Gordon Rabalais; 'Ave Maria', Tommy Weeks;

'Wendy Var.', Tommy Weeks; 'Black Lace', Maurice & Lois Manuel;

'Betty Foy Sanders', Tommy Weeks; 'Leah Gay', Tommy

Weeks; 'Flossie Goodson', Tommy Weeks; 'Pink Perfection',

Maurice & Lois Manuel; 'Sea Foam', Dyer LaFleur **Protected:**

'Lauren Tudor', Hal Vanis; 'Fifth Avenue', Hal Vanis; 'Yeamanis

Hall', Hal Vanis; 'Ave Maria', Hal Vanis

**Seedlings & Mutants:** **Best Japonica Seedling:** **Md/Lg:** 'VH-2002-

1', **Mn/Sm:** 'Un-named seedling', Baton Rouge Camellia Society

**Best Mutant:** 'Ladel Brothers Var. Sport', Gordon Rabalais

**SPECIAL AWARDS Best Stone Introduction:** 'Dr. Lilyan Hanchey',

Bonita Richardson; **RU Stone Introduction:** 'Lil Sheaffer', Tommy

Weeks; **RU Stone Introduction:** 'Willard Scott', Tommy Weeks

for complete results, go to [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)

## Happy Birthday!

### February

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



### March

Rosamay Davis  
Barbara Gibson  
Bob Koehl  
George Shackelford  
Betty Trider  
Carolyn Tynan  
Elizabeth Williams

## Welcome new members!

**Carolyn Brown** (husband Stan), 31198 Pinyon Rd., Waller, TX 77484; cornicopia2001@yahoo.com  
(H) (936) 931-3902 Birthday (Carolyn): Dec

**Faye Hemming** (husband John), 29710 Tanglewood St. Magnolia, TX 77354; johnandfaye@yahoo.com  
(H) 281-468-4882

### CONGRATULATIONS!

As of the middle of February, our own Tommy Weeks ranks 5 with ACS show points in the Atlantic & Gulf Coast Regions for Outside Growers. Texan Gordon Rabalais ranks 8. Our member Annabelle Fetterman ranks 6 in the region for Greenhouse Growers and Hal Vanis ranks 8. Wow! Great job, all.

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

Treasurer Claudette Shelfer is ready to collect your dues for 2011-2012. 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.

**Please help our Treasurer close out the books for this year!** Claudette asks that everyone who has receipts for reimbursement turn them in at the March meeting or by the end of month.



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### Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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President ..... Dick Eidem

Editor &

Writer ..... Judy Weidner

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7:30 AM to 6:00 PM  
SAT 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

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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