

Coushatta

Camellia

February 2012 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305



GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

Where did the winter go! Spring is starting to show its stuff. When the gardening bug hits you, don't forget to make a stop at **Container Grown Nursery and Henderson Feed and Supply**. Remember **Gilmore's** when it is time for a gift. And of course, **Margaritas & Peppers** would be the perfect spot to meet friends when you are ready to take a break!

GARDEN TOUR 2012

All preparation procedures have been followed; brochures and flyers are in place; the media has been notified; despite the drought all the gardens are somewhat 'ship shape'; the Lord is listening to our prayers for good weather and the camellias seem to be doing their part. All that we can do now is wait to see what happens come March the 3rd. I sure am hoping that all of our hard work will pay off big-time.



I would like to remind the garden owners and tour volunteers to return all signs, welcome table packets and revenue from plant sales to me at the dinner following the tour.

At the "After The Tour' Dinner" and at our regular meeting on March 6th, I will be discussing plans for the "After The Tour' Tour" which also gives all those who worked on the Annual Garden Tour a chance to visit the various gardens. It generally takes place on the weekend following the annual tour which would be either March 11th or 12th.

Welcome table volunteers check your mail as I am sending you general information ahead of time regarding what you are expected to do on the day of the tour. Speaking of volunteers – I could still use more especially in New Waverly – if interested call me.

Now is the time for all C.C.S. members to show their support. Come on out and make the tour! I'm sure you will all have a great time doing so.

— Bill McCranor

Upcoming Events

March 3 Garden Tour
Saturday - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
After-tour dinner for volunteers & hosts:
Dutch treat for all others - please attend!
Margarita's & Peppers Restaurant
5 pm - 2259 N. Loop 336W
RSVP Maxine Schank (936) 445-1765

March 6 March meeting
6:30 p.m. - social, 7:00 p.m. - program
Speaker: P.J. Ellison
Ellison Nursery, Brenham
Program: "Poinsettias"

March 22-24 March Mart 2012
Mercer Arboretum
Volunteers needed

April 5 DATE CHANGE!
Thursday 6:00 p.m. - End of Year social
Walden Yacht Club
RSVP by March 29 with Maxine Schank
(936) 445-1765 or 788-3375
oschank@consolidated.net

MERCER NEWS



Mercer March Mart will take place on March 22, 23, and 24 (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 may buy plants on Thursday and take their plants that day. We are anticipating that this sale will be good for our group, especially since the Fall Plant Sale had scheduling problems and the Garden Tour is reduced in size, meaning our sale of plants may also be reduced somewhat.



Support Our Sponsors!

AFTER GARDEN TOUR DINNER

Enjoy the Garden Tour, then come join us for dinner at Margarita and Peppers on Saturday, March 3, at 5:00 p.m. The location is 2259 North Loop 336 W, Conroe. CCS will pick up the tab for garden owners, volunteers and their spouse. Other members and visitors will be responsible for their ticket.

The cost will be \$12.99 per person, beverage included. It will not include tax or gratuity. Cash bar will also be separate. The menu is the usual and delicious beef and chicken fajita dinner with all the trimmings.

New members as well as older members are urged to attend for a great social. We also want to support our garden owners and volunteers. Margarita and Peppers is a sponsor for CCS.

For reservations, please call Maxine Schank (936) 445-1765 or (936) 788-3375 or e-mail oschank@consolidated.net by Thursday, March 1st. We look forward to seeing you!

---Maxine Schank

CONGRATULATIONS

As of the middle of February, our own Tommy Weeks ranks 8th with ACS show points in the Atlantic & Gulf Coast Regions for Outside Growers. Our member Annabelle Fetterman ranks 10th in the region for Greenhouse Growers and Hal Vanis ranks 7th. Wow! Great job, all.

END OF YEAR SOCIAL

Date Change: Thursday, April 5

Plans for the End of Year Dinner are well underway! It will be held at the Walden Yacht Club on Thursday, April 5, at 6:00 p.m., located at 13101 Melville Dr., in Montgomery, TX. The cost will be \$24.13 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. Beverage (other than water) will be an additional \$1.95, and there will also be a cash bar.

The menu will consist of your choice of beef, chicken, or fish; a salad; a chef's chosen vegetable and dessert. You may make your reservations at the March meeting or by calling Maxine Schank at (936) 445-1765 or (936) 788-3375 or e-mailing oschank@consolidated.net, and mailing your check made out to CCS (for \$24.13 per person) to Claudette Shelfer at 8713 Cedarspur Lane, Houston, TX 77055-6624. Deadline for reservation and check is March 29th.

There will be no meeting on Tuesday, April 3.

Please make an effort to attend our End of Year Dinner. Bring a friend! We can share our year's accomplishments with pride and look forward to our new year in September. We love our Camellias. While we are cultivating our plants to enjoy the flowers, do not forget the flowers of our friendships, that are cultivated by our society. It is good for the soul and also stimulates growth in Coushatta Camellia Society.

----Maxine Schank

Texas Camellia Show

Chairman - Morris Waller

640 Blooms Exhibited; 142 Attendees; 17 Exhibitors

Gold Certificate (unprotected): Tommy Weeks; **Silver Certificate (unprotected):** Dennis Bilyeu

Gold Certificate (protected): Hal Vanis; **Silver Certificate (protected):** Dick Eidem

SPECIAL MEMORIAL AWARD

Best Large Bloom - Earle & Iola Gentry Award: 'Kirstileigh', Hal Vanis

OUTSTANDING BLOOM CERTIFICATES

C. japonica unprotected:

Lg/VLg: 'Moodlight Bay', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Grand Prix', Tommy Weeks

Lg: 'Georgia Fire', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Lady Laura', Dudley Boudreaux

Md/Lg: 'Fran Mathis', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Betty Sheffield Silver', Tommy Weeks

Md: 'Nuccio's Jewel', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Black Magic', Dennis Bilyeu

Sm: 'Ave Maria', Randy McDaniel; RU: 'Black Gold Var.', Tommy Weeks

Mn: 'Fircone Var.', Bill McCranor; RU: 'Grace Albritton Starfire', Dennis Bilyeu

C. japonica protected:

Lg/VLg: 'Tomorrow's Dawn', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Tomorrow, Marbury's Light Pink', Hal Vanis

Lg: 'Miss Charleston Var.', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Kirstileigh', Hal Vanis

Md/Lg: 'Sea Foam', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Kubal Kain', Hal Vanis

Md: 'Black Gold', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Tar Baby', Hal Vanis

Sm: 'Tudor Baby', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Black Tie', Hal Vanis

Mn: 'Fircone Var.', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Little Slam Var.', Hal Vanis

C. reticulata (Inc. hybrids w/retic parent) unprotected:

Lg/VLg: 'W. P. Gilley', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Jack Mandarich', Tommy Weeks

Mn/Md-Lg: 'Bev Piet Var.', Tommy Weeks

C. reticulata (Inc. hybrids w/retic parent) protected:

Lg/VLg: 'Hall's Pride Var.', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Hulyn Smith', Hal Vanis

Mn/Md-Lg: 'Black Lace Peony Var.', Hal Vanis

C. hybrid (w/no retic parent) unprotected:

Mn/Md-Lg: 'Raspberry Flambe', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Charlean Var.', Dennis Bilyeu

C. hybrid (w/no retic parent) protected:

Mn/Md-Lg: 'Wayne Rayner', Dick Eidem

Tray of Three-same variety unprotected:

BB: 'Black Magic', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Tricolor Siebold', Tommy Weeks

Tray of Three-same variety protected:

BB: 'Sea Foam', Hal Vanis

Best Seedling: 'Grant Campbell', Tommy Weeks

Best Sport: 'Carter's Starburst', Tommy Weeks

NOVICE AWARDS

C. japonica:

Lg/VLg: 'Tick Tock', Delores Rodriguez; RU: 'Kumagai', Bill DuPre'

Md/Md-Lg: 'Debutante', Bill DuPre'; RU: 'Lady Vansittart', Ruby McConnell

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 display blooms, delay spraying until after cutting flowers. Some of recommended chemicals can burn or discolor 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 a 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 preventive action recommended in 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

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2012

Beginning Balance – 2/1/2012 \$10,669.99

Income:

Dues	130.00
Friends of CCS	25.00
Raffle	41.00
Plant Sales	180.00
Donation	5.00

Total Income 381.00

Expenses:

Plant Transportation	173.59
Judges' Luncheon	116.48
Huntsville Herb Show	50.00

Total Expenses 340.07

Ending Balance – 2/12/2012 \$10,710.92

Happy Birthday!

February

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



March

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

Welcome new members!

Welcome to our newest members, who joined at our annual camellia show.

Please add this information to your yearbooks:

Jerry & Diane Hawken, 4110 Great Forest Ct., Humble, TX 77346; jerry2568@yahoo.com; 281-513-1039

Art & Betty Wilson, 10200 S. Summerlin, Conroe, TX 77302; wilson68@consolidated.net; 936-756-3608

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

Treasurer Claudette Shelfer is ready to collect your dues for 2012-2013. 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.

Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

Published monthly, August through March, for members of the Coushatta Camellia Society

President Dennis Bilyeu

Editor &

Writer Judy Weidner

Gilmore's

Florist & Gifts

Celebrating 75 Years

Family Owned & Operated

Walk In - Phone In - Click In
800-756-5564

gilmoresflorist.com

Container Grown Nursery

GROWERS OF QUALITY ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

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

- GARDEN & LAWN SUPPLIES
- WEED & BRUSH KILLER
- FERTILIZER
- INSECTICIDES
- PET FOOD & SUPPLIES
- HORSE & POULTRY SUPPLIES
- BEEKEEPER SUPPLIES



SINCE 1970

936-756-2423

101 E. DAVIS • CONROE

HENDERSON FEED & SUPPLY

"CONROE'S COMPLETE - ONE STOP
FARM - RANCH - GARDEN
CENTER"



MON - FRI
7:30 AM to
6:00 PM
SAT 7:30 AM to
5:00 PM

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Minutes for CCS February 2012 Meeting

by Cherokee Caddell

The meeting began February 7, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., with an opening prayer by Morris Waller. Our guest speaker Mr. Bill Caldwell of Red Tree Farm, located in Woodville, was introduced. His program was on Rhododendrons and Japanese Red Maples.

Our business meeting began at 8:30 p.m. Dennis Bilyeu, stated someone is still needed for the adopt-a-park project. Also, needed is someone to enhance our website. Dennis asked for volunteers to form a strategic planning committee, meeting this summer, to form ideas to enhance or club.

The treasurer's report, as printed in the newsletter, was approved by Tina Koch and seconded by Jenny Marcotte.

Randy McDaniel reported on results for our show. He reported 490 blooms were entered with 128 attendees. Also, 101 plants were sold at the show. Randy also reported we will be selling more plants at Mercer Arboretum's March Mart at the end of March.

Morris Waller reported on the 4th Annual Huntsville Camellia Show to be held February 10, 2012 at the Walker Education Center. Volunteers needed Friday from 7:00pm to 10:00 pm to help with set-up. The show will open at 7:00am Saturday morning for flower prep and judging will be at 10:30am. Public viewing will be from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Growers are needed. Also, there will be approx. 60 plants for sale.

Bill McCranor reported on our Garden Tour set for March 4, 2012. It will be a 1-day tour this year and volunteers are needed to make it a success. The sign-up sheet was passed around, as were trays with maps and brochures. Laurie McCranor our publicity chairman and tour assistant, reported advertisement had gone out in the Huntsville Item, Chronicle and the Courier with great success.

Renee Bilyeu, our membership chairman, reported we had six new members to add to our Club. Renee also reported Maxine

Shank had been able to acquire a spot at Walden for our end-of-year party. The date will be April 5, at 6:00 o'clock that evening. Any questions should be directed to Maxine. Also, after the Garden Tour those working the garden tour will meet at Margarita and Pepper's (one of our sponsors) at 5:00pm.

Dennis reported the Gilmore Greenhouse project is coming along and another workday will be scheduled. Work on the storage shed is still being considered but options for our storage unit is still being considered. Also, a shade house is in the works as materials were found at Gilmore's and we were given permission to use. The books owned by the club are currently being stored securely at the Bilyeu's house and are available to all club members.

Claudette Shelfer reported she had been in contact with the Webmaster for ACS and that all shows needed to be sent to ACS for reporting in their show schedule at least 90 days prior to the show. Claudette stated all show results, upcoming shows, scheduled shows could be found on the ACS website as well as a lot of other information.

Randy McDaniel is still working on the Allie Dezelle memorial for the Church with some options being mentioned. Randy will also be announcing a new plan for awards for our show.

Our liaison to the Master Gardeners and club member Debra Stallings, reported the Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale is March 24. A presentation by extension agent Tom LeRoy will be at 8:00am to 9:00am, with the sale starting at 9:00am and lasting until 1:00pm. Come early, as it is very popular and will be very busy.

Questions were taken and answered about fungicides and spider mites. A product by Bayer for spider mites and insects was suggested and is available at Home Depot.

A raffle was held and won by Dick Eidem, receiving a Japanese Red Maple. June Sadoti won the door prize, a mystery gift was given and a drawing for the camellia of choice.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Coushatta Camellia Society

P.O. Box 1655

Conroe, TX 77305