

Coushatta

Camellia

February 2013 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305



Society

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!

COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2013



The regular meeting of Coushatta Camellia Society was called to order by President Oscar Schank at 6:48 pm.

First on the Agenda were questions regarding camellia care. A question regarding scale by Southern Red Spider Mites was addressed by member Tommy Weeks. Neem Oil mixed with herbal insecticide may be used. Fertiloam 3-1 is best overall for insecticide. Southern Red Spider Mites are identified by a brown line on middle of leaf with mottled leaves. Never spray if temperature is over 85 degrees as it can cause burn.

Second on the Agenda was the March meeting Dinner Social which will be held at Margaritas and Peppers on Tuesday March fifth. (Dutch treat).

It is time to get nominating committee to elect officers at March meeting.

Correction for directions to Huntsville show is exit 116 instead of exit 115, otherwise directions are the same.

continued on page 2 - see February meeting

Upcoming Events

March 5 March social
6:00 p.m.- Margaritas & Peppers
2259 N. Loop 336W
RSVP Maxine Schank (936) 445-1765
Dutch treat meal

April 2 ... End of Year Meeting & Picnic
First Christian Church
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe
Elections and wrap-up

See You Next
September -

Have a Great Summer!!



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THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO MAKE OUR HUNTSVILLE SHOW SO SUCCESSFUL

Without the help of those who organized the show, who helped as judges and as clerks, who helped set up and break down, who provided 'goodies' for all to enjoy, and especially all those who brought their blooms, we could not have had such a wonderful show.

THANK YOU!

FEBRUARY MEETING

continued from page 1

Our inventory of plants at Gilmores has been completely depleted.



The plan is for 100 plants to be brought to sell at the Huntsville Show.

Two shows have been set up for the Herb Organization in Huntsville to sell 50-60 plants in their herb festivals. The date for CCS to participate will be March 16th. A 30 minute presentation will be provided at Herb Society meeting at the Wynne Home by Coughatta Camellia Society. Don Marcotte will make the presentation. Other herb meetings will follow at the April Herb Show. Plants will sell at price of low 25 dollars and high of 30 dollars.

Plants were sold to members at 10.00 dollars a plant and went quickly at the Feb 6th meeting.

Volunteers were taken at the meeting today. Friday at 2 pm will be set up of tablecloths and cards for our Huntsville Texas Camellia Show that will begin 7 am Saturday. Friday set up is from 2pm to 4pm and Huntsville Coughatta Camellia show to begin Saturday, february 16th, 2013 with doors opening at 7am to 10am for blooms to be set out with judging at 1030 am to 12 pm and open for viewing by public at 1 pm to 4 pm.

Permission for club to spend 30 dollars for our website was proposed by Bill McCranor, seconded, and final vote was carried for approval.

Meeting was ajourned at 7:36 pm.

Kelli Hornsby, Secretary

Judges for the Huntsville Show

Dudley Boudreaux
Oscar Schank
Dick Eidem
Claudette Shelfer
Sarah Eidem
Hal Vanis
Ruby McConnell
Morris Waller
Randy McDaniel (Novice)
Tommy Weeks

Texas Camellia Show

Coushatta Camellia Society - February 16, 2013
Katy and E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center, Huntsville, TX
Chairmen - Don Marcotte; Claudette Shelfer

603 Blooms Exhibited; 109 Attendees; 12 Exhibitors

Gold Certificate (unprotected): Tommy Weeks - 45 blue ribbons

Silver Certificate (unprotected): Dick Eidem - 12 blue ribbons

Gold Certificate (protected): Hal Vanis - 35 blue ribbons

OUTSTANDING BLOOM CERTIFICATES

C. japonica unprotected:

Lg/VLg: 'Lauren Tudor', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Charlie Bettes', Tommy Weeks

Lg: 'Lady Laura', Dudley Boudreaux; RU: 'Terry Gilley Var', Tommy Weeks

Md/Lg: 'Fran Mathis', Dick Eidem; RU: 'Sea Foam', Don & Jenny Marcotte

Med: 'Elaine's Betty', Dick Eidem; RU: 'Margaret Davis', Dick Eidem

Sm: 'Little Babe Var', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Brooke', Tommy Weeks

Mn: 'Man Size', Don & Jenny Marcotte; RU: 'Baby Sargent', Dick Eidem

C. japonica protected:

Lg/VLg: 'Paul Haskee', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Lady Laura', Hal Vanis

Lg: 'Bev Piet Smile', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Bobby Fain Var', Hal Vanis

Md/Lg: 'Lady Kay', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Candy Apple', Hal Vanis

Md: 'Charley V', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Lee Eagleson', Hal Vanis

Sm: 'Dahlonhega', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Tudor Baby', Hal Vanis

Mn: 'Fircone', Hal Vanis

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

Lg/VLg: 'Frank Houser', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Frank Houser Var.', Tommy Weeks

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

Lg/VLg: 'Paul Haskee VAR', Hal Vanis; RU: 'Ray Gentry', Hal Vanis

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

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

Lg/VLg: 'Cile Mitchell', Dudley Boudreaux; RU: 'Waltz Dream', Oscar Schank

Md to M/L: 'Spring Daze', Tommy Weeks; RU: 'Punkin', Don & Jenny Marcotte

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

Lg/VLg: 'Julia', Hal Vanis

Tray of Three-same variety unprotected:

'Spring Daze', Tommy Weeks

Best Seedling:

'Mia Elizaveta', Tommy Weeks

NOVICE AWARDS

Best Novice Bloom:

Lg: 'Delores Edwards', Tim & Kelli Hornsby

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 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 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2013

Beginning Balance – 12/31/2012
\$14,998.82

Income:

Dues	55.00
Friends of CCS	25.00
Raffle	34.00
Plant Sales	1,435.00
Total Income	1,549.00

Expenses:

Show Expenses	507.26
Plants purchase	1,555.40
Newsletter printing	22.40

Total Expenses	2,085.06
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Happy Birthday!

February

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



March

Rosamay Davis
Barbara Gibson
Bob Koehl
Jenny Marcotte
Norma Ray
George Shackelford
Betty Trider
Carolyn Tynan
Elizabeth Williams



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

Treasurer Claudette Shelfer is ready to collect your dues for 2013-2014. 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

Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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President..... Oscar Schank

Editor &

WriterJudy Weidner



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**MARGARITA & PEPPERS
IS THE PLACE TO BE
ON MARCH 5, 2013**

Our business year is coming to an end. Now is the time to celebrate our accomplishments and make plans for next year.

Come join the fun on March 5 at 6 p.m. when we gather at our favorite Margarita and Peppers to share food and fellowship.

No need to make a prior reservation - we will be ordering Dutch treat from their large menu. Check out the specials online at their website: www.margaritaandpeppers.com

Our end-of-year meeting will take place at First Christian Church in April.



Margarita and Peppers is located just north of the intersection of West Loop 336 and TX Highway 105 at 2259 Texas 336 Loop in Conroe, TX (936) 788-1408

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