

Coushatta Camellia Society

FEBRUARY 2021 Newsletter



Greetings, Fellow Camellia Lovers!

Dear Members,
Hard to believe but we are already into February of 2021 and hopefully many of you are still enjoying the opening of your camellias with hopefully a few months more of flowers to come. This month we celebrate Valentines Day and have our monthly Zoom meeting on that very day. Due to a conflict of schedules with our speakers we are going to flip the presenters and have Patrick Andrews from ACS speak on Landscaping With Camellias. I feel this will be a great topic to use for incorporating camellias along with other plants in your overall landscape design. Patrick Andrews is a lifelong gardener. His 9-acre garden includes a palm garden, native plant woods, bromeliad garden, citrus grove, and many azaleas. For the past twenty years, his focus has been developing an extensive camellia garden, which currently contains more than 2100 camellia plants, with over 1550 different cultivars and over 40 different species. Patrick is currently Vice-President of the American Camellia Society, an ACS Certified Judge and Instructor, and serves as a director on the Gainesville Camellia Society and Ocala Camellia Society boards.

Please join us this February 14 at 2:00 for this highly informative presentation and feel free to invite a friend or loved one to join you on this Valentines Day. Cut a few flowers and have them on your video feed so we can all see what beauty nature has bestowed on us all!

Sincerely,

Edward Estrada
President CCS

Current Activity

February 14, 2021

Regular Meeting

Patrick Andrews Speaker

Landscaping with Camellias

March 14, 2021

Regular Meeting

Forrest Latta, Speaker

American Camellia Classics

NOTE:

Please be aware that meetings will be held on Zoom -explanation follows -

CCS Website:

<http://coushattacamelliasociety.com/>

February Speaker

Patrick Andrews

- **Vice-President of the American Camellia Society,**
- **An ACS Certified Judge and Instructor,**
- **Serves as a director on the Gainesville Camellia Society and Ocala Camellia Society boards**

March Speaker -Forrest Latta
American Camellia Classics

Forrest Latta, who lives in Mobile, Alabama, is a corporate trial attorney in a regional law firm of 400 lawyers. As a hobby, he has grown and collected camellias for over 25 years. He has held various offices in the American and International Camellia Societies and is the author of the book "Camellia Garden Field Guide" (Amazon Press), as well as numerous articles. His favorite camellia job is serving as Historian for the American Camellia Society, which he has done for the last 15 years

ZOOM

Due to the COVID-19 precautions our general meetings for this year will be done through Zoom. It provides for participants to sign in through an e-mail invitation to participate in a meeting. Each participant will be able to see others involved in the meeting – sometimes individually as someone is presenting (for instance the President making comments) or as cameos of those participating. Maximum time for a Zoom meeting is 40 minutes.

If you have e-mail service then you can be contacted to participate. You may choose not to; however, if you do you will not be provided the opportunity to see and hear the participants' comments and respond to those. All of our meetings this year will be done through Zoom.

For those unable to participate hopefully there will be a written report of that meeting as with the Board *minutes*

Officers – 2020-2021

<i>President</i>	Edward Estrada
1 st Vice President, Programs	Randy M cDaniel
2 nd Vice President, Show Chair	Frank Ohrt
Recording Secretary	Kelli Horns
Corresponding Secretary	Glynda Mallese
Treasurer	Jo Ann Treat
Immediate Past President	Frank Ohrt
At-large-Director	Bill McCranor
At-large-Director	Don Marcotte
At-large-Director	Dudley Boudreaux
At-large-Director	Tommy Weeks'

Following is a little history lesson about

A special camellia - Robert McNeese

From the Baton Rouge Camellia Society

Brief Calendar for 2020-2021

August 25, 2020
Board Meeting

September 6, 2020
Board Meeting

September 13, 2020
Opening year meeting

October 11, 2020
Regular Meeting

November 8, 2020
Regular Meeting

December 13, 2020
TBA

January 10, 2021
Regular Meeting

~~January 24, 2021~~

~~Show Setup~~

~~January 25-26, 2021~~

~~Annual Coushatta Camellia~~

~~Show~~

~~First Christian Church~~

February 14, 2021
Regular Meeting

March 14, 2021
Regular Meeting

April TBD
End of Year Party

June/July 2021
Board Meeting





The “Robert McNeese” Camellia

C. japonica “Robert McNeese”

By Art Landry

(This article was in *The Camellian* – journal of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society -- Winter 2014)

When I moved back to Baton Rouge in 1974 from New Orleans, I proceeded to re-establish my camellia garden (as I had done on several previous moves). Each year I grafted a number of varieties from several area growers including many from Vi Stone. One of those I grafted from Vi had a tag 'Stan McNeese'. I grew it under that name for several years. When it started blooming I tried entering the bloom in area shows. I could not because there was no “Stan McNeese” camellia listed in the Nomenclature book. Efforts to get the bloom identified by a number of camellia show judges and exhibitors were unsuccessful. After Vi Stone passed away, her daughter Stella Cooper shared with me a copy of Vi's seedling records. Vi was a good record keeper and kept detailed notes on seedlings as she observed them before selecting and naming and registering them. There in her records was "Seedling #23 - 'Robert McNeese'. McNeese seedling - first grafted in 1974. Grafted 1/12/76. Stan Magee asked that I help register. #1810 - 2/82". Her notes then describe the flower, where the plant was in her garden and trophies won at area shows in the 1980's. The puzzle was solved ! The tag identified as “Stan McNeese” was Seedling #23. I grew it under that name for years, the tag on her original graft had that name on it and I presume so did anyone else she shared scions with. Apparently, Vi identified the seedling she was observing provided by Stan Magee, from Robert McNeese, for help in registration by using this shorthand designation on the tag.

The following was provided by Robert H. McNeese, son of Robert

1981 R. McNeese, Bogalusa, LA 11 S. McNeese. This completes the story of the “Robert McNeese” camellia.

"Sometime in the late 1950's, my dad, Robert S. McNeese and fellow camellia enthusiasts Warren Seal, Stan Magee, Jim Ray and Gus Bienvenue formed the Bogalusa Camellia Society. They all built greenhouses in their back yards and began growing and grafting camellias, which began for most of them a lifelong interest. They all participated in various Camilla Shows around the state each year, particularly those in Slidell, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans, and at some point during those early years, my dad began to work on trying to introduce his own unique seedling. No one in my family can remember how long this took but he finally did succeed in discovering a new variety which was eventually named for him. Unfortunately, he passed away before it could be officially named and registered but my younger brother, Stan McNeese, became interested in honoring dad's legacy by getting the new Camellia named after him and getting it registered. I am not sure of the registration date but I think Art Landry has been able to reference the date and place. "Many years passed and we had all but forgotten about the plant until my friend, Bob Christian, who is a member of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, called to tell me that he had purchased a “Robert McNeese” camellia; what a delightful surprise.

I immediately called my Mom and brother to ask about it and they confirmed that it was in fact named after dad. A few weeks later, my daughter discovered a beautiful specimen growing at the Burden Research Center, which we later determined had come from the Stone property and we confirmed it was the camellia that my dad had discovered. "The entire McNeese family is grateful to the Baton Rouge Camellia Society for continuing to propagate and grow the beautiful variety and we want to give a special thanks to Gerald Phares for helping make these plants available to our family members." The Baton Rouge Camellia Society continues to propagate plants of this fine camellia to share with all camellia enthusiasts.

Robert H. McNeese with Gerald Phares (r.), President of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society and Lynn Vicknair, GCCS President. .

Camellia Websites (sometimes it is fun to see other club's activities)

American Camellia Society www.americancamellias.org

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org

Baton Rouge Camellia Society www.facebook.com/brcamellias

Birmingham Camellia Society www.birminghamcamellias.com

Brookhaven Camellia Society www.homerrichardson.com/camellia

Camellia Society of North Florida

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia Society North Fla.html](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html)

Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society www.facebook.com/FWB

Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Gainesville%20CS.html

Gulf Coast Camellia Society www.gulfcoastcamelliasociety.com

www.facebook.com/gulfcoastcamelliasociety

Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society

[www.facebook.com/Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society](https://www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society)

Mobile Camellia Society www.mobilecamellia.org

Northshore Camellia Society www.northshorecamelliasociety.org