

Coushatta

Camellia



Society

March 2012 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

GREETINGS, CAMELLIA LOVERS!

The last of the camellia blossoms are sporting their colors and the bluebonnets are heralding the start of the reign of the summer garden. If you aren't out enjoying our beautiful spring weather -- you should be!

GULF COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society will meet Monday, October 15 and Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at the Natchez Grand Hotel, which is on the banks of the Mississippi River, in downtown historic Natchez, MS. The hotel includes convention facilities. All plans have not been finalized; there will be opportunities to tour antebellum homes and other sites of interest. If you would like more information, please let Claudette Shelfer know (call, email, write) and she will pass along the information when it is available. Mark your calendars, find carpool friends—a good time is promised.

Minutes for CCS March 2012 Meeting - March 06, 2012

The March meeting began at 7:00 p.m. P.J. Ellison of Ellison Nursery in Brenham spoke to us about the beautiful Poinsettia culture and history. Our business meeting began at 8:00 p.m. with a prayer by Morris Waller.

Victor Treat spoke of his visit to Nuccios Nursery in California and showed two different and new species, brought into the U.S., especially for hybridizing from China. Dennis reported Renee has volunteered to take on the responsibilities of the Adopt-A-Park project. Volunteers to help Renee are needed. Dennis also reported

continued on back page - see MINUTES

Upcoming Events

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

April 14 Rooting Workshop
9:00 a.m. at the Gilmore Greenhouse
Orchid Workday at Gilmore Greenhouse

April 22 Board meeting 1-3 pm
home of Dennis Bilyeu
5275 Longmire Court, Conroe
Ideas Committee meeting
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

*Have a wonderful summer -
we'll see you in September!*

September 4 September meeting
6:30 p.m. - social
7:00 p.m. - Sponsor Appreciation
First Christian Church
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe (in parlor)

October 15, 16 GCCS
Natchez, Mississippi

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Happy Birthday!

To all our members who
will be celebrating before
we meet again:



April

Dick Eidem
Linda Gambrill
Shelley Madeley
Daniel Paul
Luther Thorn

May

Vicki Barnes
Kathy Cowart
Linda Gibson
Steve Glesener
Phyllis Hartman
Oscar Schank
Lois Smith

June

Charlie Gambrill
Margie Koehl
Roy Kveton
Pamela Lewis
Don Marcotte
Laurie McCranor
Jim Sadoti
Tommy Weeks
JR Weidner
Jackie Wells

July

Greg Davis
Diane Dyer
Bill Feece
Beverly Fussell
Ash Shah
E. B. Smith
Amy Thorn
Morris Waller

August

Bill Dupré
Sue Hall
Patricia Harness
Bill Harness
Peggy LeVrier
JoAnn Treat
Judy Weidner



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CENTER"

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SAT 7:30 AM to
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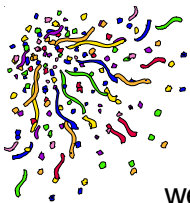
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

*Coushatta Camellia
Society Newsletter*

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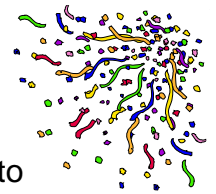
President Dennis Bilyeu

Editor &
Writer Judy Weidner



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.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PAY DUES!

Treasurer Claudette Shelfer is ready to collect your dues for 2012-2013. Make your payment (\$10 single, \$15 joint) at the April meeting and save postage. Thanks to all you members who have already paid your dues - we appreciate you. Just joined since January? 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? Randy McDaniel would like to have your ideas!

Was your contact information listed correctly in last year's yearbook? Have you had a change of address, phone or e-mail since then? Please turn in your correct information to Claudette with your dues payment. Members with dues paid by summer will appear in the yearbook. Thanks!

Please help our Treasurer close out the books for this year! Claudette asks that everyone who has receipts for reimbursement turn them in as soon as possible.

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.

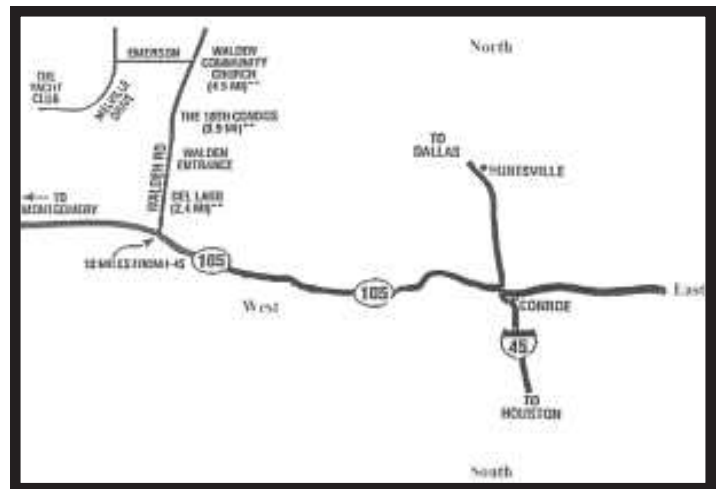
----Maxine Schank

DIRECTIONS TO YACHT CLUB FROM INTERSTATE 45 IN CONROE

Travel West on Hwy 105 about twelve (12) miles. Look for the flag at the Exxon at the intersection of Hwy 105 and Walden Road. Turn right on Walden Road. Drive four (4) miles, pass the church on your left and take a left at Emerson (there will be a sign pointing left for the Yacht Club). Go to the stop sign and take a left (at Melville). Go the end of Melville. You will arrive at the parking lot for the Yacht Club.



If you have any questions about directions to Walden Yacht Club, please call (936) 582-4222.



Congratulations!

As of the middle of March, our own Tommy Weeks ranks 5th with ACS show points (149) in the Atlantic & Gulf Coast Regions for Outside Growers. Our member Annabelle Fetterman ranks 8th in the region for Greenhouse Growers and Hal Vanis ranks 9th. Wow! Great job, all. To keep track of the scores, go to www.camellias-acs.com and click on the link for show results - Exhibitors.

Camellia Gardener

March Update by Dennis Bilyeu

Rooting of Cuttings Workshop:

We will be having a 'rooting of cuttings' workshop at the Gilmore greenhouse on April 14, which is the Saturday after Easter Sunday, from 9 am to noon. I will bring an assortment of cuttings from my yard to be rooted; but, If you have a favorite Camellia that you would like to propagate, bring cuttings to the workshop. I suggest bringing at least 10 cuttings of about 4 inches long, as that is how many typically go into one 3 gal rooting pot. Bring as many cuttings as possible as I hope we can root a large number during the workshop. One note of caution, when taking cuttings on plants that have already started pushing new growth, take the cuttings from branches without any new growth.

I will be demonstrating my rooting technique that I have had 90+% success with for the last couple of years. Following the demonstration everyone will be able to do their own rootings. The club will be providing the supplies needed to do this rooting technique and we will leave them in the greenhouse to develop roots. I did some rootings of the Mildred Gilmore Camellia back in September and will hopefully have some rootings ready to pot and will be able to show what to do with your rootings after they develop roots.

Fall and Winter months are not the best times to do rootings as Camellias are typically dormant and don't develop their roots at this time. March through July are the best times to do rootings as the requisite roots will usually develop in four to five months. My requirements are roots with a length of at least one and a half inches before transferring them to their own pot.

The club would like to retain 50% of the surviving rootings to be grown up to 3 gallon pot size and then sold to help fund club activities. The more rootings we can do now the quicker we can become financially self sufficient, so come out and support your club at this rooting workshop even if you do not want to do any rootings yourself. There will be plenty of support type of activities for everyone.

Greenhouse Work Day Activities:

Cherokee will be doing some more repotting of the orchids on this day so you could also help with that activity. We will also need to clean out the area where we plan to keep our large Camellia plants through the summer. We plan to keep only small plants and rootings in the greenhouse. We also need to complete work on the shade house Bill and I started work on a few months ago.

Air-Layering:

Let me know if you are interested in doing some air-layering this year. I will be doing some on my plants, probably the weekend after the rooting workshop and would be glad to show anyone how it's done and let them do air-layers on my

plants. I need to know how many members are interested so I can get enough supplies ahead of time for everyone to do several air-layers.



Camellia Care for Spring:

If you planted a Camellia using my planting technique, where you build a water dam ring around your plant, here is an important follow up. You now need to spread that water dam ring out and make the ground around your plant level or gradually tapering down to natural ground level. By now the roots of your plant should be well established and starting to spread. Leveling the water dam ring will encourage the roots to continue growing outward. You should start the leveling process by digging down the trunk of your plant to the top of the roots and then level or taper the ground from that level to natural ground level. If your plants are like mine, you will end up spreading a lot of good soil/mulch beyond the outer feeder roots, which will encourage that outward root growth.

Now is also a good time to add fresh mulch/compost around your plants. This is especially important if you do the water ring leveling described above. I like to use pine needles but any kind of leaf mulch is fine. Spread the mulch out past the outer most branches of your plant.

Prune your Camellias before they start putting on new growth or shortly after it starts growing. Cut off internal branches to allow air flow through the plant. Cut off long lanky branches so your blooms will stand up better next year rather than droop down and face the ground. Prune your plant to give it the desired shape and height. Do not prune more than about one third to one half of the plant height in any one year; but, I have seen plants pruned by more than half their height and came back with gusto. In general, the more pruning you do the better for the health of your plant.

After pruning is a great time to fertilize and spray your plants. See my earlier recommendations on this in our past newsletters. Your spray should contain oil emulsion, a fungicide, an insecticide, a miticide, and a foliar fertilizer, and yes it is OK to mix all of these ingredients together in one spray. You should be seeing new growth by now. If you don't have a good flush of new growth you probably need to fertilize and water your plants. Also remember for plants that have been in the ground for less than two years you need to water them at least once a week and twice a week if we don't have rain.

Check your plants at least once a week for insect, mite, critter damage, fungal infections, and water stress. My plants tell me when they need water by their droopy leaves, so develop an eye for this plant behavior and act accordingly.

Camellias develop their flower buds during the next two months so if you want a lot of blooms in the fall now is the time to take care of your plants.

If you need help or just want to talk to someone about your plants, don't hesitate to give me a call.

Board Meeting and Ideas for improving CCS meeting

There will be a CCS Board Meeting on April 22, from 1 to 3PM, at my house. Several members of the Board have volunteered or will likely participate on the Ideas committee so we will have the initial meeting of this Ideas committee immediately after the Board meeting or starting about 3 PM on April 22nd.

Those that volunteered for the Ideas committee that are not on the Board are welcome to sit in on the Board meeting or arrive at my house about 3 PM for the start of the Ideas meeting. I anticipate the Ideas meeting should only take about an hour as I plan to lay the ground work for how the committee will work, then have a general brain storming session to kick off the idea generation process.

Future Ideas committee meetings will have more brain storming sessions focused on specific topics such as membership, shows, garden tours, plant sales, community projects, etc and eventually dig deeper into the ideas the committee deem worth pursuing. The goal of the Ideas Committee is to come up with ideas for improving CCS. We have no minimum or maximum on the number of ideas to come up with. Viable ideas will be presented to the membership next fall.

I anticipate having about three meetings of the Ideas Committee during the summer and invite all of our CCS membership to participate in this process of improving CCS. If you don't want to attend meetings but have an idea for improvement, just pass the idea on to one of the members that will be attending the meetings.

Currently we have these volunteers for the Ideas Committee: Ruby McConnell, Claudette Shelfer, and Randy McDaniel. We will need someone to take good notes during these meetings, and I would appreciate someone volunteering for this task. Participation on this Ideas Committee will be open, i.e., participants can attend as many or few meetings at they wish, but I would like to maintain a core group of participants to provide continuity to the meetings. Dennis

March Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance March 1, 2012	\$11,997.92
Income: Dues	95.00
Friends of CCS	100.00
EOY Dinner	241.30
Donation	50.00
Plant Sales	390.00
Plant Sales/Tour	508.00
Reimbursements	
Huntsville Show Plants	622.00
Freight	25.00
Raffle	33.00

GARDEN TOUR 2012

The 2012 version of the Coushatta Camellia Society's Annual Garden Tour has come to pass. Turnout for the event was moderate. Dennis & Renée welcomed more than 50 visitors to their garden, while the rest of us 'out-of-towners' on the tour saw fewer; averaging about 20 visitors per garden. We did however manage to sell about 25 plants tour wide, sign up two new members and collect the email addresses of 23 interested persons.

This year's weather cooperated for a change. Tour day started out cool, wet and gusty; and even though the wind persisted it quickly turned bright and warm. All in all, it was a delightful day with garden owners, volunteers and visitors all enjoying the event immensely. We finished up the day in the usual way with the 'after the tour dinner' at Margaritas & Peppers. A good time and a fine meal was had by all.

Once again I would like to thank everyone involved for all of your time and effort. It is appreciated; believe me! — And if there are any garden tour leftovers: signs, brochure trays, etc; I will take them up at our April 5 get-together.

Bill McCranor

John Burge Park

All is going well for CCS to adopt John Burge Park. The new park is located off of Little Egypt Rd. at Shadow Lakes. It is Conroe's first "green" park and has a fantastic rain water harvesting system. It is a great place for families to gather with a playground, a mile of hiking/biking trails, picnic tables, and a large pavilion. Volunteer responsibilities include picking up litter, sweeping the pavilion, raking leaves, pulling weeds (there are few flower beds) and reporting park hazards. We have not gotten final approval from the city yet, but I don't expect that they will turn us down. The application just has to go through channels. Once we get approved, we will meet six times during the year (April 2012 to March 2013) to do the chores listed above. We will get a sign that advertises our efforts. I personally feel good about helping our community by maintaining its beauty. Anyone wanting to help in this endeavor please contact me at 936-760-6744. *Renee Bilyeu*

Total Income	2,064.30
Expenses:	
Printing:	
Newsletter –2 months	35.74
Garden Tour	75.00
Door Prizes, Stamps, Cards	38.24
Garden Tour Exp	313.45
Total Expenses:	(462.43)
Bank Balance March 17, 2012	13,599.79

MINUTES - continued from front page

we may have someone to enhance our website. Volunteers are still needed to be on the strategic or "Ideas for Improvement" committee.

Morris Waller moved that the minutes and treasurer's report be approved as printed in the newsletter. Jenny Marcotte seconded and the motion was passed.

Randy McDaniel reported on the schedule for the upcoming March Mart and passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Plants from Glenn Reed will help supply the sale. Randy also reported he is waiting on the Church to decide whether a bench, Donation, tables, etc. is what they would like for the Allie Dezelle Memorial. Dick Eidem reported we need an inventory person to count plants for March Mart. Claudette Shelfer usually does this job but will attending an ACS meeting. There will be approximately 300 plants at \$35.00 dollars a piece with CCS making about \$13 a piece after shipping, handling and Mercer's cut.

Morris Waller reported that the Huntsville Show was a great success with approx. 640 blooms entered in the show. There will be a summer planning committee with duties taken over by Don and Jenny Marcotte.

Bill McCranor reported the Garden Tour was a success even though there was some difficulty with directions as printed. People attending the tour were encouraged to leave their E-mails so as to get several newsletters sent to them. Potential members may come from this interest in our Club. Attendance varied as to location with as many as 50 plus in one location and 15 to 18 in other locations.

Laurie McCranor reported news of our Tour did not make it in the Courier but the Chronicle was of help. She will be working to improve and update Club stats in the ACS index.

Jenny Marcotte reminded us the Walker County Extension sale was the weekend of March 10 and the Huntsville Herb Sale was also coming soon and would have some of the Club's camellias for sale. Volunteers would be appreciated. For more information about either sale, please contact Jenny.

Membership and Hospitality chairman Renee Bilyeu will be accepting monies for the End of Year Dinner, arranged by Maxine Shank, to be held at Walden Yacht Club. The dinner will be April 5th, a Thursday instead of a Tuesday. Cost will be \$24.13 a person, with checks being made out to CCS. March 29th is the deadline for all monies and reservations.

Our next workday for Gilmore's Nursery is to include repotting more orchids, cleaning up area to store plants over the summer and a workshop presented by Dennis, on the rooting of cuttings. Dennis has a successful technique he is willing to share with the members. The shed at Gilmore's is still being debated for storage. Books previously stored in the storage warehouse are now being stored at the Bilyeu house and are available for use by any of our members.

The Club's non-profit status is still in progress at this time.

Question & Answer: Renee and Dennis reported that petal blight at their home was much reduced by picking up spent blooms. Bill McCranor asked if anyone liking to do an After Tour Tour to please call first. The raffle and drawings were held with prizes such as tomatoes grown by Ellison Nursery, a camellia, and gingers donated to the club.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Coushatta Camellia Society

P.O. Box 1655
Conroe, TX 77305

