

Coushatta Camellia Society

March 2019 - Newsletter



A Message from Our CCS President

Fellow Members

As we come to the closing of our year the March meeting will include many activities for our members. There will be our usual social period at the beginning and an opportunity for you to bring your camellia questions for some of our experts. Linda Estrada has arranged for a very interesting program on "Texas Superstars." We will have the election of officers and directors for the 2019-2020 year and will plan for the April dinner/social. And, there is a "Surprise" planned for you.

The past month or so has provided camellia growers in our area conditions to have many beautiful blooms. If you have some you would like to share, bring them.

With the passing of some of our long time members we are made aware of how important it is that CCS be advised of illnesses.

At the Spring Mart, March 15 and 16, at Mercer Gardens, we will have a table for us to sell camellias and provide educational materials. Edward Estrada has been busy setting this up, giving us an opportunity to publicize camellias and our club. Come enjoy the gardens and see the plants available.

First Christian Church has been very generous to provide us space in their gym building to set up cabinets so we can store our show and hospitality supplies. We are very fortunate that we have been given the opportunity over the years to have our meetings and show in their facilities. If you talk to the pastor, staff or members be sure and thank them.

Many, many of our members have pitched in this year to help with all our various activities and I am grateful to each of you. Thank you very much.

Frank Ohrt
President

Upcoming Events

March 10, 2019

Regular Meeting
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe
Social 2:30 pm – Meeting 3:00
"Texas Superstars"
Debra Stallings, Master Gardener

April 14, 2019

End of Year Party

CCS Website:

<http://coushattacamelliasociety.com/>

MARCH PROGRAM

As previously reported, we have the good fortune to have an excellent program to be presented by Debra Stallings, who is also with Montgomery County Master Gardeners, will speak to us on '**Texas Superstars**'. These are plants that are proven winners for our area and Texas. She said this is a special list that has met specific criteria as to quality and reliability.

You won't want to miss this program!!!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

In accordance with the By-Laws, a proposed slate of Officers and Directors are to be submitted at the March Meeting. Therefore, following are those nominated:.

Officers and Directors:2019-2020

President	Frank Ohrt
1 st Vice President, Programs	Edward Estrada
2 nd Vice President, Show Chair	Randy McDaniel
Recording Secretary	Kelli Hornsby
Treasurer	Jo Ann Treat
Immediate Past President	Jo Ann Treat
At-large-Director	Bill McCranor
At-large-Director	Don Marcotte
At-large-Director	Dudley Boudreaux

In addition, it is proposed to the Board that the By-Laws be Amended to provide four (4) At-large-Directors in lieu of three (3) as presently set out in the By-Laws.

Presented by Jo Ann Treat, Nominating Committee Chair

The current Board of CCS is composed of the following:

Officers and Directors:2018-2019

President	Frank Ohrt
1 st Vice President, Programs	Edward Estrada
2 nd Vice President, Show Chair	Randy McDaniel
Recording Secretary	Kelli Hornsby
Treasurer	Henry Wei
Immediate Past President	Jo Ann Treat
At-large-Director	Bill McCranor
At-large-Director	Don Marcotte
At-large-Director	Dudley Boudreaux

Brief Calendar for the Year

September 9, 2018

Kickoff - Social
First Christian Church Parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe

October 14, 2018

Regular Meeting

November 11, 2018

Regular Meeting

December 9, 2018

Christmas Party

January 11, 2019

Set Up & Pre-Show Pizza Party
First Christian Church Gym

January 12-13, 2019

44th Annual Coughatta
Camellia Show
First Christian Church

January 13, 2019 Cancelled

Regular Meeting

February 10, 2019

Regular Meeting

March 10, 2019

Regular Meeting

April 14, 2019

End of Year Party

Coushatta Camellia Society – Website Information

There is much information of benefit to our members as well as advising others interested in raising camellias. Board member, Bill McCranor has done a fine job of filling it with good information. He has a page which provides links with valuable information. Following is the list from that page:

Societies

[International Camellia Society](#)
[American Camellia Society](#)
[Gulf Coast Camellia Society](#)
[Camellia Club of Mobile](#)
[Atlantic Coast Camellia Society](#)

Gardening Tips

[Growing Camellia From Seed](#)
[Air Layering](#)
[Aggie Horticulture](#)
[About Root Cuttings](#)
[The Art of Camellia Grafting](#)

Friends

[The Mercer Arboretum](#)
[Montgomery Co. Master Gardeners](#)
[Fern Plantation Nursery](#)
[Ellison's Greenhouse](#)
[Nature's Way Resources](#)

Miscellaneous

[Waxing Camellias](#)
[Greenhouse Plans](#)
[Leaf Symptoms of Camellia](#)
[Diseases](#)
["Sazanka" \(Sasanqua\)](#)

Youtube Videos

[Lesson in Gibbing Camellias](#)
[Camellia Grafting](#)
[How To Breed A Camellia](#)

Nurseries

[Camellia Forest Nursery](#)
[Cam Too Camellia Nursery](#)
[Loch Laurel Nursery](#)

In addition to the above information for you, Bill has added much more information. Under Resources he has added the following excellent publication done many years ago, but still relevant, by some of our very knowledgeable members.

It is ***A Calendar for Camellia Growers***

Perhaps sometime we can republish this in paper format.

Our website is: ***Coushattacamelliasociety.com***

If you have not gone to our website, you should access it sometime.

- - - - -

The following two articles are by Art Landry and were published in *The Gulf Coast Camellian*. We have his permission to use any of his articles.



In the Spring Garden

By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA

The spring months of March, April and May are important months in the care of camellias in our southern states. Some varieties will continue to bloom through March and some into April. Then the spring growth hormones take over from the blooming cycle and the plant begins to swell the growth buds in March and burst in new growth in April. What we do with the plants at this time will help them thrive through the hot summer and reward us with nice blooms next winter.

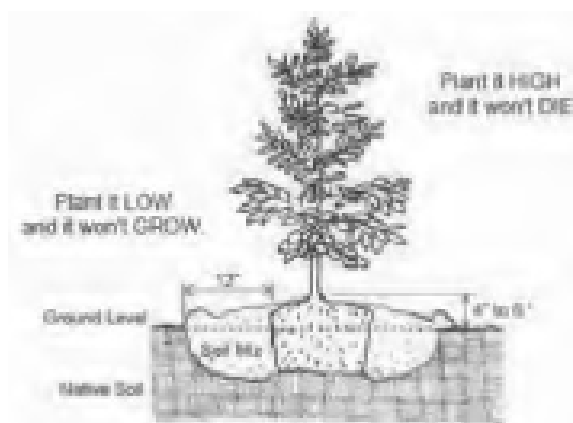
Planting: If you bought camellia plants during the winter months, keep the container watered regularly until you plant them in the ground. If your area contains a heavy clay soil, especially in developed areas where all topsoil was removed at development, you should amend the soil with sand or sandy loam. Planting in raised beds or berms works well, allowing

ball, then mulched well. Fertilizing at planting is usually not necessary; root stimulator solution can be used to encourage growth of new roots in the soil mix. Make sure that you add enough mulch to last through the summer and fall.

Pruning: Established camellias like to be pruned and March is usually the best time to do your pruning, after most of the blooms are finished and before the new growth takes off. Prune all weak or spindly limbs and those with only a few leaves on the end. Take enough limbs out to give air to the inside of the plant and prune to size and shape desired. Take about 10-15% of the foliage off those plants that have reached the size you want. You will be rewarded with renewed vigor and stimulated growth along with better blooms in the coming blooming season.

Mulching: If you've maintained a good layer of mulch around your plant all year, then just add another layer on top to dress it up; and allow for breaking down of the organic matter through the summer. If you've mulched in this way for a couple years or more, and you've pruned as described above, the plant will require very little, if any, supplemental fertilizer. The decaying organic matter in the mulch usually provides enough nutrients and trace elements to a plant that has been pruned of 15% of its foliage and kept well mulched.

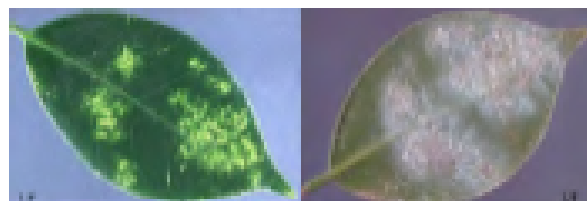
Fertilizing: If you still feel that you want to fertilize, sprinkle a small amount of "nursery special" type fertilizer around the



the use of porous soil mix for good drainage and new root development. Individual specimens can be planted in a hole half the depth of the pot and soil mounded around the top half of the root

base of the plant. This fertilizer contains slow release nitrogen and other essential nutrients including trace elements essential to good plant growth and blooming. Too much fertilizer will get you plenty of new growth, but very few blooms.

Spraying: March and April are the best months to spray your camellias to control tea scale and spider mites. (The scale is evident by the white covering on the underside of the leaves. The scale itself is a small brown insect attached to the leaf under the white stuff.) Use any oil emulsion type product (ultrafine oil,



*An infestation of tea scale, *Florinia theae* Green.
Credit: University of Florida*



The bronzing of the midrib of the camellia leaf is a sure sign of spider mite damage.

dormant oil spray, etc.) and spray under the leaves to suffocate the scale or mites. A few drops of Dawn or similar liquid detergent help the spray to stick to the leaves. Spray again in a week or 10 days, since you will not be able to get them all in the first pass. After you've done this

and got most of the plant scale-free, you can follow-up spray with Neem Oil, which acts as a long term preventive. It is absorbed by the plant and makes the plant unpalatable to insects and they starve to death.

Containers: If you have limited space for gardening, consider growing some camellias in containers. Camellias will do very well in containers and require only periodic repotting to maintain a vigorous plant. They grow slowly, can be pruned to control their size, and require less care than most other container plants. Almost any container or planter can be used, depending on the desires of the owner. Pots can be placed on roller dollies for ease in moving around on patios or decks.

Avoid keeping containers in direct sun all day long, because of the heating effect on the pot, soil and roots. Use a good soil mix containing composted pine bark and sandy loam topsoil. Adding perlite to the mix will help hold moisture between waterings. Water twice a week without rain and possibly more often in the hot dry summer periods. Fertilize container plants with a tablespoon or so of a "Nursery Special" type each month from March to about August. The monthly feeding is necessary since nutrients are washed out every time the pot is watered. With proper choice of early, mid and late blooming varieties, you can enjoy blooms throughout the season from October through March each year.

Spring months can be a busy time in the camellia garden. Your work will prepare the plants for the summer and set the stage for enjoying the next blooming season when the fun starts again.



ABOUT 'DR. TINSLEY'

By: Art Landry

A favorite cultivar with camellia growers since it was introduced in 1949 is the variety 'Dr. Tinsley'. The Nomenclature by SCCS describes the flower as "very pale Pink at base shading to deeper Pink at edge with reverse side Flesh Pink, medium, semidouble". It was introduced in 1949 by Mrs. G. J. Tinsley, Hammond, LA.

Mrs. Tinsley was the wife of Dr. G. J. Tinsley who was President of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LA during the early 1940s. Mrs. Tinsley was a teacher at Scott High School near Lafayette at that time. About 1940 Mrs. Tinsley bought some seedling camellias from Heyman's Nursery in Lafayette who had obtained the plants from E. A. McIlhenny of Avery Island, LA. She brought the plant with her

when they moved to Hammond, LA. The plant first bloomed in 1944 when it was shown for the first time in the New Orleans Men's Club show that year.

The bloom was entered in the show as Seedling '7-11' which was changed by a clerk to '71' and the flower became known

as 'Tinsley's 71'. It was also known for a time as 'Tinsley Camellia', 'Doctor Tinsley', as well as 'Dr. Tinsley' which became the registered name in 1949.

A sport was introduced in 1962 by G. G. Gerbing of Florida. It is 'Dr. Tinsley Supreme' which has double the number of rows of petals as the original.

'Dr. Tinsley' blooms freely following hard frosts and growth is upright and compact. It is an excellent addition to any camellia garden.



C. japonica 'Dr. Tinsley' 1949, Mrs. G. J. Tinsley, Hammond, LA

Resources

If you are able to use the internet there are many resources out there regarding camellias. The American Camellia Society (ACS) and the Gulf Coast Camellia Society are excellent sites. Following are links that you can access – they can lead you to interesting and useful information.

www.americancamellias.com

<https://www.americancamellias.com/care-culture-resources/history-of-camellias>

<https://www.gulfcoastcamelliasociety.org>