

# Coushatta

# Camellia



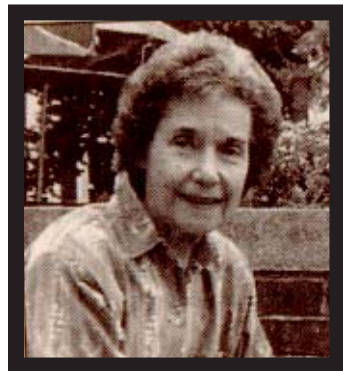
## March 2008 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

### Congratulations! We're Official!

Thanks to hard work from your officers and many members, and a special thanks to Jo Ann and Victor Treat, the Coushatta Camellia Society is now officially registered with the Secretary of State of Texas, and has its certificate of organization (known until recently as the Articles of Incorporation).

The next step will be to finalize the Bylaws for our organization and have a vote of approval by the membership. Then the process to become recognized as a non-profit organization can go forward.



### Mary Gibson Hubbard

*From The Courier, March 22, 2008*

Mary Gibson Hubbard passed away gently in her sleep on March 18, 2009 after a very brief but serious illness. Born December 8, 1918 in Spring, TX to Blanche Holdner and James Henry, she attended San Jacinto High School and graduated from Rice University in 1939. She married James "Bo" Gibson on Feb. 15, 1940, and they lived in Argentina and Mexico until 1975. Bo and Mary retired to Panorama

Village and were one of the original homeowners on Wingedfoot Drive. Mary loved golf and gardening. A founder of Garden Clubs everywhere she lived, she was president of Panorama Garden Club from 1976-78. Mary and Bo were great philanthropists, endowing a chair at Rice University and at Texas A&M, where Bo graduated. She was a regular contributor to medical and handicapped charities and strongly supported the needs of education. Following Bo's death, Mary married a lifelong friend of hers, Ralph Hustace Hubbard, Jr. in 1990. Mary was a devoted member of the First United Methodist Church, which she attended every Sunday. She was also an active and strong participant and member of the Panorama Ladies Assoc., the 18-Hole Golf Club, the Coushatta Camellia Society, the Society of Rice University Women, the American Assoc. of University Women, Pan-American Round Table, Panorama Monday and Wednesday Bridge Clubs, The American Federation Garden Club and the Far Corners Garden Study Club. Jackie Wells fondly remembers the programs she did for CCS, demonstrating how to make Oriental Flower Arrangements.

*continued page 3- see Mary Hubbard*

## Upcoming Events

**April 1** ..... End-of-Year Social  
Burkeshire Plantation-915 N. Frazier  
5:30 pm - museum browsing  
6:30 pm social, followed by dinner  
Vote for the new slate of officers!

**April 18 (Friday)**..... Field Trip  
Nacogdoches - Stephen F. Austin Univ.,  
Piney Woods Native Plant Center, SFA  
Mast Arboretum, Ruby M. Mize Azalea  
Gardens - cost \$25 per person  
meet bus at Conroe Library  
8:30 am - 6:15 pm  
Call Meg Mendeck (936) 788-5953 to  
make your reservation ASAP

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

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

**September 2** ..... September meeting  
6:30 p.m. - social  
7:00 p.m. - Sponsor Appreciation  
Pot Luck Supper  
First Christian Church  
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe  
(meeting in the parlor)

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 7:30 AM to 8:00 PM  
 SAT 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

**Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter**

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

President ..... Oscar Schank

Editor & Writer ..... Judy Weidner

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**2008 Camellia Tour Wrap-Up**  
 Mike Mendeck, 2008 Tour Director

Congratulations to all of our hard workers who made the 2008 Camellia Garden Tour a success. The eight gardens were beautiful and full of not only camellias but also azaleas, lilies, flowering quince, and spiraea (bridal wreath). We had great weather for seeing our gardens at their best.

**The Stats**

Four hundred guests visited the gardens which is a great showing considering all the other events being held the same weekend: Conroe Air Show, The Woodlands Spring Fling, Master Naturalist Jones Forest seminars, and the Texas Independence Relay. Next year the Tour is scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid the conflicts and take advantage of the larger number of blooms.

The workshops held at Charlie Gambrell's on Disappearing Fountains, Dennis Bilyeu on Planting and Site Selection of Camellias, WB Knox on Grafting, and, Dick Eidem on Air-Layering were a great success. Many of those touring the gardens followed the workshop schedule as they made their way around all the stops.

The plant sales met their objective: selling all the available plants. Most sales occurred at the Bilyeu and Browder's gardens with a couple at Gambrell's. This was the last event of the year and is a good time to sell out so our members are not asked to put the plants in their personal nurseries where space may be limited. Thanks to Dennis Bilyeu and Dick Eidem who brought our last plants to John Browder's location so they could be sold.

*Continued on back - see Garden Tour*



**Danny Moore**  
 Insurance Agent  
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**MARY HUBBARD** *continued from front page*

Mary was predeceased by her only son Jimmy, an officer in the U.S. Navy, who passed away in 1975, after a long illness; her first husband, Bo, in 1990 and second husband, Ralph Hustace Hubbard, Jr. in 1999. She is survived by her step-son, Thomas Hubbard, Sr., his ex-wife, Christina and step-grandchildren, Rebecca, Brett, Thomas, Jr. and Abigail; stepson-in-law, Robert Bennett and step-grandchildren, David and Scott. All will sorely miss their Gran-Mary. Many thanks to the Hospice Care of the Southwest and Dr. Susan Babb for the kindnesses they have shown to Mary and her caregivers, Kathy and Erin Richardson and Gertie Majors. Special mention needs to be made of her great friends, Ann and Bill Heck, Carolyn Tynan, Theresa Kranz, Douglas Argue, Mary Anne Hedges and Dot Verspoor, who provided love and support for her and will miss her. Arrangements were made through Cashners Funeral Home. A memorial service is planned for late April. In lieu of flowers, donations are gratefully requested in her memory to Panorama Garden Club or the First United Methodist Church, Conroe.

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**NOW IS THE TIME TO PAY DUES!**

Treasurer Ruby McConnell is ready to collect your dues for 2008-2009. 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 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.

Is there a program you'd like to see or give? Dick Eidem would like to have your ideas! Thanks to all our members who have provided such wonderful programs this year!

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 be sure we have your correct information. You may turn it in to Ruby McConnell with your dues payment. Thanks!

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*Happy Birthday!*



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

**April**

Dick Eidem  
 Daniel Paul  
 Luther Thorn  
 Brandon To

**May**

Phyllis Hartman  
 Oscar Schank  
 Lois Smith

**June**

Patsy Durham  
 Charlie Gambrell  
 James Hoke  
 Margie Koehl  
 Roy Kveton  
 Pamela Lewis  
 Laurie McCranor  
 Jim Sadoti  
 Tommy Weeks  
 JR Weidner  
 Jackie Wells

**July**

Greg Davis  
 Diane Dyer  
 Perry Liston  
 Nancy Meyer  
 Marie Oliver  
 Joe Santamaria



**August**

Nancy Santamaria  
 Emory Smith, Jr.  
 Amy Thorn  
 Debra Vaughn  
 Morris Waller  
 Bill Dupré  
 Slim Fontenot  
 Peggy Jonietz  
 Peggy LeVrier  
 Jorge Ramirez  
 JoAnn Treat  
 Judy Weidner

**Slate of Officers for 2008-2009**

President: Oscar Schank  
 Treasurer: Diane Dyer  
 Vice-President: Dick Eidem  
 Recording Secretary: Maxine Schank  
 Corresponding Secretary: Judy Weidner  
 Historian: Beverly Roche  
 Chaplain: W. B. Knox  
 Parliamentarian: Victor Treat

**Vote will take place at April meeting.**

# COUSHATTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY APRIL END-OF-THE-YEAR FEAST

No - we are not foolin'!! April 1 is the day that CCS members will gather to celebrate the end of another wonderful year. This year we'll be dining at the Burkeshire Plantation home at 915 N. Frazier in Conroe. Come at 5:30 to browse the museum upstairs. There is an elevator to the second floor.

Our social begins at 6:30 P.M, followed by dinner.

Menu : Chicken Cordon Bleu, Vegetable, Salad, Roll, Tea/Coffee & Dessert. Price : \$22.50 per person. Time to make your reservation is limited; if you have not yet

signed up, call Maxine Schank today (936) 445-1765.

**Driving directions:** Going North on I 45, take exit #87, (Hwy 105, also Lake Conroe Parkway). At the light on the access road, take a right on 105, then go to the first light, Frazier (Hwy 75), and take a left. Go through the next light at Lewis, go one more block and turn left on W. Austin St. It is on the corner of W. Austin and Frazier, directly across the street from Subway, but you cannot see it from Frazier, as the property is surrounded by large trees.

## GARDEN TOUR - *continued from page 2*

### How did they find out?

The two primary ways our guests learned about the Tour was through the newspaper (45%) and the brochures (40%). Our thanks to Jackie Wells for her great suggestion to run a full page ad on the back of the Courier "Ticket", the day before the Tour.

### For Next Year

This season we learned a couple of things:

- Hold the Tour in the middle of February to avoid competing with early March events and to improve the likelihood of having more camellia blooms to see.
- We should have 4 volunteers, 3 minimum, at each house on the Garden Tour, and keep one volunteer at the table to encourage visitors to sign in, answer questions about membership, the CCS Calendar, The Cookbook, and anything else that comes up.
- In Walden and in Conroe, road signs directing our visitors were removed by city officials. We will need to find another method for guiding people to our locations (ribbons, balloons, or...?)
- Update the CCS Calendar.

- Have membership packets already set up with an application, "Why Join" information, and a map to our meeting location.
- We must have all positions filled on the Garden Tour Committee; there is just too much to do for someone to be working multiple assignments.

### Thanks to All

Our thanks to all the Homeowners, Garden volunteers, and the Committee for making this Tour possible. Ahem, this is also the time to start planning for next year's Tour. Bill McCranor will take over as the Tour Director with Mike Mendeck as the Assistant Director for the 2009 Garden Tour. The following positions still need to be filled to run the Tour; please consider participating on the Committee. For more information on this, contact Mike Mendeck.

- Homeowner/Workshop Coordinator
- Publications Specialist:
- Publicity Coordinator
- Courier Publicity
- Huntsville Publicity
- Road Signs Coordinator
- Gift Selection
- After Tour Dinner

## Coushatta Camellia Society

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Conroe, TX 77305