

Coushatta

Camellia



March 2009 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

Society

JUDGING SCHOOL A GREAT SUCCESS!

Fifteen Camellia lovers attended the Judging School March 21/09, completed the course and took the test. New Novice Judges are Sarah & Richard Eidem, Rex Stodghill, Randy McDaniel and Ruby McConnell. Service as a clerk is required in addition to completing the course and passing the test, but all these members have served at CCS and HCS shows. Morris Waller and Dennis Bilyeu, previously Novice Judges, are now accredited as Judges. Those members who qualified for Judge Re-Accreditation are: Doris & Buffalo Allwright, Claire & Milton Surles, Claudette Shelfer, Oscar Schank, Greg E. Davis and Hal Vanis. Congratulations to all! And a big thanks to Dudley & Lois Boudreaux, Gordon Rabelais, Tommy Weeks, Oscar Schank, Jackie Wells and Ruby Knox for all their work that made the school possible.

GOOD NEWS FROM A MEMBER!!

All you guys and gals just looking at cholesterol, blood pressure, and other numbers, make sure to get a PICTURE of what's really going on. Get a nuclear stress test, CTSCAN, Angiogram, something beyond the numbers. I have been seeing a Cardiologist for 12 years (every 6 mos.) until I changed him on 1 January and got some of the aforementioned "pictures" taken revealing that I was a walking time bomb. I am one very fortunate and happy guy right now!

Had quadruple bypass surgery 2/26. NO heart attack or other typical symptoms. DO have some lousy genes. Was in process of routine testing when CTSCAN (new heart scan technology) 2/10 revealed high calcium deposits. Followed 2/25 with recommended heart catheterization which revealed 99% blockage main (right) artery; 80% blockage main (left) artery, and couple others 50-60% blocked. Went from heart cath lab 2/25 to surgery prep 2/26 to surgery 1:30 PM to 5 PM 2/27 then ICU 2 days, cardiac recovery unit 2 days, released to home 3/3. No lifting, pushing, pulling 8-10 weeks. No driving 4 weeks. Rebuilding lung capacity (they really mess up the lungs to get at the ticker) 4-8 weeks. My work schedule is what I can stand - so far 5 hours and counting today and building. Every expectation to be better than new (and already about 25 lbs. lighter) by mid-May.

The Blackberry I gave myself for Christmas is a wonderful piece of technology that is like having my computer in bed with me. I haven't missed a beat - no pun intended.

Regards to all, Charles Gambrill

Upcoming Events

April 7 April meeting
6:00 p.m. - McKenzie's Barbecue
1501 N. Frazier, Conroe
RSVP Diane Dyer - (936) 321-6685
Additional parking in the lot in the rear

Summer 2009 ESCAP meeting
..... Time and place to be determined
All those interested in revamping the
ESCAP program, please contact Diane
Dyer (936) 321-6685 so a planning
meeting may be organized.

Please help our Treasurer close out the books for this year! Diane 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 1 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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**Coushatta Camellia
Society Newsletter**

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GULF COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

MEETING: October 2 and 3, 2009

by Claudette Shelfer

Gulf Coast Camellia Society (GCCS) will hold its one and only meeting for 2009 in Baton Rouge, LA, on October 2 and 3, at the Burden Center, a part of LSU. The location of this coming GCCS meeting is new and much closer than Mobile, AL, where all the prior meetings I have attended have been held. The date has been confirmed and this is a great opportunity for Texas camellia lovers to meet with camellia lovers from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. Attendees from other regions of the country are welcome and many attend.

The annual meeting includes hospitality, supper, and a camellia plant auction on Friday and breakfast, educational sessions, and banquet on Saturday. The educational sessions provide an opportunity to share experiences and learn of the latest developments from leading camellia growers near and far. I have always learned something new and useful at the educational sessions. Generally Saturday afternoon is open so you can tour the area, visit local nurseries, etc. This is an outstanding opportunity to renew old acquaintances or make new ones, and start the new camellia season in a really enthusiastic way.

Plan to tour Burden Center which is the home of a wide array of horticultural research projects as well as formal and informal gardens and woods. Features and activities of the

continued on next page - see GCCS



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GCCS - continued from previous page

Burden Center include horticultural research, turf research, annual and perennial plant trail gardens, Windrush Gardens, the Stone Camellia Gardens, the All-American Rose Garden, the Steele Burden Memorial Orangerie, the Ione Burden Conference Center; the Rural Life Museum and the Trees and Trails project.

Dues for GCCS are \$10.00 for individuals and \$12.00 for couples. Membership runs from August through July each year and includes four issues of *The Gulf Coast Camellian* which contains articles on all aspects of camellia culture as well as serving as an exchange of news and information. This is an excellent publication and well worth the price of membership.

Join in July and be ready for the October meeting; send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, along with your payment to: **Gulf Coast Camellia Society, 10522 Ferncliff Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70815**

NOW IS THE TIME TO PAY DUES!

Treasurer Diane Dyer is ready to collect your dues for 2009-2010. 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. If you will be paying dues over the summer, please send directly to Diane at 623 Mosswood, Conroe, TX 77302. 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? Dennis Bilyeu 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 turn it in your correct information to Diane Dyer with your dues payment. Thanks!

Happy Birthday!



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

April

Dick Eidem
 Daniel Paul
 Luther Thorn
 Brandon To

May

Vicki Barnes
 Phyllis Hartman
 Oscar Schank
 Lois Smith

June

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

July

Greg Davis
 Diane Dyer
 Bill Feece
 Beverly Fussell
 Perry Liston
 Nancy Meyer
 Marie Oliver



Morris Waller

August

Joe Santamaria
 Nancy Santamaria
 Emory Smith, Jr.
 Amy Thorn
 Bill Dupré
 Slim Fontenot
 Sarah Gooch
 Peggy LeVrier
 Jorge Ramirez
 JoAnn Treat
 Judy Weidner

Slate of Officers for 2009-2010

President: Dick Eidem; Past-President Oscar Schank
 Vice-President: Dennis Bilyeu
 2nd VP (Show): Randy McDaniel; co-chair Charlie Gambrill
 Recording Secretary: Maxine Schank
 Corresponding Secretary: Judy Weidner
 Treasurer: Diane Dyer
 Historian: Beverly Roche
 Chaplain: W. B. Knox
 Parliamentarian: Victor Treat
Board of Directors
 Mike Mendeck
 Linda McCrary
 Ruby McConnell

2009 Garden Tour Report

By *Bill McCranor*

If I may say so myself, I think that we, as society put on a pretty good garden tour this year. Everyone involved please take a moment to pat yourself on the back for a job well done! It was a real group effort and the whole event blossomed into a great success.

Our V.P. Dick Eidem reports that, at the various tour locations, we were able to sell out our entire inventory of plants (about 75), something that has not happened before; though he did say that we have been selling more and more camellias every year.

Mike Mendeck has confirmed that 9 new members have been added to our ranks as a result of the garden tour. We all need to keep our new members interested, informed and involved in this gardening society; after all this society is a great place to learn about the care, propagation and maintenance of our favorite plant – the camellia.

There are many “Thank Yous” to hand around on my behalf:

- First to God for holding off the predicted inclement weather and for giving us a glorious two-day weekend.
- The garden owners: the staples, the new and the returning. You and your hard work in your gardens is what really made the tour both possible and spectacular.
- Double thanks to tour volunteers – your service is so very indispensable. You may have no idea, but as a garden owner myself, I could not have possibly done it without your help.

- All the people behind the scenes: Making/folding/dispersing brochures, coordinating volunteers, putting ads in newspapers, planning the after-tour dinner, thank-you notes, newsletters, garden owner gifts, picking up signs. The list goes on. You know who you are. We all know who you are. We all, especially myself, thank each and every one of you.

Looking forward to next year!

APRIL END OF YEAR SOCIAL

Our end of the year dinner will be at McKenzies BBQ at 1501 N. Frazier in Conroe on Tuesday April 7th. The time is **6:00** and the cost of dinner is **\$9.71** per person, which includes the tax, and that will include two meats (chicken and sliced beef) with all of the trimmings, potato salad and cole slaw. Iced tea and coffee will also be available. McKenzies has a variety of cobblers and puddings available to you for \$1.99 each if your meal is not complete without something sweet. We will have a cowboy hat on the table for tips.

Dress in your best country casual and join the fun! Please give Diane Dyer your money (or give her a call) by March 31st as we will need to give the restaurant a final count of people planning to attend. Worried about parking? There is a large lot in the rear, with an entrance to the restaurant.

We are hoping to see many of our new members there so we can all get to know you and welcome you to the club!

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