

Coushatta

Camellia



Society

March 2011 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!

CAMELLIA GET AWAY ON THE GULF COAST

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society has planned a resort destination for the 2011 meeting. Join the group in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, on Monday, October 3, at Hollywood Hotel and Casino.

On Monday evening we will have dinner together at The Bridges Clubhouse Grill, at the hotel. If activities from the past are again planned for this meeting, there will be an auction of camellia related items, including camellia plants. On Tuesday morning, there will be a short business meeting followed by education presentations; after lunch, tours will be available. On Tuesday evening there will be a banquet and a guest speaker.

Room rate is \$79 (plus tax, I'm sure); the same rate is available for Sunday night if you plan to check in a day early.

Mark your calendar for this event. Invite someone to carpool with you. This is a great time to get ready for the new camellia season ahead. More information will be available in August.

- by Claudette Shelfer



Upcoming Events

April 5 April meeting
6:30 p.m. - home of Tommy Weeks

11281 Jake Pearson Rd.

RSVP - (936) 445-1765 (Maxine)

Deadline for reservation - April 2

Thank you! No charge for this meal, CCS will cover the cost, in appreciation.

Bring a dessert to share

Summer 2010 Board meeting
..... Time and place to be determined

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.

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

September 6 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 (in parlor)

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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
- Linda Gibson
- Steve Glesener
- Phyllis Hartman
- Oscar Schank
- Lois Smith



June

- Charlie Gambrill
- 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
- 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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Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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

President Dick Eidem

Editor & Writer Judy Weidner

TEXAS CAMELLIA SHOW 2011

Houston, Coushatta and East Texas Camellia Societies

February 26, 2011-Walker Education Center, Huntsville, Texas

Show Chairman - Morris Waller

441 Blooms Exhibited, 128 Attendees, 15 Exhibitors

OUTSTANDING BLOOM CERTIFICATES

C. japonica unprotected: Lg/VLg: *Katie*, Tommy Weeks; RU: *R. L. Wheeler*, Morris Waller; Lg: *Royal Velvet*, Morris Waller; RU: *Dusty*, Dudley Boudreaux; Md/Lg: *Glen 40*, Dudley Boudreaux; RU: *Don Mac*, Dudley Boudreaux; Md: *Clair Gotherd*, Dudley Boudreaux; RU: *Alynnne Brothers*, Tommy Weeks; Sm: *Red Devil*, Tommy Weeks; RU: *Hishi Kariota*, Tommy Weeks; Mn: *Fircone Var.*, Dudley Boudreaux; RU: *Melissa*, Dudley Boudreaux

C. japonica protected: Lg/VLg: *Tomorrow*, Hal Vanis; RU: *Show Time*, Hal Vanis; Lg: *Miss Charleston Vr*, Hal Vanis; RU: *Lady Laura*, Hal Vanis; Md/Lg: *Kubal Kain*, Hal Vanis; RU: *Sea Foam*, Hal Vanis; Md: *Magic City*, Hal Vanis; RU: *Mary Edna Curlee*, Hal Vanis; Sm: *Buddy Var.*, Hal Vanis; Mn: *Little Red Ridinghood*, Hal Vanis

C. reticulata (Inc. hybrids w/retic parent) unprotected: Lg/VLg:

W. P. Gilly, Tommy Weeks; RU: *Royalty*, Tommy Weeks

C. reticulata (Inc. hybrids w/retic parent) protected: Lg/VLg:

Katie Shipley, Hal Vanis; RU: *Phillip Mandarich*, Hal Vanis

C. hybrid (w/no retic parent) unprotected: Lg/VLg: *Cile Mitchell*,

Tommy Weeks; RU: *Charlean*, Dudley Boudreaux; Mn/Md-Lg:

Ole' Var., Tommy Weeks; RU: *Julie*, Dudley Boudreaux

C. hybrid (w/no retic parent) protected: Mn/Md-Lg: *Night Rider*, Hal Vanis

Sasanqua (and related species): BB: *Baby Rhodo*, Tommy Weeks

Tray of Three-same variety, any species: BB: *Frank Houser*,

Tommy Weeks; RU: *Buddy Var.*, Dennis Bilyeu

SEEDLINGS & MUTANTS

Best Untreated Seedling: *Grant Campbell*, Tommy Weeks

Best Mutant Bloom: *Kay Berridge Red Moired Sport*, Tommy

Weeks

NOVICE BLOOMS - Exhibitors with 25 or less Cultivars

C. japonica: Md: *Magic City*, Monty West

NOW IS THE TIME TO PAY DUES!

Treasurer Claudette Shelfer is ready to collect your dues for 2011-2012. 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? 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. Thanks!

Congratulations!

As of the middle of March, our own Tommy Weeks ranks 4th with ACS show points (210) in the Atlantic & Gulf Coast Regions for Outside Growers. Texan Gordon Rabalais ranks 9th and Dudley Boudreaux gets on the board for 10th. Our member Annabelle Fetterman ranks 9th in the region for Greenhouse Growers and Hal Vanis ranks 6th. Wow! Great job, all. To keep track of the scores, go to www.camellias-ac.com and click on the link for show results - Exhibitors.

MERCER MARCH MART

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Mercer March Mart. We brought in 388 good quality 3 gallon plants from Glenn Reid, most selling for \$35.00. 45 of those 388 are 5 gallon plants of High Fragrance selling for \$40.00. These are nice sized plants. Additionally we have another 45 - 3 gal. plants that we purchased from Sam Poole a few months back. They are nice quality plants but smaller in size and will sell for \$20.00, and we also have 18 leftover plants from Glenn Reid from this last year in various varieties and are also in nice shape.

If you are interested in buying any of the plants that were not sold at the March Mart, call Tommy Weeks at (936) 441-3968. Ask about the member discount. Plants should be available for pickup at our End of the Year Party, which will be held at Tommy's home.

END OF YEAR PARTY

Coushatta Camellia Society appreciates the hard work put in by all its members during the past two years! We've had some rough weather to deal with, but our spirits have remained high and everyone has pulled together to make our group both fun and productive. Since our plant sales have brought good revenue, we're going to celebrate with dinner! Tommy Weeks has graciously donated his home at 11282 Jake Pearson for our meeting place. CCS will supply the Lasagna and Grilled Chicken in Cream Sauce Pasta; members may bring the dessert of their choice to share. There is no charge for the meal, but we need to know how many to serve, so RSVP by April 2 by calling Maxine Schank at (936) 445-1765.

Directions: From I-45, take exit #90 (FM 3083-Teas Nursery Road) and drive west on FM 3083 just over 1.5 miles to Longmire (a 4 way stop). Turn right onto Longmire and drive north for 1.5 - 2 miles and turn left on Jake Pearson Rd. (just after Wedgewood Blvd). Tommy's home is about a mile down the road, the sixth driveway on the left.

Camellia Gardener April - August

by Dennis Bilyeu

If you planted a Camellia using my planting technique of building a water dam ring around your plant, 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. 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, encouraging that outward root growth.

Now is also a good time to add fresh mulch 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.

Now is also a great time to fertilize and spray your plants. See my earlier recommendations in our past newsletters. 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/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 behavior and act accordingly. Camellias develop their flower buds during the next 2 months so if you want a lot of blooms in the fall now is the time to take care of your plants.

If you purchased a Camellia and have not planted it yet, **DO NOT** plant it until at least September. If we have a hot dry summer like last year most Camellias planted now will not survive until the fall. Simply keep the Camellia in the pot and give it the recommended fertilizer and water it more frequently than you do plants in the ground. If you want to really give this plant some TLC you could re-pot it into a larger pot using some good Camellia mix soil. I recommend taking the plant out of the existing pot and checking the root ball. If the roots are grown out to the outer edge and wrap around the root ball you should re-pot it into a larger pot. If the roots are not wrapping around the root ball, I would just put it back in the same pot until the fall planting time.

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

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