

Coushatta

Camellia



Society

March 2013 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 14 and Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center in Spanish Fort, Alabama, which is on the east side of Mobile Bay. Come meet your camellia friends and make new friends at this fun and informative meeting. 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 Coushatta Camellia Society
for March 5, 2013 at Margarita's Restaurant**

President Oscar Schank opened the meeting and introduced Don Marcotte to name officer nominees. They are as follows: President-Don Marcotte, Vice-president- Laurie McCranor, Secretary-Kelli Hornsby, Treasurer-Claudette Shelfer.

A discussion was held regarding changing monthly meeting to a Saturday or Sunday afternoons. President Oscar Schank to check with church secretary to see if this would be available as well.

April meeting cook out in the garden and gym areas of First Christian Church was introduced and a further meeting to discuss final plans will be Tuesday lunch at Hunans Village in Conroe.

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Upcoming Events

April 2 ... End of Year Meeting & Picnic
It's a picnic but indoors!
First Christian Church parlor
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe
Elections and wrap-up

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

October 14, 15 Gulf Coast
Camellia Society meeting
Spanish Fort, Alabama
(East of Mobile Bay)

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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

July

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



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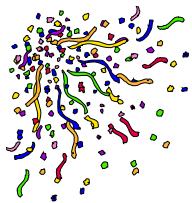
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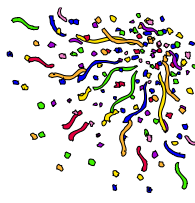
Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

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

President Oscar Schank
Editor & Writer Judy Weidner



**END OF YEAR
WRAP UP and
PICNIC
with BINGO
Tuesday, April 2**



What is more fun than a picnic in the park? Why, it's a picnic without rain or ants, in the parlor at First Christian Church!

There will be brisket and potato salad, with beans, tea & lemonade and a sheet cake for dessert. Please feel free to bring a favorite dish to share. CCS has the best cooks!

Bring a white-elephant gift, either wrapped or in a gift bag, for a prize - we'll be playing Bingo! We'll have lots of fun after a short business meeting.

Please make an effort to attend our End of Year Wrap Up and Picnic. 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 2013-2014. 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? We 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.

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Huntsville shows set up for next year will be December 14, 2013 as an early show for Huntsville and Conroe show will be January 18, 2014. Please email ideas for speakers for education and also ideas for tours to other shows as a group.

Don has plants for Huntsville show and to bring to Herb Festival at Wynne home. Hunstville herb show is March 16th. Set up by Don on Friday and show is 6 am set to 2pm. Don Marcotte will provides a 30 minute talk on tea camellias.

Meeting was completed and we enjoyed an excellent dinner and service at Margarita's.

CCSociety meeting March 12, 2013

Meeting started at First Christian Church garden with decision for indoor picnic with games such as bingo. Don and Jenny to bring brisket, onions and pickles. Jenny to provide a dessert. Maxine will provide potato salad. Diane and Tina to provide desserts. Tim and Kelli to provide baked beans and loaf of bread. The picnic will be at our April meeting at First Christian Church, Tuesday April 2, 2013. Everyone is welcome to bring a favorite dish. Best regards, Kelli

March Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance December 31, 2012	\$ 13,962.76
Income:	
Dues	\$ 30.00
Friends of CCS	50.00
Plant Sales	<u>50.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 130.00
Expenses:	
Show Expense	\$ 280.00
Meeting Expense	83.69
Yearbook	100.00
Web Site	29.00
Newsletter Printing	<u>16.80</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 509.49
Ending Balance March 19, 2013	\$ 13,583.27

Camellia Gardener

March Update by Dennis Bilyeu

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.

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