



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

January 2025

President's Message



Ferris Wheel

Greetings.

What an outstanding, wonderful show we had, with 1189 blooms exhibited. We have been to hundreds of shows over the years and I believe this was the smoothest run show I have been a part of.

I would like to thank show person Debbie Ellis for the hard work that she put into getting the pieces to work like a well-oiled machine and the volunteers who made success possible.

Congratulations and great thanks to Charles Simon and his army for all of the hard work that they poured into the most successful National Convention in recent memory. There have been many accolades and praises for our club for an excellent show and the convention that our club hosted.

For the second year in a row Wally Belgard won the plant raffle. This year was a Miss Lillian. Rumor has it that the deck was stacked in his favor. LOL !!

See everyone at the January meeting on the 19th at 2pm in the other meeting room.

Jay Ellis, President



Doris Ellis

Minutes for GCS Meeting December 15, 2024

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 1:40 PM and welcomed everyone. This being our annual Christmas party, the business meeting was abbreviated.

Old Business

The November 2024 minutes were accepted.

New Business

Treasurer's report for December, 2024 by Merry Reid

Checking: \$1,000
Savings: 10,580
Total: \$11,580



Lady Ruth Ritter

*Punkin*

Charles also introduced Marge Hendon, President of the Ocala Camellia Society (OCS), who will be calling all volunteers the night before their duty time to remind them. Marge took the opportunity to invite GCS judges to the OCS show at the end of January.

Sanford Porter told us that the survey of Camellia plants at Kanapaha was nearly complete. He needs 200 large metal ID tags for the plants. Placards will eventually be placed in front of each plant. He needs some volunteers to help with this effort.

Cat Spurgeon announced that the GCS has an updated Facebook page that is getting a lot of traffic. Cat also brought the newly designed GCS t-shirts that were awesome!

We then shared an excellent meal and gag-gift exchange hosted by a duly appointed representative of Santa Claus.

Charles Simon, Secretary

Rick Davis passed around a signup sheet for help with the plant sale. Debbie Ellis also passed around a signup sheet for help with the show. Merry Reid needs some help at the show information desk. Jay Ellis reminded everyone that there would be several new categories for blooms entered by local growers.

Craig Tisher announced that Wilmot Botanical Gardens would have a new Director, Jim Stribling, starting January 1, 2025. Jim is eminently qualified to fill this position.

Charles Simon reported that all of the volunteer time slots for help with the ACS National Convention were filled. Any additional helpers will be welcomed. He asked all participants present to meet after the festivities to plan activities.

*Ray Gentry*

Date and place of meeting		Refreshments	
		Food	Drinks
1/19/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Katherine Davies & Julie Conn	Amy & Phil Puccio
2/16/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jill Reed & Martha Campbell-Thoper	Volunteers needed
3/16/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Wally Belgard	Volunteers needed
4/20/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid	Carter Brenneman
5/18/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Spring Picnic - Potluck	Volunteers needed

New GCS Shirts	
<p>Gainesville Camellia Society has official shirts available in two styles: Polo (light blue) and regular t-shirt (stone blue and white). Sizes available range from Small to 3XL for both styles. The cost for either shirt style is \$20. Please contact Cat Spurgeon at acsgville@gmail.com or 321.615.2229 to get yours ordered.</p>	

Dues
<p>The annual dues for Gainesville Camellia Society are due at this time. The amount is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please mail a check for your dues to the Treasurer:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Merry Reid 7631 Monongahela Avenue Keystone Heights FL 32656 reidm729@gmail.com</p>

Some Photos from the Show, Sale, and Convention



Best Bloom in Show, Unprotected
J.D. Thomerson

Best Bloom, Novice category
Phil Leilich



Kanapaha Botanical Gardens is now on the ACS American Camellia Trail. Presentation to Alexis Goodman by John Swanson, Rick Davis, and Sanford Porter.

Customers being assisted at the Plant Sale.



Silver Springs excursion, ACS Convention.

Keynote Speaker J.D. Thomerson at the ACS Convention Banquet.



Follow Us on Social Media

The Gainesville Florida Camellia

Society <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61570106033309>

GCS Facebook Message

Board: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2046931395806031>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/gainesville_camellia_society/

If you have some photos you would like to share of your camellias, but are not on social media sites, consider sending them to Cat Spurgeon and she will get them posted for you. Ensure you include the variety and/or cultivar, if you have a short story regarding the camellia, you are invited to include that as well. The purpose of this is to create awareness of the local varieties that our members are growing. This also helps with getting more people interested and involved with identifying the camellias in their yard and around town. Contact Cat at acsgrville@gmail.com or 321.615.2229 for more information or to submit your photos.

Program for January meeting

The air layering demonstration will be given by Deborah Engquist. Sanford Porter will make up a limited number of practice air layering supply kits including foil, tape, root grow, moss, etc. Please call or text him if you want to reserve a kit (246-8336).

Sanford will also be giving a presentation on camellia photography. Please let him know if you have a few camellia photos he could share (sdporter22@gmail.com) or photography questions you would like him to address.



Officers

President: Jay Ellis
1st VP & Show Chair: Debbie Ellis
2nd VP & Program Chair: Committee
Treasurer: Merry Reid
Secretary: Charles Simon

Board Members

Carter Brenneman
Deborah Engquist
Bill Hayes
Larry Hice
Jerry Hogsette
Konrad Hooper
Sanford Porter
Diane Simon
Ron Stevens
Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, December 19, 2025
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: Camellia Photography and Air Layering

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.