



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

April 2025

President's Message



Ellen Daniel Red Fringed

Greetings.

Spring has sprung. New growth has pushed most of the remaining flower buds off. In our yard we went from hundreds of blooms last week to just a few this week.

Spring is a crucial time for maintenance of your Camellia plants. There is an excellent article or guide in the ACS journal written by Brenda Litchfield titled Camellia Care for spring. We will share handouts for anyone that is not a member of the ACS. I highly recommend this article for new growers and seasoned growers alike .

Look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, April 13th.

Jay Ellis, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting March 16, 2025

Meeting started at 2:12pm. Called to order by Jay Ellis.

Jay applauded the GCS members, stating “be proud of what this club has done.” Referencing the ACS National Convention and the wildly successful January show.

Old Business

Jill Reid (old business) discussed how difficult it is to mail awards to winners. Central Florida show has the shower's write down name and address--consider doing this for next year.



Charlean, variegated



Terry Gilley, variegated

Joann Theodore discussed using a digital form for registering for the blooms, but many members stated they don't use the computer or their phone for such purposes. The Membership directory was discussed again, Cat Spurgeon is working on this, as well as the website for a central point of access for names and contact information. Jerry Hogsette discussed methods in the past that included postcards used to be mailed out, asking if they were coming to the show.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking	\$10,279
Savings	<u>13,531</u>
Total	\$23,810

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report and passed.

Jerry Hogsette reminded everybody that the Kanapaha show is next weekend, volunteers have signed up--thanked members for completing the list. Told everybody that if you have to pay to get in, the club can pay to reimburse you. Great event to join and see what is available.

Jay Ellis adjourned the meeting for John Swanson to discuss new board members.

John Swanson discussed the new board members:

Debbie Ellis, President
 Charles Simon, 1st VP and Shows
 Wally Belgard, 2nd VP and Programs
 Cat Spurgeon, Secretary
 Merry Reid, Treasurer

10 board members:

Jay Ellis, Ron Stevens, Rick Davis, Irma Velez, Jerry Hogsette, Sanford Porter, Deborah Engquist, Jill Reid, Phil Leilich, Carter Brenneman, Charlie Rye.



Ruby Davidson

John Swanson has scheduled April 25th as the “Air Layering Day”. It will take place at his home, from 9am to noon. It includes a potluck lunch. He will provide the meats and beverages, please bring a side or dessert.

Next announcement: Wilmot is having their plant sale April 4-5. We donated 50 camellias to their plant sale; announcements have been emailed regarding what cultivars are available for pre-sale. John is a board member of the ACS, and his 2nd tour finishes in June. If anyone is interested in looking to replace and serve this three year term, contact John and see about getting the proper forms.

April 13th is our next meeting due to the Easter holiday.



Tama Peacock

Educational Program

Dr. Sanford Porter introduced Dr. Teagan Young from the UF Environmental Horticulture program. She works in the broad area of Urban Forests.

Dr. Teagan Young

(teagan.young@ufl.edu) presented her

previously defended and passed thesis:

"Wild Coffee, Landscape, and Urban

Forest." It is in the process of being published. She inquires into tree species

and how they adapt to urban

environments. Her presentation discussed

the Environmental Horticulture

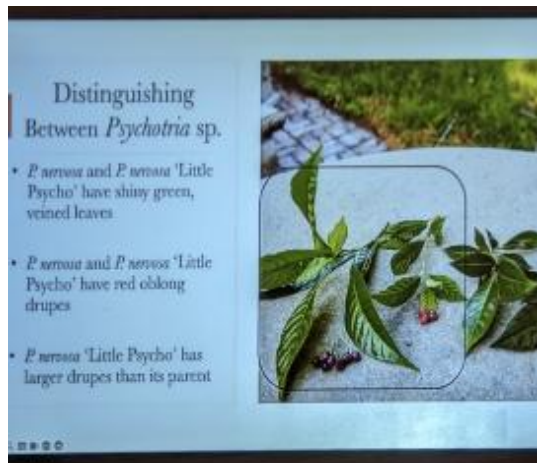
Department at UF and everything they

offer as far as courses and extension

offices.



Wild coffee grows in part sun/full shade areas. Dr Young attempted to do a cutting propagation of 4 coffee species. Seed propagation is very difficult. Her research goal was to find the best ways of cutting propagation to bring for potential commercial sales.



Native distribution is all over the state. Note: we have 5 cultivars that grow in Florida. Used talc rooting hormone #8 and #16 (for difficult to root plants) by Hormex. Used a 6:3:1 (bark: Canadian peat:perlite) used at UF for their propagation. The results showed that they all rooted even the control group (sans hormone). Nurseries like to see at least 80%. 87-100% rooting achieved for cuttings treated with auxin. Auxin led to more rooting quality in all cultivars. Using #16 (16000 was burning the plants). #8 had the best results between the two. They looked at #5 (5000) as the "way to go" she said, it's cheaper, and #8 is only for difficult to root plants. So with #5 you'll receive the best bang for your buck and benefits.

She also teaches Landscape Design, with Dr. Gail Hansen. Dr. Young discussed the perspective of warm and cool colors. Do not pair pink with red. Pink is used to brighten up shady areas. It brightens up the area. Use yellow for a focal point in your landscape. Yellow is also used as a distraction aid. Greens are calming, and useful for blending and making your landscape look more cohesive. Blue is difficult to find in native plants, it pairs well with yellow and orange. It is the #1 preferred plant by people and insects. High contrast with green in shade. Purple symbolizes power, royalty and knowledge...it adds weight and texture. White brings out true hues of colors, brightens a shady spot.



Sultana

Last section of lecture: Dr Ryan Klein, Forester, works at The Tree Unit off Williston Road, near the Bee unit. They have sections of experiments to determine how different tree suppliers grow their trees. Investigating root systems among concrete barriers, parking lots. Composts and bio charts. Tree diapers, like a donut, can be recharged by 1" of rain over 6 weeks or so.

Dr Young discussed Urban Planning and how 10-20 tree species are used -- we will see the decline of many here in north central Florida: winged elms, red maples, and sweet gums. Due to range contraction. USDA the temperatures and movement of pests will cause the decline of these trees. Problem: limited species availability--barriers to urban tree selection, poor nursery stock quality. Industry professionals prefer climate-resilient trees (hardiness, low maintenance, drought tolerance). Gainesville is the most favorable site due to 97% survival due to moderate temps and precipitation. Sweet acacia exhibited highest survival (87%) with adaptability and flexibility for range expansion.

Dr Young provided resources which include the following links:
 Florida Friendly Landscaping Bee Gardens:
<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/apps/bee-gardens/>
 Florida Bee Garden App:
<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/bees/>
 Florida Friendly Landscaping program:
<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Program ended at 3:26pm

Cat Spurgeon, Secretary



Sawada's Dream

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>	
		<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
4/13/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Wally Belgard	Carter Brenneman
5/18/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Spring Picnic - Potluck	Steve Stevens

<i>Air Layering Day</i>
<p>Air layering day will be on April 25th from 9am-12 noon (approximately) A pot luck lunch will be ready to eat at about 12 or a little after. Meat and drinks will be provided by the host. Participant should bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.</p> <p>Attached to the newsletter are lists of supplies needed and varieties that will be available to air layer.</p>

Dues

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:

Merry Reid
7631 Monongahela Avenue
Keystone Heights FL 32656
reidm729@gmail.com

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 acsgville@gmail.com or 321.615.2229 for more information or to submit your photos.

New GCS Shirts

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.



Officers

President: Jay Ellis
 1st VP & Show Chair: Debbie Ellis
 2nd VP & Program Chair: Sanford Porter
 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, April 13, 2025

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: “Stories and History of the Gainesville Camellia Society” by Jerry Hogsette

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.