



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

May 2023

President's Message



Cherie Shirah

Hi All,

May is finally here and almost gone. Sunday we will have our last meeting until the fall when the camellia season cranks up again. The weather is still a bit cool for this time of year and the rainfall is behind schedule. I had 1.60 inches of rain last Friday night (May 12) accompanied by a spectacular lightning show. The cats did not particularly like it, but they have fully recovered. The camellias are growing and the fertilizer I applied last month is finally being watered in. No beetle activity but there are very few young and tender leaves for them to eat.

Merry Reid was having trouble finding the systemic pesticide I recommended for beetle management. When I purchased it years ago it was sold under the name Orthene. Then a few years later it was combined with a fungicide and sold as Orthenex. Pesticides are sold under a variety of trade names, but the chemical names of actual ingredients must be shown on the label. The name of the systemic pesticide is Acephate (A-ce-fate). If you are purchasing online or calling or visiting a store about the product, ask for something containing Acephate.

Debbie and Jay Ellis have been working on the information needed to make some decisions about holding the 2024 ACS Convention in Gainesville in conjunction with our show next January. We have 8 months to plan, and for the number of people expected to attend, this should not be too much of a problem. We will ask Jay and Debbie to give us an update at the meeting.



Capricci



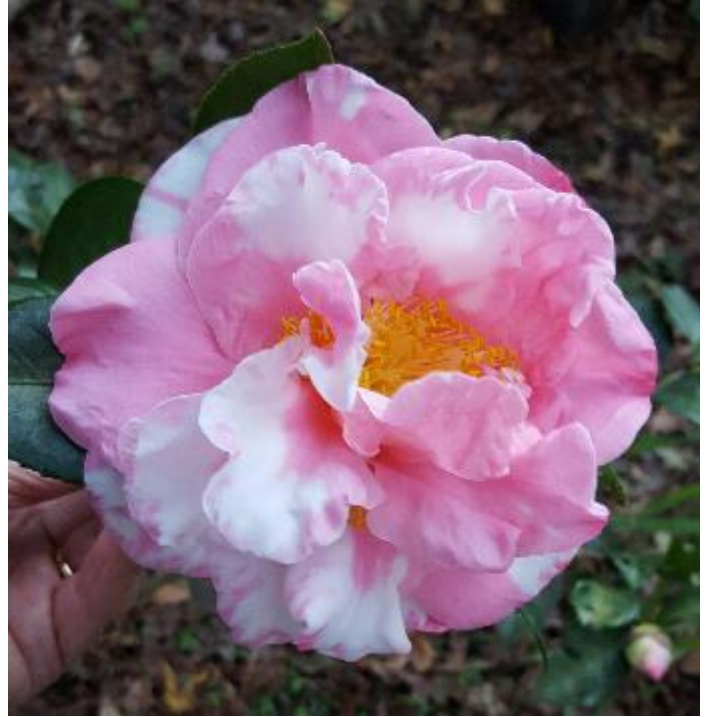
Delores Edwards

We have finally elected a new slate of Officers and Board Members after not having elections during the Covid years. Seems like a long time! Officers and Board Members will be officially installed at the May meeting.

May is when we have our late spring/early summer luncheon. Anna has taken the lead in organizing the food and getting the tables decorated. John Swanson and I will bring the meats, turkey and ham, respectively, and everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite veggies, salads, and desserts. I assume that someone will be bringing the drinks. We will have a brief meeting, installation of the officers, and undoubtedly some items to auction. Should be fun.

I have been the GCS President since the fall of 2020, I think. It is the longest time I have held this office. Some of it has been very frustrating, like trying to learn how to hold the meetings on Zoom, but most of the time it has been fun. It is great that we made it through the Covid period with no casualties. Covid is not gone but it IS under control for the most part. Let's hope for clear sailing for the foreseeable future. Seems I remember Anna saying that on Sunday we will begin the festivities at 1:00 and begin eating about 2:00. See you there.

Jerry Hogsette, President



Tiffany

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

Gainesville Camellia Society has joined social media!

Search "Gainesville Camellia Society" to find our Facebook page. There you will find photos, tips on growing camellias, special activities, announcements of future meetings and guest speakers. "LIKE" us on Facebook to receive GSC updates, and tell your friends about our Facebook page.



A plaque was presented to Bev and Chuck Ritter in appreciation for their many years of vision, guidance, leadership, and support of the Gainesville Camellia Society.



Minutes for GCS Meeting April 16, 2023

Business Meeting

Jerry Hogsette, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:10 PM and welcomed everyone, including two new members who each received a free Camellia plant.

Old Business

A motion was made and passed to accept the March meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report

Merry Reid presented this report:

Savings:	\$18,442
Checking:	\$6,786
Total:	\$25,228



Tomorrow, variegated



Tricolor Superba

Funds from the Kanapaha and Wilmot plant sales have not been deposited yet.

Charles Simon reported that we took in \$120 during the Kanapaha Spring plant sale for raffle tickets and new members. The raffle winner was Mrs. Julie Fuller of Alachua. She was very excited to receive the Camellia. She and her husband are farmers so the plant should do well!

Jerry reported that he and John Swanson sold ~100 Camellia plants at the Wilmot Gardens plant sale.

New Business

Charles reminded everyone that it cost ~\$17,000 to put on a show and plant sale, which leaves us ~\$8,000 for donations this year. After a brief discussion of past donations to UF, Kanapaha, Wilmot Gardens, the American Camellia Society (ACS) and others, a motion was made and passed to table the discussion until the summer Board meeting. The Board will present recommendations to GCS members at the September meeting for donation recipients and amounts. We will standardize the timing of these annual donations by making them in the October to December time frame each year.

John Swanson reminded everyone that he's hosting an air layering event and pot luck lunch at his house on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. There will be a short class and demonstration on air-layering at the beginning of the event. All are welcome.



Veiled Beauty



William Forrest Bray, variegated

John also reported that he received a call from Dennis Hart, President Elect of the ACS, with a request that GCS host the ACS National Convention next year.

The event occurs over three days and would coincide with our show and plant sale. Mark Crawford said there are usually about 100 people in attendance, and it may be possible to exchange show dates with the Ocala Camellia Society if needed to accommodate the National Convention. Jerry said that mid-January is a good time to host a group in Gainesville as there is very little other activity in the area.

There was an enthusiastic response from all, with suggestions for hotels, restaurants and activities. After we get the programs from the last two ACS National Conventions, we can start planning the event. Charlie Fulton, one of our new members, suggested that we get the local tourism council involved. Plans will be discussed at the summer Board meeting.

Mark Crawford spoke a few words promoting the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society annual meeting, which will be held in Savannah, Georgia this year.



William Penn



Rena Swick, variegated

John Swanson then presented the slate of candidates for next season's Officers and Board members. Since all candidates were running unopposed, a motion was made to accept all with one blanket vote. The motion passed and the following people and positions were accepted:

President: Jay Ellis

1st Vice President & Show Chair: Debbie Ellis

2nd Vice President and Program Chair: open
(to be performed by committee)

Secretary: Charles Simon

Treasurer: Merry Reid

Newsletter Editor: Anna Langford

Board Members:

Jerry Hogsette (past President)

Bill Hayes Diane Simon

Ron Stevens Deborah Enquist

Larry Hice Sanford Porter

Irma Velez Carter Breneman

Konrad Hooper

Educational Program

Jay Ellis introduced Mark Crawford, owner of Loch Laurel Nursery. GCS purchases a third of its sale plants from Loch Laurel each year.

Mark's talk was entitled "New Trends in Camellias". He showed beautiful photographs of many new cultivars, selected from seedlings, of yellow blooms, fragrant blooms, white reticulatas, repeat bloomers, and early bloomers.

Yellow cultivars included Lemon Glow, Lemon Drop, Kagiho, Kiho (Yellow Phoenix), Jury's Yellow, Senritsu Ko, Optical Illusion (yellow with pink overtones), and the small, deep yellow Chrysantha. Each of these blooms is uniquely beautiful. The cooler the climate, the deeper is the yellow color for these blossoms.



Rosea Superba



San Dimas, variegated

Mark showed examples of fragrant blooms including Cinnamon Cindy, Cinnamon Scentsation, Sweet Scentsation, and High Fragrance.

New white reticulata cultivars have been developed by John Wong and others. These include the unnamed JW-2016-11, Evening Glow Pearl, Lady Pamela (from New Zealand), Flawless Jade (white with green center), Fine Pure and Holy Pure.

Repeat bloomers are being developed from Camellia-azalea hybrids and can bloom year round. These plants prefer full sun and include Wendzalea and Summer's Wind and Hot Waves. Mark showed a short video from Southern China showcasing hundreds of large blossoms from floriferous camellia plants in August!

Early blooming Camellias include all Sasanquas, Debutante, Kiku Toji, Dragon Fireball, Early Autumn, Lilian Gordy, and Philip's Choice.

Mark showed photos of all the blooms listed and many others.

The Educational Program was followed by a nice meal, and a good time was had by all!

Charles Simon, Secretary



Sweet Emily Kate

Photos of flowers are from the gardens of John Swanson.

Officers

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

Board Members

Patrick Andrews
 Bill Hayes
 Bev Ritter
 Chuck Ritter
 Diane Simon
 John Swanson
 Irma Velez
 Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, May 21, 2023, socializing at 1pm, meal at 2 pm
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: "Camellia Bonsai Growing" by Josh Brown

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.