



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

May 2025

President's Message



William Forrest Bray, variegated

Greetings.

May is here, which means that this is our last meeting of the season followed by our famous annual BBQ. Meat will be provided so please bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Also a new slate of officers will be installed.

Seeing all of the new growth is wonderful with the second growth spurt occurring on some plants and seed pods forming to be picked in August.

In closing, I would like to say that it's been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as President of our club these past two years. We as a club have made great strides these past two years organizing and hosting the best well attended ACS convention in years. Thanks to all of the dedicated people who made it possible.

We have signed up many new members who are already making huge contributions to our club. We have doubled the prize money for our show and contributed to several organizations because of the efforts of our plant sales team who do a great job year after year.

Thanks to Anna Langford for her hard work as editor of our monthly newsletter and to my wife Debbie as my sounding board who keeps me on an even keel.

Debbie is our next president after serving four years as show chair. She will be looking for your support and help.

Thanks everyone!

See you Sunday May 18th at 1:00.

Jay Ellis, President



Wildwood

Minutes for GCS Meeting April 13, 2025

GCS President Jay Ellis opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed visitor Carla Long, Bill Hayes's daughter. Jay noted there were 34 persons present.

Old Business

A motion was made and seconded to accept the March, 2025 meeting minutes and passed.

New Business

Treasurer's Report by Merry Reid.

Checking account \$10,208

Savings account \$13,873

Total \$24,081



Shikibu

*Nita McRae*

Charles Simon reported on the effort to register the Gainesville Camellia Society as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Because GCS is accepting credit card payments at its annual plant sale that exceed \$5,000/yr, a Form 1099 will be generated by *SQUARE*, the credit card payment processor. This form should have a TIN attached to GCS.

First, GCS must register as a non-profit corporation in the State of Florida. We can use the name “Gainesville Camellia Society, Inc.”. Our current bylaws will have to be amended to include a dissolution clause that will direct any remaining funds to another non-profit, like the American Camellia Society. This can be done on-line for a fee of \$87.50.

After the corporation is formed, GCS, Inc. can file for a taxpayer identification number (TIN). After being assigned a TIN, GCS, Inc. can file form 1023-EZ to apply for 501(3)(c) status.

A discussion followed and the issue of insurance coverage for Board members and the GCS was raised. Several members offered to get insurance quotes and report at the next meeting. Charles will review plans with Bart Maris.

*Marjorie Magnificent*



Lundy's Legacy

John Swanson announced that the next air-layering event at his property will take place on April 25, 2025 starting at 9:00 AM. There will be a pot luck lunch at noon. John will email a list of plants available for air-layering and the approximate number of sites on the plants. Our target is 250 air layers. Out of 65 potted air layers that had very little root formation last year, John reported that 45 are alive and doing well but will probably need another year of growth before they're ready to sell. John said he pays \$160 for 100 true 2-gallon pots.

Deborah Enquist will give a demonstration of her air-layering technique for newcomers before starting. Experienced members can team up with others.

Debbie Ellis handed out an information sheet listing the Spring schedule for Camellia care. She also passed around a sign-up sheet for table settings for our end of the year banquet at our next meeting.

Educational Program

Sanford Porter introduced GCS's longest standing member, Jerry Hogsette, who spoke about many of the details of earlier GCS operations. Jerry recalls planting the camellias in the Kanapaha Garden in 1997. He sent a list of those plants to Sanford, who is in the process of cataloguing, tagging and posting signs on every camellia in the entire Kanapaha Botanical Gardens.



Tom Hatley



Tricolor Superba

GCS was the first club to have a website. Our monthly Newsletter produced by Anna Langford is sent out by email to all members. Likewise, requests for Show judges and follow up contacts are now done by email instead of hand written or typed snail mail cards with follow up phone calls.

Several members wanted to know if there were any Camellias registered by GCS members. Jerry replied that there are over a dozen cultivars registered by GCS members. Jay Ellis has six registered cultivars and another six waiting for registration.

There were no computers or cell phones in the 1970's and 80's. There was no Newsletter, so every member had to be called on a land line the night before each meeting to remind them to come the next day.

Shows and plant sales were held in the Gainesville Mall. The show proved to be a big draw for the Mall. At first the Mall provided and setup tables with cloths. After a few years the club had to bring their own tables and setup everything. When Kanapaha's main building was erected, GCS moved its show, plant sale, and monthly meeting to the Gardens.

In 1998 the total show cost was \$2977. Prizes were material items like silver platters, crystal ware, etc. A sum of \$500 was allotted to prizes. In 2005 GCS switched to cash prizes.



Lover Boy

*Sultana*

Merry Reid mentioned that GCS pays \$1250/yr. to Kanapaha Gardens for our nine monthly meeting room rentals and the two day annual Bloom Show and plant sale rooms and outdoor space. GCS also typically donates an additional \$1500/yr. to Kanapaha for upkeep of the Camellia Garden and other expenses.

A discussion followed on current camellias in bloom in members' gardens. John Swanson said he has an Edithae (species) in full bloom. Valerie Malkemes said she has a Pink Perfection planted in a shady area that is full of blooms. Carter Breneman said her Dusty and Pink Perfection are still blooming.

The meeting ended at 3:05 PM followed by more lively discussion and snacks!

Charles Simon, Secretary



Air Layering
Crew at John
Swanson's

April 25, 2025

| <i>Date and place of meeting</i> | | <i>Refreshments</i> | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| | | <i>Food</i> | <i>Drinks</i> |
| 5/18/2025 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | Spring Picnic - Potluck | Steve Stevens |

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, May 18, 2025

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: “Armadillos and Other Critters in My Camellias” by Deborah Engquist

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.