



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

September 2024

President's Message



El Rojo

Greetings! What a wonderful year for growing camellias. New growth like I have never seen before! Seed pods are mostly gone. If you didn't collect them in August, the squirrels probably beat you to them.

Disbudding and gibbing now will give you earlier and larger blooms. Some growers like to fertilize in September.

GCS has the honor of hosting the Annual American Camellia Society Convention in conjunction with our annual show this year. Charles Simon has done a wonderful job of organizing the convention. Show Chair Debbie Ellis will be passing out sign-up sheets for various positions for our show.

Sanford Porter has lined up some wonderful and entertaining speakers for the new camellia season starting with J.D. Thomerson from Valdosta, GA. Be prepared for an entertaining program.

October's meeting date has been changed to October 13th due to a scheduling conflict with Kanapaha.

As many of you know, Gerald (Old Goat) Langford is not doing well. He and Anna have done so much for our club. Please keep them in your prayers.

Looking forward to seeing everyone Sunday September 20th at 2:00.

Jay Ellis, President



C. Roseaflora

Minutes for GCS Board Meeting July 21, 2024

GCS President Jay Ellis called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. All Board members and officers were present.

Jay said the October meeting this year will be held on the 13th due to a schedule conflict with Kanapaha.

Debbie Ellis, Show Chair, stated that the rental tables were ordered and cost \$763. This year we will eliminate the "protected" category due to the lack of greenhouse completion in our region. Protected and unprotected blooms will compete in the same fields. That lowers the cash prize total to \$1,220.

We will add two new categories to encourage local competition: Best local formal double and best plate of three. This will increase the cash prize total to about \$1,400.



Borom's Gem

*Hawaii*

Sanford also said that he would contact IFAS and make it clear that GCS expects one or more students to present talks on their respective research projects at one of our meetings.

Alex and Joanne Theodore volunteered to contact a florist for advice on how to display Camellia blooms, which we would like to have for the ACS convention rooms and hotel lobby.

The group suggested that we dedicate this year's Show to Gerald (Old Goat) and Anna Langford. There was unanimous approval from those present. We hope to devote next year's Show to Chuck and Bev Ritter.

John Swanson will talk with Alex about having Kanapaha join the Camellia Trail, and also ask her to present a talk at a GCS meeting this year.

Charles Simon mentioned that the judges' luncheon cost will be covered by the ACS convention. So the total Show cost for rental tables, cash prizes, lunch for the workers and judges goody bags will be about \$3,000.

Charles said that we'll spend about \$8000 on plants and fertilizer and we should gross about \$20,000 from plant sales if all goes well. That should leave us about \$8,000 to \$9,000 for operational expenses and philanthropic giving.

Sanford Porter suggested we set up a savings/investment program to build up a reserve for future expenses and charitable donations. We could start with ~\$2,000 and add a similar amount each year up to ~\$20,000.

*Fragrant Joy*



Evening Glow Pearl

John also reported that ACS lowered the cost for new Camellia plant registration from \$150 to \$50 per plant, and added a new “Memorial” category that can be included in individual shows.

Cat Spurgeon volunteered to take charge of the GCS website and member list. Everyone welcomed this.

Several members mentioned a luncheon restaurant in the UF art museum called “The Camellia” that we should go see for fun.



Florence Stratton

John Swanson invited everyone to come to the ACS Board meeting and General Assembly meeting on January 3, 2025 in the Hilton UF Convention Center. There is no charge for these events. He said there’s usually a good participation in ACS national conventions from the Atlantic Coast (ACCS) and the Gulf Coast (GCCS) Camellia Societies. The ACCS will have their annual convention on September 30 to October 1, 2024, and the GCCS will have their annual convention on October 18-19, 2024.



Gilley 144

Jerry Hogsette reported that he Master Gardeners will have another sale on October 19, 2024, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. GCS can have a table at the venue for \$25 and can sell Camellia plants and keep the proceeds. We may try this with some club-generated plants.

The following recipients and amounts for philanthropic giving will be presented to the full membership at the September 2024 meeting for discussion. After any changes, a vote will be called for approval or denial.

UF Horticulture, Ornamental Sciences for unrestricted use by graduate students: \$3,000
 Kanapaha Botanical Gardens: \$2,000
 American Camellia Society: \$1,500
 Wilmot Botanical Gardens: 50 Camellia plants for their spring sale (equal to \$1,500)
 Grow Hub Camellia Garden: \$500

The Board meeting was adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Charles Simon, Secretary



Gigantea

Minutes for GCS Meeting May 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by our President, Jay Ellis. This was an abbreviated meeting as it was the end of the year party. There was no educational lecture.

Old Business

A motion was made and seconded to accept the April 2024 minutes. The motion passed.

New Business

The May 2024 Treasurer's report was presented by Merry Reid.

Checking: \$12,099
 Savings: 10,579
 Total: \$22,678



Joan Holden



Coral Delight

Charles said he would ask for volunteers to staff the convention and to help transport people to Silver Springs in vans or 6-passenger cars. A list of time slots and events will be published in the September Newsletter.

John Swanson reminded everyone about the great benefits gained from membership in the ACS, including free admission to over a hundred botanical gardens across the nation.

The GCS officers elected during the April, 2024 meeting were installed by John Swanson.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50PM.

Charles Simon, Secretary

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

Anna Langford announced that she was stepping down from the GCS Hospitality Chair and asked for volunteers to replace her. Valerie Malkemes said she would be glad to take over, so Valerie will be the new Hospitality Chair.

Charles Simon described the American Camellia Society (ACS) convention schedule and costs. The event should pay for itself through registration fees, a plant auction, advertisements and the Alachua County tourism bureau. We will also withhold any donation funds slated for the ACS until after the convention in case they're needed for convention expenses.



Esther Smith

Photos of flowers are from the garden of John Swanson.

Charges to Members for Convention Activities

Board meeting, general meeting, lectures and plant auction: no charge
 Breakfast at the Hilton can be purchased by non-guests for \$25.
 Thursday Presidents Reception and other cocktail hours-open bar: \$25
 Friday picnic lunch at Wilmot Gardens: \$30
 Friday Judges Banquet: \$85
 Saturday Judges Luncheon at Kanapaha: \$30
 Sunday Luncheon at Silver Springs, including entrance fee and boat tour: \$65
 Sunday Farewell Banquet: \$85

| Date and place of meeting | | Refreshments | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | | Food | Drinks |
| 9/15/2024 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | Valerie Malkemes | Valerie Malkemes |
| 10/13/2024 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | | |
| 11/17/2024 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | | |
| 12/15/2024 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | Volunteers needed | Volunteers needed |
| 1/19/2025 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | | |
| 2/16/2025 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | | |
| 3/16/2025 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | | |
| 4/20/2025 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | | |
| 5/18/2025 | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens | | |

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.



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, September 15, 2024
- Place:** Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
- Program:** Talk by J.D. Thomerson of Valdosta, GA

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.