



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

October 2024

President's Message



El Rojo

Another Camellia season is upon us. A few varieties are blooming for us now Early Autumn, Kiki Toji , Debbie Ellis , Rubra , Gene's Autumn Fire various Sasanquas . As I write this on Sunday the 6th it's raining and we're wondering how Milton is going to affect our state. Prayers go out to those in its path and to all those who are recovering from Helene.

Showchair Debbie Ellis will be passing out sign up sheets for positions to be filled for our show.. We will also be taking orders for Polo or T -Shirts. These are nice for the show and especially this year we will have the National Convention. They will be \$20.00 apiece. Charles Simon our convention chair will be talking about slots to be filled.

This month's program features disbudding & gibbing of blooms. Looking forward to seeing everyone Sunday, October 13th.

Jay Ellis, President



C. Roseaflora

Minutes for GCS Meeting September 15, 2024

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:07 PM and welcomed everyone. Jay announced that the business meeting would be kept short to allow our loquacious educational speaker to have more time.

Old Business

A correction to the Board meetings was made to reflect the decision of the Board to eliminate protected blooms from completion. With this correction, a motion was made and passed to accept the September 2024.



Joan Holden



Coral Delight

New Business

There was no Treasurer's report for September, 2024. The latest treasurer's report is for April 2024 by Merry Reid.

Checking: \$11,934

Savings: 10,579

Total: \$22,513

John Swanson told everyone that the Atlantic Coast Camelia Society would have their annual convention on September 30- October 1, 2024 and all are invited. John and Charles Simon will make the trip together.

Charles Simon brought up for a general vote the 2024 GCS donation list that the board approved. The following donations were approved with the stated stipulations unanimously by the 32 GCS members present:

\$500 to Grow Hub to be used for the Camellia Garden under the direction of Amy Puccio.

\$2000 to Kanapaha Botanical Gardens for the care of the Camellia Garden and other uses.

\$3000 unrestricted scholarship to the University of Florida Institute for Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Horticultural graduate students with the requirement to have one or more students present their research at a GCS meeting.

\$1500 to the American Camellia Society, to be used to cover ACS National Convention costs if needed.

\$1500 worth of 2-3 gallon Camellia plants (~50 plants).

Charles Simon, Secretary



Esther Smith

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM AND Dr. Sanford Porter introduced our guest speaker, JD Thomerson.

JD regaled us with his Camellia Story, which started out, like many of us, with the purchase of a property with mature Camellia plants, and the subsequent purchase, planting and killing of eight lovely Camellia plants! JD went to a Camellia Society meeting and later learned from Hulyn Smith that he had planted them too deep, a common mistake. From that point on Hulyn lead JD by the hand, literally, to meetings and shows, and then he was HOOKED!

JD's lecture was on the ways to propagate Camellias from Seed. He brought dozens fo seeds to give away and showed a simple method of germinating them by enclosing them in a bed of moist sphagnum moss in a Ziploc bag. Place the bag on a warm surface, like to top of your freezer, and in 2-3 months the seeds will sprout and grow some roots. We were very receptive of this simple, low maintenance method of sprouting Camellia seedlings and many members took seeds home after the lecture.

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

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>	
		<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
10/13/2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed
11/17/2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens		
12/15/2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens		
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 Committee
Chair: Merry Reid
Treasurer: Charles Simon
Secretary:

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, October 13, 2024

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: “The Biology of Plant Pathology” by Dr. Kevin Korus, UF Extension Service, followed by a short hands on presentation by Jay Ellis about gibbing camellia flowers.

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.