



# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

*Editor: Anna Langford*

*December 2024*

## ***President's Message***



*Merry Christmas*

Greetings to all.

Camellia blooming season is upon us. As final preparations for our show and the ACS convention are taking shape, this is our chance to shine in the Camellia world.

Weather is always a challenge during our show season. Our lows have run from 30-36 degrees all week long with a light frost but no apparent damage to blooms or buds. We will hope for the best! Also, it has been very dry so it's very important to keep plants well-watered for better blooms.

Don't forget we have Local Awards for Best Local Bloom, Best Formal Double, Best Variegated, Best Large/Very Large, Best Small/Medium, Best Miniature. Mark your card with a big X to identify it as a Local Bloom.

Last but not least, our December meeting and Christmas Party is this Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 - an hour earlier than usual. Please bring your favorite covered dish. Meats will be provided by John Swanson and Jerry Hogsette. Don't forget to bring a gag gift for the gift exchange. I look forward to seeing all of you this Sunday!

Cheers.

***Jay Ellis, President***



*CM Wilson, variegated*

### ***Minutes for GCS Meeting November 17, 2024***

#### Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:13 PM and welcomed everyone. He reminded everyone that this year's Show is dedicated to Anna and Gerald Langford in recognition for all that they've done, and continue to do, for the Gainesville Camellia Society (GCS). Jay then told the group that the "Old Goat", Gerald Langford, had passed recently. He made a motion for GCS to donate \$200 to the American Camellia Society (ACS) in memory of Gerald. The motion was immediately seconded and passed unanimously.



*Lindsey*

*Empress*

### Old Business

The October 2024 minutes were accepted.

### New Business

Treasurer's report for November 2024 by Merry Reid

Checking: \$5,502

Savings: 10,580

Total: \$16,082

Charles Simon gave a summary of activities planned for the ACS National Convention and described personnel and food needs. He passed around signup sheets for volunteers by time slot and event.

Debbie Ellis reported that there were still openings for help with the Show. She passed a signup sheet and reminded everyone to consider joining in the fun!

After the lecture on Bloom Preparation (see below), Debbie described the new Show Award categories that GCS is introducing this year. There will be a local award for the best bloom by a GCS member. Members should put an X on the back of their registration card to compete. There will also be an additional tray of three with the requirement that they be small, medium and large blooms of different varieties.

Debbie then reminded us that next month's meeting will be our **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** with **POTLUCK DISHES** and **GAG GIFTS!**

*Enchanted Evening*

*Anita*

Charles said that Santa Claus himself (or a duly appointed representative) would be handing out the gag gifts along with his faithful assistant, Amy Elf.

Debbie passed another signup sheet and verbally recruited five volunteers to prepare 6-8 place settings and centerpieces for tables at the party.

Jerry Hogsette announced that Brian Dick from the Lakeland Camellia Society will be this year's Head Judge.

#### Educational Program

Jay Ellis gave a demonstration on bloom preparation for the Show. He advised picking the blossom just before its peak and in the early morning. Rules require 0-2 leaves on a bloom. Wait until it's dry and then spray lightly two times with Clear Life, or a similar product. This is available at Florist shops and online.

Be sure to spray the top and bottom thoroughly, then place the bloom in water (small jars or pics) with a little sugar, or bloom food available at Florist shops and online.

Jay demonstrated his spraying technique on a variety of spectacular blooms from his garden. He reminded us to be sure the bloom is dry before spraying. He places wet blooms in front of a gentle fan breeze until they're dry.

Put the prepared blooms in a box or container and use fluffy fiberfill in between them. He showed us an example of a completed container of prepared blooms with fiberfill. Keep the blooms in a refrigerator at about 40°F until the morning of the Show, and then transport cold in coolers to the bloom preparation area of the Show.

*Dautel's Supreme*



*Marie Bracey*

Jerry Hogsette continued the lecture by describing how to fill out the bloom entry cards. You can use stick on address labels and look up the name of your bloom in the Registry to determine its category. He showed several examples of cards and allowed everyone to examine them.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Charles Simon, Secretary*

<b><i>Date and place of meeting</i></b>		<b><i>Refreshments</i></b>	
		<b><i>Food</i></b>	<b><i>Drinks</i></b>
12/15/2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Christmas Party – Potluck	Anna Langford
1/19/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Katherine Davies & Julie Conn	Amy & Phil Puccio
2/16/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jill Reed & Martha Campbell-Thoper	Volunteers needed
3/16/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Wally Belgard	Volunteers needed
4/20/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid	Carter Brenneman
5/18/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Spring Picnic - Potluck	Volunteers needed

***It's Party time!***

We're having our annual Christmas gathering for this month's meeting. We'll gather at 1 pm to socialize and have a glass of good cheer. Bring wine if you like. Anna Langford will provide the usual tea and soft drinks. Then we'll sit down to eat at 2 pm. Jerry Hogsette and John Swanson are bringing ham and turkey, and the rest of us are to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

After the meal, we'll have a short business meeting to finalize plans for the January show, sale, and convention. This will be followed by the gag gift exchange that is always so much fun. Items are usually inexpensive, odd, humorous, or even related to camellia gardening. FUN. And the givers remain anonymous.

***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](mailto: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, December 15, 2024  
***Place:*** Kanapaha Botanical Gardens  
***Program:*** Christmas Party – socializing at 1pm, meal at 2pm

***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.