



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Volume 44

Editor: Anna Langford

April 2016

President's Message

It's a great time to be in the garden — great weather with cool nights and beautiful days. If you are not finished pruning yet, it should still be done and *now* with the abundant flushes of new growth, and then follow up and take out some of the new growth to keep the "throw a cat through" look.



Pearl Terry



*Royalty
Variegated*

This is also the time to be vigilant for damage from beetles, aphids, grasshoppers and stink bugs. Apply control measures suggested by Dr. Jerry Hogsette, such as spraying with Orthene or Image. For small infestations hand removal works for aphids. Use of soap spray as described by Jerry is also helpful to control tea scale on the underside of leaves. Volck or other horticultural oil (fines) spray is also useful in controlling scale. It is important not to spray when temperatures are over 85 degrees, so some-times this needs to be done later in the day. Oil also helps control spider mites, which might show up as temperatures rise and it gets dry. Keep an eye out for brownish midribs of leaves as a sign of their presence.

If you are seeing yellow leaves drop or fall off of your camellias, do not be alarmed. Camellias shed their three-year-old leaves at this time of year.



White Porcelain



Paul Haskee Variegated

This is also a good time to do air layering. We have begun doing some thanks to the generosity of Jerome and Reba Ridaught near Alachua for sharing their beautiful garden with abundant camellias. For those that signed up I will be contacting you soon for tutorial if needed, and scheduling a trip. We are going in small groups, so we do not over-run the area or abuse the privilege provided by the hosts.

You can still apply fertilizer if you have not yet done so. It should be sprinkled at the drip line (under the outermost leaves and branches) and well-watered into the soil. Once your first flush has hardened off you can then apply fertilizer again. If you are using slow release fertilizer, one application might cover for a longer period, and slow release is better for the environment.



Debbie



Royal Velvet

We have distributed a Mentors On Call list for answers to your questions on camellia care and culture. Thank you to those experienced camellia growers for being willing to serve other members and share your knowledge.

Enjoy this wonderful time of year!

***John Swanson,
President***

Minutes for GCS Meeting - February 21, 2016

John Swanson opened the meeting by recognizing Jerry Hogsette as our program speaker today and his 30 years as a member of the Gainesville Camellia Society. Jerry's story of 30 years and GCS appeared in the March newsletter.

There were no additions or corrections to the February meeting minutes. Charles Simon moved to accept the minutes as published; seconded by Hawser Pearce; approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid**
 - Savings Account - \$10,148.42
 - Checking Account - \$1,103.41
 - Total Funds – \$11,251.83
 - Profit from 2016 Show - \$2,280.16. A question arose about sales tax and the plants sold. Further discussion would defer to the next GCS Board meeting.

Joel Schwiebert announced that Randolph Maphis would not be able to speak at our May meeting. In his place Mark Crawford, owner of Loch Laurel Nursery, would be speaking on camellia die back problems and other camellia related items.

Irma Velez gave an update on Kanapaha Gardens' Spring Festival next weekend. GCS would have a booth with volunteers being available to answer questions. She would secure a camellia plant from Charles Simon for raffle.

John Swanson gave an update from Bill Hayes regarding the officer slate for the next year. Bruce Cavey agreed to serve as Program Chairman and Joel Schwiebert would replace Bruce as a Board member. Voting will take place at the April meeting.

Patrick Andrews would be conducting a novice judging class and re-accreditation class in Ocala next month. He will send information to those who wish to attend. The cost is nominal and is an excellent opportunity to learn more about camellias, even if becoming a judge is not a goal.

John Swanson circulated a list of camellias available for air layering at Jerome Ridaught's home. John will let members know when a date has been set for the activity. Contact Irma or John if you would like to participate.

The GCS Mentor On Call List is almost complete and John will e-mail the final list to members. Anyone who has not volunteered as a mentor and would like to, please contact John.

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society annual meeting will be held September 16 & 17, 2016 at Litchfield Beach, South Carolina. GCS members are encouraged to attend.

Joel Schwiebert and several members have received their order of Harrell’s Fertilizer and will report to members on their evaluation of the fertilizer.

Joel Schwiebert introduced Jerry Hogsette, research entomologist for the USDA, and longtime Gainesville Camellia Society member, who spoke on plant pest control.

Camellias for the plant auction were the balance of plants from the January show. John Swanson provided avocado and night blooming jasmine plants for auction.

Karen Peeples, Secretary

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 the Gainesville Camellia Society Facebook page.



Nuccio’s Bella Rosa Variegated

2015-16 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, April 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid and Tara Gill
Sunday, May 15 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor and John Thrasher (volunteers needed)

Officers

President: John Swanson
 1st VP & Show Chair: Irma Velez
 2nd VP & Program Chair: Joel Schwiebert
 Secretary: Karen Peeples
 Treasurer: Merry Reid

Board Members

Patrick Andrews Ruth Milton
 Bruce Cavey Chuck Ritter
 Jay Ellis Charles Simon
 Bill Hayes Nicki Whittaker
 Jerry Hogsette

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: *Joel Schwiebert*

Date: Sunday, April 17, 2016, 2pm

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: “Good Practices Growing Camellias”
 presented by Mark Crawford, Loch Laurel Nursery, Valdosta, GA

Refreshments Chair: *Eleanor Thrasher*

Refreshments for this meeting will be provided by: Merry Reid and Tara Gill

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May in the GRU Conference Room at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.



Gainesville Camellia Society

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Volume 43

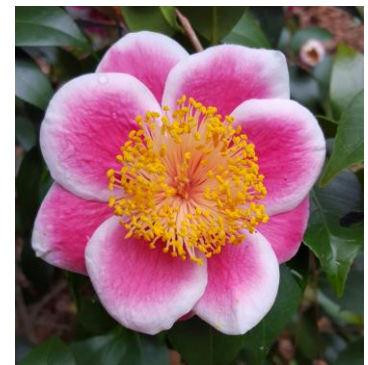
Editor: Anna Langford

March 2016

President's Message

Still many blooms showing their beauty. The *Mathotianas* and their many sports and variegated forms, as well as many of the *Retics* and some *Hybrids* are showing their stuff. Make sure you continue to check your plants, as you might find a bloom when you didn't expect it.

Thanks so much to Bev and Chuck Ritter for hosting and Carol and Jerry Selph for presenting the seminar on cleft grafting at our February meeting. It was a great session, and with attendance over 50, clearly a popular topic. Grafting can still be done, so get with it and get it done soon before the season slips away. Thanks also to Diane and Charles Simon for the care and feeding of our many guests and members at the meeting. Well done!



Tama Beauty

In addition to grafting, this is the time to fertilize and to prune once blooms are finished. Proper care now and early in the growing season is an important part of getting ready for a good blooming season in the Fall and Winter to come.



*Tomorrow
Variegatet*

We have a great program this month featuring Dr. Jerry Hogsette, who will discuss pest control, primarily insect pests. 2016 is a special year for Jerry and for the GCS, as it was 30 years ago that Jerry joined the GCS, and we are going to celebrate this at our upcoming meeting on March 13th at Kanapaha. Yes, we are meeting on the 13th, because the following weekend — our usual scheduled meeting date — is the Kanapaha Spring Festival, so we moved our meeting ahead. Come and thank Jerry for his past years of service to GCS and wish him well in continuing as a member for another 30! See the write up by Jerry in this newsletter for his description of what has transpired during the interim 30 years.

Besides getting the latest on bug control, we will have a chance to demonstrate and practice pruning on the camellia plants in the Kanapaha Camellia garden. Come and participate.

As usual, GCS will have a booth at the Kanapaha Spring Festival. At our meeting Irma Velez will be finalizing the schedule for volunteers to staff the booth. Sign up and help out. It's fun and helps us tell the camellia story.

**John Swanson,
President**



Ruta Hagmann

Here's Your Chance to Learn More About Camellia Show Judging

Patrick Andrews will conduct a novice judging class and concurrent judge reaccreditation class at his home at 950 NE 189th Lane, Citra, FL, on Saturday, April 2, 2016. The novice class will start at 9 am, and the judge reaccreditation class will start at 12 noon and run concurrently with the remainder of the novice class. Lunch will be around 11 a.m.

Novice judge applicants should bring \$15 to cover the novice fee (\$10) and lunch (\$5), and judges who will attend for reaccreditation should bring \$5 for lunch if desired (there is no fee for reaccreditation). Lunch will be homemade turkey sandwiches (unless requested otherwise), with chips and ice tea or water. If the novice judge has already paid their application fee, they will only need to bring \$5 for lunch.

Applicants who just want to learn more about camellias without necessarily becoming a novice judge may also attend. They will still apply to become a novice judge, so that opportunity will be available for a five-year period. I will have applications at the class, so you do not need to apply beforehand. All other materials will be provided. Bring your *Nomenclature* book if you have one.

Contact Patrick Andrews as soon as possible at patrickandrews@att.net to reserve your seat or if you have any questions. First come, first served.

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Minutes for GCS Meeting - February 21, 2016

The meeting began with Jerry and Carol Selph's demonstration of their grafting technique. The Selphs brought grafting stock and helped members who wanted to try their hand at grafting. There were over 50 people who attended the demonstration, including several guests.

After the Selphs' demonstration, the business portion of the meeting commenced. John Swanson welcomed members and visitors. Marcia Isaacson, who came as a guest, became a new member. He also thanked the Selphs for their demonstration and the Ritters for opening their home for the meeting.

It was noted the March meeting at Kanapaha Gardens would be held on March 13th (the second Sunday of the month) due to the Kanapaha Gardens Spring Festival, March 19th and 20th. Gainesville Camellia Society has an information booth during the festival and Irma Velez circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help man the booth. Staffers will have to pay admission to the festival, but GCS will reimburse those costs. She will get a camellia plant from Charles Simon to be raffled at the festival.

Jerry Hogsette will be our speaker for the March meeting, and he will be discussing pest control and diseases of camellias. There will also be a pruning demonstration in the camellia garden at Kanapaha.

Karen Peoples asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January minutes as published in the newsletter. Charles Simon moved to accept the minutes as published. Seconded by Paul Warner; approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid

- Savings Account - \$10,148.18
- Checking Account - \$861.21
- Total Funds - \$11,009.39
- Final show accounting - +\$2,831. All known expenses have been paid

Paul Warner moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Vince Lipsio; approved.

Irma Velez reported that the 2016 show reporting has been completed. The American Camellia Society has been notified that our 2017 show has been scheduled for January 7th and 8th, 2017.

Following through on the GCS Mentor Program, John Swanson suggested setting up a list of members who would be available, either by phone or e-mail, to answer questions from new members. He will be looking for volunteers to offer support to new members. John Swanson will also post appropriate questions on the Facebook page as information for followers.

Joel Schwiebert has been researching a product, Harrell's Fertilizer. It is a slow release fertilizer (17-5-11) containing micronutrients and is recommended for camellias. The Greenhouse Nursery in Jonesville carries a Harrell's product and there is a nursery in Hawthorne that carries

the appropriate product for camellias. A 2 lb. bag sells for \$5 and 1-2 tsp. per gallon pot lasts for approximately 9 months. A 50 lb. bag sells for \$72 and Joel would be willing to coordinate a group order for members.

The field trip to the Selphs' gardens in Georgia has been postponed. It was suggested the trip be rescheduled for mid-December.

John Swanson and Irma Velez will be organizing air-layering day(s) at Jerome Ridaught's home. Mr. Ridaught would just like members to give him a portion of the plants that are air layered. John has a list of the plants Mr. Ridaught has. Contact Irma or John if you would like to participate. Air layering will probably be done in April.

Patrick Andrews will be holding a camellia judges accreditation class on a Saturday in March or April. There is a nominal charge and this is open to individuals wishing to become a camellia judge or renew their accreditation. Patrick is permitting members to audit the class if they would like to learn more about camellia varieties. Contact Patrick if you are interested in taking the class. The Novice Class is a 6 hour class. Re-accreditation class will be in the afternoon.

Bill Hayes, Dolly and Paul Warner were the nominating committee for officers for the upcoming year. Bill reported the following confirmations; John Swanson, President; Irma Velez, Second Vice President; Karen Peeples, Secretary; and Merry Reid, Treasurer. Joel Schwiebert will not be able to continue as Program Chairman and Bill requested anyone interested in taking this position to contact anyone on the nominating committee. The chairman could select additional people to form a committee to handle programs for the next year, rather than one person doing it alone.

John Swanson thanked Charles and Diane Simon for providing refreshments for today's meeting. Camellias for the plant auction were from stock remaining from the January show. Paul Warner moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Charles Simon; meeting adjourned.

Karen Peeples, Secretary

Thirty Years with the Gainesville Camellia Society

It was actually the fall of 1986 when I first encountered the Gainesville Camellia Society (GCS), so we are a few months early for the 30th Anniversary. But that's close enough for camellia work. I had just returned to Gainesville after a six-year work assignment in Panama City, Florida, where as President, I closed down the Panama City Camellia Society after the members voted to do so. We only had about ten to twelve members and their bickering scared away anyone who wanted to join. Those few years gave me the opportunity to learn many things about camellias and meet camellia growers in West Florida, such as Kay Berridge of Ft. Walton Beach and Jean Comber of Pensacola, just to name a couple. I met Paul Gilley several times at his house and gardens in Grand Ridge, where he sold rooted cuttings of his camellias for \$1.00. All of my Gilley plants came from Paul. While in West Florida I heard about camellia greats in Gainesville, like Henry Lundsford, Sr., Jim Gahan, and Jay Ellis Sr., to name a few.

I attended my first GCS Show in 1979 when it was held in a bank on north Main Street. However, the GCS Show I attended in January, 1987, at the Oaks Mall, started my GCS career. The Show Chairman was Cecil Simmons and the show was held in what used to be the amphitheater area, which has since been made into the open area between Dillard's and Starbucks. For no charge, the Mall provided the number of tables requested by GCS, set them up and skirted them, arranged them as requested by GCS, then donated \$1,000.00 for show expenses. By the time GCS left the Mall less than ten years ago, we rented our tables for about \$1,000, rented table cloths at first for about \$1,000 (then bought our own table cloths), set up and arranged the tables ourselves, and put on the table cloths. With these and other expenses we were living from show to show, with little extra money in the bank.

Cecil Simmons gave me a fantastic introduction to the ten or fifteen members of the GCS when I arrived for the first meeting after the January 1987 show. I was automatically "elected" to almost every vacant officer position, notably President and Show Chairman simultaneously. I said I knew little about directing the group and everyone assured me that I would be given plenty of support. The first thing we needed to do was to increase our membership. We did this with the help of Lionel Worthy, who volunteered to provide a free camellia plant to anyone who joined GCS. At each subsequent show we could sometimes sign up as many as twenty new members, many of whom collected their free plant and were never seen again. The few who did stick around formed an increasing number of faithful, long-term members. In a few years our membership rose to 100, an astronomical figure in those times. Finally we began to have a little extra money in the kitty. Thanks to David Mikolaitis we had the first web page in the camellia world and thanks to Sandra Williams we had the first digital collection of camellia photos.

At the urging of GCS member, Ivan Mitchell, I became a judge in 1987. A few of us went to Perry, Georgia, to attend a judging school organized by the nearby American Camellia Society (ACS). Several people from ACS, including Warren Thompson and Hulyn Smith, simply read the judges' rule book to us. This was disappointing because we could all read, but as a Novice Judge I learned the ropes from seasoned veteran judges. Visits with Hulyn were always memorable because of his great knowledge and wonderful sense of humor. A few years later when I was again Show Chairman for our show, we needed a minimum of two more judges to form judging teams. In an emergency situation that has never occurred again, I asked Jack Janes and John Thrasher, who were not accredited judges, if they would be impromptu judges and fill those two positions. They did, they did a wonderful job, and both went on to

become accredited judges. I have been inviting judges to GCS shows since 1987. I used to mail invitation letters with post cards included so the judges could send back their yay or nay responses. After nearly 30 years, I can finally send all of the invitations by email, which saves so much time.

In 1987 our meetings were held on a week night in various rooms at the North Florida Regional Hospital. John Hintermister, a past president, was in charge of Food Service at the hospital. He arranged for the meeting room and during our shows provided a wonderful meal for the judges' luncheon held at the hospital. John named the beautiful Helen Glenn camellia after his wife. While meetings were held at the hospital we voted to begin holding meetings on the third Sundays of the month during the afternoon. Many of our members could not drive at night and we rarely saw them at meetings. When John passed away we began meeting at two of the Gainesville Branch libraries. We finally ended up at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, which began our long relationship with the gardens. When it became more and more difficult and expensive to hold shows at the Oaks Mall, it was at Kanapaha that we found a setting fit for our show. We got off to a slow start, but thanks to a lot of work by many of our members, we are on our feet again and have quite a following around town.

This could go on for a few more pages, but it is time to end for now. It has been a fun ride through the years, a never-ending learning experience, and wonderful associations with many fine GCS members. Having visited many other camellia societies over the years, it is a pleasure to say that we are very lucky to have such a fine group. Yes, pat yourself on the back! We work well together, have fun together and hopefully things will continue in this way for GCS for many years to come.

Jerry Hogsette

<i>2015-16 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society</i>		
Sunday, March 13	Sunday, March 13	Sunday, March 13
Sunday, April 17	Sunday, April 17	Sunday, April 17
Sunday, May 15 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher (volunteers needed)

Officers

President: John Swanson
1st VP & Show Chair: Irma Velez
2nd VP & Program Chair: Joel Schwiebert
Secretary: Karen Peeples
Treasurer: Merry Reid

Board Members

Patrick Andrews Ruth Milton
Bruce Cavey Chuck Ritter
Jay Ellis Charles Simon
Bill Hayes Nicki Whittaker
Jerry Hogsette

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: *Joel Schwiebert*

Date: Sunday, March 13, 2016, 2pm

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: "Insect and Mite Pests of Camellias, Their Biology and Management"
presented by Dr. Jerry Hogsette

Refreshments Chair: *Eleanor Thrasher*

Refreshments for this meeting will be provided by: Irma Velez & Ruth Milton

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May in the GRU Conference Room at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.



Gainesville Camellia Society

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Volume 42

Editor: Anna Langford

February 2016

President's Message

We are glad to welcome all members, especially those who are new. At our meeting this month we will have a special demonstration, including participation, on how to graft camellias. Carol and Jerry Selph, long term GCS members and leaders in growing and showing camellias, will show us their successful techniques and secrets. The other special part is that the meeting will take place at the home of Bev and Chuck Ritter, near Melrose. The Ritters are also champions on the show circuit. In fact when the Ritters and the Selphs are together, we have both of the leaders among unprotected and protected blooms in the Southeastern USA, and maybe nationally as well. Please come and learn, but also enjoy the blooms in the Ritters' garden.

Eight GCS members attended the recent ACS annual meetings in Charleston, SC. And although it was a bit chilly and soggy on the trip to Middleton Place and gardens, a good time was had by all. The field trip to Magnolia Plantation with its many historical camellia varieties, the trip to Oak Island and the garden of Gen. Parker Connor were highlights, and many obtained scions to do more grafting and upgrading of plants. Meetings were useful, and meals, whether a part of the program or while on our own, were quite excellent.

Patrick Andrews was notable as ACS Secretary and is in charge of membership. Chuck and Bev Ritter took the top Sweepstakes prize at the National Show. Also a big thanks to Patrick Andrews and Bob Weidman for hosting a great open house at their place in Citra for a wonderful close out for January.



Photos from the National Show in Charleston. Both are of *Miss Charleston*, with the photo on the right showing the winner.



When plants have completed their blooming season it is time to start pruning and fertilizing. Prune to help shape the growth of the plant as desired, to remove unnecessary shoots or limbs, and to open up so that sun can get through to energize the plant in total. For serious show plants pruning so you can "throw a cat through" still seems a popular guide, though I have never seen such a demonstration. It merely means to allow space for air movement and solar energy to get through.

At the January meeting our speaker covered the need to provide fertilizer to ensure good growth and to ensure good bud set during the summer months. Slow release fertilizers are preferred so as to not pollute ground water or waste nutrients. Soil and tissue tests can be helpful in deciding the correct mix of nutrients needed to ensure good growth. While purchasing and applying slow release fertilizers it is important to understand that the "life" or number of months during which the nutrients will be released, usually 3, 6, or 8, are general estimates. Given Florida's high rainfall and high temperatures, it is best to estimate that you are not likely to receive full coverage and you might need to apply the next fertilizer earlier than following the exact timing shown on the bags. For example an 8 month slow release might be only still active for 6 months due to Florida's temperatures and moisture conditions.

Grafting season is upon us and is usually done from mid-January through March. The demo at the Ritters' should get you off to a good start. Most members with established plants are willing to share scions to help you get some of those plants on your "Wish List" that you might not be able to find at plant sales.

John Swanson, President

Directions to Chuck & Bev Ritter's House

Take SR 26 East from Gainesville. From the junction of SR 26 and SR 21 (traffic light), continue east on SR 26 about 2 miles to Mason Road. Turn right (south) on Mason, then as it bends east, continue to #202 on the north side (left). The distance on Mason Rd is about 1 mile.

Minutes for GCS Meeting - January 17, 2016

John Swanson opened the meeting by thanking all those who had helped with the annual camellia show last weekend. He introduced new members who joined GCS as a result of attending the show, Cindy and Mike Brannon, Larry Hice, Sharon Bauer and Vince Lipsio. John also thanked those who provided refreshments for today's meeting.

Jerry Hogsette moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Charles Simon and minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid's preliminary show report indicated GCS would realize approximately \$2,500 in profit from the annual show. She expected to have a final accounting of show proceeds at next month's meeting.

- Savings Account - \$10,158.99
- Checking Account - \$2,498.78
- Total Funds - \$12,657.77

SHOW REPORT

Irma Velez thanked everyone who helped with the show. We had 716 blooms (which was down from 2015) and 41 exhibitors. The Novice Class included many first time participants.

The 2017 GCS show dates should not conflict with any other area shows as happened this year. Jerry Hogsette moved that the 2017 show be set as January 7th and 8th, 2017. Charles Simon seconded the motion; approved. Irma Velez will contact Kanapaha Gardens to confirm the date.

We had one new ACS member, who also won the plant raffle for joining ACS. There were 9 members who joined GCS. Charles Simon reported that we had sold 492 plants and had 18 left. Jerome Ridaught, a GCS member who attended the show, indicated he would be willing to offer plants at his home for air layering by members. He operates a day lily nursery but has many old camellias he would make available for air layering. Air layering is usually done in March and April. Contact John Swanson or Irma Velez if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

Jay Ellis was the winner of 2 local awards, the Sweepstakes for the GCS member with the most individual awards and the Founders Trophy for the best unprotected bloom with the flower Doris Ellis. The show report will be sent to ACS and ACCS for posting on their websites.

NEW BUSINESS

The GCS February 21st meeting will be at the Ritters' residence (202 Mason Road in Melrose) at 2:00 p.m. Jerry and Carol Selph will be giving a demonstration on grafting of camellia plants. Those interested in participating in the hands-on demonstration should let Joel Schwiebert or John Swanson know, as the Selphs will be bringing root stock plants that can be purchased for grafting. He recommended a donation of \$10 be made to GCS for the cost of each plant. The Selphs will answer questions and members will be able to discuss different grafting techniques they are familiar with. There may be demonstrations on pruning as this is about the time of the year to do this.

John Swanson will be asking individuals to serve on the nominating committee.

John Swanson has been working on the GCS field trip to the Selphs' gardens in Georgia. There is a sign-up sheet for members wishing to participate.

GCS has a Mentoring Program for new members and John Swanson asked for volunteers to act as a mentor to our new members. Mentoring is a program where existing members will be available to new members, answering their camellia questions and encouraging them to become active camellia growers. He circulated a signup sheet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Patrick Andrews and Bob Weidman would be holding their annual open house in Citra on Sunday, January 31st beginning at 1:00p.m. until dusk and extended an invitation to GCS members. Anna Langford has copies of their invitation.

The American Camellia Society annual meeting will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, Wednesday through Saturday. Several GCS members will be attending.

PROGRAM

The speaker for today's meeting was Denise DeBusk, Environmental & Community Horticulture Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, speaking on "Feeding Your Camellias and Knowing What Your Camellias Need".

Camellias for the plant auction were part of the plants remaining from the show. John Swanson also brought some Night Blooming Jasmine plants for auction.

Karen Peebles, Secretary

2015-16 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, February 21	Home of Chuck & Bev Ritter	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, March 13	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Irma Velez Ruth Milton
Sunday, April 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Tara Gill
Sunday, May 15 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher (volunteers needed)

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Schedule of Camellia Shows in the Southeast, 2015-16 Season (Partial & Tentative List)

2016 Feb. 13 Dothan Show, Dothan, AL; Thomasville Show, Thomasville, GA
 Feb. 20-21 Atlanta Show, Atlanta, GA
 Feb. 27-28 Ft. Valley Show at ACS Fetterman Building, Ft. Valley, GA
 Mar. 5 Columbus Show, Columbus, GA

For more complete listings visit the ACCS Website.

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 2nd VP & Program Chair: Joel Schwiebert
 Secretary: Karen Peeples
 Treasurer: Merry Reid

Board Members

Patrick Andrews Ruth Milton
 Bruce Cavey Chuck Ritter
 Jay Ellis Charles Simon
 Bill Hayes Nicki Whittaker
 Jerry Hogsette

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: *Joel Schwiebert*

Date: Sunday, February 21, 2016, 2pm

Place: Home of Chuck & Bev Ritter, Melrose FL (See directions on p. 2.)

Program: "Grafting Camellias" presented by Jerry & Carol Selph

Refreshments Chair: *Eleanor Thrasher*

Refreshments for this meeting will be provided by: Charles & Diane Simon

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Volume 41

Editor: Anna Langford

January 2016

President's Message

THANK YOU!!! We had excellent participation of members that resulted in such a great and successful show. This message is largely a long list of thank you's, and I put it all in because it helps show the great participation and help that made the show possible, and it highlights some of the things you might not know were done, so that you, too, can thank those you meet.

Irma Velez was the Show Chair and did an outstanding job of pulling it all together and doing the major and minor tasks that ensured things would run smoothly. She was there and responded when new demands arose, and she did her job in a cheerful and supportive way. Her close relationship as a regular volunteer at Kanapaha Gardens and with the Master Gardeners pays big dividends during a show such as ours.

Public Relations. Once again we had good PR in the newspaper, TV, and local news magazines. This led to excellent attendance and made our partner, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, happy from the gate receipts. Bravo to Karen Peeples for the great effort with PR. Annette Cavey's assistance in setting up our FaceBook Page also helped attract visitors. Thanks to all who helped in this area.

Treasurer Merry Reid worked the educational and new membership desk and successfully recruited eight new GCS members and one new ACS member, and equally as important paid all bills in a timely and supportive manner. Thank you Merry.

Plant Sales. We offered a collection of 492 plants for sale, and as of close on Sunday we had only about 15 left unsold. Keepers of the plants, Dr. Charles and Mrs. Diane Simon, and son Mark received and maintained (for over two months) the plants from Loch Laurel Nursery. They also prepared outstanding promotional materials, bloom photo

booklets and other materials that greatly assisted with sales. Bill Hayes received and maintained the plants from County Line Nursery as well as acting as Head Clerk during judging. Dr. Jerry Hogsette provided 97 one gallon plants roughly divided between air layers from his camellia collection and left- over plants from Erinon Nursery (which was liquidated after its owner, Jerry Conrad, passed away a few years ago). Jerry nurtured and provided TLC to the plants for over a year, and, as best I could tell, by the close of the day on Sunday afternoon all were sold. Jerry was also in charge of contacting judges and coordinating the judging, and he and his wife Harriet generously hosted the Judges' dinner at their home the night before the show. Thanks so much for all you do for GCS and the show.

Bill Hayes's friend Rick, Hawser Pierce, Bruce Cavey, new members Bart and Bert Maris, Ken Wagner, and Joel Schwiebert moved all the plants to Kanapaha on the Thursday prior to the show. Many of those mentioned above also helped sell plants during the show.

A visitor from Virginia, Steve Swanson also helped move plants, and assisted visiting judges and bloom providers and served as general helper. I am most thankful for his assistance. Megan Swanson, from Tampa came up Friday night to help with the show and assisted with placement and some roving clerk duties, while periodically helping with hospitality. Thanks for her contribution.

Joel Schwiebert, our 2nd VP, helped with arrival and movement of plants, plant sales, and anytime an extra hand was needed he and his wife Annette were there to help. Gerald (Ole Goat) and his wife Anna Langford were also very active in many aspects of helping the show move forward smoothly. Gerald was heavily involved with plant sales, and Anna, in addition to managing our newsletter, helped tally scores and sweepstakes awards and was available for other tasks as they came up. Bravo for these two dynamic, helpful, and dedicated couples.

A big thank you goes out to Tara Gill for doing an excellent job of providing the lunch for the judges, and for also out of her own kindness providing the sandwiches and cookies for the platoon of GCS volunteer so that we were all taken care of. That is a first and a much appreciated contribution.

Since we are talking about food, thanks are due to Dolly and Paul Warner, Eileen Wagner, Bev Ritter, Diane Simon, Annette Schwiebert, and of course Dinh Swanson who guided the hospitality section even if not quite yet at full strength. She was still strong enough to boss people around. Did I say that?

Patrick Andrews and Bob Weidman guided the placement of plants and helped manage the bloom judging process, and they brought many outstanding blooms for the show as indicated by their Gold Sweepstakes award.

Jerry and Carol Selph, long term members of GCS, brought over 280 protected blooms to our show. Their contribution to our pleasure and the delight of flower show visitors was an important demonstration of the beauty that results when lots of TLC and attention to quality are provided. We much appreciate their support to our program.

Chuck and Bev Ritter again were major providers of both quality plants and assistance with the judging process, and helping wherever needed. The quality of the Ritter blooms was well evident when looking at the Best in Show array after the judging was done.

John Thrasher's knowledge of proper placement was again of value on Saturday morning, and his help with preparations and close out were indicative of his always available to help approach to supporting GCS. Thank you! Eleanor was kept away due to the loss of a friend, but we will see her at our next meeting.

Eileen Hart, head judge, once again did an excellent job of guiding the five teams and getting done on time (almost). Her steady and collaborative approach is much appreciated.

Lee Kline once again coordinated with the Garden Club to secure a very fine collection of camellia flower arrangements that graced the Awards Hall. It is an addition that adds much to the show.

Jay and Debbie Ellis brought in many beautiful blooms, including the Best White unprotected, "Snowman", and the best local bloom, "Doris Ellis". They also helped with clean up. Thank you.

Jerome Ridaught from Alachua brought some blooms, and has offered his fine collection of camellias for air-layering in the months ahead. (He and his wife Reba have an outstanding daylily nursery). In past years we obtained many good plants from their collection.

Krysia James, Nicki Whitaker, Carter Wittman, and Margaret Wagener served as experienced or first-time clerks and helped Head Clerk Bill Hayes, the Master Gardner clerks and others who stepped up to help when needed. I know there are many who helped whose names I have not mentioned, and I apologize for those omissions.

Ruth Milton, Annette Schwiebert, and Paul Warner were ill and had to miss most of the show. Dolly Warner had to miss the show due to a family emergency, but all these persons helped by doing much preparatory and planning work. We wish them good health and improvement in their condition.

Many, many thanks for the great participation and support that made our show such a success.

John Swanson, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting - December 20, 2015

The regular meeting was preceded by the Gainesville Camellia Society annual Christmas potluck social. John Swanson thanked the Thrashers for bringing the ham, Tara Gill for providing the meat dish and members for preparing additional food and desserts. Eleanor Thrasher recognized the following members for table decorations and setup: Irma Velez, Tara Gill, Merry Reid, Anna Langford, Bruce Cavey and herself. New members were welcomed to their first Christmas potluck and guests were introduced.

Minutes of the November meeting as published in the newsletter were moved to be approved by Bill Hayes; seconded and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid**
 - Savings Account - \$4,669.89
 - Checking Account - \$3,028.30
 - Total Funds - \$7,698.19
- **JANUARY SHOW REPORT – Irma Velez**
 - Irma Velez reported Jerry Hogsette has at least 15 judges available for the show. Jerry has bloom cards with him today for members who might need them.
 - Bill Hayes circulated a Clerking signup sheet. Approximately 14 Master Gardeners have committed to help with the clerking.
 - Dolly Warner will be handling Hospitality and everything is in good order.
 - Charles Simon, in charge of plant sales, circulated a signup sheet for volunteers to help with plant sales beginning at 9:00 am on Saturday. Shifts will run approximately 3-4 hours each. Planting instruction handouts will be available for purchasers.
 - County Line Nursery will deliver plants to Bill Hayes on Tuesday between 9:30 – 10:00 am. Those willing to help with unloading plants and tagging should contact Bill. It would be helpful if anyone had an enclosed trailer to transport plants to Kanapaha prior to the show. There are approximately 239 plants.

- Charles Simon has been storing the first shipment of plants and over 40 have already been sold to members.
- Tara Gill will provide lunch for the judges and will also provide food for the volunteers. Tara was thanked for her thoughtfulness in providing for the helpers.
- Setup is scheduled for Friday at 2:00 pm and takedown will be Sunday after 4:00 pm. Irma circulated setup and takedown signup sheets.
 - After the setup, Jerry Hogsette will host a potluck judges' dinner at his house for volunteers. Members can come early and tour Jerry's garden.
- Irma Velez will open the Kanapaha gate at 6:00 am on Saturday.
- Show programs are on both the American Camellia Society and Atlantic Coast Camellia Society websites.
- Educational materials have been copied for the Information Desk. Volunteers to man the desk should contact Merry Reid.
- A tour of the camellia garden and Camellia 101 will be given by Irma Velez on Saturday and Sunday beginning at 2:00 pm in the Camellia and Azalea Garden.
- PROGRAM REPORT – Joel Schwiebert
 - January program: Dr. Denise Debusk, IFAS, on soil pH and fertilization.
 - February: Jerry Selph will be doing a hands-on workshop on grafting and Chuck Ritter has volunteered to host the meeting at his home. Jerry will be bringing plants for grafting and anyone wishing to try their hand at grafting should contact Joel so that there will be enough plants available to work with.

Anna Langford has been told by some members that they have not received their e-newsletter and if this is the case, please let Anna know and give her your current email address.

Irma Velez advised that the bonsai exhibit near the camellia and azalea garden have been removed and 5 new camellia plants provided by Gainesville Camellia Society have replaced the bonsai. Future signage will note the contribution of GCS to the gardens.

Camellias for the plant auction were provided today by Jerry Hogsette and several show plants by Charles Simon.

Karen Peeples, Secretary

2015-16 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, January 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Laura Davis, Lucile Little, Margaret Wagoner
Sunday, February 21	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, March 13	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Irma Valez Ruth Milton
Sunday, April 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Tara Gill
Sunday, May 15 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher (volunteers needed)

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 the Gainesville Camellia Society Facebook page.

Schedule of Camellia Shows in the Southeast, 2015-16 Season (Partial & Tentative List)

<u>2016</u>	Jan. 16	Camellia Society of Central Florida Show, Winter Park, FL
	Jan. 23	ACS National Show, Citadel Mall, Charleston, SC
	Jan. 30	Ocala Camellia Show, Ocala, FL
	Jan. 30	Lakeland Camellia Show, Lakeland, FL
	Feb. 6	Quitman Garden Club Camellia Show, Quitman, GA
	Feb. 13	Dothan Show, Dothan, AL; Thomasville Show, Thomasville, GA
	Feb. 20-21	Atlanta Show, Atlanta, GA
	Feb. 27-28	Ft. Valley Show at ACS Fetterman Building, Ft. Valley, GA
	Mar. 5	Columbus Show, Columbus, GA

For more complete listings visit the ACCS Website.

Officers

President: John Swanson
 1st VP & Show Chair: Irma Velez
 2nd VP & Program Chair: Joel Schwiebert
 Secretary: Karen Peeples
 Treasurer: Merry Reid

Board Members

Patrick Andrews Ruth Milton
 Bruce Cavey Chuck Ritter
 Jay Ellis Charles Simon
 Bill Hayes Nicki Whittaker
 Jerry Hogsette

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: *Joel Schwiebert*

Date: Sunday, January 17, 2016, 2pm

Place: GRU Conference Room , Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: “Feeding Your Camelias: Knowing What Your Soil Needs”

presented by: Denise DeBusk, DPM (Doctorate in Plant Medicine), BCE (Board Certified Entomologist), Environmental and Community Horticulture Extension Agent for UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County

Refreshments Chair: *Eleanor Thrasher*

Refreshments for this meeting will be provided by:
 Laura Davis, Lucile Little, and Margaret Wagoner

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May in the GRU Conference Room at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates or times are posted in this newsletter.



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Volume 40

Editor: Anna Langford

December 2015

President's Message

Wow, our bloomers are showing!! Maybe I should rephrase that? Many, many camellias are now in bloom, many of which seem to be blooming a bit earlier than usual. As cooler weather finally arrives, it should slow things down at least a bit. Lots of the "Early" listed bloomers are indeed in full bloom, or already past it. Anyway, there is much to enjoy in the garden this time of year. Sharing of blooms with friends and neighbors is a much appreciated gesture and spreads the enjoyment around.



Blue Danube, a hybrid



Terry Gilley Variegated



Carter's Sunburst

What should you be doing to assist your camellias? Pick up spent blooms and put them in the trash can. It is probably not good to compost them at home, because spores of petal blight (a fungal disease that discolors camellia petals) will be present and are likely to increase the amount you will find in the future if the blooms are not disposed of. It is also not too late to spray camellias to control spider mites and scale insects.

If a sudden cold front threatens a hard freeze you should make sure your plants are well watered. Most cold damage of Camellia plants is due to strong, cold winds drying the tissues. A well hydrated plant that gets some protection from north winds will fare much

better. Normally bloom buds that are still tight will not be damaged by a typical Gainesville freeze but open (or nearly open) blooms can be severely damaged.

Continue your planting program. This is still a great time to get camellias from pots into the ground. If you are gibbing, continue to do so, and now is the time to plan for showing blooms at the GCS Show in January, as well as other shows later in January and February in Florida and South Georgia. Cards required to show blooms were briefly explained during the October meeting and will be available at the December Holiday Party meeting. In case you missed the intro on how to fill out the cards, seasoned GCS members will be glad to show you how to do it.



Betty Sheffield Supreme



Camille



Silver Waves

Our thanks to Charles and Diane Simon for caring for the GCS Show sale plants procured from Loch Laurel Nursery in Valdosta, GA. Report is that they are thriving and many have blooms.

The other part of our plant order from CountyLine Nursery in Byron, GA, will be delivered on December 22, and we thank Bill Hayes for his willingness, once again, to host those plants prior to Show Week. Volunteers will be most welcome to assist with the unloading and orderly placement of plants between 10am and 1pm, the anticipated delivery time.

Once again, thank you very much to Chuck and Bev Ritter for hosting the November meeting. Everyone had a most enjoyable time.

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Camellia-filled New Year.

John Swanson, President

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 the Gainesville Camellia Society Facebook page.

Minutes for GCS Meeting - November 15, 2015

At 2:00 pm, John Swanson, President, welcomed everyone to Chuck and Bev Ritter's home for our November meeting. Because of the educational nature of this meeting, John changed the order of the meeting so that Chuck could give a hands-on demonstration of preparing blooms for show.

An outline of Chuck's demonstration:

- Tools needed: Pruners; Q-Tips to remove dirt; scissors to trim blemishes; a bag of leaves (judging guidelines require that each bloom have at least 1 leaf with the flower); cooler (that is able to be sealed) to transport flowers (put Blue Ice on the bottom); ethylene absorbers.
- Blooms should be placed in floral water tubes with a preservative for transport. Cotton fill may be placed between petals for support during transport. Flowers are sprayed prior to packing with a solution that seals in the moisture. Some blooms may be picked up to a week in advance of a show and kept under refrigeration.
- Fill out show cards prior to bringing flowers to a show so that efforts can be placed on preparing blooms rather than paperwork. Chuck carries completed cards in the same box with the flowers for transport. (Members can pick up cards at the December meeting.)
- Chuck then took members out to his flower workshop to show how he actually processes flowers for a show. He noted that in the past he has brought as many as 240 blooms to a show.



Lauren Tudor



*Lauren Tudor Pink,
a sport of Lauren Tudor*



Edna Bass Variegated

Members returned to the residence for a continuation of the meeting. John Swanson thanked the Ritters for opening their home for this meeting and welcomed new members and visitors, Bart and Bert Maris, Karen Griffen and Richard Eubanks, Sanford Porter, Laura Davis and guest Mary Chourey, Lucille Little.

Charles Simon moved to accept the October minutes as printed in the newsletter; seconded by Bill Hayes and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid

October 2015: Savings Account	\$2,365.05
Checking Account	\$4,669.77
Total Funds	\$7,034.82

2016 CAMELLIA SHOW REPORT - Irma Velez

Jerry Hogsette had sent 38 invitations for judges and has received 9 confirmations.

Irma has 5 Master Gardener volunteers to help with placement and clerking and would like to have 15 total. Bill Hayes passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet for clerks and gave a summary of clerking responsibilities. Clerking usually starts around 10:00 am and usually finishes around noon.

Dinh Swanson has been working on the judges' luncheon and hospitality.

Charles Simon is housing the first group of show camellias. The second group will be delivered mid-December to Bill Hayes' residence. Charles suggested for the 2017 show we take a look at how plants are purchased, delivered and housed prior to the show to improve the operation.

Tables will be delivered around 9:00 am on Friday and volunteers to help with set up should plan to be at Kanapaha around 2:00 pm. Jerry Hogsette will host the judges' dinner at his home Friday evening.

Merry Reid will coordinate the membership/education desk responsibilities.

Everything is on schedule.

PROGRAM REPORT

Joel Schwiebert thanked Chuck and Bev for opening their home and gardens for our meeting.

The December 20th meeting will be our annual Christmas Potluck meeting at Kanapaha Gardens.

The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm for socializing and the meal will be served at 2:00.

GCS will provide the meat dish – the Thrashers will be responsible for ham and the Swansons will bring a turkey. Dolly Warner will be responsible for the tea and water; John Swanson will provide coffee.

Members are requested to bring a side dish, salad or dessert. Alcoholic beverages are permitted.

Don't forget to bring a wrapped gag gift for the gift exchange.

January program: Dr. Denise Debusk, IFAS, on soil pH and fertilization.

February: Jerry Selph on grafting.

March: Jerry Hogsette, insect control.

April: Randolph Maphis, Tallahassee Camellia Society.

NEW BUSINESS

John Swanson reminded members to LIKE the Gainesville Camellia Society Facebook page. If you would like something included on the page, e-mail the information to John for inclusion.

Anna Langford asked members to email her suggestions for articles or pictures for inclusion in the newsletter. John advised that we have permission to include information from the Valdosta society newsletter in our publication. It was also suggested to include mini-member bios each month.

John Swanson asked Merry Reid to distribute a current membership list.

The American Camellia Society Annual Meeting will be held beginning January 19th in Charleston, South Carolina, at the Francis Marion Hotel.

It was suggested that the Gainesville Camellia Society plan another field trip in February, similar to our trip to Masee Lane Gardens earlier this year. Suggestions were Mark Crawford's nursery in Valdosta, the Selphs' gardens or other gardens that we could visit via carpooling rather than leasing a bus. A sign-up sheet for potential participants was circulated and John will begin contacting individuals about a tour. It was suggested we could arrange to meet with other camellia societies while visiting another garden.

Our Town community magazine has contacted John Swanson regarding an article about camellias and our show for their next issue. The magazine is delivered by mail to some homes and local businesses in the area. Be on the lookout for the magazine.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Karen Peeples, Secretary

Another Chance to Visit the Ritters' Garden

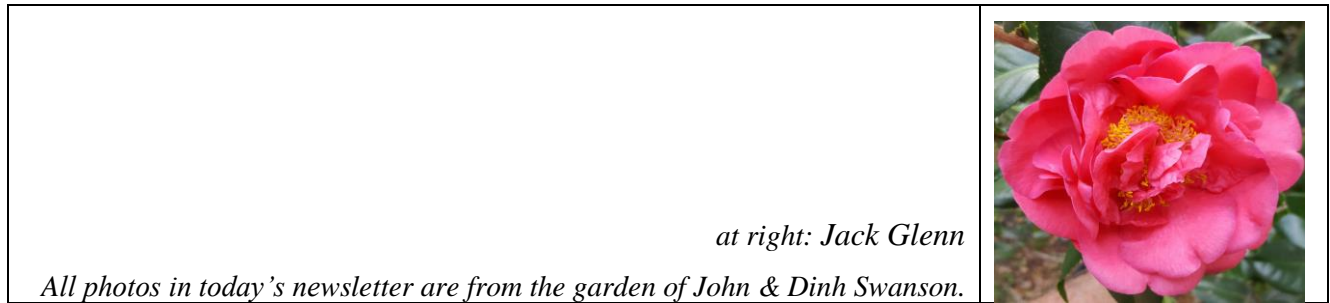
Be sure to mark December 13, 2015, on your calendar as the day to enjoy walking among hundreds of camellia plants in bloom. The Melrose Library Association presents a Camellia Tour as a fundraising event for our future library expansion. The tour will be at the property of Chuck and Bev Ritter, located at 202 Mason Road, Melrose. Mason Rd is 2 miles east of Melrose off State Road 26. Admission will be \$5 at the gate. Camellia plants will be available for purchase!! Think of those hard to buy for folks on your holiday list! On site experts will be available to answer any camellia questions you may have. Desserts will be sold and auction baskets of many themes will be there as well. Please join us for a pleasant day and help raise funds for your library.

2015-16 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society		
<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, December 20 Christmas Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Bruce & Annette Cavey, Tara Gill, Anna & Gerald Langford, Merry Reid, Eleanor & John Thrasher, Inez Valez
Saturday and Sunday January 9-10 GCS Camellia Show	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Hospitality Committee Chair: Dinh Swanson
Sunday, January 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	(volunteers needed)
Sunday, February 21	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, March 13	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Irma Valez Ruth Milton
Sunday, April 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Tara Gill
Sunday, May 15 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher (volunteers needed)

***Schedule of Camellia Shows in the Southeast, 2015-16 Season
(Partial & Tentative List)***

<u>2016</u>	Jan. 9-10	GCS Show, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville, FL
	Jan. 9-10	Tallahassee Show, Tallahassee, FL
	Jan. 16	Camellia Society of Central Florida Show, Winter Park, FL
	Jan. 23	ACS National Show, Citadel Mall, Charleston, SC
	Jan. 30	Ocala Camellia Show, Ocala, FL
	Jan. 30	Lakeland Camellia Show, Lakeland, FL
	Feb. 6	Quitman Garden Club Camellia Show, Quitman, GA
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	Feb. 27-28	Ft. Valley Show at ACS Fetterman Building, Ft. Valley, GA
	Mar. 5	Columbus Show, Columbus, GA

For more complete listings visit the ACCS Website.



at right: Jack Glenn

All photos in today's newsletter are from the garden of John & Dinh Swanson.

Officers

President: John Swanson
 1st VP & Show Chair: Irma Velez
 2nd VP & Program Chair: Joel Schwiebert
 Secretary: Karen Peeples
 Treasurer: Merry Reid

Board Members

Patrick Andrews Ruth Milton
 Bruce Cavey Chuck Ritter
 Jay Ellis Charles Simon
 Bill Hayes Nicki Whittaker
 Jerry Hogsette

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: Joel Schwiebert

Date: Sunday, December 15, 2015, 1pm

Place: GRU Conference Room , Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: Annual Christmas Party

Refreshments Chair: Eleanor Thrasher

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May in the GRU Conference Room at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates or times are posted in this newsletter.



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Volume 39

Editor: Anna Langford

November 2015

President's Message

Wow, it's still warm, humid, and almost like summer. *Sasanquas* are in bloom, along with some *Vernalis* and *Hiemalis*. My Sparkling Burgundy still has some blooms and the Shishi-Gashiras are loaded and quite impressive. Star-Above-Star has also begun to share its beauty. In other words, the season we have been waiting for has arrived, with more wonder and beauty yet to come. I have an Autumn Moon that is blooming for the first time, and although it is still small (an air-layer from Ridaught Nursery near Alachua), it is captivating and loaded with blooms. Yuletide has begun and seems in keeping by letting us know that the Holiday season will soon be with us.



Yuletide



Draagon Fireball



Dautel's Supreme

What should you be doing in November? Continue to control spider mites and scale. Since it has been relatively dry, water your plants. Blooms are about 90% water, so if the plants are too dry your blooms won't hold out for long without ample water in the root system. Also, you should take off any air-layers you have been waiting for and pot them up; perhaps repot some from last year; or put those with well-established root systems in the ground. Putting them in now will give their root systems several months to grow and get well established before warmer temperatures arrive in the Spring.

If you are germinating seeds from the 2015 crop, keep checking them and when they are ready, clip the tap root, dip in rooting powder or liquid solution and put them into small individual pots. A periodic shot of Quick Start in the water will give them a boost. In six or seven years you may be rewarded with many exceptional blooms, or you may have ample grafting stock. Growing camellias from seeds also provides an incentive to live long to see what you get.

We have a special opportunity this month with our meeting being held at the fantastic garden of Chuck and Bev Ritter, near Melrose. Chuck has been a leading grower and shower of camellias for some years as the article in our newsletter indicates. Please come early and walk the garden and jot down names of the outstanding blooms you might want to add to your collection. You can also learn much as Chuck takes us through the process he uses in cutting and preparing his blooms for show.

Special thanks to Charles Simon and Bill Hayes are due. Charles is currently caring for the 150 plants GCS procured from Loch Laurel Nursery until our show date of January 9-10, 2016, and Bill will take care of the over 200 plants that CountyLine Nursery will deliver in December. We much appreciate their help and contribution in-kind of keeping the plants healthy so we can have an outstanding sale and show in January.

Happy Thanksgiving from John and Dinh.

John Swanson, President

2015-16 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society		
<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, November 15	Chuck & Bev Ritter's	Dinh & John Swanson Annette & Joel Schwiebert
Sunday, December 20 Christmas Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Bruce & Annette Cavey, Tara Gill, Anna & Gerald Langford, Merry Reid, Eleanor & John Thrasher, Inez Valez
Saturday and Sunday January 9-10 GCS Camellia Show	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Hospitality Committee Chair: Dinh Swanson (volunteers needed)
Sunday, January 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	(volunteers needed)
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Sunday, April 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Tara Gill
Sunday, May 15 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher (volunteers needed)

Minutes for GCS Meeting - October 11, 2015

John Swanson welcomed members and thanked everyone for their good wishes for Dinh's improved health. Karen Peeples gave a short report on the ACCS convention in Litchfield Beach, South Carolina.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid**

September 2015: Savings Account \$7,169.45
Checking Account \$1,366.84
Total Funds \$9,536.29

August 2015: Savings Account \$7,169.63
Checking Account \$1,284.55
Total Funds \$8,454.18

2016 CAMELLIA SHOW

Publicity has begun for the show. Actual promotional publicity will begin the end of November, beginning December.

Sign-up sheets for those interested in helping during the show will be available at our November and December meetings.

John Swanson and "crew" will be going to Loch Laurel Nursery on Thursday to pick up the first plant order of approximately 155 plants. This cost is about \$1,600. The remaining plants will be delivered by County Line Nursery, Byron, Georgia, in December.

PROGRAM

Our guest speaker was Dr. J. D. Thomerson, Professor at Valdosta State University and secretary of the Valdosta Camellia Society. He prepares the Valdosta newsletter and you can read the newsletter online at <http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/ValdostaCS.html>. Dr. Thomerson was the keynote speaker at the ACCS convention and his presentation "New Camellia Introductions" was our program for the today. A copy of his ACCS presentation is available on the ACCS website under ACCS Fall Convention, Convention Presentations.

Members then broke up into small groups where everyone reviewed how to fill out show cards for bloom entries.

Karen Peeples, Secretary

Another Chance to Visit the Ritters' Garden

As they did last year, the Ritters will open their garden to the public on Dec. 13th, noon to 4pm to benefit the Melrose Public Library. More details in next month's newsletter.

Camellia growers of prominence, Chuck and Bev Ritter

reprinted with permission from "Atlantic Coast Camellias" ,Journal of the ACCS, Vol. LXIII, Sept., 2015., by John and Dinh Swanson. This article is the first of a series and features the Ritters, growers and showers of unprotected (outdoor grown) camellias.

While gleaning the records of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (Lots of great info there, still appropriate and interesting) when reviewing leaders in the show circuit, Chuck and Bev have been at the top for many years, an excellent example of a highly successful partnership. This article describes the process by which they became involved in growing and showing camellias, and might answer, at least partially, the question: How do they do it so well?



Chuck and Bev Ritter moved into their six acres of tall oaks and pines on Lake Rosa, east of Melrose, Florida in 1984. They inherited a few camellias on the property, but it wasn't until 10 years later that they began landscaping -- including the planting of over 1000 camellias which has now reached 1450 plants -- and several hundred other flowering plants/shrubs and fruit bearing trees. Chuck caught "the camellia virus" in January 1998 at the annual GCS Show in Gainesville and has been heavily afflicted ever since. He began grafting one month later, showing in 2002, and judging in 2003. In the 20 years since beginning, they have grafted on over 700 plants. Many were on Kanjiro and Egao root stock, and others on varieties that did less well on the show circuit. If time permits, Chuck hopes to graft on another 200 plants. To care for and manage the plants Chuck spends about 40 hours a week, and has some outside help.

Camellias seemed a perfect match to provide winter color. And given that their property is nearly perfectly suited for their cultivation, Chuck attributes much of his success as a grower to the location, mentioning that his plants have never been hurt by a hard freeze. At worst he has lost a few days of quality blooms. Another contributing factor to success at the shows is having multiple quantities of winning varieties. For example, a partial list includes: 30 Frank Houser Var., 14 Ray Gentry Var., 10 Punkin, and nine Leila Gibson plants. This volume provides Chuck with many blooms from which to select the best, for show.

Chuck's first success at a camellia show was with "Punkin," the best non-retic hybrid in show, and it reminded him how he enjoyed winning.

Chuck had mentors along the way, like Jim Norman, who taught him how to graft and care for difficult to grow (die-back prone) retics and hybrids. The Gordys (Clarence and Lillian), Hulyn Smith, and others provided plant scions and guidance, and Jay Ellis shared his plant care experiences. Jerry and Carol Selph have become great friends and advisors, and countless other nursery people and fellow growers have helped with plants, scions, and shared their wisdom.



When asked their favorite varieties, Chuck identified the following:

Japonicas

Black Magic
 Fircone Var
 Paul Haskee, VeryVar.
 Les Marbury
 Bev Ritter

Retics

Ray Gentry Var.
 Frank Houser Var.
 Linda Carol
 Lady Ruth Ritter
 Pleasant Memories

Hybrid

Punkin
 Julia
 Phil Piet
 Spring Daze
 Tom Perkins

White

Leila Gibson

At left: This bloom of Bev Ritter has potential

Chuck shared the practices (below) he uses that might be of help to others wanting to show more flowers. The activities of pruning, dis-budding, and gibbing are closely coordinated and interrelated.

Pruning. Chuck begins shortly after blooms are finished and continues heavy pruning nearly all year long. He does prune retics, too, and advises to make sure to use a wound sealer, spray, or paint on them to avoid die-back. I can add that if "cats" wished, they could make it through the Ritters' camellia plants with clear sailing.

Dis-budding. Chuck dis-buds pretty heavily and continues to monitor bud-set throughout the blooming season.

Gibbing: Gibbing every 7-10 days begins sometimes in late July and early August and ends in late December. He usually gibs two buds on one plant per week. Chuck prefers to gib the growth bud under the flower bud so as not to gib directly on the flower bud that might result in burning. He uses a standard gib mixture with a thickening gel to facilitate application.



At right: Chuck checks on a bloom.

Fertilizing: The Ritter plants are fertilized three times per year. On April 1st, (2000 lbs of 12-4-8), June 1st, (2000 lbs. of 12-4-8), and August 15th, (2000 lbs of 5-10-15). The oaks and pines add nitrogen and other elements and over the past 20 years they have added over 750 yards of pine bark mulch to the camellia beds. Soil tests in 2013 indicated the need for liming and other supplements, so Florida Dolomite and some 18-46-0 were applied in 2014.

Irrigation: The Ritters' irrigation system ensures that the camellias get at least an inch of water per week.

Source of plants: From nurseries and other growers and showers.



Bloom prep for a show: Begin cutting blooms on the weekend prior to the show. Try to cut in early morning on hot days.

Dry with a fan and Q-tips to make sure the center is very dry. Spray blooms with “Clear Life” which locks in moisture in petals.

After blooms dry, stems are placed in water (with preservative) and stored in the fridge at 39 degrees in airtight containers that contain ethylene tablets (one per bloom) to absorb gases that would decrease the life span of the blooms.

When transporting blooms to the show, keep them in coolers until you are preparing them for actual entry in the show.

At left: Strictly for blooms.

Advice to beginners:

1. Use Richard Buggeln’s bloom rankings of the top 112 show winners from the ACCS website as a guide for plants to add to your collection. Purchase those you can from nurseries, and others can be acquired through grafting scions onto grafting stock. Grafting stock can also be obtained from nurseries or fellow camellia growers.
2. Larger plants will produce better blooms quicker, so purchase 3-5 gallon plants when practical and available. Avoid 1 gallon plants unless you have lots of time - many will die. It takes an air-layer at least 3-5 years to attain the maturity of a 3-5 gallon plant.
3. Use Kanjiro, Egao, and/or Kumagai (Nagoya) as grafting stock. Plant them and use them for grafting two years later.
4. It is not necessary to have large acreage in camellias to do well at shows. Many show winners have done well with 100-150 plants on one-third acre. Having carefully selected and cared for quality plants can result in success at the shows.

The Ritters are active as well as Board members of the Gainesville Camellia Society and the ACCS. They are also members of the American and the International Camellia Societies. Chuck has registered six camellia varieties with the ACS.

Chuck and Bev get much pride and joy from the many friendships they have developed while actively participating in the Annual ACCS meetings in September. It amazes them to know that the members and guest attendees all share a special love for camellias and that they also share in wanting it to last as long as possible.

Gulf Coast Camellia Society Annual Meeting - October 2015

On Oct. 19-20, we journeyed to our first Gulf Coast Camellia Society meeting, held in Bay St Louis, MS. We are regulars at the ACCS meetings, but missed it this year due to medical issues. We joined the GCCS initially to get their quarterly journal, but also because we've met several "westerners" at previous ACS meetings and also on the International Camellia Society (ICS) Congress in Portugal and Spain in 2014, and we enjoyed their company.

We rolled in at about 1:30 and off-loaded some plants we had planned to bring to ACCS, but the GCCS group was glad to have them, too. We registered, visited with some acquaintances and made new ones.

A reception and dinner followed, and then the fun began with Auction #1. Dinh thought she was home at last. She enjoyed bidding and coaxing others to bid and they did. Of course we could not leave empty handed. There was concurrently a silent auction with a mix of rare camellia books and other useful and "can't do without" artifacts. Don't ask!

Tuesday morning there was a light breakfast, a short business meeting followed by Mimosas and Bloody Marys. Apparently they were to loosen us up for Auction #2. Again a good time was had by all and more plants were acquired. Lunch followed and then there were a series of educational sessions including Florence Crowder, U.S. coordinator for the ICS, Jim Campbell and Celeste Richard of the ACS and an excellent session on caring for plants.

The finale was a Banquet with Buddy Lee of Encore plants from Louisiana. The food, the service, and the speaker were excellent. We made new camellia friends and had a great time. We recommend attending this meeting to others in search of something new.

John and Dinh Swanson

***Schedule of Camellia Shows in the Southeast, 2015-16 Season
(Partial & Tentative List)***

<u>2015</u>	Nov. 14	Middle Georgia Camellia Show, Byron, GA
	Dec. 12	Pensacola Show, Pensacola, FL
<u>2016</u>	Jan. 9-10	GCS Show, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville, FL
	Jan. 9-10	Tallahassee Show, Tallahassee, FL
	Jan. 16	Camellia Society of Central Florida Show, Winter Park, FL
	Jan. 23	ACS National Show, Citadel Mall, Charleston, SC
	Jan. 30	Ocala Camellia Show, Ocala, FL
	Jan. 30	Lakeland Camellia Show, Lakeland, FL
	Feb. 6	Quitman Garden Club Camellia Show, Quitman, GA
	Feb. 13	Dothan Show, Dothan, AL; Thomasville Show, Thomasville, GA
	Feb. 20-21	Atlanta Show, Atlanta, GA
	Feb. 27-28	Ft. Valley Show at ACS Fetterman Building, Ft. Valley, GA
	Mar. 5	Columbus Show, Columbus, GA
	For more complete listings visit the ACCS Website.	

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 Treasurer: Merry Reid

Board Members

Patrick Andrews Ruth Milton
 Bruce Cavey Chuck Ritter
 Jay Ellis Charles Simon
 Bill Hayes Nicki Whittaker
 Jerry Hogsette

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: *Joel Schwiebert*

Date: Sunday, November 15, 2015, 2pm

Place: Home of Bev & Chuck Ritter, 220 Mason Road, Melrose, FL

Directions: Take SR 26 East from Gainesville. From the junction of SR 26 and SR 21, continue east on SR 26 about 2 1/2 miles to Mason Road. Turn right (south) on Mason, then as it bends east, continue to # 220 on the north side (left).

Program: "Feeding Your Camelias: Knowing What Your Soil Needs"

presented by: Denise DeBusk, DPM (Doctorate in Plant Medicine), BCE (Board Certified Entomologist), Environmental and Community Horticulture Extension Agent for UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County

Refreshments Chair: *Eleanor Thrasher*

Refreshments for this meeting will be provided by:

Dinh & John Swanson and Annette & Joel Schwiebert

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May in the GRU Conference Room at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates or times are posted in this newsletter. (Note that this month's meeting will be held at the home of members, not at Kanapaha.)



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Volume 38

Editor: Anna Langford

October 2015

President's Message

First, I thank all who have expressed concern and well-wishes to Dinh on her recent hospitalization. She is home, making progress in her recovery, and — hopefully — will be at the meeting on Sunday. Your kindnesses are helpful and appreciated.

Early reports from GCS members in attendance indicate that the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS) Meetings in South Carolina were successful and fun.

We have received word from the camellia nurseries from which we ordered plants that nearly all of our orders will be provided. For those of you who requested plants not included in the initial orders, your requests have been sent and are now included in our orders. We expect to have the Loch Laurel plants in the Gainesville area later on this month, and the County Line plants delivered in December.

In the garden, it is time to continue disbudding and gibbing. Also, now that the cooler weather is with us, if you have plants in pots ready to put in the ground, October is a good month to get it done. Camellia root development occurs more heavily in the Fall, Winter, and cooler months of Spring, so planting now helps your new plants get off to a good start.

Air-layers can also be cut now and potted up. I cut some this past week and they look well rooted. Some growers plant their air-layers directly in the soil, but I prefer to have a year of root growth in a pot prior to putting them out.

With rains tapering off, it is time to watch out for spider mite damage. This shows up as damage of the midrib of the leaves turning gray or brown. It's time to spray with

horticultural oil and a miticide, being sure to get both tops and undersides of the leaves. Also, make sure your mulch is protecting the root area so they don't dry out.

We have a great speaker with us this month, Dr. J. D. Thomerson from Valdosta, GA. He is very knowledgeable about camellia breeding, and about the many legendary breeders who have given us so many beautiful camellias we all enjoy. I am so glad he has agreed to join us for our program.

Looking ahead, the Gulf Coast Camellia Society (GCCS) will have its annual meeting at Hollywood Casino in Mississippi on the 19th and 20th of October. They, like the ACCS, have a great group of members and publish an excellent quarterly journal.

Now is a good time to register for the ACS (American Camellia Society) annual meeting to be held in Charleston in January. Go to the ACS website for details.

We are most fortunate to have Chuck and Bev Ritter host our November 15th meeting. Make sure to put it on your calendar. You will be much impressed with their outstanding camellia garden.

It is great to be back in Camellia Season.

John Swanson, President



A beautiful example of the cultivar "Sparkling Burgundy"

Minutes for GCS Meeting - September 21, 2015

Irma Velez opened the meeting at 2pm. She explained that she is filling in for John Swanson, whose wife Dinh has been ill and is still in the hospital. According to their daughter, Dinh is doing better and hopes to return home soon.

Irma mentioned the GCS Board meeting conclusions that were printed in the September newsletter and asked for any questions, but there were none.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Merry Reid gave the Treasurer's Report. (Unfortunately, the sums she reported were not recorded and are unavailable for these minutes.)

There were no corrections to the minutes of the May 2015 meeting, as published in the September newsletter. Bill Hayes moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Bruce Cavey, and approved by members unanimously.

REPORT ON GCS CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 9 & 10, 2016
Irma Velez, Show Chair

Irma noted that 35 tables for the show have been reserved, and Merry will pay for these. Due to the conflicting Tallahassee Show being held on the same weekend, fewer participants are expected at our show, and fewer tables were ordered than usual.

Orders have been placed with Loch Laurel and County Line Nurseries. John Swanson will send out a list of plants ordered, and members should contact him to reserve plants they wish to purchase. If anyone would like to purchase varieties not on the list, let John know, and he may be able to order these. He has ordered 100 more plants than we sold last year, and Jerry Hogsette will contribute some additional plants. The list of plants will also be available at the next meeting.

Most positions have been filled, but volunteers are still needed in several areas. Dinh Swanson, who is in charge of Hospitality, will need helpers. Bill Hays, in charge of Clerks, will need volunteers. There is a need for people to rotate in covering the Membership/Education table and for Plant Sales.

On Friday before the show, people are needed to assist in setting up for the show, and Jerry and Harriet Hogsette will host a post-set-up potluck gathering at their house. Irma urged everyone, especially new members, to plan on volunteering.

Karen Peoples will handle publicity for the show. Irma suggested that we should all post fliers at local businesses, etc., to increase visibility.

NEW BUSINESS

Irma announced that Kanapaha sent us a letter of thanks for our contribution earlier this year. The money GCS donates is earmarked to cover the costs of fertilizer and mulch for the Camellia and Azalea Garden.

Joel Schwiebert, who is in charge of speakers this year, said that he would like to have someone speak on how to prepare a show card, and asked for suggestions.

Eleanor Thrasher, Hospitality Chair, passed around a sign-up sheet for people to indicate willingness to provide refreshments for meetings for the remainder of 2015/2016, including volunteers to host individual tables at our Christmas party. Today's refreshments were provided by Eleanor and John Thrasher and Anna and Gerald Langford.

John Swanson donated 23 small bottles of gibberellic acid for anyone who would like to try gibbing. There will be a demonstration in the Camellia Garden of the technique after today's speaker.

Jay Ellis brought in half a dozen beautiful blooms today and offered them to anyone who would like to take them. Ruth Milton also donated a stack of old ACS journals to anyone who wants them.

As we came into the meeting today, each person was encouraged to pick up a raffle ticket. Joel Schwiebert pulled the winning stub and presented a "High Fragrance" plant to Carter Wittman.

John Swanson sent three camellias which were auctioned successfully.

Our speaker today was Henry Sheldon, who presented a slide show of his photographs and discussed the Seasons of Florida. Joel Schwiebert presented the speaker with a "Royal Velvet" plant as a token of the Society's appreciation.

Anna Langford for Karen Peeples, Secretary

A Reminder from the Treasurer

With the beginning of the new Gainesville Camellia Society year, it's time to pay annual dues: \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please see Merry Reid at the meeting.

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 the Gainesville Camellia Society Facebook page.

2015-16 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society		
<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, October 11	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jay & Debbie Ellis Bill Hayes
Sunday, November 15	Chuck & Bev Ritter's	Dinh & John Swanson Annette & Joel Schwiebert
Sunday, December 20 Christmas Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Bruce & Annette Cavey, Tara Gill, Anna & Gerald Langford, Merry Reid, Eleanor & John Thrasher, Inez Valez
Saturday and Sunday January 9-10 GCS Camellia Show	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Hospitality Committee Chair: Dinh Swanson (volunteers needed)
Sunday, January 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	(volunteers needed)
Sunday, February 21	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, March 13	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Irma Valez Ruth Milton
Sunday, April 17	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Tara Gill
Sunday, May 15 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher (volunteers needed)

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS) Fall Convention

On September 18th and 19th I attended the ACCS Fall Convention in Litchfield Beach, SC, along with 100+ exceptionally friendly camellia enthusiasts. Considering I have only 15 camellias, other guests made me feel right at home with growers who had hundreds of plants and acres of land.

Friday night was a welcome BBQ in a clubhouse with wonderful views of the ocean. Chuck and Bev Ritter provided camellia blooms for each table and everyone commented on having such beautiful flowers so early in the season. Saturday was the ACCS auction, and the Whittakers and Ritters came home with treasures.

The afternoon lectures on “Camellia Viruses” by Dr. Simon Scott from Clemson University and “Everything I have learned about growing camellias, I found out by accident” by Randolph Maphis of Tallahassee were most informative. J. D. Thomerson was the guest speaker at dinner and presented “New Camellias with Pictures and Commentary”. His presentation provided a nice history of local camellia growers for a newbie such as me. This is one convention I would highly recommend.

Karen Peebles

Schedule of Camellia Shows in the Southeast, 2015-16 Season (Partial & Tentative List)

<u>2015</u>	Oct. 17-18	Georgia National Fair, Perry, GA
	Oct. 19-20	Gulf Coast Camellia Society, Hollywood Casino, MS
	Nov. 14	Middle Georgia Camellia Show, Byron, GA
	Dec. 12	Pensacola Show, Pensacola, FL
<u>2016</u>	Jan. 9-10	GCS Show, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville, FL
	Jan. 9-10	Tallahassee Show, Tallahassee, FL
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 Bruce Cavey Chuck Ritter
 Jay Ellis Charles Simon
 Bill Hayes Nicki Whittaker
 Jerry Hogsette

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: *Joel Schwiebert*

Date: Sunday, October 11, 2015, 2pm

Place: GRU Conference Room at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: "New Camellia Introductions"
 presented by J.D. Thomerson, PhD, from Valdosta GA

Refreshments Chair: *Eleanor Thrasher*

Refreshments for this meeting will be provided by:
 Jay and Debbie Ellis and Bill Hayes

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May in the GRU Conference Room at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates or times are posted in this newsletter. (Note that this month's meeting takes place on the second Sunday of October.)



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Volume 37

Editor: Anna Langford

September 2015

President's Message

Welcome back to Active Camellia Season. Summer is nearly gone, the flower buds are set, growing, and getting ready to share their beauty. Now is the time to Gib for early shows and/or for home use and sharing. Seed pods are beginning to open and shed their seeds to create new plants. Disbudding is underway where needed. So much is happening, there is something new every morning when I go out to check out the changes.

I am a seed saver and grower. I just put around 50 seeds from over a dozen camellia varieties in damp sphagnum moss to germinate. When they germinate I will trim the tap root and put them in small pots. I label them using the name of the female parent seed producer. Sometimes the new plants are like the parent seed producer, but often they show different characteristics — some from the seed parent, and some from the pollen parent (that requires pollinators like bees). You might get junk plants or maybe something exceptional. Try it!

Regional camellia groups — the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS), and the Gulf Coast Camellia Society (GCCS) — meet this and next month. The ACCS has a great website that is loaded with information and historical articles of great assistance to beginners and seasoned veterans alike. Google them and see for yourself.

The American Camellia Society (ACS) national convention is coming up in January in Charleston, SC, so consider going to that fun and educational event. The International Camellia Society has its biannual Congress in Dali, China, in February, so if that interests you, start planning now.

GCS has had a Facebook Page up and running since shortly after our May meeting. Please go there and explore it, comment, and offer suggestions on improvements and items to include and share. Hopefully, a number of folks who "Liked" our site will come and join us and learn more about all the beautiful camellias.

The GCS Show is set for January 9-10 at Kanapaha Gardens. Make sure to mark your calendars and be ready to bring blooms to show, and to help set-up and take down the tables, etc. Plants for purchase have been ordered, again from County Line Nursery in Byron, GA, and Loch Laurel

Nursery in Valdosta, GA. Lists of plants ordered will be available at the September meeting, and members will have first pick and can indicate their preference for early procurement.

There will be a wealth of activities related to camellias in the year ahead. I am excited about sharing them with you.

John Swanson, President

What to do in September in the Camellia Garden

Collect seeds from pods or from the ground if scattered. Plant them immediately in moss or in pot. See President's message for slightly more details.

Check leaves for spider mites and scale insect damage or presence and treat with oil spray and a miticide about a month apart once the weather cools a bit.

Start gibbing (using gibberellic acid) now for earlier and larger blooms. How to apply gib will be covered at the meeting this month. Gib a couple of buds per week on a mature plant.

Disbudding promotes larger blooms. Never leave two buds side by side. Some growers remove all lateral buds, leaving only the terminal bud on each limb. Another approach is to leave smaller later buds on, but spaced so that the blooming season is extended. For home enjoyment, this approach has some merit.

Water is the key component in the blooms, so as the buds mature, make sure your plants are getting adequate water to fill out the blooms.

John Swanson

A Reminder from the Treasurer

With the beginning of the new Gainesville Camellia Society year, it's time to pay annual dues: \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please see Merry Reid at the meeting.

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Minutes for GCS Meeting - May 17, 2015

Patrick Andrews welcomed everyone to our yearend picnic and thanked members for the delicious food which was brought. He thanked Tara Gill and Blue Gill Quality Foods catering for providing the entrée portion of our meal without charge.

There were no additions or corrections to the April meeting minutes published in the newsletter. Bill Hayes moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Paul Warner. Minutes approved.

- Treasurer's Report – Merry Reid
 - Savings Account - \$1,669.25
 - Checking Account - \$7,731.84
 - Total Funds - \$9,401.09

The Gainesville Camellia Society's Facebook page has been set up by Annette Cavey. Members are invited to "like" our page and are welcome to post camellia-related items.

Charles Simon presented the Camellia Poster book that was created by his son, Michael for use at the plant sale during the annual camellia show. There are over 190 entries in the book showing large color photographs of the flowers and a short description. Members expressed their appreciation to Charles and Michael for their work on this project.

Patrick Andrews presided over the installation of new officers and members of the Board of Directors. He took this opportunity to express his appreciation for the support of members during his 2 years of presidency and thank everyone for the hard work that is done on behalf of the Gainesville Camellia Society. Patrick also gave a short report on the American Camellia Society Strategic Planning Committee meeting he recently attended.

John Swanson noted that there are two months of the 2015-2016 GCS calendar (October 2015 and March 2016) where our regular meeting dates will have to be adjusted. Patrick Andrews suggested the date changes be discussed at the summer Board of Directors meeting.

John Swanson brought a variety of plants for a free giveaway and there was one plant for auction.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch and then reopened for additional new business.

A special thank you was extended to the members who provided table decorations for today's lunch: Irma Velez, Anna Langford, Dinh Swanson, Tara Gill, Eleanor Thrasher and Merry Reid.

Merry Reid moved that the Gainesville Camellia Society contribute \$500 to the American Camellia Society and \$500 to Kanapaha Gardens for upkeep of our camellia garden at Kanapaha. Motion seconded by Bob Weidman. After discussion, Merry Reid amended her motion to clarify that the \$500 donation to ACS was to be used for the upkeep of Masee Lane Gardens. Amended motion seconded and approved.

John Swanson, as the new president, thanked Patrick Andrews for his leadership of the Gainesville Camellia Society for the past 2 years as president.

Irma Velez wanted members to know that during the summer months, garden maintenance by GCS members would begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Karen Peeples, Secretary

Summary of Conclusions from GCS Board Meeting, June 6, 2015

Members present: Irma Velez, Joel Schwiebert, Merry Reid, Jerry Hogsette, Bruce Cavey, Charles Simon, Nicki Whittaker, Bill Hayes. **Absent:** Patrick Andrews, Chuck Ritter (who was ill), Karen Peeples and Jay Ellis could not come but sent comments that were shared.

Programs/ Speakers Joel Schwiebert presented a list of possible speakers/programs. It was agreed that the September meeting will have Henry Sheldon speak on "Seasonal Native Plants and Their Value", followed by a Gibbing demonstration in the Kanapaha Camellia Garden. For October, J.D. Thomerson, PhD, of Valdosta will discuss camellia plant breeding and share his knowledge of some of the giants among camellia breeders. November will focus on preparation of blooms for show and will take place at the garden of Chuck and Bev Ritter. The program will also cover pruning, disbudding and gibbing, the Ritter way. This is a great opportunity to see an outstanding camellia garden. December will be our special Christmas Pot Luck dinner and gag gift exchange. It is always fun, the food great, and a good time to celebrate Camellia Season. January includes the GCS Show on January 9-10 at Kanapaha. The January meeting topic is not yet filled, but will likely include camellia fertilizer requirements and application. February plans include a grafting demonstration, with a chance to participate. Jerry and Carol Selph have agreed to show the Selph method (which worked well for me this present year.) In March, Jerry Hogsette will share "Problem Insect Identification and Control". The April program is open at this date, but will be selected soon. May is our annual End of Season Pot Luck Picnic at Kanapaha. Expect great food and fellowship.

2016 Show Status Show Chair Irma Velez discussed the composition of the Show Committee and opportunities to serve. Jerry Hogsette will serve as contact with potential judges, Dinh Swanson will serve as Hospitality leader, and a team of Charles Simon, Bill Hayes, and John Swanson will work on plant procurement and will place orders with County Line and Loch Laurel Nurseries in Georgia. The show schedule will be placed on the ACS and ACCS Websites. Karen Peeples suggested a budget for advertising the show, and it was agreed that this was a good idea. Karen will again serve as PR chairperson. Irma will contact members to fill other positions.

Ideas to spice up the GCS Newsletter Ideas were sought for inclusion in the newsletters. More pictures of camellia blooms, meetings, and history, such as our October speaker, Dr. J.D. Thomerson uses in the Valdosta Newsletter were suggested and agreed on. Charles Simon suggested that short human interest articles or mini bios on members of GCS would be of interest.

GCS Facebook Page Annette Cavey has set up a Facebook page and it is now operational. Check it out while on Facebook. Search for "Gainesville Camellia Society". We already have quite a few "Likes" and have had numerous postings. Member help on what to include on the page will be most helpful. Short activity descriptions have been posted and pictures of plants and things like disbudding. Meeting schedules are put on the page and information on the Show will appear regularly. Monthly "To do in the camellia garden" lists will also be posted. Topics like seed collection, use of clothes pins and other techniques will be put on the page as suggested by Karen Peeples.

Future Events of Interest John Swanson touched briefly on the following events.

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS) has its Annual Meeting at Litchfield Beach, SC, on September 18-19. Google the ACCS web site and be prepared for a wealth of helpful and interesting information.

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society (GCCS) has its annual meeting at Hollywood Casino, St. Louis Bay, Mississippi, on October 19-20.

(ACCS and GCCS have members from organizations like GCS and offer a good opportunity to meet other like-minded camellia fans and provide a chance to tour other camellia growing areas.)

The American Camellia Society (ACS) has its annual meeting/convention in Charleston, SC, on January 21-23. ACS meetings offer a chance to learn more about camellias, meet lots of other interested Camellians, and tour some of this country's first outdoor camellia gardens, which were established in the 1800s. The ACS website also contains a host of useful information.

The International Camellia Society (ICS) has its biannual convention on February 18-26, 2016, in Dali, China. This provides a chance to meet global camellia growers and to see the home of many camellias, *reticulatas* in particular. Here is a chance to explore a different part of the world and enjoy the camellias along the way. The ICS also has a website with more information.

Other comments received and discussed

Jay Ellis made several suggestions: 1. Include an "unprotected-Hybrid" category in our show schedule. This was agreed on. 2. GCS prize awards should be \$25 rather than \$20. This was not passed by the board, but will be brought back up at a general meeting for consideration. 3. The newsletter should include show reports from the GCS and other shows in the region. Agreed. 4. Credit donors of plants for auction by listing the plant donated and the price received.

A possible trip to the "Gordy" Garden in Ocala was discussed and agreed on as a good idea for a field trip like that to Masee Lane earlier this year. Other possible sites to visit would be Christine's Garden near Quitman, GA. (Jerry and Carol Selph's), or Loch Laurel Nursery in Valdosta. These options can be discussed at the general meetings.

2015-16 Schedule of Meetings of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Sunday, September 20

Sunday, October 11

Sunday, November 15 at Chuck & Bev Ritter's

Sunday, December 20 Christmas Party

Saturday and Sunday, January 9-10 GCS Show at Kanapaha

Sunday, January 17

Sunday, February 21

Sunday, March 13

Sunday, April 17

Sunday, May 15 End-of-year Party

Mrs. Lillian Gordy

Sadly, a key figure in Camellia growing, showing, judging, and registration has left us. Mrs. Lillian Gordy of Ocala passed away early this month. The Gordys, Lillian and her late husband Clarence (best known as "Gordy") produced, grew, and registered a large number of camellias, and their camellia garden is well known by camellia lovers all over the U.S. and beyond. The camellia, *Miss Lillian*, is named to honor her. She will be missed and our thoughts and best wishes go out to the family. Gordy and now Lillian are gone but their legacy endures through the beautiful camellias they shared with us.



***Schedule of Camellia Shows in the Southeast, 2015-16 Season
(Partial & Tentative List)***

<u>2015</u>	Oct. 17-18	Georgia National Fair, Perry, GA
	Nov. 14	Middle Georgia Camellia Show, Byron, GA
	Dec. 12	Pensacola Show, Pensacola, FL
<u>2016</u>	Jan. 9-10	GCS Show, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville, FL
	Jan. 9-10	Tallahassee Show, Tallahassee, FL
	Jan. 16	Camellia Society of Central Florida Show, Winter Park, FL
	Jan. 23	ACS National Show, Citadel Mall, Charleston, SC
	Jan. 30	Ocala Camellia Show, Ocala, FL
	Jan. 30	Lakeland Camellia Show, Lakeland, FL
	Feb. 6	Quitman Garden Club Camellia Show, Quitman, GA
	Feb. 13	Dothan Show, Dothan, AL
	Feb. 20-21	Atlanta Show, Atlanta, GA
	Feb. 27-28	Ft. Valley Show at ACS Fetterman Building, Ft. Valley, GA
Mar. 5	Columbus Show, Columbus, GA	

For more complete listings visit the ACCS Website.

Gainesville Camellia Society wishes to extend a heartfelt *Thank You!* to Tara Gill, who supplied the meat and other delicious dishes for our May picnic.

Officers

President: John Swanson
 1st VP & Show Chair: Irma Velez
 2nd VP & Program Chair: Joel Schwiebert
 Secretary: Karen Peeples
 Treasurer: Merry Reid

Board Members

Patrick Andrews Ruth Milton
 Bruce Cavey Chuck Ritter
 Jay Ellis Charles Simon
 Bill Hayes Nicki Whittaker
 Jerry Hogsette

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: Joel Schwiebert

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2015, 2pm

Place: GRU Conference Room at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: "The Seasons of Florida" - Speaker Henry Sheldon

followed by a short video on disbudding and gibbing and demonstration in the Kanapaha Camellia Garden. Gibberellic acid will be available for those who bring a small container. Something New! A free *Mystery Plant Raffle*. This might be a camellia, Japanese maple, cycad, ginger, or who knows? Pick up a raffle ticket when you get your name tag.

Refreshments Chair: Eleanor Thrasher

Refreshments for this meeting will be provided by Eleanor & John Thrasher and by Anna & Gerald Langford

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May in the GRU Conference Room at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates or times are posted in this newsletter.