



# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

*Volume 53*

*Editor: Anna Langford*

*May 2017*

## *President's Message*

It has been hot and very dry, so the top priority is keeping plants, particularly recently planted ones, well watered. With the heat come the spider mites. Spray with horticultural oil (with some Orthene added if you can), but be sure to do it late in the day so the sun does not shine on it until it has dried. The spraying should be on both the top and underside of leaves, and this will take care of tea scale as well as mites.

Congratulations are due to all of us in GCS for the award presented to us on April 26th by the City of Gainesville for helping educate the public and helping to beautify the city. Especially recognized was the close working relationship GCS has with Kanapaha Botanical Gardens and the Master Gardener Program managed by IFAS. You can see the award at the May meeting, after which it will be hung in a prominent position at the Kanapaha building where we hold our meetings. We thank Alexis Caffrey of Kanapaha and Dr. Denise Debusk of IFAS for their cooperatin and especially thank our own Irma Velez for leading the many activities that led to the award.



*Tama Beauty*



*Clown*

Our air layering program has begun with a trip once again to the gardens of Jerome and Reba Ridaught near Alachua. Setting up planned trips to the home of Jay and Debbie Ellis, Jerry Hogsette, and the Swansons will take place at the May meeting.

We thank Greg Young for his excellent presentation at the April meeting on how we can successfully carry out our work in the garden without receiving physical injury. It was an interesting and helpful presentation.

We now have the dates for the Fall meeting of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society (ACCS) at Litchfield Beach, SC. So if you plan to go, set aside Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15-16 for the fun event, and then try to scurry back for the GCS meeting that Sunday.

I hope those of you that did some grafting this past season had success and that the new growth is surviving the heat. My success, particularly in pots, declined, but the saw-cut method demonstrated by Hawser Pearce again went well. We can have some discussion on this topic in the year ahead.



*Sweetie Pie*



*William Penn*

Remember that May is a special month as it is just before we break for the Summer. We start our celebration and great food at 1:00 p.m. for a social hour and then will eat our meal and have the installation of new officers and a short meeting thereafter.

This will be my final newsletter, as the responsibilities of the President will shift to Jerry Hogsette. I intend to stay actively involved in advancing the goals of GCS, and I thank all of you for assisting me to make the past two years enjoyable and successful.

***John Swanson, President***

***2017 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society***

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, May 21 - End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Please bring a side dish, appetizer, or dessert to share. Also bring wine or beer if you wish. Socializing will begin at 1pm and we will eat at 2pm, with a short meeting afterwards.
		Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher Dinh & John Swanson Debbie & Jay Ellis Annette & Joel Schwiebert Anna & Gerald Langford Tara Gill Olga Tchigrinova



**Minutes for GCS Meeting - April 9, 2017**

John Swanson opened the April meeting by welcoming members and introducing a new member, Mona Rippe, who received a free camellia for joining. He also thanked Charles Simon and Diane Simon (who was unable to attend today) for providing refreshments for today's meeting.

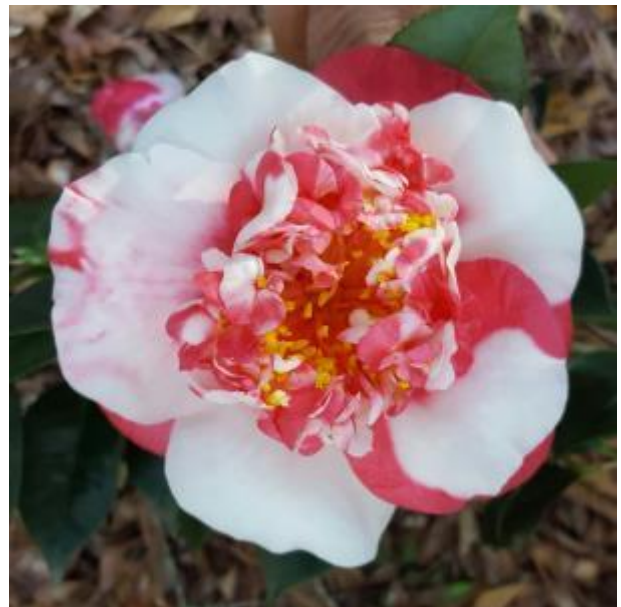
Bruce Cavey introduced our guest speaker, Greg Young, who is a massage therapist from 807 Wellness Group. He spoke on body mechanics in gardening and working smarter in the garden. He included helpful hints on how to reduce the potential for injury while working in the garden.

John Swanson then called to order the regular GCS business meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as published in the newsletter. The minutes were approved as published.

**TREASURER'S REPORT –**

Karen Peeples for Merry Reid

- Savings Account - \$9,539.62
- Checking Account - \$2,044.28
- Total Funds - \$11,583.90
- Charles Simon noted that we have only ten plants remaining to be sold from the January show, five of which he brought for today's auction. The plant sales for the show are now in the black.
- The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.



*Gigantea*

## OLD BUSINESS

Air layering at the Ridaughts' will be held April 13th at 9:00 a.m. John will set future times for air layering at the Ellises', Hogsettes' and the Swansons' and let members know. There would be one opportunity per week. Charles Simon suggested that individuals doing air layering add a few extra and donate them to the January plant sale. The air layers that Jerry Hogsette donated to this year's show sold very well.

John Swanson reminded members that the installation of officers and Board members will take place during the May meeting. John called for a vote to officially elect the slate of officers and board members as approved in the February meeting. The nominees for 2017-2018 are: President – Jerry Hogsette; 1st Vice President (Show Chairman) – Bruce Cavey; 2nd Vice President (Program Chairman) – Hawser Pearce; Secretary – Karen Peeples; Treasurer – Merry Reid; Newsletter Editor – Anna Langford; Board Members – Patrick Andrews, Jay Ellis, Bill Hayes, Chuck Ritter, Joel Schwiebert, Charles Simon, Irma Velez, Ken Wagner, and Nicki Whittaker. The slate of officers and board members was unanimously elected by voice vote. There was a discussion on the extended 3 month election process and members recommended the Board take a look at the bylaws governing the election process at their next meeting.



*Sawada's Mahogany*

The City of Gainesville  
Beautification Board Award  
Ceremony will be Wednesday, April  
26th at the Thomas Center.  
Attendees will be John Swanson,  
Irma Velez, Jerry Hogsette, Alexis  
Caffrey from Kanapaha Gardens,  
and Denise DeBusk, Alachua  
County Environmental &  
Community Horticulture Extension  
Agent

## NEW BUSINESS

The Mentors-On-Call list is available to members with questions about camellias. The list is available from John Swanson. He will also put it on line. Charles Simon suggested that the list be included in our regular newsletter. Anna Langford said she will look into including it in the newsletter.

The May GCS meeting will be our annual Spring Potluck. GCS will provide the meat course with members bringing side dishes, desserts and wine/cold drinks. The Swansons and Langfords will be responsible for bringing the meat dishes. Table hosts have been assigned and everything has been taken care of.

Congratulations to Ruth Melton, a long time camellia enthusiast and GCS member, on celebrating her 90th birthday last week.

Gerald and Anna Langford brought in fresh grapefruit and tangerines to share with members.

## CALENDAR

**April 26th** – City of Gainesville Beautification Board Award Ceremony at the Thomas Center.

**May 21st** – Annual Potluck meeting and installation of officers and Board members. The potluck will begin at 1:00 o'clock with a time of socializing, followed by lunch and a short business meeting.

The meeting closed with our regular plant auction.



*Wendy*

*Karen Peeples, Secretary*

### ***Gainesville Camellia Society Mentors-on-Call List***

If you have questions or problems with your camellias,  
you can call one of our members for help.

John Swanson (352) 762-2644

Jerry Hogsette (352) 328-6839

Bill Hayes (352) 222-4110

Bruce Cavey (352) 652-3273

Irma Velez (352) 316-3262

Patrick Andrews (352) 895-8762

Joel Schwiebert (352) 278-1770

Jay Ellis (352) 473-3453

Richard Mohr (904) 472-5245

Chuck Ritter (352) 475-3332

John Thrasher (352) 234-7373

Gerald Langford (386) 462-5876

### ***2017 Camellia Nomenclature***

The new 2017 Southern California Camellia Society *Nomenclature* is now available through Amazon. The price is \$20 each. If you order two or more there is no shipping! Printing is done in Charleston, so shipping should be very prompt. An electronic version of the 2017 SCCS Nomenclature will soon be available. We are also working on an electronic version with links to over 2400 pictures. Order your copies now.

### ***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 GCS Facebook page.

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

***Board Members***

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

***Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society***

***Program Chair:*** Bruce Cavey

***Date:*** Sunday, May 21, 2017, at 1 pm

***Place:*** Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

***Program:*** Annual Pot Luck Picnic

***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, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.





# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

*Volume 52*

*Editor: Anna Langford*

*April 2017*

## *President's Message*

Our March meeting was later than usual and the April meeting is earlier, due to Easter coming on the 3rd Sunday of April. We enjoyed the program on the History of Camellias presented by Jim Dwyer. It was fun to hear of some of the characters that played a role in the discovery and development of the many camellias we have come to know and enjoy.

It is still nice to be working in the garden. Pruning should be on going or already done. I still have quite a few to care for, but it is enjoyable to be outside.

Our dry and warmer conditions are suitable for insect development. I have been using a granular pesticide from Bayer to help control beetle damage and it has generally been helpful in protecting the new flush of growth. Still, I must have missed a few or not put on enough, or not watered it in soon enough, as a few plants show some damage. These holes in the leaves are not lethal, but are just kind of unsightly. Or there is a spray that can be used to help control the beetles.



*Ann Hightower*



*Nuccio's Pearl*

Spider Mites like hot and dry conditions, so watch for damage, and spray with Horticultural Oil (Volck or other brand), but as temperatures are rising it is safest to spray late in the afternoon when temperatures are receding. It is best not to spray in mid-day as leaves can be scorched and may drop off if that is done. Make sure to check the underside of leaves for Tea Scale. The oil spray will help control both spider mites and Tea Scale.

Leaf drop at this time of year is normal, as when the new flush of growth comes on, the three year old leaves drop off.

If you have not yet applied fertilizer, it can still be done, although the first (and largest) flush of growth might not benefit so much, since an earlier application would have had time for absorption and use by the plant.

April is a good time to start air-layering. Some of you signed up to go to different places to get air-layers and we will be setting up schedules to go to the four locations planned for the process. Jerry Hogsette, Jay and Debbie Ellis, Jerome Ridaught, and the Swansons will have plants available from which to take air-layers.



*Georgia Fire*



*Helen Beach*

On Saturday, April 8th, at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens we will be helping prune the Camellias in the garden. We are developing some short videos that will be put on the Facebook page of GCS. Give a look and see Hawser Pearce and Bruce Cavey in action making improvements on camellias that have not seen a pruner for a long time. Come and see how to air layer at the meeting on April 9th.

***John Swanson, President***

***2017 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society***

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, April 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, May 21 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher

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**Minutes for GCS Meeting - March 26, 2017**

The March meeting was opened by John Swanson thanking Chuck and Bev Ritter for hosting the February meeting at their home and thanking Merry Reid and Irma Velez for providing refreshments for today's meeting.

John then introduced the guest speaker for our meeting, Dr. Jim Dwyer, past president of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society and his wife, Eileen. Dr. Dwyer's presentation charted the introduction of camellias to the western world and specifically the Gulf Coast region. He concluded his presentation by showing varieties of camellias that had been developed by growers in the Mobile, Alabama area. Eileen passed out an internet reference sheet of links to historical camellia websites. The Dwyers also brought examples of early camellia publications and catalogues for viewing.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid**

- Savings Account - \$9,539.62
- Checking Account - \$1,056.28
- Total Funds - \$10,595.90

Merry Reid advised that Charles Simon had just turned in additional monies that he had from the sale of remaining show plants. With these funds, the 2017 show has now turned a profit of approximately \$600. Merry will have an updated show report next month. Charles Simon advised that there are fewer than 30 plants remaining to be sold.

Joel Schwiebert moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Charles Simon and approved.



*In the Pink Variegated*



**KANAPAHA GARDENS** – Irma Velez

Irma Velez thanked those members who manned the GCS booth at the Kanapaha Gardens Spring Festival. Our booth location was in the back, but with a direct line of sight for visitors. As a result we had many people who stopped by for information about camellias that they had in their yards. New to our booth was signage about growing camellias and pictures of the different categories of camellias. Bruce Cavey had done an excellent job of ordering displays and signs for the booth, which he brought to today's meeting for viewing. These signs were first-rate educational materials.

Denise DeBusk, Alachua County Extension Agent, has instituted a series of Master Gardener led classes at Kanapaha. Irma Velez has given two classes featuring camellias. The first class was a variation of her Camellia 101 lecture she gives each year during the camellia show. There were 48 people in attendance. The second class was on pruning/air layering plants/camellias and 27 people attended this class. With such good attendance, Irma is hoping these classes will become an annual event.



*Grace Ward*

Irma noted that several years ago when GCS looked into becoming a 501(c) 3 non-profit, one of the requirements we did not meet was an “education” component. With these classes and the educational materials we provide at our show, Irma suggested it might be time to take another look at a non-profit status.

GCS had committed to donate a camellia plant to the Kanapaha Camellia Garden. Diane Simon moved to donate Tama Loch Laurel Camellia, developed by Mark Crawford of Loch Laurel Nursery to be planted in the Kanapaha Camellia Garden. Seconded and motion carried. She also requested that this camellia be included in the list of camellias that have been developed by Gainesville area growers.

Irma Velez will have a pruning demonstration for GCS members in the Camellia Garden on Saturday, April 8th beginning at 9:00 a.m. She will show members how to prune camellias and then attendees can work on pruning plants in the garden. The goal is to complete the pruning that needs to be done. A sign-up sheet was circulated for those who would be available to participate.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bruce Cavey and Hawser Pearce, with the camera assistance of John Swanson, made several videos on the care of camellia plants. The first was on pruning of a camellia plant and another on disbudding. Several more videos are in the planning stages, including one on air layering. John plans to upload these videos to our FaceBook page.
- Three gardens are currently available for air layering opportunities, the Ridaught's, the Ellis's and the Swanson's. John Swanson circulated a sign-up sheet for members to indicate which garden they would like to take air layers. A demonstration will be held for people who have never done air layering of camellias and would like to learn the technique. At our next meeting John hopes to finalize dates for this opportunity. Jerry Hogsette indicated that he would open his garden for members to air layer plants. It was also suggested that the camellias at North Florida Regional Hospital might have plants people would like to air layer.
- John Swanson reminded members that the installation of officers and Board members will take place during the May meeting.
- The City of Gainesville Beautification Board Award Ceremony will be Wednesday, April 26th at The Thomas Center. Five tickets have been allocated to GCS and attendees will be John Swanson, Irma Velez, Jerry Hogsette, Alexis Caffrey from Kanapaha Gardens, and Denise DeBusk, Alachua County Environmental & Community Horticulture Extension Agent.



*Goggy*

The American Camellia Society has requested a background article from GCS regarding this award which is to appear in the summer edition of the American Camellia Society Journal.



*Nita McRae*

## NEW BUSINESS

Charles Simon requested that the Gainesville Camellia Society establish a financial committee to set up an annual budget so that GCS can be attuned to the fiscal requirements for the club. Charles volunteered to head the committee with help from Merry Reid and other volunteers. Karen Peeples moved that the Gainesville Camellia Society set up a financial profiling committee to be part of the Board of Directors and that the current year committee be headed by Charles Simon; he to select members of the committee which will report to the Board and to the membership at large. Irma Velez seconded the motion. After discussion on the scope of this committee, Jerry Hogsette moved to amend the motion to read “reporting to the Show Committee and membership.” Seconded by Irma Velez. The motion was approved.

## CALENDAR

- **April 5th 8th** – American Camellia Society Annual Meeting in Oregon.
- **April 8th** – Irma Velez’ demonstration for members to help with annual pruning in the camellia garden.
- **April 9th** – Regular April meeting change due to Easter Sunday occurring on our regular meeting date. The program topic will be the body mechanics in gardening (physical therapy for gardeners).
- **May 21st** – Annual Potluck meeting and installation of officers and Board members. Dinh Swanson circulated a sign-up sheet for table hostesses.

Meeting closed with John Swanson showing the potential FaceBook videos created by Bruce Cavey, Hawser Pearce and John Swanson.

*Karen Peeples, Secretary*

***Officers***

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 Bill Hayes           Charles Simon  
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 Ruth Milton

***Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society******Program Chair:*** Bruce Cavey***Date:*** Sunday, April 9, 2017, at 2 pm***Place:*** Kanapaha Botanical Gardens***Program:*** “Proper Body Mechanics for Gardeners” by Greg Young and a brief presentation on Air Layering by Bruce Cavey***Refreshments Chair:*** Eleanor Thrasher

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# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

*Volume 51*

*Editor: Anna Langford*

*March 2017*

## *President's Message*

Thanks once again to Bev and Chuck Ritter for hosting the February meeting and to Jerry Hogsette and Hawser Pearce for their demonstrations on inarching and saw-cut methods of grafting camellias and the utility of those techniques.

The busy season for camellia maintenance is with us. There is still time to spray with horticultural oil for the control of tea scale and spider mites. It is not too late to apply a slow release fertilizer to give a boost to the new growth, and it's time to prune and shape plants to improve their efficient use of available light and to increase air flow for good plant health and vigor. Trimming off low-hanging branches can also be an aid to reducing the chances of scale insects getting well established.



*Margaret Davis*

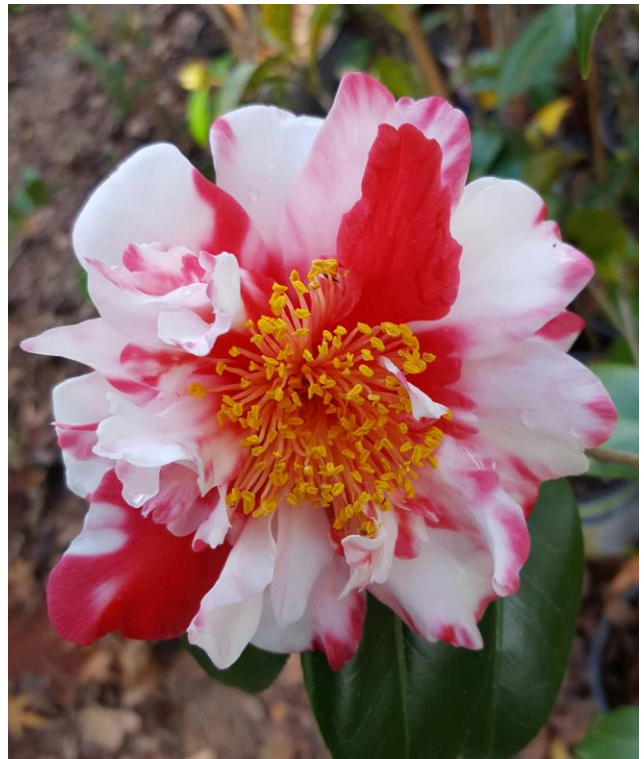


*Harold Paige*

On Thursday, March 9th, Bruce Cavey and Hawser Pearce pruned a couple of camellias on video. This is a sort of test run and if successful we will put together a set of videos to aid new and inexperienced growers. We will view some of the videos at the April meeting.

GCS will have its booth at the upcoming Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Festival on March 18-19. Thanks to those who have volunteered to serve. If desired, volunteers can be reimbursed by GCS for the admission fee, by turning in your wrist bands to Merry.

Our March meeting will be on the 26th at Kanapaha and you are in for a special treat. Dr. Jim Dwyer, past President of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society, will come from Foley, Alabama, to share his outstanding presentation on the history of Camellias in the Gulf Coast Region. Please come and learn much about how the camellias we love came to our region.



*Roman Soldier Variegated*



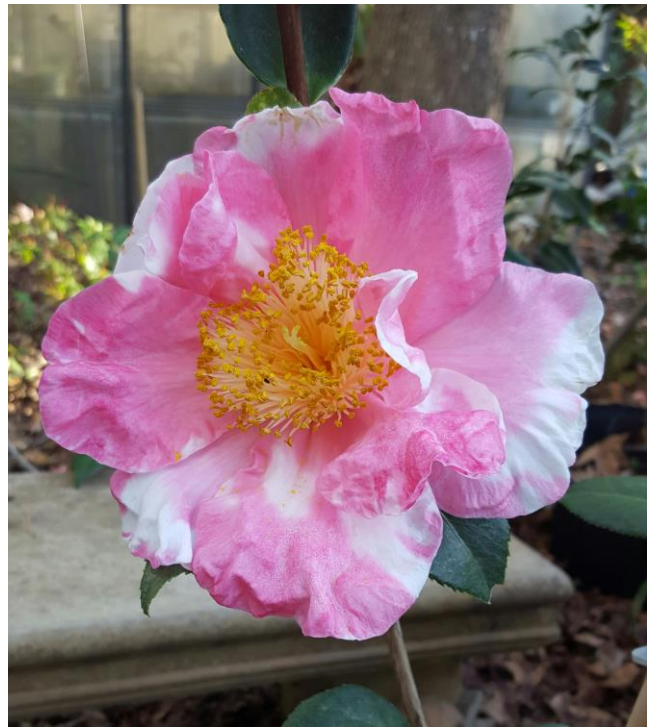
*Punkin Variegated*

There are still some plants left from those ordered for show sales. Prices are \$15 for 2 gallon plants, \$20 for 3 gallon Japonicas, and \$25 for 3 gallon Reticulatas. This is a bargain, and the plants are receiving TLC from Charles and Diane Simon. We thank them for the extra effort.

Please note on your calendars that the April meeting will be held on April 9th at Kanapaha, and not on the 16th, which is Easter Sunday.

***John Swanson, President***

Special thanks are due Irma Velez for her exceptional efforts in leading two recent classes to promote knowledge of camellias. The first was a course on Camellia Culture and Care, and the more recent one on Air Layering and Propagation Techniques. Participation in both courses, sponsored by IFAS Master Gardener Program and Kanapaha, has been high.



*Betty Jean Daughtry Variegated*



<b>2017 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society</b>		
<b><i>Date and place of meeting</i></b>		<b><i>Refreshments</i></b>
Sunday, March 26	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Irma Velez
Sunday, April 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, May 21 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher <i>volunteers needed</i>

### ***Minutes for GCS Meeting - February 19, 2017***

The February meeting of Gainesville Camellia Society was held at the home of Chuck and Bev Ritter. The meeting began with our grafting presentations by Jerry Hogsette and Hawser Pearce with additional information provided by John Swanson, Chuck Ritter and Jay Ellis.

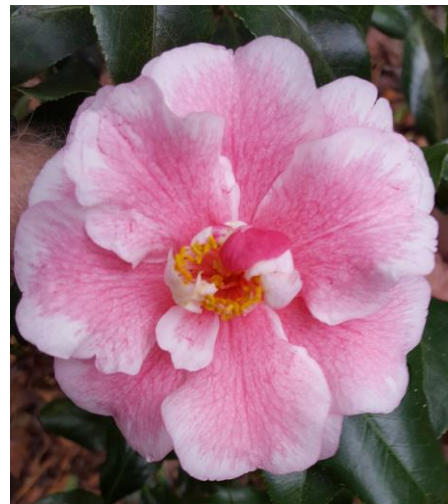
John Swanson began the business portion of our meeting by thanking Chuck and Bev for opening their home for the meeting. He also expressed appreciation to the Ellises for opening their home and gardens for the January meeting. Refreshments were provided by the Swansons and Bill Hayes. John welcomed new members, Marni Most, Allen and Linda Hide and their son Jordan.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as published in the newsletter. The minutes were accepted as published.



### TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid as given to Karen Peeples

- Savings Account - \$9,539.41
- Checking Account - \$933.32
- Total Funds - \$10,472.73
- \$1,960 in show prize monies has been paid. The show is currently showing a \$1,400 loss pending the receipt of additional plant sales.



*Lady Vansittart*

- John Swanson thanked Charles and Diane Simon for maintaining the plants until they are sold. There are about 80 plants remaining. Charles Simon advised that over 500 plants were available for sale and approximately 120 plants were unsold at the show which resulted in the shortfall. Charles' "Lessons Learned" for 2018 was to adjust our plant order and to only set aside plants once they have been paid for. People would indicate they wanted a plant, but did not return to pay. As an aside he noted that the Wilmot Gardens plant sale also did not sell all the plants they had available.
- Bill Hayes moved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Seconded and approved.

### SHOW COMMITTEE – Irma Velez

Irma Velez was not at today's meeting, but members were reminded that the 2018 show will be January 6th and 7th 2018



*Valley Knudsen*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jerry Hogsette gave an update on the Kanapaha Gardens' Spring Festival on March 18th and 19th. He circulated a sign-up sheet to man our booth to promote GCS and educational materials on growing camellias. Set up of the tent and materials will be Friday afternoon for those who would like to help. GCS is only provided 2 entry wristbands and those volunteers who pay the Kanapaha entrance fee can obtain a refund from Merry Reid at the March meeting.

- Bruce Cavey gave information on additional signage that GCS could purchase for use in the booth for the Spring Festival. For approximately \$125 he would like to purchase 1 large banner to hang in the tent and 2 “realtor” (two sided) signs that could be stuck into the ground. Irma Velez provides the “booth” (a tent and table). Jerry Hogsette moved to authorize Bruce Cavey to spend approximately \$125 for signs to be used at the Spring Festival. Seconded by Charles Simon; approved.
- The Nominating Committee, Joel Schwiebert, Ken Wagner and Lucille Little, presented their list of nominees for 2017-2018. Nominees are: President – Jerry Hogsette; 1st Vice President (Show Chairman) – Bruce Cavey; 2nd Vice President (Program Chairman) – Hawser Pearce; Secretary – Karen Peeples; Treasurer – Merry Reid; Newsletter Editor – Anna Langford; Board Members – Patrick Andrews, Jay Ellis, Bill Hayes, Chuck Ritter, Joel Schwiebert, Charles Simon, Irma Velez, Ken Wagner, and Nicki Whittaker. Our American Camellia Society Regional Representative nominee was John Swanson. There were no nominations from the floor. Jay Ellis moved to accept the slate of nominees as presented; seconded by Charles Simon. Motion carried.
- John Swanson advised he and Irma Velez were continuing to work on the City of Gainesville Beautification Board’s 2017 Outstanding Group Award. The presentation is scheduled for April 26th at the Thomas Center. The award is for recognition for improving the environment of the city and for assistance at Kanapaha in the Camellia Garden. Jay Ellis moved that John Swanson send a notice to American Camellia Society regarding the award. Seconded by Bill Hayes and approved.
- John Swanson gave a short description of the International Camellia Society workshop which was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



*Rose Bouquet*

## CALENDAR

- **March 18th & 19th** – Kanapaha Gardens Spring Festival. Gainesville Camellia Society booth.
- **March 26th** – Regular March meeting change due to Kanapaha Gardens Spring Festival conflict. Scheduled speaker for the March 26th meeting is Dr. Jim Dwyer from Alabama. His topic will be on the history of camellias in the South and Southeast.

- **April 9th** – Regular April meeting change due to Easter Sunday occurring on our regular meeting date. We will be discussing air layering of camellias. Several members will be opening their gardens to members who would like to air layer plants. Dates to be announced at our next meeting.
- **May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Annual Potluck meeting.

Meeting adjourned with the plant auction and refreshments at 3:55 p.m.

*Karen Peeples, Secretary*

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***Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society***

***Program Chair:*** Bruce Cavey

***Date:*** Sunday, March 26, 2017, at 2 pm

***Place:*** Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

***Program*** Dr. Jim Dwyer —History of Camellias in the Gulf Coast Region

***Refreshments Chair:*** Eleanor Thrasher

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Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

*Volume 50*

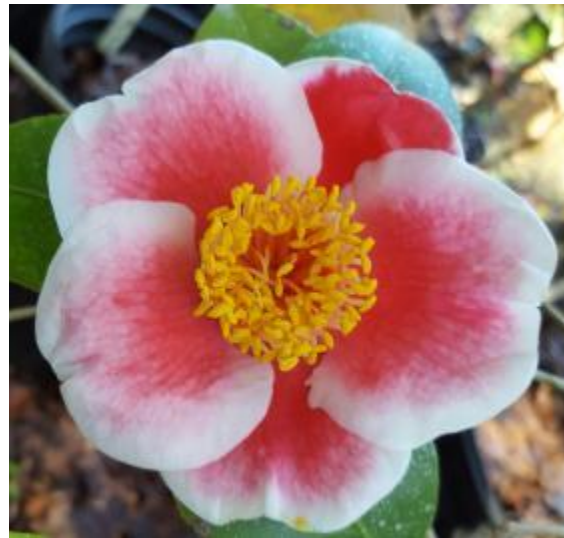
*Editor: Anna Langford*

*February 2017*

## *President's Message*

First, a big *Thank You* to Jay and Debbie Ellis for hosting the January meeting and for giving tours of their many beautiful plants and blooms.

Thanks also to Charles and Diane Simon for caring for our surplus plants until they are sold, and to Chuck and Bev Ritter for inviting GCS to the Melrose Friends of the Library event held near the end of January, as well as hosting the February meeting.



*Tama seedling, unnamed*

*Ellen Daniel*

February is a busy month as the blooming season is gradually winding down and preparations for the next season are gearing up. This is the time to prune, fertilize and graft to upgrade plants.

Pruning is done to improve plant shape, control plant height, increase access of light to leaves, and improve air flow through the plants. Pruning of low-lying branches also helps reduce the chance for scale insect infestations.

Fertilize with slow release fertilizer to boost growth as those growth buds begin elongating and forming "candles" of new buds and leaves. Place the fertilizer around the drip line of plants and make sure it is watered in if there is no rainfall.

Now is the time to graft camellias to upgrade quality and introduce virus variegation, if desired. Our program this month includes two types of grafting procedures, inarching, covered by Jerry Hogsette, and use of the saw-cut method of grafting on established camellias by Hawser Pearce. Hawser instructed me in the use of this technique last year and I had pretty good luck, and plan to use it again this year.

We will have a short business meeting and then move outside for demonstrations on the grafting techniques.

*Clown*



*Gigantea*

GCS still has a good selection of quality camellias available for purchase. Contact Charles (352) 213-3154 or Diane Simon (352) 231-3244, for details on availability and to arrange a visit to view and purchase plants.

Note that our March meeting will be held on March 26th, with a wonderful presentation by Mr. Jim Dwyer from Alabama, past President of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society, about the history of camellias in the Southeast and beyond.

The April meeting will be held on April 9th because the third Sunday is Easter Sunday.

**John Swanson, President**



*Les Marbury*

<b>2017 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society</b>		
<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, February 19	Home of Chuck and Bev Ritter, Melrose	Dinh & John Swanson Bill Hayes
Sunday, March 26	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Irma Velez
Sunday, April 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, May 21 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher <i>volunteers needed</i>



### *Minutes for GCS Meeting - January 15, 2017*



*Frank Houser Variegated*

The January meeting of Gainesville Camellia Society was hosted by Jay and Debbie Ellis at their home and camellia gardens in Keystone Heights, Florida. John Swanson opened the meeting by thanking Jay and Debbie for their hospitality. Refreshments were provided by Margaret Wagener, Lucille Little, and Laura Davis. John welcomed several guests and new members that had traveled to Keystone Heights for the meeting.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as published in the newsletter. The minutes were accepted as published.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid**

- Savings Account - \$10,150.70
- Checking Account - \$1,397.96
- Total Funds - \$11,548.66
- There are still outstanding expenses from the show to be paid, including the prize monies for show winners. Donations toward prize monies are accepted. John Swanson will send a thank you note to Marty and Robin Cross from Maryland who made a donation toward The Best of Show Outdoors and Protected Awards. Jay Ellis moved that in appreciation for the Crosses' donation they be placed on our newsletter email list. Irma Velez seconded and motion passed.
- Treasurer's report accepted as submitted.



*Cloisonne Variegated*

#### **SHOW COMMITTEE – Irma Velez**

- Irma Velez thanked everyone who helped to make the 2017 Camellia Show a success.
- John Swanson thanked Jerry Hogsette for 86 air layered plants that he donated for the plant sales, which all sold.

- We did not sell all the plants at the show, which may be attributed in part to the inclement weather. John Swanson brought several of the plants to today's meeting which could be purchased at regular show prices. Charles Simon has a complete list of the unsold plants. Jay Ellis moved that a list of the remaining plants be included in the newsletter for members to have an opportunity to purchase them. Seconded by Irma Velez and motion passed.



*Jean Clare*

- Publicity for the show included the paid ad in the Gainesville Sun Scene Magazine, a newspaper article in the Florida Alligator and a TV interview which aired Sunday and Monday on Channel 7.
- Irma Velez asked if anyone had recommendations for the 2018 show to please e-mail her with their suggestions. The 2018 show will be January 5th and 6th.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- John Swanson announced that it was time to begin nominating officers and board members for 2017-2018. The Nominating Committee, Joel Schwiebert, Ken Wagner and Lucille Little will be approaching members to help serve in these capacities. If you are interested in serving, please contact a member of the nominating committee. A tentative slate of officers would be presented in February. Installation of officers will be at the May meeting. Volunteers are welcomed.



- Irma Velez read an e-mail from Karla Shopoff which read in part:  
 “I am writing on behalf of the City of Gainesville Beautification Board’s awards subcommittee to inform you that the Gainesville Camellia Society has been selected to receive a 2017 “outstanding group” award from the City of Gainesville Beautification Board (CBB) for its contribution to the enhancement of our community. Specifically the CBB wants to recognize the positive impact of the Camellia show and the direction and support the Society gives to KBG’s Camellia and Azalea garden. Shortly, the Board will send official notification.”  
 Irma Velez and John Swanson will be working to put together the information requested by the Beautification Board.

- Gainesville Camellia Society has been signed up to participate in Kanapaha Gardens’ Spring Festival on March 18th and 19th. We will have a booth to promote GCS and educational materials on growing camellias. Irma will be circulating a signup sheet at the February meeting for volunteers to man the booth. No experience is necessary.
- Irma Velez will be setting up a pruning day for the camellia gardens at Kanapaha in March and will be looking for volunteers. Again, no experience necessary.



*Hawaii*



*A winning seedling of Tama origins  
 from Jerome Ridaught*

- We received a nice thank you note from Nedra Mathis and the American Camellia Society for the GCS donation in memory of Clayton Mathis.
- February’s meeting would be at the home and gardens of the Ritters in Melrose. Hawser Pearce would be demonstrating the saw cut method of grafting. Jerry Hogsette will also be demonstrating another grafting method.
- Scheduled speaker for the March meeting is Jim Dwyer from Alabama. His topic will be on the history of camellias in the Gulf Coast area.

- Camellia housekeeping for the next month is to pick up spent blooms (do NOT compost) and thinning and pruning to control top growth.
- Gerald Langford brought flower and herb seed packets for members to take home.
- John Thrasher gave an update on Eleanor’s health status.

**CALENDAR**

- **January 16th** – Open House beginning at 9:30 am at the Gordy Camellia Gardens in Ocala to obtain scions of plants in the garden.
- **January 29th** – Friends of the Melrose Library Camellia Sale at the Ritters’ gardens.

Meeting adjourned.

*Karen Peeples, Secretary*

<b>Upcoming Camellia Shows</b>		
Atlanta, GA	North Georgia Camellia Society	2/18-19/2017
Ft Valley, GA	Middle Georgia Camellia Society	2/25-26//2017
Columbus, GA	Chattahoochee Valley Camelia Society	3/4-5/2017

**2017 Camellia Nomenclature**

The new 2017 Southern California Camellia Society *Nomenclature* is now available through Amazon. The price is \$20 each. If you order two or more there is no shipping! Printing is done in Charleston, so shipping should be very prompt. An electronic version of the 2017 SCCS Nomenclature will soon be available. We are also working on an electronic version with links to over 2400 pictures. Order your copies now.

***Environmental & Community Horticulture Program***

The UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County Office is pleased to announce the following Environmental & Community Horticulture Program for February, 2017.

**Introduction to Camellias – February 25, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens (4700 SW 58 Drive, Gainesville, FL 32608)**

The class will cover the history of camellias, planting and care, insects and pests, and diseases of camellias. After a brief presentation in the classroom, explore the Camellia/Azalea garden on a guided tour. The class will be led by Master Gardener and member of the Gainesville Camellia Society, Irma Velez.

The class is free, but you must pay the entrance fee into Kanapaha Botanical Gardens (\$8) at the door and you can explore the rest of the garden after the class. No cost for members. You can pre-register through Eventbrite (no cost) at <http://tinyurl.com/zldusva>.

For more information about this program call [352-955-2402](tel:352-955-2402).

Visit <http://alachua.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml> for additional programs offered by the Extension Office.

***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 GCS updates, and tell your friends about the GCS Facebook page.

***Directions to Ritters’ Home (GCS Meeting Sunday February 19)***

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.

***Officers***

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

***Board Members***

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

***Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society***

***Program Chair:*** Bruce Cavey

***Date:*** Sunday, February 19, 2017, at 2 pm

***Place:*** Home of Chuck and Bev Ritter, Melrose (see directions above)

***Program*** Jerry Hogsette and Hawser Pearce on two types of grafting techniques

***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, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.



# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

*Volume 49*

*Editor: Anna Langford*

*January 2017*

## *President's Message*

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE  
THE 2017 GCS SHOW SUCH A SUCCESS!

There was excellent cooperation and participation from a multitude of members. Again I will mention some, but not all who helped, and if I forgot someone, I apologize, and on behalf of GCS I do thank you.

Irma Velez was again Show Chair and did an outstanding job. There are a lot of big and many small tasks required to make the show a success. Irma orchestrated it all in a friendly and cordial manner and got everyone involved — just what was needed. Irma also coordinated with the Master Gardeners to obtain their participation as plant placers and clerks. Their help was essential and contributed greatly to our success. Members Inez Brooker, Carter Wittman, and Margaret Wagener also assisted with plant placement and clerking. Thank you.







Karen Peeples once again served as publicity chairman, which resulted in a good turnout despite the very cold weather that did crimp attendance compared to some past years. Her efforts were instrumental in getting the word out. She also helped recruit new members.

The educational program and membership desk under Merry Reid's leadership brought in several more new members, and we all need to welcome them and get them engaged in our various programs and activities. Ruth Milton helped out, too.

Our plant sales crew led by Dr. Charles and Mrs. Diane Simon and Mr. Bill Hayes, custodians and guardians of the GCS camellia stock had much success selling our plants from two Georgia nurseries and another 86 plants from Dr. Jerry Hogsette's garden. Sales were brisk as was the weather, but interest was high. We still have several plants available for purchase in case you were too busy to get any during the show. Dr. Charles is the person in charge and he will be glad to share the list of plants still on hand. Some will be available at the meeting at the Ellis home on January 15th. We especially thank those who helped move the plants on Thursday prior to the show. Your help is much appreciated and helped make the show a success.



*Nitidissima*



*Nitidissima*

Many, many thanks to Gerald (Old Goat) and Anna Langford, who stored glassware used during the show, and were active in preparation and set up for the show, plant movement, and sales for the duration. Many thanks for all you do for GCS. Ken Wagner helped with plant sales and other preparation activities and Eileen Wagner also helped with preparations and in the hospitality room during the show. Others who helped with moving plants were Bart and Burt Maris, Larry Hice, Mark Murton, Bruce Cavey, Hawser Pierce, and Joel Schwiebert.

Jerry Hogsette was chairman of the judges and had nearly thirty of them present to guide and assist. Thank you, Jerry.

Patrick Andrews coordinated placement, and his efforts made the judging run smoothly and effectively. Thank you, Patrick.



*Jean Clare*

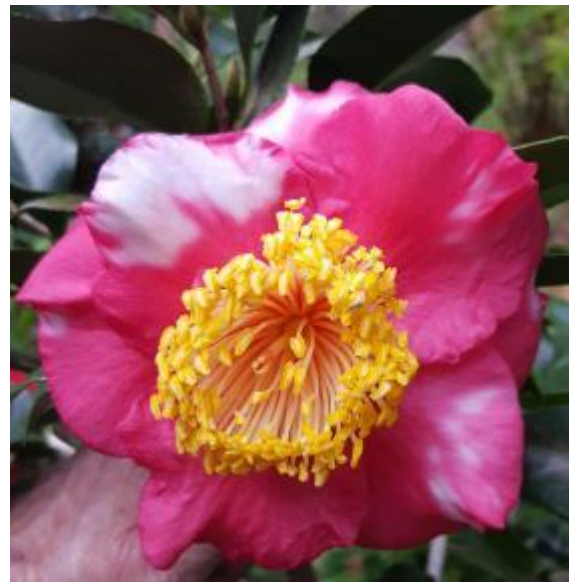
Again this year Tara Gill provided sandwiches, salads, and cookies for the judges' luncheon, and added the bonus of similar fare for the GCS volunteers. We are glad she is an active member and much appreciate her extra support for our show and members.

I thank Dinh Swanson for managing the hospitality room, filling in elsewhere as needed during the show, and reminding me to do other things when I forgot. Megan Swanson came up from Tampa to help with the show and Steven Swanson came from Manassas, Virginia to help move plants, set up, work with bloom placement, and other tasks as needed. I appreciate the help and support they gave me and the GCS.

Lee and Bob Kline are sometimes the secret or hidden volunteer help. Lee coordinated with the Gainesville Garden Club for the four excellent camellia arrangements displayed during the show, and they also provided a truck and trailer to help move plants on the Thursday prior to the show. Thank you very much. John Thrasher was in and out helping when he could with set up and clean up. (More on this later)

I will follow up on this at our meeting this coming Sunday at the home of Jay and Debbie Ellis near Keystone Heights.

Congratulations go to Chuck and Bev Ritter for winning the Sweepstakes, to Jay and Debbie Ellis for winning the Founders Trophy, and to Patrick Andrews and Bob Weidman for Best White.



*R.L. Wheeler, Variegated*



Eleanor Thrasher was taken ill the day before Christmas and was in Intensive Care for several days with a serious digestive infection from *E. coli*. It was touch and go for a while, but Eleanor is a fighter and is doing much better. She is currently in Oak Hammock Rehab continuing her recovery. Her phone number there is (352) 548-1704, and she welcomes calls. Eleanor has been a steady and reliable supporter of GCS, organizing our special holiday and spring social meetings. We appreciate her and wish her a speedy and full recovery.



For those interested in grafting to improve their camellias, on Monday, January 16th, there will be an opportunity to obtain plant scions from the camellia gardens of the late Clarence and Lillian Gordy of Ocala. The gardens are opening at 9:30 a.m. to allow interested parties to get many outstanding varieties of camellias. The address of the Gordy gardens is: 7188 NW 14th St., Ocala FL. Let me know if you are interested in seeing a really wonderful camellia collection on some three to six acres.

Happy New Camellia Year and thanks for all who helped!  
See you Sunday.

***John Swanson, President***



### 2016-17 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, January 15	Home of Jay and Debbie Ellis, Keystone Heights	Margaret Wagener, Lucille Little, and Laura Davis
Sunday, February 19	Home of Chuck and Bev Ritter, Melrose	Dinh & John Swanson Bill Hayes
Sunday, March 26	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Irma Velez
Sunday, April 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, May 21 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher <i>volunteers needed</i>

### *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 GCS Facebook page.

### *Upcoming Camellia Shows*

Tallahassee, FL	Tallahassee Camellia Society	1/14-15/2017
Winter Park, FL	Camellia Society of Central Florida	1/21/17
Lakeland, FL	Lakeland Camellia Society	1/28/17
Ocala, FL	Ocala Camellia Society	1/28/17
Quitman, GA	Quitman Garden Club	2/4/17
Thomasville, GA	Thomasville Garden Club	2/11/17
Atlanta, GA	North Georgia Camellia Society	2/18-19/2017
Ft Valley, GA	Middle Georgia Camellia Society	2/25-26//2017
Columbus, GA	Chattahoochee Valley Camelia Society	3/4-5/2017



**Minutes for GCS Meeting - November 20, 2016**

The Annual December Potluck began with appetizers at 1:00 p.m. and luncheon shortly thereafter.

The regular meeting began after lunch with John Swanson welcoming everyone to the annual Gainesville Camellia Society Potluck luncheon. He thanked the Thrashers for organizing the luncheon and obtaining the ham and Dinh Swanson for preparing the turkey. He also thanked members for their delicious side dishes and desserts. Eleanor Thrasher thanked those who provided table decorations.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as published in the newsletter. Patrick Andrews moved to accept the minutes as published; seconded and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid**

Savings Account - \$4,150.59

Checking Account - \$102.72

Total Funds - \$4,253.31

Merry Reid has paid the Kanapaha Gardens 2017 room rental fee.

Treasurer's report accepted as submitted.

**SHOW COMMITTEE – Irma Velez**

Irma Velez advised preparations for the show are on schedule.

Publicity reported that all local TV stations and electronic media have been sent announcements. We have placed an ad for the show on the front page of The Scene magazine to appear on the Thursday prior to the show.

Irma Velez will plan to unlock the gate for Kanapaha Gardens at 6:00 a.m. Growers are expected to begin arriving around 6:30 a.m.

Irma Velez will email show flyers to members.

Charles Simon is in charge of plant sales. The plants will be moved to Kanapaha Gardens on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers to help with moving the plants are requested to be at either Bill Hayes or Charles Simon's residences at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday to facilitate the move. The plant list had previously been emailed to members and plants can be purchased prior to the show by contacting Charles Simon.

Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> will be show setup beginning at 2:00 p.m. Judges' Potluck Dinner will be Friday night at Jerry Hogsette's home at 6:00 p.m. Guests are invited to come early to see the blooms in Jerry's garden.

Bruce Cavey has researched prices on signs for the show and other Gainesville Camellia Society activities. Sign Universe has quoted the cost for a color banner (10'x2') with

grommets and cords at \$65. A smaller banner (8'x3') was \$78. An A-frame standing sign with changeable panels was \$85. A retractable /collapsible standing sign (34"x80") was \$180. There were other smaller "realtor" signs with a price under \$20. Bruce Cavey made a motion that he be authorized to spend up to \$250 to obtain signage to be used for our upcoming show. Seconded by Margaret Wagener; approved.

Volunteers helping with bloom placement should plan to arrive at 7:00 a.m. If you want to volunteer for bloom placement and have never done so, contact Irma and she will set up a time to demonstrate the placement process.

Merry Reid requested volunteers to help with the Education Desk during the public viewing times.

Dinh Swanson requested volunteers for judges' hospitality.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randolph Maphis in Tallahassee has 460 scions available for mail order. John Swanson will have a list of available plants for anyone interested in purchase.

The "Red Book" is back in print and is available on Amazon for approximately \$10.

The Southern California Nomenclature Book is now available as an e-book on Amazon Kindle for a cost of \$20. Many of the flowers listed in the electronic version have a link to the ACCS bloom photo library which gives a picture of the bloom in addition to the nomenclature description. The same bloom photos are available on the ACCS website under Camellia Picture Library. Over 2500 blooms are showcased.

The American Camellia Society is looking to include more local club representation on their board and is requesting each local club submit the name of a potential nominee to the board. Names should be submitted by mid-March. An election will be held in June to select regional board members from the list of candidates.

## CALENDAR

**January 5<sup>th</sup>** – GCS plant staging for show. Kanapaha Gardens will be closed that day, but are allowing GCS to move plants into the sale area.

**January 6<sup>th</sup>** – GCS room setup for show. Judges' Potluck at Jerry Hogsette's home. GCS members are invited to bring a side dish and have an opportunity to meet several of the judges.

**January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** – 41<sup>st</sup> Annual GCS Camellia Show.

**January 16<sup>th</sup>** – Three acres of the Gordy Garden will be opened up for people to collect scions for grafting.

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Open House at Patrick Andrews and Bob Weidman's.

**January 29<sup>th</sup>** – Friends of the Melrose Library Camellia Sale at the Ritters' gardens.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m. followed by the plant auction and Chinese Gift Exchange.

**2017 Camellia Nomenclature**

The new 2017 Southern California Camellia Society *Nomenclature* is now available through Amazon. The price is \$20 each. If you order two or more there is no shipping! Printing is done in Charleston, so shipping should be very prompt. An electronic version of the 2017 SCCS Nomenclature will soon be available. We are also working on an electronic version with links to over 2400 pictures. Order your copies now.

**Directions to Ellis Home (GCS Meeting Sunday January 15)**

From the intersection of University Ave and Waldo Rd, take SR 26 18.5 miles to Melrose.

Turn left at the traffic light onto SR 21 and go 7 miles.

Turn left at the traffic light onto Hwy 100 and go 1.5 miles.

Turn left onto 3rd Ave (BP convenience store on the corner).

At the dead end, turn right.

Take the next right onto 46th Loop.

Pass a big brown house on the right and a blue house on the left. Turn left onto Ellis driveway.

**699 46th Loop. Keystone Heights FL**

Jay phone # 352-473-3453

Debbie phone # 904-290-0356

**Officers**

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

**Board Members**

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

**Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society**

**Program Chair:** *Bruce Cavey*

**Date:** Sunday, January 15, 2017, at 2 pm

**Place:** Home of Jay and Debbie Ellis, Keystone Heights (see directions above)

**Program**    Tour of Ellis Camellia Garden

**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, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.





# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Volume 48

Editor: Anna Langford

December 2016

## President's Message

Finally, we've had some much needed rain in the area, and it looks like more to come. This will be a help to recently planted camellias. Fall and Winter are the best times to plant camellias. You might think that because the visible part of the plant is dormant the whole plant is dormant. However, I am told that the dormant period is when roots grow and pull in nutrients to get ready for the first big growth flush that usually comes in February or March. So if you have been waiting, get your plants into the ground soon, and remember to plant them high.



*Bobby Fain Var.*



*Ashton's Ballet*

Another item to consider is that we often get a freeze, sometimes a hard one, in December or early January. Best preparations include keeping plants well-watered, which helps the plants withstand the cold. It is also still the time to treat plants for spider mites and tea scale.

Thanks to all who helped Wilmot Gardens with their plant sale. Of course that would be Irma, the leader of volunteers at Wilmot, and the Master Gardeners at Kanapaha. Other helpers were Jerry Hogsette, Joel Schwiebert, Charles and Diane Simon, and the writer of this message.

Thursday, Dec. 15th, there is still room for anyone wanting to join what will be an enlightening trip to see the well over 1000 camellias under cultivation and care by Jerry and Carol Selph at Christine's Garden southwest of Quitman, GA. After about two hours at the garden, we will stop in Quitman to see the Betty Sheffield Memorial Park and have lunch (Dutch treat). After lunch we will stop at Loch Laurel Nursery for a tour by Mark Crawford, owner-operator. GCS has been getting plants from Mark for years and we have been happy with the results. He also has a good collection of modern camellias, many of which will be in bloom, so you can see some beautiful flowers.



*Tudor Baby Var.*



*April Remembered*

We will meet at the south end of the Publix parking lot on 39th Ave NW on the east side of I-75. As of now we have ample drivers and thus space for additional travelers. We will meet at 8:00 am and depart shortly thereafter. We plan to return late in the afternoon. Dinh and I have been to the Selphs' camellia plantation many times and have always enjoyed it and learned many things. If at all possible we encourage you to join us on this mini-excursion. If you did not sign up at our November meeting but wish to go, please call me at (352-672-2644) so we won't leave without you.

Sunday the 18th is our annual Holiday Party at Kanapaha Gardens. Two members will bring ham and turkey for the meat dishes, so please bring an appetizer, side dish, salad, or dessert. Wine is permitted and consumed at this event. Please note that we will begin meeting at 1 pm instead of the usual time of 2 pm for a social hour before eating. Don't forget to bring a gag gift for our always hilarious gift exchange after the meal.



*Mark Chason*



*Jack Glenn*

There will be a short business meeting, mainly to discuss the needs and duties to put on our 41st annual show on January 7th and 8th. There are ample opportunities for everyone to volunteer and to help with preparations and achieving a successful show. Please plan on helping out.

Thanks again to Charles and Diane Simon and Bill Hayes for their willingness to care for our sale plants up to the time of our show. Please let them know that you appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

I have received a quite comprehensive list of scions from Tallahassee Scions, Randolph Maphis, and will be glad to send it on to anyone wishing to or planning to graft camellias in the season ahead, usually in February and March. For novices, scions are plant tips used to introduce new genetic material, (varieties or species) onto existing plants, saving time in getting great new blooms. The list is nine pages long, and I will have a copy at the meeting for parties who are interested. Let me know if you are interested.



*Frankie Winn Var.*



*Jackie D.*

One final request to members, new and continuing, is that you bring blooms to enter in our show. If you are not sure how it is done, bring your blooms and other experienced show persons will assist you in identification and filling out the cards properly. We should have an excellent show this year with big representation from protected growers in Georgia and Florida. Unprotected blooms will be judged separately.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a great camellia season from Dinh and me!

***John Swanson, President***





*Faith*



*Waltztime Var.*

**2016-17 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society**

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, December 18 Holiday Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher, Anna Langford, Tara Gill, Barbara Boothroyd, Debbie & Jay Ellis Merry Reid, Dinh Swanson, Bruce Cavey
Sunday, January 15	Home of Jay and Debbie Ellis, Keystone Heights	Margaret Wagener, Lucille Little, and Laura Davis
Sunday, February 19	Home of Chuck and Bev Ritter, Melrose	Dinh & John Swanson Bill Hayes
Sunday, March 26	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Irma Velez
Sunday, April 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, May 21 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher <i>volunteers needed</i>

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**Minutes for GCS Meeting - November 20, 2016**

John Swanson opened the meeting by welcoming members and new members, Mark and Lori Murton (who purchased Lionel Worthy's home and camellia gardens) and Olga Tchigrinova. He thanked those who participated in the workshop on camellia judging and Chuck Ritter, Irma Velez, Jerry Hogsette and Jay Ellis for providing flowers for the workshop.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as published in the newsletter. Jeanne Earnest moved to accept the minutes as published; seconded by Charles Simon; approved.

On November 1st members returned to the Ridaughts' home to pick up their air layers. Gainesville Camellia Society extends thanks to the Ridaughts for allowing members to take air layers of their plants.

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

- Savings Account - \$4,150.46
- Checking Account - \$697.53
- Total Funds - \$4,847.99
- We had a disbursement of \$6,000+ for payment of the plants to be sold at the show. Treasurer's report accepted as submitted.

**SHOW COMMITTEE**

- Irma Velez advised preparations for the show are on schedule. Display tables have been ordered. Jerry Hogsette has judges secured. Dinh Swanson is coordinating hospitality arrangements.
- Bruce Cavey will be in charge of clerking. Volunteers should contact Bruce. Master Gardeners will be available to help.
- Plants have been received from Loch Laurel Nursery (176) and County Line Nursery (280). The plants are currently housed at the homes of Bill Hayes and Charles Simon. The plants will be moved to Kanapaha Gardens on January 5th. John Swanson thanked Bill Hayes, Charles Simon, Ken Wagner, Joel Schwiebert, Jerry Hogsette, Larry Hice and Bart and Bert Maris for their help in obtaining and storing the plants.
- Friday, January 6th will be show setup. Judges' Potluck Dinner will be Friday night at Jerry Hogsette's home at 6:00 p.m. Guests can come early to see the blooms in Jerry's garden.

**KANAPAHA GARDENS**

- Irma Velez circulated a signup sheet for volunteers who could help in a workday to prepare the gardens for the show.



- She thanked Ken Wagner and Diane Simon for gibbing all the plants in the garden. Gibbing is now completed.
- The next major workday will be in March with a workshop on pruning camellias which will result in pruning plants which haven't been pruned in several years.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **December 3rd and 4th** - Wilmot Gardens' annual plant sale. Irma Velez is the designated sale organizer and circulated a signup sheet for GCS members to help with the sale. Camellias, azaleas and roses will be for sale.
- **December 3rd** - Dudley Farms will be holding their annual Cane Grinding Day.
- **December 15th** - The Gainesville Camellia Society will be going to Christine's Gardens, Jerry and Carol Selph's camellia garden in Valdosta, Georgia. We will be carpooling and meet in the Publix parking lot on 39th Avenue and I-75 at 8:00 a.m. After the visit with the Selphs we will then proceed on to Quitman, Georgia to see Betty Sheffield's Memorial Park. A final stop will be Loch Laurel Nursery and Mark Crawford. Lunch will be Dutch treat along the way. We should expect to return by late afternoon. John Swanson circulated a signup sheet for those who would like to attend and who could drive.
- **December 18th** - GCS holiday potluck meeting. Appetizers and cocktails will begin at 1:00 p.m. with lunch beginning at 2:00 p.m. Meat will be provided by GCS and members can bring side dishes, desserts and wine.
- **January 5th** – GCS plant staging for show. Kanapaha Gardens will be closed that day, but are allowing GCS to move plants into the sale area.
- **January 6th** – GCS room setup for show. Judges' Potluck at Jerry Hogsette's home. GCS members are invited to bring a side dish and have an opportunity to meet several of the judges.
- **January 7th and 8th** – 41st Annual GCS Camellia Show.
- **January 29th** – Friends of the Melrose Library Camellia Sale at the Ritters' gardens.
- A list of upcoming camellia shows is listed in the newsletter.

Our program on Waxing Camellias was presented by Inez Brooker, member of the Gainesville Garden Club.

Camellias for the plant auction were provided today by John Swanson and a preview plant from our show shipment.

*Karen Peeples, Secretary*

**November Program: WAXING CAMELLIAS**  
**Presented by Inez Brooker**

Items needed:

fresh flowers (These may have leaves on the stem, but the leaves will not be waxed.)

(Note: for camellias, semi-double flowers work best, but single or double flowers may also be waxed.)

several pounds of paraffin wax (available in one lb blocks where canning supplies are sold)

mineral oil (For 5 lbs of wax, use 1 1/2 pints mineral oil, available at a drugstore.)

candy thermometer

dipper (to transfer melted wax)

pan of cold water with ice

plastic gloves

plastic fork

vase or other container with water to hold finished, waxed flowers

Heat wax in a double boiler or crockpot until melted. **DO NOT COVER!** The wax can explode!

Dip some of the melted wax into a 1 quart plastic bowl or similar container. Let wax cool to 135°F.

Lift flower by stem, holding leaves back. Dip flower quickly into melted wax with a twisting motion and lift. Shake off excess wax and immediately plunge flower into ice water bath. Hold there until wax cools and hardens.

Place stem in container to dry. Refrain from touching. Flowers should keep their color for several weeks.

Before waxing the next flower, use a plastic fork to skim any bits of loose wax out of the ice water. Add more ice as needed.

### **2017 Camellia Nomenclature**

The new 2017 Southern California Camellia Society *Nomenclature* is now available through Amazon. The price is \$20 each. If you order two or more there is no shipping! Printing is done in Charleston, so shipping should be very prompt. An electronic version of the 2017 SCCS Nomenclature will soon be available. We are also working on an electronic version with links to over 2400 pictures. Order your copies now.

### **Upcoming Camellia Shows**

Gainesville, FL	Gainesville Camellia Society	1/7-8/2017
Tallahassee, FL	Tallahassee Camellia Society	1/14-15/2017
Winter Park, FL	Camellia Society of Central Florida	1/21/17
Lakeland, FL	Lakeland Camellia Society	1/28/17
Ocala, FL	Ocala Camellia Society	1/28/17
Quitman, GA	Quitman Garden Club	2/4/17
Thomasville, GA	Thomasville Garden Club	2/11/17
Atlanta, GA	North Georgia Camellia Society	2/18-19/2017
Ft Valley, GA	Middle Georgia Camellia Society	2/25-26//2017
Columbus, GA	Chattahoochee Valley Camelia Society	3/4-5/2017

***Officers***

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

***Board Members***

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

***Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society***

***Program Chair:*** Bruce Cavey

***Date:*** Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 1 pm

***Place:*** Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

***Program*** 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, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.



# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Volume 47

Editor: Anna Langford

November 2016

## President's Message

There is a lot going on these days. We just finished the third Fall Camellia Show in Georgia (gibbed almost entirely), but now the Sasanquas and early Japonicas like "Early Autumn" have begun. Our Yuletide is loaded with blooms right now and the color is welcome.

Our plant orders are now here. You can put in your preferences or if you want a head start on the general public, the Loch Laurel order of two gallon plants is being cared for by Dr. Charles and Diane Simon. Phone to make arrangements at (352) 332-8093. The 2 gallon plants are \$20 each.



*Sawada's Mahogany*



*Northern Lights*

The plants from County Line Nursery are being cared for by Bill Hayes. His address is 3316 NW 180 Terrace, Newberry, FL 32669, and his phone number is (352) 222-4110. Phone to make arrangements. The plants are in three gallon pots and the prices are as follows: Japonicas and Sasanquas are \$25 per plant and Reticulatas are \$35.



We all owe our thanks to the Simons and Bill for their willingness to help with this important task. Also deserving of our thanks for unloading the County Line plants are Bill, Charles, Jerry Hogsette, Joel Schwiebert, Ken Wagner, Larry Hice, and the Maris Bros., Burt and Bart.

Ken, Larry and Bill also helped with the retrieval of our order of 177 plants from Loch Laurel. Double thanks to them. Having a crew of willing volunteers around greatly contributes to our success as a group.



*April Tryst*



*Marie Bracey*

On November 1st we had a successful and enjoyable time at the home/nursery of Jerome and Reba Ridaught near Alachua. Their thoughtfulness in sharing their substantial plant materials as air layers is much appreciated. Thank you! We are hoping to be able to get more air layers at the Ridaughts' next Spring.

We have two new members, Mark and Lori Murton, who have a great head start on a camellia garden. They are new owners of the property previously owned by Lionel Worthy, a very active camellia enthusiast and leader in GCS several years ago. The Murtons have asked for our help and guidance to determine how to reshape the many camellias, several of which are very large, as it appears the last time pruning was done was many years ago. Severe pruning will be needed for the Murtons to take control back from the Camellia-zillas that currently rule the roost.



*Nuccio's Gem*



*Edna Bass Variegated*

Our efforts to coordinate with Wilmot Gardens at UF are underway. Wilmot Gardens has its annual plant sale on the 3rd and 4th of December, and if you can help out for a few hours, your assistance will be most welcome. Contact Ms. Bailey Hillman of Wilmot at (351) 273-5832 or Irma Velez for specifics.

I am sorry to say that Paul and Dolly Warner, long time active members of GCS are leaving Gainesville and heading to glorious Minnesota to be closer to their family. We will miss them and wish them well.

We have been talking of GCS taking a field trip to Christine's Garden (belonging to Jerry and Carol Selph) near Quitman, Georgia, and also visiting Loch Laurel Nursery and Mark Crawford, owner. The date will be December 15th and we will be car pooling for those that wish to go on this outing. Plan is to depart at 8 a.m. and visit the garden first, next stop in Quitman for lunch and a brief visit to the Betty Sheffield memorial park in downtown Quitman, and then go to Loch Laurel Nursery and return home in the afternoon. There will be a signup sheet at our November meeting. We will also need folks willing to drive and carpool.



*Early Autumn*



*Marjorie Magnificent*

Another date to mark on your calendar is January 29th for the Melrose Friends of the Library plant sale, etc. at the home of Chuck and Bev Ritter. More specifics later on, but plan to go if you can.

Things to do in November: spray for spider mites (graying or brown midrib of leaves) and scale insects (white stuff on underside of leaves, particularly those near the ground). The current dry spell is particularly troublesome for spider mites. Use horticultural oil and a pesticide if desired. Water when needed, at least a good soaking once a week for established plants and twice a week for newly planted ones.

We have a special addition to our November Meeting. For about 45 minutes from 1-1:45 we will hold an informal workshop on flower preparations for the show, what judges look for in winning blooms and how to fill our entry cards, and a chance to reduce the perceived mystery of showing blooms. We want more members to bring blooms to our show. Try it, you'll like it!

Then during the meeting our program will be "How to wax camellias for home use". Please come.

**John Swanson, President**



*Prof. Charles S. Sargent*



*Cile Mitchell*



*Debutante*



*Wilamina*



*Kanjiro*



*Kramer's Supreme*



**Minutes for GCS Meeting - October 9, 2016**

John Swanson called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. He thanked Jay and Debbie Ellis and Ken and Eileen Wagner for providing refreshments for today's meeting. John reviewed the upcoming regional camellia shows and events which are listed in the newsletter. The American Camellia Society 2017 meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon, in April.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as published in the newsletter. Karen Peeples thanked Anna Langford for recording the minutes in her absence. Eleanor Thrasher moved to accept the minutes as published; seconded by Jerry Hogsette; approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Karen Peeples for Merry Reid**

- Savings Account - \$10,150.20
- Checking Account – \$667.53
- Total Funds - \$10,817.73

The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

On October 4th John Swanson, Irma Velez and Bruce Cavey had a positive meeting with Dr. Craig Tisher and Bailey Hillman at Wilmot Gardens. Wilmot will be holding their annual plant sale on December 3rd and 4th, and Irma Velez advised she will be organizing their sale. Camellias, azaleas and roses will be sold. The question arose if the GCS camellia profile book could be loaned to Wilmot Gardens for their plant sale. Irma Velez said she would be willing to take the book to the plant sale and insure that it was returned to GCS. GCS members who wish to help can contact Irma Velez.

On October 29th members who air layered plants at John Swanson's can come and cut their air layers. On November 1st members can cut their air layers from the Ridaughts' garden.

**SHOW UPDATE**

- Irma Velez advised everything was on schedule for the show.
- John Swanson will have a final list of plants after attending the Gulf Coast Camellia meeting and arranging for pickup and delivery. Plants will be picked up and housed at Bill Hayes' home until the show. Irma will confirm with Kanapaha that we can stage the plants for sale on the Thursday before the show.



- Irma advised that the storm damage from the two recent hurricanes involved a lot of cleanup in the camellia garden (6 pickup truckloads of tree limbs) and there are things that should be done in the garden prior to the show.
  - The first is MULCH. Kanapaha Gardens has provided mulch for the camellia garden and Irma has requested volunteers to spread the mulch on the pathways. Kanapaha will provide the tools to move the mulch. Irma has a garden workday each Wednesday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and will appreciate help spreading the mulch.
  - Plants will need to be disbudded and gibbed in November to ensure good blooms for the show. Disbudding can be done by members anytime they are in the gardens, even after our regular meetings. Gibbing will be done on November 2nd. Irma circulated a sign-up sheet to organize volunteers.
- It was noted the Orchid Society had a show banner hanging on the fence at the entrance to Kanapaha Gardens. The fence is not a part of Kanapaha Gardens, but on private property and Irma Velez will research being able to do the same for our show. If this can be done, GCS will proceed with purchasing a banner to advertise the show.
- Jerry Hogsette has contacted judges to attend the show.
- John Swanson noted that the playbill for the Gainesville Community Playhouse had advertising space and gave that information to Karen Peeples to research for the GCS show advertising.

At the Board meeting, a suggestion was made to see about putting a storage shed for GCS use on Kanapaha property. Irma Velez contacted Kanapaha and found out that the land is leased from Alachua County and any buildings put on the property would become county property. So placing a storage shed at Kanapaha was not something that could be done.

At the ACCS meeting, John was complimented on the quality of our newsletter and he thanked Anna Langford for her work. He also commented on the “Likes” we had received on our FaceBook page, including some from overseas.

Eleanor Thrasher recruited 5 table host/hostesses for the Christmas potluck.

John Swanson read a letter from the American Camellia Society awarding Chuck and Bev Ritter the 2016 Sewell Mutant Award for the camellia bloom *Bev Ritter*. Congratulations!

## PROGRAM

"Success and Failures in Air-Layering our Camellias...We Will Succeed!" was presented by Bruce Cavey. The November program will be what a judge looks for when judging blooms at a show.

Camellia plants were provided by John Swanson and auctioned after the presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

*Karen Peeples, Secretary*

### **2016-17 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society**

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, November 20	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Carter Wittman Bruce Cavey
Sunday, December 18 Holiday Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher, Anna Langford, Tara Gill, Barbara Boothroyd, Debbie & Jay Ellis Merry Reid, Dinh Swanson, Bruce Cavey
Sunday, January 15	Home of Jay and Debbie Ellis, Keystone Heights	Margaret Wagener, Lucille Little, and Laura Davis
Sunday, February 19	Home of Chuck and Bev Ritter, Melrose	Dinh & John Swanson Bill Hayes
Sunday, March 19	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Irma Velez
Sunday, April 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, May 21 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher <i>volunteers needed</i>

### **2017 Camellia Nomenclature**

The new 2017 Southern California Camellia Society *Nomenclature* is now available through Amazon. The price is \$20 each. If you order two or more there is no shipping! Printing is done in Charleston, so shipping should be very prompt. An electronic version of the 2017 SCCS Nomenclature will soon be available. We are also working on an electronic version with links to over 2400 pictures. Order your copies now.

### ***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 GCS Facebook page.

### ***Upcoming Camellia Shows***

Pensacola, FL	Pensacola Camellia Club	12/10/2016
Gainesville, FL	Gainesville Camellia Society	1/7-8/2017
Tallahassee, FL	Tallahassee Camellia Society	1/14-15/2017
Winter Park, FL	Camellia Society of Central Florida	1/21/17
Lakeland, FL	Lakeland Camellia Society	1/28/17
Ocala, FL	Ocala Camellia Society	1/28/17
Quitman, GA	Quitman Garden Club	2/4/17
Thomasville, GA	Thomasville Garden Club	2/11/17
Atlanta, GA	North Georgia Camellia Society	2/18-19/2017
Ft Valley, GA	Middle Georgia Camellia Society	2/25-26//2017
Columbus, GA	Chattahoochee Valley Camelia Society	3/4-5/2017

### ***Upcoming: ACS Novice/Judge School***

Saturday, December 10, 2016, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

North Augusta, South Carolina

Instructors: Geary Serpas and Jim Dickson

Contact Jim Dickson for additional details and to register for the class.

[cjdickson@bellsouth.net](mailto:cjdickson@bellsouth.net); Home: (803) 279-9451; Cell: (803) 292-6606

Participant Information:

Accredited Judge Students - No fee to participate

Novice students - Complete an ACS Novice Judge Application

(includes an ACS \$10 processing fee/click [here](#) to open novice application online.)

Lunch will be provided for a nominal cost.

American Camellia Society, Inc., 100 Masee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030

***Officers***

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

***Board Members***

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

***Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society***

***Program Chair:*** Bruce Cavey

***Date:*** Sunday, November 20, 2016, at 2pm

***Place:*** Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

***Program*** "Wax Camellias for Special Events in your Life"

presented by Inez Brooker, Gainesville Garden Club

Note: at 1pm a special workshop will be held to advise novices on entering blooms into a show. Come early and find out more about this.

***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, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.





# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

*Volume 46*

*Editor: Anna Langford*

*October 2016*

## *President's Message*

Just got back from MN. Didn't see camellias anywhere — lots of golfers and golf fans though — something about Ryder!

This is a busy time of year; shows are cranking up: Georgia National Fair show in Perry, GA on Oct. 8th, Wiregrass show in Boston, GA on Nov. 5th, and Byron, GA show on Nov. 12th. Of course gibbing is needed to have blooms for these shows, but they are good warm ups for our show coming up on January 7th-8th, 2017. Yes, the year is flying by!



*Ave Maria*



*Nuccio's Bella Rosa*

October is a good time to plant camellias, giving their root systems several cooler months to develop and become established. Check on your air-layers, as they can usually be taken off during October and November and potted up. Our program this month will feature air-layering.

No feedback yet from either of our Nursery plant suppliers. We should be hearing from them soon.

If it is or remains dry, watch for and control spider mites and scale insects. Oil spray can work well if the temperatures are not much above 80°.

Keep disbudding as needed to ensure better size of blooms for show or home use.



*Sandra Williams*



*April Remembered*

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society meeting last month was a big success, and this month the Gulf Coast Camellia Society will meet at the Hollywood Casino in St. Louis Bay, MS. It is another fun event and also features an excellent auction at which to get some special plants you want to fill in your inventory. GCS will again have representatives attending the meeting.

A meeting between some GCS officers and the managers of Wilmot Gardens took place on Oct. 4th to discuss mutually supportive activities and interests. We will report on the results at the October GCS meeting.

Thanks to the Thrashers and Langfords for the excellent refreshments at the September meeting. There may still be a few openings for volunteers to help with refreshments at remaining meetings, so check with Eleanor Thrasher if you can help out. Thanks to all who signed up already.

Attached are some pics of early Camellias in bloom, and a few other companion plants that provide Southern Garden Fall color.



*Purple Swirl*





*Pink Perfection*

Also a pic of one of Mother Nature's Pruning devices we found on our return trip. Not recommended for precise shaping, but it reduced the need for us to prune our "Grace Ward" in the upcoming Winter pruning season. It does not appear to be a fatal injury.

We will soon be scheduling the trip to cut air-layers at the Ridaught Nursery and from the Swanson collection as well.

Camellia Season has begun.

***John Swanson, President***



*Blue Ginger*



*Disney Ginger*



*Mother Nature's Pruning Tool*



*Camellia Sinensis, the tea plant*

### ***Minutes for GCS Meeting - September 18, 2016***

President John Swanson called the meeting to order at 3:15pm.

John gave a brief report on the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society meeting in Litchfield Beach, SC, that he and several other members of our club attended this weekend. He described some of the activities and said that everyone had a great time.

He introduced a guest attending our meeting, Walter Bryant, who is the president of the Jacksonville Men's Garden Club. Later in the meeting, Walter stated that their club has a number of older camellias for which they are seeking identification. He invited any knowledgeable member to visit Jacksonville to help with naming plants and said that he will return to our next meeting with some flowers if possible. John suggested that they look at the extensive catalog of varieties put together by the ACCS on their website.

John said that dates will be announced, probably in late October or early November, for those who participated in air layering earlier this year at the homes of the Ridaughts and the Swansons. Participants can collect their plants on those visits.

Irma Velez explained that more volunteers are needed to work in the Kanapaha Camellia and Azalea Gardens. The Master Gardeners take care of routine maintenance. Several new projects are planned that require extra help, including clearing out additional space to plant new camellias and distributing mulch throughout the garden.

John listed dates and venues for several upcoming camellia shows being held by various clubs in Florida and Georgia.

Upcoming Camellia Shows		
Perry, GA	Middle Georgia Camellia Society	10/8-9/2016
Boston, GA	Wiregrass Camellia Society	11/5/2016
Byron, GA	Middle Georgia Camellia Society	11/12-13/2016
Ft Walton Beach, FL	Greater Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society	11/12/2016
Pensacola, FL	Pensacola Camellia Club	12/10/2016
Gainesville, FL	Gainesville Camellia Society	1/7-8/2017
Tallahassee, FL	Tallahassee Camellia Society	1/14-15/2017
Winter Park, FL	Camellia Society of Central Florida	1/21/17
Lakeland, FL	Lakeland Camellia Society	1/28/17
Ocala, FL	Ocala Camellia Society	1/28/17
Quitman, GA	Quitman Garden Club	2/4/17
Thomasville, GA	Thomasville Garden Club	2/11/17
Atlanta, GA	North Georgia Camellia Society	2/18-19/17
Ft Valley, GA	Middle Georgia Camellia Society	2/25-26//17
Columbus, GA	Chattahoochee Valley Camelia Society	3/4-5/17

John announced that a joint meeting with people from Wilmot Gardens will be held on October 4th at 10am and that all interested GCS members are welcome to attend. The purpose is to promote cooperation and coordination between our society and Wilmot Gardens.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Secretary's Report

Karen Peebles was not present at today's meeting, although she had asked Anna Langford to take minutes. Paul Warner moved that we accept the minutes of the May meeting as published in the September newsletter; seconded by Bill Hayes; approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Merry Reid stated that she is collecting GCS dues at this time. Dues are \$15 for a single membership and \$20 for a couple. She reported the following amounts in the GCS bank accounts:

Savings:	\$10,149.95
Checking:	507.53
Total:	\$10,657.48

### Report on the January 2017 GCS Camellia Show

Irma Velez, Show Chair, said that the chairmen of committees who served last year have all agreed to perform the same tasks this year. She will have more details at future meetings.

John Swanson related that orders have been sent to the two nurseries from which we purchase camellias for the plant sale. Copies of the lists of plants requested were emailed to everyone with the September newsletter. Anyone who wishes to preorder camellias should get in touch with him, Charles Simon, or Bill Hayes.

Bruce Cavey explained that he has gathered information on signage to improve communications with the public at our January show, our monthly meetings, and at our educational booth at Kanapaha's Spring Festival. John Thrasher said that it is important to check with Kanapaha about any signage we want to place at the entrance to the gardens. Members are to think about these possibilities, and this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Retractable banner 33" x 80" on a three foot stand with legs:	\$180
A-frame with removable, reusable signs on two sides:	\$85
Signs that slide onto the A-frame:	\$18 per sign
Color banner with the GCS logo: 10' x 2' banner	\$105
8' x 3' banner	\$85



### Newsletter Editor Report

John Swanson announced that items of interest to be included in our newsletter are welcome. Anna Langford stated that items to be included should be emailed to her prior to the weekend before the monthly meeting. Ordinarily that deadline would be the second Friday of the month. (John pointed out that several of our meetings have been moved to the second Sunday of the month, so that the newsletter will be produced a week earlier.)

### Refreshment Committee

Eleanor Thrasher has sent around a sign-up sheet for refreshments at our monthly meetings. Today's food has been provided by the Thrashers and drinks by the Langfords.

### Program

Bruce Cavey, whose landscaping business is called The Gardener Extraordinaire, spoke about "Camellias and their Shady Companions". He showed many slides of beautiful plants and plant groupings from his own yard to illustrate effective ways to bring color and texture to enhance camellia plantings. Bruce provided a handout listing many of the plants he showed us. Six lucky people were invited to take home a plant from Bruce's list that he brought today.

### Announcements from the President

Next month we will meet on the *second* Sunday of the month, on October 9th.

After today's meeting, anyone who wishes to participate in a gibbing demonstration should meet Irma Velez and Jerry Hogsette outside in the garden.

Four camellia plants were provided by John Swanson and auctioned off after the presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.

***Anna Langford for Karen Peebles, Secretary***

### **2016-17 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society**

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
Sunday, September 18	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Eleanor & John Thrasher Anna & Gerald Langford
Sunday, October 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Eileen Wagner Debbie Ellis
Sunday, November 20	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Carter Wittman <i>2nd volunteer needed</i>
Sunday, December 18 Holiday Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher <i>volunteers needed</i>
Sunday, January 15	Home of Jay and Debbie Ellis, Keystone Heights	Margaret Wagener, Lucille Little, and Laura Davis
Sunday, February 19	Home of Chuck and Bev Ritter, Melrose	Dinh & John Swanson Bill Hayes
Sunday, March 12	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Irma Velez
Sunday, April 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon
Sunday, May 21 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher <i>volunteers needed</i>

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**Officers**

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

**Board Members**

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

**Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society**

**Program Chair:** Bruce Cavey

**Date:** Sunday, October 9, 2016

**Place:** Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

**Program** "Success and Failures in Air-Layering our Camellias...We Will Succeed!"  
presented by Bruce Cavey

**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, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.



# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Volume 45

Editor: Anna Langford

September 2016

## President's Message

Wow, summer is moving along quickly. It has been a good summer for camellia growth, and a good summer for spider mites and some other critters. Aphids and grasshoppers have also been noted. I personally have had some plants hit hard by spider mites. I've sprayed using some miticides and they seem to help. Horticulture oil spray and Neem oil also works, but there can be some sunburn arising from spraying when the temps get above 90, which has been pretty often this summer.



*White Giant*

I mentioned bud formation and growth, so that means it is also time for disbudding. Most double buds should be reduced to leaving just one. Some varieties heavily set multiple buds. Varieties like Maroon and Gold, Cherries, Jubilee, and Fragrant Pink are loaded and require a lot of work if you want to stay ahead of them. Best not to start too early, as that often stimulates the plant to put out more buds. If you are growing for show, disbudding is important to get good sized blooms.

If, however, you are just disbudding for your own enjoyment, one strategy is to disbud according to size and location of buds, leaving one large, one medium, and perhaps a third smaller one, so that when the first one is finished blooming, the second won't be far behind, and that one followed by the third. Disbud by gently grasping the bud you wish to retain, and then gently twisting off the extra flower bud.



*William Penn*



*Wend-Zalia*

Now is also the time to start gibbing if you plan to show blooms at the fall shows, the first of which is in conjunction with the Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA, on Oct. 8th. As far as I know, the second show is on Nov. 5th in Boston, GA, sponsored by the Wiregrass Camellia Society in the Quitman area. Byron, GA, usually has one in mid-November, but I have not yet received the info on the date.



*Wilamina*



*White King*

We have ordered our plants from County Line and Loch Laurel Nurseries and our orders are attached to this newsletter. If you wish to reserve any of those ordered, or wish to order plants not on our list please let Charles Simon, Bill Hayes, or me know and we can accommodate your request. The County Line form is on Excel and is attached, but the available plants from Loch Laurel should be reviewed at their web site. County Line plants are in 3 gallon pots and Loch Laurel plants are in 2 gallon pots. Prices are expected to be similar to last year.

Two regional Camellia Association meetings are held this fall. First is the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society held at Litchfield Beach, SC, on Sept. 16-17. Several of us from GCS plan to attend and I expect to report on it at our September meeting.

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society will meet on October 17-18 at the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis, MS. Some GCS members are already signed up for that meeting, too. Both meetings and groups are fun with interesting events. Plant auctions and programs sharing useful camellia information are important parts of the meetings. Also good food and fellowship.



*Wendy*



*Walter Bellingrath*

Our meeting schedule is attached, and I call your special attention to the three meetings which are not on the usual 3rd Sunday. The October meeting is on the 9th, the March 2017 meeting is on the 12th, and the April meeting is on the 9th. The first two changes are due to the Kanapaha Fall and Spring Garden Festivals. Since Easter, 2017 falls on the third Sunday in April, we will meet early that month, too.



Meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens at 2:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. Jay and Debbie Ellis have graciously offered to host our January 15th meeting at their home in Keystone Heights. Plan to attend and see some of the beautiful camellias that Jay and Debbie are famous for. We are in contact with Wilmot Gardens at UF and expect to coordinate more with them for future activities of mutual interest.

For those who participated in air layering at the Ridaught residence near Alachua, a mutually agreeable single date to go and cut the air layers will be decided upon after consulting the participants. A similar event will be scheduled at the Swanson residence for those who air layered plants at our place, probably also in late October.



*White Porcelain*



*Whoopee*

Bruce Cavey, our V.P. for Programs this year, already has several excellent programs lined up. During the September meeting Bruce will present "Camellias and Their Shady Companions" focusing on companion plants that add beauty to our camellia gardens. Come and enjoy.

Our GCS Camellia Show will be on January 7-8 and Irma is always looking for volunteers to assist with the various activities involved. Please mark your calendars to help with the show, its preparation and clean up. Thanks much. It promises to be a great year in Gator Camellialand.

***John Swanson, President***

### ***Minutes for GCS Meeting - May 15, 2016***

The Gainesville Camellia Society annual potluck began at 1:00 p.m. John Swanson thanked Eleanor and John Thrasher for their fine work in coordinating the details of the luncheon and members for their delicious potluck dishes.

At 2:00 p.m. the regular meeting began. There were no additions or corrections to the April minutes. Charles Simon moved to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter; seconded by Paul Warner; approved.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Merry Reid
  - Savings Account - \$11,433.34
  - Checking Account - \$1,402.41
  - Total Funds - \$12,835.75

Patrick Andrews noted that having more than \$15,000 in our treasury could potentially open GCS up to additional legal regulation. Discussion followed regarding options to keep our organization compliant. Approximately \$7,000 - \$8,000 is the initial cost required to put on our annual show; some of which is recovered through plant sales. Charles Simon suggested the discussion of uses for any surplus funds be moved to the Board of Directors meeting later this month. Members who have suggestions for using these funds should give them to Board members prior to the meeting.

Irma Velez moved that Gainesville Camellia Society donate \$500 to Kanapaha Gardens designated to be used toward the purchase of fertilizer for the camellia gardens at Kanapaha. Patrick Andrews seconded the motion and discussion followed. Jay Ellis brought up the topic of the poor placement of the GCS booth at the Kanapaha Spring Festival and charging entrance fees for volunteers who man the booth. Irma Velez advised there has been a lack of communication from Kanapaha regarding the procedures they require for participation of educational vendors. She will talk with Kanapaha for the 2017 Spring Festival to ensure the problems that have happened in the past do not continue. As soon as the festival paperwork comes out (usually in January) Irma will request that our booth be assigned to the educational area of the festival which should eliminate past concerns. After clarification of these issues, the motion was approved by members.

Patrick Andrews made a motion Gainesville Camellia Society donate \$500 to the American Camellia Society General Operating Fund to be used for operating expenses of the Masee Lane Gardens. Seconded by Irma Velez; approved.

Jay Ellis made a motion to send a \$25 Memorial donation to the American Camellia Society in honor of Clayton Mathis, who had lived in Gainesville and was renowned among camellia growers and who passed away earlier this year. Charles Simon moved to amend the amount to \$100; seconded by Jerry Hogsette. The amended motion passed.

Patrick Andrews administered to oath of office to the officers and board members present. He expressed appreciation for John Swanson and the work he has done as President this past year. John Thrasher also expressed appreciation for Anna Langford and her efforts in producing the GCS newsletter.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A Board of Directors meeting will be held Saturday, May 21st at 2:00 p.m. at the home of John and Dinh Swanson. Anyone with topics to be discussed should contact a board member to have it put on the meeting agenda.

The Wiregrass Camellia Society in Boston, Georgia will hold their camellia show on November 5th this year. The Valdosta Camellia Society will hold their show in October.

ACCS annual meeting in Litchfield Beach will be held September 16th and 17th. Patrick Andrews is the new President of ACCS. John noted the ACCS meeting is an excellent opportunity to socialize with other camellia growers and several members have already expressed interest in attending the meeting.

John Swanson also noted that the ACCS website has a copy of Randolph Maphis’s grafting presentation which will refresh information given by the Selphs’ grafting demonstration at the Ritters.

GCS meetings will be moved to the second Sunday of the month in October 2016, March and April 2017.

Camellia plants should be fertilized this month and gibbing should be done in August for those planning to enter blooms in Fall shows.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 with our regular plant auction.

**Karen Peeples, Secretary**

<b>2016-17 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society</b>		
<b>Date and place of meeting</b>		<b>Refreshments</b>
Sunday, September 18	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Eleanor & John Thrasher Anna & Gerald Langford
Sunday, October 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	(volunteers needed)
Sunday, November 20	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	(volunteers needed)
Sunday, December 18 Holiday Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher (volunteers needed)
Sunday, January 15	Home of Jay and Debbie Ellis, Melrose	(volunteers needed)
Sunday, February 19	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	(volunteers needed)
Sunday, March 12	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	(volunteers needed)
Sunday, April 9	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	(volunteers needed)
Sunday, May 21 End-of-year Party	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Table set-up: Eleanor & John Thrasher (volunteers needed)

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***Minutes for Board of Directors' Meeting - May 21, 2016***

The Board of Directors' meeting was called to order at the home of John and Dinh Swanson at 2:10 pm by John Swanson. Present were John Swanson, Irma Velez, Karen Peeples, Merry Reid, Chuck Ritter, Charles Simon, Joel Schwiebert, Jay Ellis, Nicki Whittaker, Bruce Cavey, Ruth Melton, Bill Hayes, and Jerry Hogsette. Guests were Dinh Swanson, Annette Schwiebert and Diane Simon. In preparation for today's discussion, John Swanson read the section of the Gainesville Camellia Society Bylaws which dealt with the purpose of the organization.

As a follow up to the topic of collection of sales tax for our annual camellia sales, Joel Schwiebert contacted the Florida Department of Revenue who advised that our annual sale fell under the category of an "Occasional Use Sale" and required no collection of sales taxes. Joel Schwiebert moved that GCS accept the Florida Department of Revenue's opinion that the Gainesville Camellia Society's annual camellia sale falls under the category of an Occasional Use Sale according to Florida law and does not have to collect sales tax. (Reference Florida Administrative Code and Florida Administrative Register Rule 12A-1.037) The motion was seconded by Jerry Hogsette and approved.

The following topics were discussed with regard to use of excess funds currently in the treasury.

- Trust Fund – The current balance is approximately \$11,500. The cost of putting on the annual show is approximately \$8,000 (\$5,000 for plants; \$1,600 in prizes; and \$1,500 for operational items). Plant sales should recoup the cost of the plant purchases. In keeping approximately \$8,000 in reserve for the next year's show, there is about \$2,000-\$3,000 of excess funds.
- Kanapaha Gardens Storage Shed – It was suggested some of the excess funds be used to purchase a storage shed that could be placed in the Kanapaha Gardens maintenance area for GCS use. Supplies for the show could be stored there, as well as maintenance tools, supplies to be used at meetings such as gibberellic acid or fertilizers. Jerry Hogsette moved that Irma Velez approach Kanapaha Gardens to see if this was a possibility and what requirements would Kanapaha Gardens or other regulatory agencies have regarding GCS putting a shed for GCS on the grounds at Kanapaha. Seconded by Charles Simon.

Irma Velez gave an overview of preparations for the January show. Our show will not compete with the Tallahassee show, so grower participation should be good. Jerry Hogsette will arrange for judges and the pre-show dinner for them. Bruce Cavey is in charge of Clerking; Patrick Andrews, Placement (to be confirmed); Charles Simon, plant sales; Merry Reid, Information/Education; Karen Peeples, Publicity; and Dinh Swanson, Hospitality. Irma Velez will ask Tara Gill if she will again cater the judges' luncheon on Saturday. Karen Peeples moved that \$150 be allocated for Publicity expenses; seconded by Irma Velez and approved. Jerry Hogsette has approximately 70 plants that will be available for sale at the show.

It was suggested that the Business Manager of Wilmot Gardens, Bailey Hillman, be extended an honorary membership in the Gainesville Camellia Society. It was felt giving an honorary membership to the Business Manager was an excellent idea. She is new to her position and

perhaps she could be invited to be a guest speaker at a future meeting. John Swanson, as President, would write a letter to Ms. Hillman extending an honorary GCS membership to her.

Charles Simon moved that the editor of the Gainesville Camellia Society Newsletter be included as a regular member of the Board of Directors. Seconded by Jerry Hogsette; approved.

Jay Ellis advised he would host the January regular meeting at his home and gardens in Keystone Heights.

Suggestions for other GCS activities:

- Schedule a meeting in the Spring to tour the camellia gardens at North Florida Regional Medical Center. There are approximately 50 plants in the garden which is over 30 years old. The plants contain nametags and Jerry Hogsette would be able to give an informal tour of the gardens.
- Schedule a field trip in December to Christine's Camellias in Quitman, Georgia. John Swanson will contact the Selphs requesting a potential date convenient to them so that we could begin to promote the trip to members.
- Creation of a compendium of plants in gardens of members as a resource for anyone looking for a particular plant.
- Establishing an area in Kanapaha's camellia garden dedicated to plants that have been developed/registered by members of GCS. Irma Velez noted there is an overgrown area of the camellia garden that if cleaned out would be a good area for such a project. Master Gardeners provide weekly maintenance to the camellia garden, but this project would require some major work to accomplish.
- Workshops to expand skills in grafting, air layering, pest control, etc.

Bruce Cavey felt that the GCS booth and placement at the Kanapaha Gardens Spring Festival did not showcase GCS as well as it could. Irma Velez noted that communication problems with Kanapaha the past 2 years had resulted in poor placement of our booth and she said that she would make sure this problem was corrected. Bruce suggested more signage and colorful displays and perhaps an interactive display. He volunteered to head a project to improve our display and present his thoughts at a regular meeting.

John Swanson asked members to give some thoughts on ways to further promote interest and participation among new members to GCS.

Joel Schwiebert brought up the topic of plants other than camellias being auctioned at each meeting which tended to extend the meeting time. Members discussed the auction and it was determined that the value of a variety of plants available outweighed the additional time added to the meeting. Time would be given between the end of the meeting and the auction for those who did not wish to stay for the auction would be able to leave.

Jerry Hogsette made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Charles Simon. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.



**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Kanapaha Gardens** – Irma Velez to confer with Kanapaha Gardens regarding the placement of a GCS shed on the property.

**Gainesville Camellia Society Honorary Membership** – John Swanson to extend an honorary membership to the new Business Manager of Wilmot Gardens.

**GCS Newsletter Editor** – John Swanson to notify Anna Langford that the Editor of the newsletter has become a regular member of the Board of Directors.

**Camellia Show Publicity** – Karen Peeples to research paid publicity opportunities for the January show.

**Kanapaha Gardens Spring Festival** – Bruce Cavey to research ways to improve the visibility of the GCS booth, to include signage, visual items and perhaps an interactive display.

**Christine's Gardens** – John Swanson to contact the Selphs for a tentative date to tour the gardens.

*Submitted by Karen Peeples, Secretary*

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Ruth Milton

**Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society**

**Program Chair:** Bruce Cavey

**Date:** Sunday, September 18, 2016

**Place:** Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

**Program:** Camellias and Their Shady Companions presented by Bruce Cavey

**Refreshments Chair:** Eleanor Thrasher

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