



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

March 2020

President's Message



Les Marbury Special

Our trip to the Massee Lane Camellia Garden, home to the American Camellia Society in Fort Valley, Georgia, was both a surprise and a welcoming sight - a surprise as the gardens were in their glory, full of bud and full-blown bloom. Not damaged by the cold front that came through the area that weekend. In the bulb garden, various varieties were quite a display showing off their Spring color en-masse. As were the flowering Quince, Japanese Magnolias, and the Native Azaleas.

Their annual show happened to be the same day as our visit. Impressive - the Camellia Show inside the Annabelle Fetterman Building. It was packed with stunning examples of blooms from local and out of state growers brought that day. Several GCS members brought to my attention new ideas for presenting at our own show, color laminated division cards, and glazed deco blocks used as stands for the head-table winning blooms. Hmm, some new ideas to implement for our own GCS show next year perhaps?



Mathotiana Variegated

Our weather was stunning, chilly in the morning, but clear, cool, and sunny the rest of the day. As we arrived in Fort Valley area we stopped off at Lane's Orchard & Farm Stand for lunch. What a treat! Anything and everything peach and pecan were available. There were peach scones, peach chutney, grilling sauces and so much more! And this isn't even peach season yet! This area is surrounded by vast peach and pecan orchards and is a great day or weekend get-a-way. Enjoy a nice selection from the menu; a definite must-stop when you are in the area.



Emperor of Russia

After lunch we arrived at Masee Lane around 1:00 and browsed through the Camellia plants that were for sale. Then we broke into two groups. One group went to the show and the other group strolled through the Camellia gardens which have a great selection of both Japonica and Sasanqua Camellias. We did not have a tour guide available for our group, so I did my best and improvised! Our group had a lot of great questions which I hope were answered well enough. They really had me on my toes for answers! Well done! We then made our way into the Fetterman building, passing through their gift shop of Camellia themed and garden merchandise and into the wonders that lay ahead for us. Stunning color forms and shapes for all connoisseurs. Our own Bart Maris was represented as well as Jerry & Carol Selph, who cleaned up at the head table. Of course, I made a list of must-haves and took lots of photos.

We then regrouped, (23 in total Camellia lovers) and re-boarded our bus for the 3.5 hour trip back home. It was well worth the time and effort our GCS members contributed to organize this trip, especially Karen Peeples and Merry Reid. A huge thank you ladies!



Snow on the Ridge

Now down to other business.... I'm anticipating that fellow GCS members will be capable of filling spaces within our organization for the upcoming 2020-2021 Camellia year. I am hopeful that we will see some new faces filling positions that are being vacated. As Eileen Hart told us, an organization is only as good as its membership participation. Our organization is great but can only get better with continued support and volunteerism of our members. I recently received a message on our Facebook page regarding how warm and friendly our members are. It was great to hear that, especially knowing how true it is.

In closing, remember we are meeting earlier this month. Our meeting will be Sunday, March 8th at Kanapaha. Mark your calendars for next month's meeting, which will be at Wilmot Botanical Gardens on Sunday, April 19th.

The Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival is fast approaching on Saturday and Sunday, March 21 & 22. Please don't forget to sign up to help man our GCS booth and for those of you that already have, I thank you.

Also, I want to mention how glad we are to hear that our fellow Camellia enthusiast, friend and member John Swanson is doing well in his recuperation and we may even see him at this month's meeting. Looking forward to seeing John & Dinh!

My Best Regards and hoping to see you all soon,

Bruce Cavey, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting – February 17, 2020

Bruce Cavey welcomed guests and new members. Charles Simon presented camellia plants to four new members who were present today. Refreshments were provided by Mona Rippe & Michelle Gorday. Bill Hayes provided drinks.

Our program for today was a slide presentation entitled “A Symposium on Camellia Breeding” by Konrad Hooper.

At 3:00 p.m. Bruce Cavey called the business portion of the meeting to order. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as published in the newsletter.



Nuccio's Jewel



Prince Eugene Napoleon

TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid

- Savings Account - \$15,199.78
- Checking Account - \$6,060.59
- Total Funds: \$21,260.37
- Interim show financial report reflected a balance of \$6,380.32. Merry Reid has three prize checks that were yet to be distributed.

OLD BUSINESS

Karen Peeples moved to remove from the table the motion regarding a financial contribution to Wilmot Botanical Gardens. Motion seconded and passed. After discussion Charles Simon moved that Gainesville Camellia Society donate \$2,000 to Wilmot Botanical Gardens to be used toward the relocation of two large camellia plants from the Gordy Collection in Ocala. That would cover 1 day's cost to move 2 large plants. Motion seconded and members approved the expenditure. Merry Reid is to send a check to Wilmot.

*Lady Vansittart**Aunt Jetty***NEW BUSINESS**

Our March meeting is when nominations for officers and board members for the next year are submitted. Bruce Cavey will be contacting members regarding a Nominating Committee. He encouraged member participation.

Irma Velez announced that the 2020 Spring Festival at Kanapaha Gardens would be the weekend of March 21-22 and Gainesville Camellia Society always has an educational booth at the festival. She passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to man the booth. New members are encouraged to participate and are paired with experienced club members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anna Langford noted that the March GCS meeting had been moved to March 8th. Charles Simon announced it would be the Simon famous chili lunch.

The April GCS meeting will be at Wilmot Botanical Gardens and the guest speaker is Tommy Alden.

John Swanson's health is improving and he hopes to attend the March meeting.



Governor Mouton



Gustav Gerbing

Karen Peeples reminded members of the bus trip to Masee Lane Gardens next Saturday. There was room on the bus if anyone still wanted to join the group.

Bruce Cavey moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Hawser Pearce and approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Karen Peeples, Co-Secretary

Bus Trip to Masee Lanes Garden



A smiling group on the bus

Central Georgia
Camellia Show





Merry Reid showing her camellia smile



ACS Test Garden of sun tolerant camellias

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
March 8, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon Nicki Whittaker
April 19, 2019	Wilmot Botanical Gardens	John & Dinh Swanson Konrad & Nancy Hooper
May 17, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	End-of-year party - potluck



Charles Simon with
Camellia Spring Festival

A group pic in
front of the
Annabelle
Fetterman
Building



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President: Bruce Cavey
 1st VP & Show Co-Chairs: Bruce Cavey,
 Jerry Hogsette,
 John Swanson,
 Irma Velez
 2nd VP & Program Chair: Hawser Pearce
 Treasurer: Merry Reid
 Co-Secretaries: Karen Peeples,
 Charles Simon,
 Debbie Ellis

Board Members

Patrick Andrews
 Jay Ellis
 Jerry Hogsette
 Alan Hyde
 Cathy Martin
 Bev Ritter
 Chuck Ritter
 Diane Simon
 Steve (Ron) Stevens
 Irma Velez
 Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: Hawser Pearce

Date: Sunday, March 8, 2020

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: “Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens” by Lori Wallace

Refreshments Chair: Anna Langford

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



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President's Message



Fashionata

As I compose this message, we've already received another series of colder weather to our area for this year. Frost and freezes are not what gardeners really want, but yes, it is quite important for various reasons. First, to adequately allow pre-chill hours for our agricultural industry crops, and secondly to allow various insects, especially mosquitos to be put under wraps before a major outbreak during an otherwise mild winter. Several weeks after our own GCS show, our daytime temperatures were in the high 70's to low 80's!

My own Camellia garden has been nothing but spectacular! As my busy season is fast approaching, it had been several days since I had walked through the garden, and WOW was I floored to see so many stunning varieties of Camellias in full bloom. Bush after bush, some with over 40 blooms showing color at its best.

Speaking of beauty and bloom in the garden, our own Program Chairman, Hawser Pearce, yet again did an outstanding job in getting Dr. Craig Tischer of Wilmot Botanical Gardens to share with GCS members and guests on the history of the gardens from its inception to present day. With the installation of the Gordy Camellia Collection, some 700 plants, are still being installed throughout Wilmot Gardens and various other UF campus locations. It was informative and enlightening to say the least.

This garden has come full circle from the early days; when while I was in high school, I would run past this overgrown garden, peeking through to see what could be viewed. Walking through Wilmot with other GCS members after our meeting was over, we all remarked how orderly and organized the various gardens were.



Tinsie



Fragrant Boutoniere

With donations from various GCS members and local Camellia growers, the original Camellias in Wilmot, and now including the Gordy collection have given the garden new luster, beauty and diversity to make it a world class Camellia garden. Please make an opportunity to visit Wilmot and stroll through the gardens before the blooms have disappeared.

Our upcoming ACS Massey Lane Camellia Tour and Show is fast approaching.... Saturday, February 22nd. This is one event we all should consider attending. We'll be leaving from the Oaks Mall, south parking lot at 8:00 a.m. If you haven't signed up, please contact Karen Peebles to reserve your seat.

While walking in your Camellia garden keep a look out for various insects that might be harboring potential problems. Spider mites and tea scale are common during the winter months. Also collect spent Camellia blooms that could harbor fungus for next year's bloom potential to prevent flower blight. Other chores that should be considered soon include thinning undesirable branches, pruning out dead or diseased wood, fertilizing, and refurbishing mulch where needed.

The annual Spring Garden Festival at Kanapaha is right around the corner. Our information booth will need to volunteers to represent the GCS during this two-day event. Irma Velez usually passes around a sign-up sheet for volunteers during our February meeting.



Les Marbury



Sawada's Mahogany

It will soon be time for our nominating committee to present candidates for Officers and Board Members for GCS for the 2020-2021 season.

In closing, enjoy the beauty that surrounds us and especially share your blooms with others for the rest of the winter season. Spring is a-coming!

Best Regards,

Bruce Cavey, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting –January 19, 2020

Bruce Cavey opened the meeting at 2:15 p.m. by welcoming visitors and new members. Refreshments were provided by Laura Davis, Lucille Little, and Margaret Wagener and Carter Wittman provided drinks. This month's meeting was at Wilmot Botanical Gardens at the University of Florida.



Wendy

Hawser Pearce introduced our guest speaker, Garden Director C. Craig Tisher, MD, who discussed relocation of the Gordy camellia collection to Wilmot Gardens. Dr. Tisher first gave a pictorial history of Dr. Wilmot and the gardens named after him. After the gardens fell into disarray, Dr. Tisher described the efforts of the University of Florida and volunteers to begin to restore the gardens. As part of the improvement to the gardens, the University began to consider a horticultural program for people with disabilities and the gardens became a perfect venue to build a greenhouse as a part of this program.

Several years ago the gardens received an opportunity to acquire approximately one half of the original Gordy camellia collection. Dr. Tisher outlined (with photographs) the process and challenges of moving hundreds of camellia plants from Ocala, Florida to Gainesville. A section of Wilmot Botanical Gardens has been set aside for the Gordy plants. Many of the remaining plants will be planted throughout the University of Florida. Dr. Tisher gave a tip on replanting the camellias. After digging a hole for the plant, a product called Cool Terra, ground coconut shells which had been made into charcoal, was added to the soil. This product is said to retain water and encourages bacterial growth to maintain healthy plants.

In November 2019 Wilmot Gardens was renamed Wilmot Botanical Gardens. This new name more accurately describes the purpose of the gardens. Dr. Tisher then opened the floor for discussion.



William Penn

After Dr. Tisher's presentation, Bruce Cavey called the regular meeting back to order. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as published in the January newsletter and the minutes were accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid

- Savings Account - \$15,210.39
- Checking Account - \$7,323.56
- Total Funds: \$22,533.95
- Merry Reid advised all show expenses had been paid except for prize monies.

Charles Simon reported over \$17,000 in plant sales from the show



Sweetie Pie

SHOW REPORT

Bruce Cavey said that he had received many compliments from people who attended the show. He also thanked the many volunteers who helped make this show another successful GCS event.

Charles Simon thanked those who were a part of the plant sale success; those who housed and moved the plants and those who manned the sales area for the two days. He said that there were people who arrived at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and stood in the rain to purchase plants.

It was suggested to Hawser Pearce that one of our future program topics be what to look for in a bloom if you wanted to enter it into a show.

OLD BUSINESS

Karen Peeples reminded members of the GCS trip to Massee Lane Gardens on February 22nd. Registration forms had been emailed to members with the January newsletter. We have only one regular meeting before the trip so members were encouraged to let Merry Reid or Karen Peeples know if they were planning to attend.



Tama Bambino



Sandra Williams

NEW BUSINESS

Karen Peeples suggested that because of Wilmot Botanical Gardens' efforts to preserve the camellia gardens, GCS consider a large donation to the gardens. Mona Rippe moved that after the expenses from the 2020 show have been calculated, along with future expenditures, GCS consider a donation to Wilmot Botanical Gardens at our February meeting. Motion approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Merry Reid received a thank you card from Dolly Warner for the donation GCS had made to the American Camellia Society as a memorial to Paul Warner, her husband.

Jerry Hogsette read an obituary for John Verway, a longtime GCS member, who recently passed away. He moved to send a \$50 honorarium to ACS in memory of Mr. Verway. It was noted that Mr. Verway's wife, Janet, was also an active member who had passed away and it was voted to increase the honorarium to \$100 in memory of both husband and wife.

It was also noted that Ruth Milton, another longtime member, had also recently passed away. It was voted to send a \$50 honorarium to ACS in her memory.

John Swanson is scheduled to enter rehab after having heart bypass surgery this past week. Merry Reid circulated a card for everyone to sign.

Alice Rhoton-Vlas, a new member, had contacted Anna Langford for help identifying some camellia blooms in her garden. She had dropped off several blooms but was unable to stay for the meeting. Any help in identifying the flowers should be sent to Anna or Alice. It was suggested that Alice take pictures of her blooms to help in identifying the plants.

The Ocala Camellia Society will be hosting their show next weekend at Silver Springs State Park for those who would like to see another show.

There being no further business, Charles Simon moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Eileen Wagner and passed.

The meeting was followed by our plant auction.

Karen Peeples, Co-Secretary



Terry Gilley Variegated

Announcement - Bus Trip to Masee Lanes Garden

Join your camellia friends for a day trip to the American Camellia Society headquarters in Fort Valley, Georgia on February 22, 2020. The bus leaves Oaks Mall at 8:00 a.m. and cost is \$15 for GCS members and \$30 for non-members, plus admission to Masee Lane. Lunch is on your own at a stop at Lane Southern Orchards. If you haven't signed up to go, our February meeting will be your last opportunity. Please bring the attached registration form along with your check Contact Merry Reid 352-283-2222 or Karen Peeples 352-359-4854 to reserve your seat. You're welcome to bring your Starbucks coffee and snacks.

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
February 16, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Mona Rippe & Michelle Gorday Bill Hayes
March 8, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon Nicki Whittaker
April 19, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	John & Dinh Swanson Konrad & Nancy Hooper
May 17, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	End-of-year party - potluck

Note: photos in this newsletter are courtesy of John Swanson and are from his garden.

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Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: Hawser Pearce

Date: Sunday, February 16, 2019

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: "A Symposium on Camellia Breeding" by Jack Gold and Konrad Hooper

Refreshments Chair: Anna Langford

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Please Note

Our January meeting will be held at WILMOT GARDENS, 2023 Mowry Road, Gainesville, FL, on the UF campus, rather than our usual meeting place of Kanapaha Gardens. A map is available on their website, which you can access at:

<https://wilmotgardens.med.ufl.edu/visit/directions-parking-and-accessibility/>

Parking is available in the parking garage just east of the gardens or along side roads. Additional information about our meeting is on the last page of this newsletter.

President's Message



Nitidisima

Hello everyone and Happy New Year to you all! I hope your holiday season was wonderful and that 2020 will be a year of love, happiness, prosperity, good health, and lots of Camellias! As we were preparing for our annual Camellia Show and Plant Sale last weekend, many of Eileen Hart's suggestions from our November meeting came to mind. To make a great organization, teamwork is crucial. It allows all members to participate and contribute in the event as team players. I was so proud of the members of our organization that helped and how we all worked together to make this year's show spectacular. It really showed that our club works well together as a team.

We also had a phenomenal show of blooms despite the rain in the morning. We sold every single Camellia, 700 in all, and gained six new members. I was also pleased to see that various members who had never entered blooms into the novice category before, did enter their blooms this year. I was equally pleased to see returning newbies entering their blooms again.

There are so many people to thank for what they do each year to make our show such a success. It's impossible for me to list everyone and their contributions. Please know that all efforts do not go unnoticed and are very much appreciated. I'm aware that it can sometimes be overwhelming and feel like a thankless job, especially when so much falls on the shoulders of few.



Grand Marshall Variegated



Doris Ellis

Special thanks to the Gainesville Master Gardeners for assisting in all the capacities needed. Thank you, Irma Velez, for lining everything up with them. Irma also did educational "Camellia 101" presentations on Saturday and Sunday for those attendees that were interested in learning more about Camellias and their care. Thank you so much for everything you do.

Thank you to Jerry Hogsette, Chairman of Judges, for taking care of the judges and having dinner at your house on Friday evening after setup, and all the other ways you contribute.

A big thank you goes to Anna Langford and Hawser Pearce for their thorough work in tabulating points and recording the winning blooms. This is a tedious task that involves complete accuracy and attention to detail.

Thank you to Dinh Swanson and her hospitality crew for breakfast and lunch, and all the ways they keep us fueled and organized.

As always Charles Simon and his exceptional plant crew moved, organized, staffed and sold our wide collection of Camellias. I received many texts and personal comments from attendees on both days on how professional and helpful his crew was in making the attendees buying experience memorable. Way to go guys!



Ville de Nantes



Guilio Nuccio Variegated

To Mona Rippe, our cashier, a big thank you for sticking it out both days, especially Saturday with the rain.

Sincere thanks to John Swanson who always goes above and beyond and contributes so much to our organization. John does so much up front and behind the scenes. He even recruits his kids every year to help out at the show. Thank you Megan & Steven. We appreciate your help. Please keep John and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he undergoes surgery this week.

Thank you to the many GCS members who volunteered both days at the information desk. Your service is vital to assist the public with needed information.

Thank you to Bill Hayes and Charles & Diane Simon for storing and maintaining all of our plants for months before the sale. And a big thanks also to Jerry Hogsette and John Swanson, who graciously air-layered and grew plants for the sale.

I'd also like to personally thank Richard Buggeln from the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. Richard is the person that does all the work to get our show results posted online within days of the show.

This is by no means an all inclusive list of those who helped or even the tasks that each of you performed. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes, I'd have to write a book to thank everyone and include all that they do.



Tomorrow's Dawn



Men's Mini

Congratulations to everyone who won awards. There were so many outstanding blooms. Special congratulations to Merry Reid, who won the **Founder's Trophy for Best Unprotected Bloom by GCS Member** with Pink Perfection, and also to Jay & Debbie Ellis who won the **Sweepstakes Award with 32 Blue Ribbons**.

The results of our show can be viewed at <http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/2019-2020/Gainesville%20Show%20Results%20-%20010420-Gainesville.html>

I hope to see many of you at our next meeting on Sunday, January 19th. Please take note that this meeting will be held at UF's Wilmot Gardens instead of our usual meeting place at Kanapaha. Same time, 2:00 pm. Ample parking is available nearby.

Best Regards for the New Year,

Bruce Cavey, President



Fragrant Boutoniere

Minutes for GCS Meeting –December 15, 2019

Meeting called to order at 3:15pm.

Our annual show discussed. Doors open at 6am on 1/4/2020.

Irma Velez will be holding training at Kanapaha for preparing show entries on 12/18/2019 at 9:30am.

Setup for our show will be at about 4pm on Friday, January 3, 2020. Meet and greet will follow at the home of Jerry Hogsette. This is an opportunity to get to know the Judges.

We will break down from the show at about 4pm Sunday, January 5, 2020.



Kanjiro Variegated



Something Beautiful

Bruce will scope out Camellia availability at Garden Gate Nursery as a place to send the Camellia enthusiasts after our show.

We're in good shape for our show with the exception of the advertising. This was cut short due to illness. Charles Simon and I will finish it up.

Three guests were introduced.

Auction held.

Gift exchange conducted.

Meeting concluded at 3:30.

Debbie Ellis, Co-Secretary

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Photos from the January 2020 Show and Plant Sale





Plant Sale on Saturday morning.

Plant Sale on Saturday afternoon.





2019-2020 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
January 19, 2019	Wilmot Gardens	Laura Davis, Lucille Little, & Margaret Wagener Carter Wittman
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Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: Hawser Pearce

Date: Sunday, January 19, 2019

Place: Wilmot Gardens, UF Campus

Program: Garden Director C. Craig Tisher, MD, will discuss relocation of the Gordy collection to Wilmot Gardens.

Refreshments Chair: Anna Langford

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December 2019

President's Message



Reg Ragland Supreme

Happy Holidays!

We are in full swing of the business of this time of year, as most of you probably are. With so many activities at hand, during this holiday season our upcoming annual Camellia Show and Plant Sale is not far behind.

My first three camellias were given to me as a Christmas gift, which began my plant addiction. They were Alba Plena, Pink Perfection and Governor Mouton. Our local garden centers, especially Garden Gate, now have an excellent selection of camellias to purchase for yourselves or to give as gifts. Remember to support your local small businesses this season. Who knows, that gift could inspire another budding camellia lover!

As the weather cools, and our days become more overcast, camellias are popping open and showing glorious color and enabling us to get a better idea of what blooms we want to enter in our upcoming show. Remember it only takes one bloom entered in the show to potentially be a contest contender. If you've never entered a bloom before, consider entering. You won't regret it.

Preparations are underway in getting the show more organized and chores delegated to those receptive to taking on those responsibilities. Anyone that takes on a task allows the club to look more professional and keeps everything running more smoothly. Sign-up sheets will be available for those interested in helping in different categories.



Blue Danube



Desert Moon

For those of you interested in entering blooms, placement cards will be available at the Christmas party. They can be filled out prior to the show. We will need volunteers for loading and unloading the camellias to be placed out front of Kanapaha on Thursday, January 2nd, 2020. On Friday, January 3rd, we'll be setting up the rooms as usual. On Saturday, January 4th the doors will open for us at 7 a.m. so we can finalize preparations and enter our blooms accordingly.

Saturday and Sunday, January 4th & 5th respectively, we will be meeting the general public again and selling our camellias with the help of our volunteers. Our biggest smiles and outward enthusiasm will go a long way in not only selling but also in promoting and getting new general members.

Our annual Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 15th, at 1 p.m., instead of our normal 2 p.m. meeting time, thus giving us ample time to socialize and enjoy each other's company. Please remember to bring a favorite dish. The meat will be provided by John and Dinh Swanson and Anna and Goat Langford. If you would like to participate in the white elephant gift exchange, please bring a gift for under \$10.

For those members that have signed up to do a holiday tablescape, thank you for volunteering. To spice things up, yours truly and two more members will judge the tablescapes for "Best Traditional Holiday" and "Most Unique". I will reward the winners with a gift certificate from a local small business. Bring your A-game!



Grace Burton



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Wishing you and yours blessings and good health for the New Year, and abundant blooms for the upcoming Camellia Show, from Annette and me and our four-legged babies; Timmy, Laney, Clementine, Beasley, Tootsie, Opie, Annabelle & our newest baby Figalilly.

Bruce Cavey, President

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Minutes for GCS Meeting – November 17, 2019

The meeting at Kanapaha Gardens was called to order by our President, Bruce Cavey, at 2:08 pm. Bruce welcomed one new member and informed the group that he would leave right after the meeting and before the plant auction. In keeping with the new order of our meetings this year, Bruce turned the meeting over to our Program Director, Hawser Pearce. Hawser Pearce introduced a returning speaker, Eileen Hart, who lectured the GCS last year about planting Camellia seeds. Hawser had the opportunity to visit Eileen at her home in Odessa, west of Tampa. Her extensive gardens included over 400 surviving Camellia plants, which were down from a maximum of 600 plants due to weather events.



Anabel Landsdel

Eileen spoke to us about her obsession: “How to make your Camellia Club the Best!” She related her life-long experiences with clubs, the good, the bad and the ugly! Some of the memorable topics she discussed that can help achieve this goal were the following.

- For shows, bring your best; your best flowers and your best people. Club member attitudes were a bit pretentious in the past, but are far more friendly and welcoming today. These are very important attributes to keep up.

- Encourage members to become active judges. They get to see unique blooms at distant shows and enlarge their social network and experiences. Judges should be encouraged to enter blooms in the shows they attend. Judges need to listen, pay attention, and follow the directions of the Head Judge. Eileen advised us to “Take it seriously.”
- Clubs should have classes on handling show flowers, including proper preparation and placement techniques. Eileen advised, “Treat each one as your own!”
- Everyone should feel included. Members enjoy different tasks and should be allowed to perform them. Our Camellia clubs are as much about socializing as gardening.
- Eileen felt that it was good to have “Treated” and “Non-treated” classes for blooms, especially for local people.
- A good measure of success for a club is the number of local people (club members) that win awards at their own show.



Bobby Fain, Variegated

When asked about “gibbing” (applying gibberellic acid solution), Eileen advised that it generally takes 5-6 weeks for the blossom to open after the gibb is applied. GCS member Konrad Hooper added that bud maturity matters a lot with respect to timing of the bud opening after gibb application.

BUSINESS MEETING

Our business meeting started at 3:08 pm following Eileen Hart’s lecture. The first order of business was approval of the May 2019 meeting minutes. There being no additions or corrections, a motion was made by Irma Velez to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by John Swanson, voted on and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT - MERRY REID

Our current ledger balances are:

Savings Account = \$5,052.56
 Checking Account = \$7,930.06
 Total Funds = \$12,982.62

Merry reported that so far we've paid Loch Laurel Nursery for 150 plants, Party Time for the show table rental and the deposit on the Charter bus for the upcoming trip to Massey Lane.



C. synaptica

OLD BUSINESS

John Swanson, co-Chair for the January 4-5, 2020, GCS Camellia Show, reported the following items.

County Line Nursery will be delivering about 350 Camellia plants to Bill Hayes' property before our next meeting and help is needed with unloading. John will email prospective helpers. He will have the list of plants purchased from both County Line and Loch Laurel nurseries published in our next Newsletter so members can select pre-sale plants. Members should email or call Bill Hayes for County Line plants, and Charles Simon for Loch Laurel plants.

Club members potted about 100 air layers at his "Pot Party" on October 26 at his house. The plant potting was followed by a pot-luck lunch. John has about 75 air layered plants ready for this year's sale, and will have about 170 for next year!

Air layering at Chuck Ritter's gardens produced 258 high-value potted plants for our club, plus about another 50 plants for members who helped with the process. Many of these plants will be ready for next year's sale.

There will be training for show helpers and Master Gardeners coordinated by Irma Velez and published in the GCS Newsletter. We will setup the tables in two rooms on Friday afternoon, January 3, 2020. Plants will be moved to the sales lot on Thursday, January 2, 2020. We need 200-300 large plastic cups for large blooms. Irma will get these for the show.

Dinh Swanson will recruit volunteers for the Hospitality Service. John Swanson is the liaison for the American Camellia Society (ACS) and has information about the Society available to all. He encouraged all of us to join.

*Capricci*

Irma Velez reported that Jerry Hogsette is inviting judges to our 2020 show and expects to have 20-30 available. Merry Reid is charge of the Education Table at the show. Irma will present her “Camellia 101” lecture and tour at 2:00 pm on Saturday and on Sunday for all interested persons.

Bruce Cavey is the Head Clerk this year. Karen Peeples is in charge of publications, advertisements and some of the education expansion this year. Charles Simon is in charge of plant sales.

Patrick Andrews will have a 3-hour judge training course in January in Ocala. Let John know if you’d like to attend._

OLD BUSINESS

Anna Langford has a sign-up sheet for Christmas Tables for next month’s party. Linda and Alan Hyde volunteered to prepare one table, and Linda would like to be in charge of the gift exchange this year.

Irma reminded us that we have two local show awards for GCS members: Best Unprotected Bloom and Sweepstakes which is for the most recognized blooms (blue, yellow and red dot designations). Irma moved that we move the award for these categories form names inscribed on a now-filled plaque to the standard \$20/award category. The motioned was seconded by Anna Langford, voted on and passed.

We need more people to help with tabulations at the show. Anna is in charge and Bruce will help. Please contact either of them if you’d like to help.

The December 15, 2019, meeting will begin at 1 pm to allow time for pre-dinner socializing. Our pot-luck meal will begin at 2 pm. There being no further business, Charles Simon moved that the meeting be closed. The motion was seconded by Jay Ellis, voted on and passed.

Charles Simon, Co-Secretary



*Air layering at
the Ritters
November 16,
2019.*

Announcement – Plants for the January Sale

Attached to the newsletter are the lists of plants we will have for the January show. Anyone interested in reserving or picking up plants should contact Bill Hayes for the County Line plants or Charles Simon for the Loch Laurel plants.

Bill (352) 222-4110

Charles (352) 213-3154

Announcement - Bus Trip to Masee Lanes Garden

Join your camellia friends for a day trip to the American Camellia Society headquarters in Fort Valley, Georgia on February 22, 2020. The bus leaves Oaks Mall at 8:00 a.m. and cost is \$15 for GCS members and \$30 for non-members, plus admission to Masee Lane. Lunch is on your own at a stop at Lane Southern Orchards. Contact ladypeoples@gmail.com for additional details. A registration form is attached to this newsletter.

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
December 15, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Christmas party – potluck Table hosts: Tom & Brenda Boss Michelle Gorday Nancy & Konrad Hooper Linda & Alan Hyde Lucille Little & Margaret Wagener Merry Reid Dinh & John Swanson
January 19, 2019	Wilmot Gardens	Laura Davis, Lucille Little, & Margaret Wagener Carter Wittman
February 16, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	John & Dinh Swanson Bill Hayes
March 8, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Mona Rippe & Michelle Gorday Nicki Whittaker
April 19, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon Konrad & Nancy Hooper
May 17, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	End-of-year party - potluck

Note: all photos in this newsletter are courtesy of John Swanson from flowers in his garden

Officers

President: Bruce Cavey
 1st VP & Show Co-Chairs: Bruce Cavey,
 Jerry Hogsette,
 John Swanson,
 Irma Velez
 2nd VP & Program Chair: Hawser Pearce
 Treasurer: Merry Reid
 Co-Secretaries: Karen Peeples,
 Charles Simon,
 Debbie Ellis

Board Members

Patrick Andrews
 Jay Ellis
 Jerry Hogsette
 Alan Hyde
 Cathy Martin
 Bev Ritter
 Chuck Ritter
 Diane Simon
 Steve (Ron) Stevens
 Irma Velez
 Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: *Hawser Pearce*

Date: Sunday, December 15, 2019

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: Christmas Party – Begins at 1pm – Bring a dish to share and a present for the gag gift exchange.

Refreshments Chair: *Anna Langford*

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



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

November 2019

President's Message



William Forrest Bray, variegated

Greetings!

Fall is surely coming to our area this week with overcast skies, cooler temps, Fall foliage and colors, some breezes, and Camellia color! Just the other morning my wife looked out the bedroom window and excitedly exclaimed, "The Camellias are blooming!" She was referring to our hybrid 'Winter Joy'. It had 3 partially to fully opened blooms in a riot of dark pink color!

Numerous other Sasanquas are in bloom in our garden, 'Mini-No-Yuki', 'Yuletide', "Bonanza", 'Stephanie Golden", and "Shi-Shi Gashira". The Japonica buds continue to swell and grow plumper as the weeks go by, such as "Desire" and "October Affair".

Hopefully many of you will consider sharing your blooms in our annual show this year on January 4th & 5th at Kanapaha. Even if you don't win the "Big One" or get onto the head table, it's thrilling just to see your entry next to someone else's or even perhaps on the head table. I was reluctant to bring blooms to the show for many years until one year I decided to just go for it. It will be fun no matter what. Just last year I even made it (finally) to the contention table with our entry "Yushsienensis", a white single bloom no bigger than a half a dollar! Ha! And to think that little bloom had the elbow room to squeeze onto that table! Challenge yourself to squeeze a bloom or blooms onto any table at the show this year!



Moonlight Bay



Wendzalia

Driving around town the past week has proven to be an eye catcher, even for me! I see Camellias just about every day in my line of work, whether old and neglected, a display on the corner, or newly planted. They still fascinate me even after over 40 years of being around them. I still recall going to my first GCS show in the 70's (yes!) at the Suntrust building on Main Street (and you thought I was a newbie). There, I met an oldie but goldie GCS member, Wilbur Harding. He showed me around the room with so many wonderful varieties and colors ... I was hooked for sure! I was only 16 or 17 at the time. Time flies by! So, I listened, took notes, asked a lot of questions and like so many of you I bought anything that caught my eye. As I moved around Gainesville, the house and property got larger and so did my collection! And yes, I moved them all with me each time.

In the early 80's I moved to Newberry and "my Camellia kids" came with me, newly planted and expanding in width and height. Little did I know they would move with me one last time to where Annette and I lived until 2004. It was a hard decision then to sell our place and move to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to care for Annette's mother. We had to leave every Camellia behind. What had started out as six 1 gallon plants, 18"-24" tall, grew in size to over 6'-8' when I last moved them. They now towering over 12'-15'. Can't move these babies by hand like I did in earlier years. So, they stayed behind - all 150+ varieties that I had loved and cared for like family for all those years.

After less than two years in Pennsylvania we decided to move back to Florida. I started my Camellia collection again from scratch. I bought many, and air-layered many more. I even air-layered many from our old collection, as we bought a new place just across the road from our old garden and the new owners allowed me to air-layer when I could. The collection at our current property, where we have lived almost 15 years now, has grown to over 80 Camellias. They are finally looking established and showy again.

In remembering my early days as a newbie Camellia lover to now a fanatical enthusiast (I AM a plant geek), I am reminded how it felt when I was new to Camellias and all the questions I had. I was fascinated and awed at all the mystery, beauty and unknowns in beginning my collection. Those of you reading this who are new or just getting excited about Camellias, please feel free to ask ANY questions. No question is trivial. Those of us more experienced are here to share our love and passion of this amazing plant, and answering your questions also sparks that old fire in us. You can always ask me questions or any of the other members of the GCS. If I don't have the answer or they don't have an answer, we will find the answer for you. We are here to promote our mutual love of Camellias and grow our society for future generations.



Walter Bellingrath



Mark Chason, variegated

It's taken me a few days to get this letter written. As I finish it is a high of 70 degrees today and just gorgeous outside, which is where I have spent my day! I cut five different Japonica cultivars from the garden tonight and brought them into my wife. It's so exciting as the blooms are starting to burst open for the new season. This is what I did when I was courting Annette. I told her I couldn't afford expensive jewelry, but I will woo you with Camellias, daylilies, roses or whatever is blooming at the time. That has worked for us as I am still bringing blooms to her each evening from the garden for over 22 years now.

Enjoy our local beauty whether it be at Wilmot Gardens, Kanapaha, out and about, or in your own back yard. Will see you at our next meeting Sunday, November 17th at the Summer House at Kanapaha! Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving this month. In this season of thankfulness, I am thankful for many things, especially each and every one of "my Camellia kids"! Haha! Hope you all feel the same way!

Bruce Cavey, President

***Gainesville Camellia Society
has joined social media!***

Search "Gainesville Camellia Society" to find our Facebook page. There you will find photos, tips on growing camellias, special activities, announcements of future meetings and guest speakers. "LIKE" us on Facebook to receive GSC updates, and tell your friends about our Facebook page.



Minutes for GCS Meeting – October 20, 2019

Bruce Cavey opened the meeting at 2:11 p.m. He welcomed a new member, Valerie Malkemes, a neighbor of the Swansons. Refreshments were provided by Bruce and Annette Cavey and drinks by Jay and Debbie Ellis. Bruce noted that the Wilmot Gardens Plant Sale would be November 22nd and 23rd, Friday and Saturday, not Saturday and Sunday as published in the newsletter.

There was one correction to the September minutes as published in the newsletter. Patrick Andrews wanted the minutes to reflect that he was the Vice President of the American Camellia Society, not President. No further additions or corrections and the minutes were approved as corrected.



Tom Knudsen

Bruce changed the order of the meeting so that our program would be the first item of business. GCS member Steve Stevens, a California transplant and avid gardener, is participating in the Master Gardener Program. Today he presented a slideshow, “Extended Bloomers, Ten Beautiful Camellias that Have Long Blooming Cycles,” which he will be using in the Master Gardener Program.

Bruce then recalled the regular meeting to order.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Merry Reid

- Savings Account - \$12,929.78
- Checking Account - \$2,725.59
- Total Funds: \$15,655.37
- Bruce Cavey reminded members of membership dues.

SHOW REPORT

Show plans are gearing up. The show is January 4th and 5th. Plants will be moved from the staging areas to Kanapaha Gardens on Thursday, January 2nd. The gardens are closed on Thursday, but Irma Velez will open the gates so that staging can be done without conflicting with public visitors. Bill Hayes will have approximately 350 plants and Charles Simon will have 150 which will have to be moved on the 2nd. Members can bring personal air layers for the show sale on Thursday.

Bruce noted that Charles Simon had requested volunteers to help with moving plants for the sale to contact him.

John Swanson and several members will be going to Loch Laurel Nursery on Tuesday to pick up 150 plants for the GCS show.



Tama Glitters



Dautel's Supreme

Bruce gave a summary of opportunities for members to help with the show. These included Thursday and Friday plant sale setup, Friday show setup, clerking, information desk staffing, and hospitality.

Merry Reid was still researching a replacement for our metal plant tag supplier. She has purchased a supply, but is not happy with the quality and will continue her research. Garden Gate Nursery in Gainesville has tags, but they are much more expensive.

OLD BUSINESS

Irma Velez reported there had not been any information on the progress of Kanapaha Gardens grant application.

NEW BUSINESS

Hawser Pearce announced that he had purchased a new projector for use at GCS meetings. (And it worked perfectly for Steve Stevens' slideshow.) He then wanted to know what members would like done with the old laptop that we had been using for programs. It contains a lot of photographs of shows and camellias and most program presenters bring their own laptops, so it is not necessary for GCS to have one available. Patrick Andrews moved that both the old projector and laptop be recycled; motion seconded and approved. After discussion, Bruce Cavey indicated he would like to have the pictures on the computer, and Hawser said he would give Bruce the computer for his disposition.

Patrick Andrews gave an overview of the new construction at Masee Lane Gardens. The ACS Board has just approved final go ahead on construction for the \$5 million educational building in honor of Lois and Leon Silver. The building funded by the Silvers will be located behind the main building and construction should not affect visitors to Masee Lane. The plant sale shed has already been moved and the pump house has been redesigned to fit in with the existing buildings. ACS is looking to raise \$100,000 in addition to what the ACS trust will be providing toward the construction costs. Ocala Camellia Society pledged \$500 toward this building fund and Patrick would like to see GCS also participate in this fundraiser. Jay Ellis moved that GCS donate \$500 toward the Silver Building Fund. Motion seconded by Bruce Cavey and approved.

A longtime GCS member, Paul Warner, passed away earlier this year in his home in Minneapolis. Bruce Cavey read a Thank You note from his wife, Dolly, for all the cards and good wishes from their Gainesville Camellia Society friends. Patrick Andrews moved that GCS send a donation of \$50 to the American Camellia Society in memory of our good friend, Paul Warner. Motion was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Swanson advised the American Camellia Society 2020 National Convention will be March 13-17, 2020 in Norfolk, Virginia and highly recommended attending.

Patrick Andrews advised that the 2021 ACS National Convention would be held in Ocala, Florida at the Silver Springs State Park.



Shishigashira

Friday will be the “air layering harvest” at John and Dinh Swanson’s home from 9:00 a.m. until noon, followed by the Swanson traditional potluck. Members can collect the air layers they did, plus assist in the potting of air layers that will be used in future show sales. Harvesters should also bring something to share at the potluck. Konrad Hooper helped secure pots at a discount and Bill Hayes found a source for potting soil.

Chuck Ritter advised he would host another potting date on November 16th from 9:00 a.m. until noon at his gardens. He estimated there were over 500 air layers ready for potting.

Bruce Cavey congratulated Chuck Ritter and John Swanson for their prize-winning blooms in recent camellia shows. Chuck Ritter is a prize-winner leader in the unprotected blooms category.

The 2024 International Camellia Society Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Patrick Andrews is co-chair of the planning committee. Initial thoughts on pre-conference activities would include attendees flying into Orlando and then touring camellia gardens through Ocala, Gainesville, and Valdosta. The post-conference activities will include visits to Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina. Patrick will be looking to the Gainesville Camellia Society in preparation for this international event.

The bus trip to Masee Lane Gardens on February 22nd has been finalized. Merry Reid has the contract for Candies Coachworks and will send in the deposit. We have requested the same driver we had for our last trip. Patrick Andrews gave Karen Peeples the name of the president of the Ocala Camellia Society and Karen will be contacting her to formally invite OCS to join us. The cost will be \$15 per person for GCS/OCS members and \$30 for non-members. Entrance to Masee Lane Gardens is free for ACS members, \$5 general admission and \$4 for seniors. Lunch is on your own at Lane Southern Orchards. Patrick Andrews noted that if you had never been an ACS member, there was a \$10 electronic membership offer available online.

Hawser Pearce recently gave a grafting presentation to the Ocala Camellia Society. Patrick Andrews said it was one of the best grafting demonstrations he had ever seen.

Jay Ellis brought camellia blooms for everyone’s enjoyment.

The meeting was followed by our plant auction.

Karen Peeples, Co-Secretary



Pink Icicle

Announcement - Workers Needed

Saturday Nov. 16th from 8:30 a.m. onward is the day to harvest and pot air layers from the collection of Chuck and Bev Ritter.. Come and learn the process and help pot up plants destined for the 2021 Camellia show plant sales. If you helped do the air layering and you worked on plants for your personal collection and later air layered for GCS, this is the time to come and collect and help.

The address is 202 Mason Road, Melrose, FL 32666. Email Chuck for more information at bevchuckr@earthlink.net.

Announcement - Bus Trip to Masee Lanes Garden

Join your camellia friends for a day trip to the American Camellia Society headquarters in Fort Valley, Georgia on February 22, 2020. The bus leaves Oaks Mall at 8:00 a.m. and cost is \$15 for GCS members and \$30 for non-members, plus admission to Masee Lane. Lunch is on your own at a stop at Lane Southern Orchards. Contact ladypeoples@gmail.com for additional details.

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
November 17, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Thomas Boss
December 15, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Christmas party - potluck
January 19, 2019	Wilmot Gardens	Laura Davis, Lucille Little, & Margaret Wagener Carter Wittman
February 16, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	John & Dinh Swanson Bill Hayes
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May 17, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	End-of-year party - potluck

Note: all photos in this newsletter are courtesy of John Swanson from flowers in his garden

Officers

President: Bruce Cavey
1st VP & Show Co-Chairs: Bruce Cavey,
Jerry Hogsette,
John Swanson,
Irma Velez
2nd VP & Program Chair: Hawser Pearce
Treasurer: Merry Reid
Co-Secretaries: Karen Peeples,
Charles Simon,
Debbie Ellis

Board Members

Patrick Andrews
Jay Ellis
Jerry Hogsette
Alan Hyde
Cathy Martin
Bev Ritter
Chuck Ritter
Diane Simon
Steve (Ron) Stevens
Irma Velez
Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: Hawser Pearce
Date: Sunday, November 17, 2019
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: “Camellia Shows: Bring us your Best” by Eileen Hart
Refreshments Chair: Anna Langford

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



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

October 2019

President's Message



Edna Bass Variegeted

Greetings All!

As I compose this message, it has been drizzling outside all day. I'm in and out looking at the rain coming down and wondering when we last had a good rain?

Our irrigation pump went down prior to our hurricane Dorian alarm and our hopes for lots of rain, but we received nothing. Thus, lots of hand-watering until our pump was replaced. There went the money for my birthday present...or should I say my "my new little greenhouse". I received a new pump instead! We lost one camellia that had to be removed for the boom truck and that was "Marguerite Cannon".

Now that the irrigation is running again, the camellias are especially happy. The critters coming into the garden for water have returned, especially the possums! The camellia buds continue to swell as I disbud inferior buds to allow the larger ones to develop properly. I've had issues due to the dry weather with spider mites and tea scale. Another chore added to the garden list! I have been treating this with neem oil.

My Sasanqua camellias are blooming especially my Yuletide and Camellia Sinensis. A few friends have sent me pictures recently of theirs, asking if this is normal for them to bloom so soon. I assured them that this is good thing and they were excited that the "season" is upon us all.

I got overzealous at a client's garden recently and removed six air layers from bushes that I had done in April. I'm like a kid at Disney World! Well, yes, to answer your burning question, "Did they all take?" Yes, they all did! I harvested them and repotted them recently.

I planted numerous camellia varieties recently in a client's new landscape. They were thrilled about color, fragrance, and all the possibilities of beautiful blooming color in the Fall and winter months. A new convert, or possible member perhaps? Hoping so!

Hopefully you're all enjoying the cooler mornings. My daily morning dog walks have proven the cooler temperatures are slowly returning, as our dogs are so excited and cannot wait to get outside instead of running back inside to the cool air-conditioned house!



Elsie Jury

Our local garden centers, especially Garden Gate, have their first shipment of the standard Japonicas and Sasanquas in stock. I'm told that they'll have more varieties in their next shipment towards the end of October.

October is a good time to plant new camellias. The Fall and winter months are a good time for them to establish a new root system. I personally use Bio-tone by Espoma as an organic fertilizer as well as Super-Thrive liquid fertilizer. Bio-tone is a natural organic that was developed over 75 years ago and has been proven to be effective for establishing new robust and healthy roots for any plants and it works especially well for my camellias.

The month of October brings us many different Fall plant sales to check out, including the annual Fall Plant Sale & Orchid Show at Kanapaha Botanicals Gardens which will have already taken place when you read this. On Saturday, October 19th the Morningside Nature Center will have their annual Native Plant Sale from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The annual fundraiser for Wilmot Botanical Gardens will take place on Saturday, November 22 at 11:00 to 6:00 and again on Sunday the 23rd from 9-3. There will be over 32 different Japonica varieties for sale to benefit the Therapeutic program.

On a sad note, our former long-time GCS member Paul Warren passed away this summer. He and his wife Dolly moved to Minneapolis to be closer to family a couple of years ago. Please keep Dolly and family in your thoughts.



Satsuma Kurenai



Punkin Variegated

Many of our devoted GCS members are already hard at work preparing for our show in January. We truly appreciate all that they do. Please consider volunteering for any position you feel comfortable in partaking for the show to make it another successful year.

In closing, enjoy your days and free moments in your garden and we'll see you at our next meeting on Sunday, October 20th at 2:00 p.m. at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Our fellow GCS member, Steve Stephens, will be our guest speaker. He will be sharing his presentation with us, entitled "Camellias with a Long Blooming Season". Looking forward to it!

My Best,

Bruce Cavey, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting – September 15, 2019

The meeting at Kanapaha Gardens was called to order by our President, Bruce Cavy, at 2:01 pm. Bruce welcomed everyone and began the meeting with our scheduled speaker for the day, Mr. Tom Wood from “Gingers Galore” in Archer, Florida.

Hawser Pearce, our program Director, introduced Mr. Wood and his lecture topic “The History of *Camelia Sinensis*”. As a former Curator of the Southern China Botanical Garden, and a well-traveled tea expert, Mr. Wood gave a highly detailed and informative lecture on this topic, augmented with photographs from around the world documenting the historical development of commercial tea processing and trade on our planet (Earth). One notable fact was that the different kinds and flavors of tea are principally a result of processing, not tea leaf source.



Henry Huntingdon

Mr. Wood ended his talk by inviting GCS members to attend a ginger viewing and lecture at his nursery the following Sunday, September 22, 2019. He will also have a butterfly viewing at the nursery in February 2020.

BUSINESS MEETING

Our business meeting started at 2:53 pm following Mr. Wood’s lecture. The first order of business was approval of the May 2019 meeting minutes. There being no additions or corrections, a motion was made by Debra Ellis to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Charles Simon; it was voted on and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid

Our current ledger balances are:

Savings Account = \$12,929.46

Checking Account = \$2,160.59

Total Funds = \$15,090.05

Old Business

Please pay your annual GCS membership dues of \$15/person or \$20/couple to Merry Reid after this meeting or the October meeting. Merry also needs an updated email address list for all members. A sign-up sheet was circulated for this purpose.



Mark Chason



San Dimas Variegeted

New Business

Merry reported that our source for aluminum plant tags has gone out of business and she's still looking for a bargain priced alternative for both large and small tags. There was some discussion about using plastic tags, even laminated ones. Charles Simon pointed out that all organic polymers, with the exception of per-fluorinated organic polymers, will degrade in a few years in sunlight. He said the club will need 700 large aluminum tags for the 2020 plant sale. Merry will purchase these when a new source is selected.

Bruce announced that the 2020 Camellia Nomenclature book (\$20) and Supplement (\$15) are now available on Amazon in paper and Kindle formats. All newly named Camellias are in these new editions.

Karen Peeples announced that the GCS Board has approved a trip to the American Camellia Society (ACS) headquarters at Massey Lane Gardens. Members will get to tour the Gardens, the Porcelain Museum and the Greenhouses. GCS will pay half of the 56-passenger bus and driver rental and a \$100 tip for the driver. Members will pay a discounted trip rate of about \$20 each and must provide or purchase their own lunch. Karen will explore options for quick purchased or catered meals near the Gardens. GCS will invite members of the Ocala Camellia Society and other local Garden clubs to join us on this exciting trip. We will also use this trip as a promotion for our 2020 show.

The best times for the trip were identified as February 15th or 22nd. The ACS is having its annual local Camellia flower show on February 22 and Jay Ellis said this would be a good time to go as the crowd is typically local and small. Attendees will meet at the Oaks Mall at 8:00 am on the selected day. We should arrive at Massey Lane about noon, and the gardens close at 5:00 pm. Patrick Andrews, the current President of the ACS, and John Swanson, an ACS Board member, may be able to help secure a guide for our visit. John said we may be able to get a member of the North Georgia Camellia Society to be our guide.

Karen Peeples moved that we assign \$250 for a deposit on the bus for this trip. John Swanson seconded the motion; it was voted on and passed.

John Swanson reported on the June ACS Board meeting at Massey Lane next. The grounds have been greatly improved. A plot of full-sun Camellias is doing well and we should be able to see them on our tour. John informed the group that joining the ACS allows the member to access many Botanical Gardens across the United States at no charge.

John emphasized the social value of joining other Camellia Societies. Attending Annual meetings is an enjoyable experience that includes tours, speakers, activities, auctions and lots of fun times! The two regional societies are the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, and the Gulf Coast Camellia Society. Both groups have high quality journals.



Ave Maria

The GCCS meeting this year is being held on the 7th and 8th of October and will include a tea garden tour. The next ACCS meeting, which was cancelled the past two years due to hurricanes, will meet year in Litchfield, South Carolina. A third regional group is the Southern California Camellia Society, which publishes a comprehensive journal and nomenclature book. Our GCS Face Book page posts meeting dates for these groups, along with many Camellia photographs and several videos on planting, pruning and air-layering Camellias.

Dinh Swanson reminded us that the 2024 International Camellia Society meeting will be hosted by Massey Lane. Patrick Andrew is the Chairman for this meeting, which will tour the Southeast United States including Ocala, Valdosta, Atlanta and Charleston and will end up at Massey Lane Gardens.

The next order of new business was a discussion of the Board-approved plans to expand the educational portions of our next Camellia show at Kanapaha Gardens on January 4th and 5th, 2020. The goal is to have the GCS be the premier Camellia Society in the State of Florida. We will invite Dr. Tisher, Director of Wilmot Gardens, to speak at the show while the blooms are being judged. We will also invite Mark Crawford, owner of County Line Nursery, to speak at the show.

A sign-up sheet was circulated for members to join the show expansion effort and/or help plan our trip to Massey Lane.

The plant sales team will add a station for demonstrating Camellia planting methods. Additional educational posters will be displayed in the porch and band shell areas. We would also like a projector or flat screen rolling slide show of blooms presented in one of the new venue areas. Another goal is to produce a “Gainesville Camellia Trail” publication with drive and walk by locations for viewing area plants and blooms.

This year we have three show co-chairpersons: Irma Velez, John Swanson and Jerry Hogsette. Members can contact any of these people to volunteer time, materials and/or ideas. We are preparing “Be Our Guest” cards for distribution that will have the show dates, times and location.

Anna Langford reminded everyone that we need volunteers for refreshments for this year and she circulated a sign-up sheet.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1538 and we all enjoyed a sumptuous repast prepared by Anna and the Old Goat!

Charles Simon, Co-Secretary



Les Marbury

Announcement

On Friday, October 25th, from 9-noon an air layering harvest session will be held. If you came to the April event and air layered plants, please attend and help pot plants up. If you couldn't make the April date, but want to learn how to pot air layered plants, come and learn. Pots and soil will be provided. A pot luck lunch will follow the potting activity. The Swansons will provide drinks and meat. Please bring something to complement the meal. Location: 2607 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, 32605.

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
October 20, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Bruce & Annette Cavey Debbie & Jay Ellis
November 17, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid Volunteer needed for drinks
December 15, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Christmas party - potluck
January 19, 2019	Wilmot Gardens	Laura Davis, Lucille Little, & Margaret Wagener Volunteer needed for drinks
February 16, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	John & Dinh Swanson Bill Hayes
March 8, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Mona Rippe & Michelle Gorday Nicki Whittaker
April 19, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon Konrad & Nancy Hooper
May 17, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	End-of-year party - potluck

**Gainesville Camellia Society
has joined social media!**

Search “Gainesville Camellia Society” to find our Facebook page. There you will find photos, tips on growing camellias, special activities, announcements of future meetings and guest speakers. “LIKE” us on Facebook to receive GSC updates, and tell your friends about our Facebook page.



Note: all photos in this newsletter are courtesy of John Swanson from flowers in his garden

Officers

President: Bruce Cavey
 1st VP & Show Co-Chairs: Bruce Cavey,
 Jerry Hogsette,
 John Swanson,
 Irma Velez
 2nd VP & Program Chair: Hawser Pearce
 Treasurer: Merry Reid
 Co-Secretaries: Karen Peeples,
 Charles Simon,
 Debbie Ellis

Board Members

Patrick Andrews
 Jay Ellis
 Jerry Hogsette
 Alan Hyde
 Cathy Martin
 Bev Ritter
 Chuck Ritter
 Diane Simon
 Steve (Ron) Stevens
 Irma Velez
 Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Program Chair: *Hawser Pearce*
Date: Sunday, October 20, 2019
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: “Camellias with a long blooming season” by Steve Stevens
Refreshments Chair: *Anna Langford*

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



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

September 2019

President's Message

Our summer is dwindling away as the 2019 – 2020 Camellia season is approaching. Hoping you all had a fantastic summer and your chores and vacations were successful and enjoyable.



Early Autumn

Didn't we have an interesting summer in terms of weather? Very hot and very wet! The abundant rainfall should help all of our camellias to produce fat buds and a nice quantity of beautiful blooms.

The first hurricane of the season thankfully bypassed us for the most part. We were very fortunate not to have been affected much by the wrath of Dorian, but what tragedy for the Bahamas. Our thoughts remain with the people of the Bahaman Islands. Now that Dorian has passed, I've been rearranging our potted plants, garden accents and patio furniture from our screened porch back to their appropriate places. I try to think of it as exercise, not work. Ha! Especially, since hurricane season is not over yet!

Our GCS Board of Directors met in August to discuss the upcoming season. We covered many topics including some new and great ideas for our upcoming 2020 show in January. I'm very excited about this year's show! We also discussed arranging a trip to Massey Lane again possibly in February. So, keep your ears and eyes open if you're interested in that.

Also, I wanted to mention for those of you who don't get the monthly email newsletter from Wilmot Gardens. Their Director, Dr. Tischer, had mentioned that an additional 90+ camellias from the Gordy collection in Ocala, will be transplanted into the garden at Wilmot later this Fall. I've not made it over yet, but plan to visit this amazing collection this season when in bloom. I'm sure it will be an honorable tribute to the Gordys' passion for camellias and this spectacular gift they left behind.



Alabama Beauty



Yuletide

Being in the horticulture industry now for over 40 years, it still amazes me that as my camellia collection grows, I still find room for just a few more chosen specimens! While working in the garden recently, I was dazzled at the multitude of buds that have formed on so many of my camellias. I have been disbudding and treating minor issues such as spider mites. It's also a great time for gibbing and checking on air layers from this past Spring. The garden chores are endless, and the buds continue to swell as I am looking forward to a promising show of blooms for our January 2020 show. My first bloom of the season, "Stephanie Golden", a lovely single, pink sasanqua has already come and gone with more to follow soon.

My summer was and continues to be quite busy with landscape consults and installations. Yes, I always include some form of camellias in my jobs whether it's a fragrant drift of sasanquas or equally lovely japonicas.

Hoping that your collections of camellias are looking abundant and ready to burst for the upcoming season. We all are looking forward to gathering back together with guests and potential new members this coming Sunday, September 15th at 2:00 pm at the Summer House at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Hawser Pearce, our Program Chairman, has an interesting presentation lined up for us. Tom Wood from Archer will be discussing “Tea Culture from China to the World”. Tom has spent a lot of time in China and has learned everything about tea.



April Remembered



Ashton's Ballet

So, let's kick off this new Camellia season together on Sunday! Looking forward to seeing everyone. My best to each of you!

Bruce Cavey, President

Special Announcements

Two items of note (which are discussed further in the Minutes for the August Board meeting – see p. 8.)

1. We're expanding the annual camellia show! The GCS Board voted to add additional education components to our annual show. Every year Irma Velez has given her Camellia 101 talk and this year we are looking to add other demonstrations, promotional materials, talks and even special speakers. If you would like to work on this project, talk with Karen Peeples or Irma Velez at the next meeting.
2. GCS is planning a bus trip to Masee Lane Gardens (the home of the American Camellia Society) in Fort Valley, Georgia. Plan on attending September's meeting for details.

Minutes for GCS Meeting – May 19, 2019

Our final meeting of the year began at 1:00 p.m. with our annual potluck. John Swanson and Jerry Hogsette picked up the pulled pork and ribs. Salads, vegetables, desserts and beverages were provided by members. Jerry noted it was good to see Charles and Jeanne Earnest, longtime GCS members. The Earnests brought an ACS 2018 yearbook, a nomenclature book and several ACS magazines for members to take. Over 30 people enjoyed our luncheon.

After a delicious meal, Jerry Hogsette called the regular meeting to order. There were no additions or corrections to the March minutes as published in the newsletter. Charles Simon moved to accept the minutes as published; seconded by Irma Velez and approved.



C.M.Gordy



Cara Mia

In keeping with the Gainesville Camellia Society's commitment to the camellia culture, Irma Velez moved that GCS make donations in the amount of \$500 each to the American Camellia Society (for maintenance of the Masee Lane Gardens), Kanapaha Botanical Gardens (for maintenance of the Azalea and Camellia Garden) and Wilmot Gardens (for maintenance of the Gordy Collection at Wilmot Gardens). Seconded by John Swanson and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Merry Reid

- Savings Account - \$16,317.74
- Checking Account - \$3,216.56
- Total Funds: \$19,534.30

Jerry Hogsette thanked Chuck Ritter for opening his gardens for air layering and providing supplies. Those who came to help air layer completed over 270 air layers.



Daikagura



Doris Ellis

Tara Gill and Hawser Pearce had visited the Asian Gardens at the Harn Museum and noted the lack of camellias. Considering so much of camellia history relates to Japan, they were wondering if GCS might want to take the gardens on as a project. Jerry Hogsette asked Tara and Hawser to follow through on their suggestion and prepare a report for the regular Board meeting which will take place during the summer. To make the request official, John Swanson moved that the officers and board members consider the Asian Gardens at Harn Museum for support. Seconded by Hawser Pearce and approved by members.

Jerry Hogsette officiated at the installation of the officers and board members for 2019-2020. He thanked everyone for their support of his presidency and extended much success for the new officers and board members. Bruce Cavey took over as President and concluded the meeting. He asked Irma Velez to check with Kanapaha for available room dates for a board meeting and he will notify everyone.

The meeting was followed by our plant auction.

Karen Peeples, Co-Secretary

Minutes for GCS Board of Directors Meeting – August 18, 2019

The Gainesville Camelia Society (GCS) Board of Directors meeting at Kanapaha Gardens was called to order by our President, Bruce Cavey, at 1:35 pm.

The items noted by the board were:

We need a new member's contact list with email contacts. We will distribute a request via the September News Letter and at the September meeting.



Desert Moon

The January meeting of GCS will be at Wilmot Gardens.

Irma Velez reported that the GCS wrote a letter of support for Kanapaha Gardens addressed to the Botanical Gardens Institute. GCS would like the Gardens to be recognized for their outstanding contribution to our region.

There is a Fall Festival at Kanapaha presented by the Orchid Society. Irma Velez will check to see if the GCS could have an educational booth at the event. She noted that vendor booths cost \$500 each and the Gardens may not be willing to provide us one for free.

Charles Simon reported that 360 camellia plants have been ordered from County Line Nursery and that another 150 plants will be ordered from Loch Laurel Nursery in a few days. We will also have ~200 air layered plants for sale from Jerry Hogsette and John Swanson's inventories. This will give us a total of ~700 plants for sale at the show. We are prepared to care for ~150 plants until next year if we have a poor sale.

We need to distribute the "Be our guest" business type cards at as many places as possible this year. These are essentially advertisements for the January flower show. We will affix stickers to the card to cover up the existing (past) date with the words "The first weekend in January".

Jay Ellis reminded us that GCS needs to purchase 400 2-gallon pots and enough potting soil to plant the air-layered plants that GCS members have in process to be used at the sale. Chuck Ritter said that he has ordered and paid for the pots and that he and John Swanson will cover the cost of the soil. There was a show of appreciation by the Board members for Chuck and John's generosity.



Delores Edwards

Karen Peeples suggested that we have another GCS-sponsored group trip to the American Camellia Society headquarters at Massey Lane Gardens, and invite members of the Ocala Camellia Society and other local garden clubs to join us. The third Saturday in February was proposed as a tentative date since there will be a Camellia show at Massey Lane that weekend. We could tour the gardens and greenhouses while supporting their show. Karen will check to see if Massey Lane can handle our group on their show weekend. A tour bus that holds 56 passengers can be rented with driver for \$1250, and Massey Lane can provide box lunches for about \$10. Charles Simon suggested that GCS also cover a \$100 tip for the bus driver.

Karen moved that we have this trip on February 15th or 22nd and that GCS pay for half of the bus fee. Jerry Hogsette seconded and amended the motion to invite the Ocala Camellia Society and to extend the discounted bus fare to them. Any other open seats will be offered to local garden club members without the discount. The amended motion passed.

Karen suggested that we use this tour as a promotional draw at our show in January. She continued discussion about making GCS the premier Camellia Society in the state of Florida. She pointed out that we have a lot of history backing us up: the Gordys, Chuck Ritter, Jay Ellis, Wilmot Gardens, the original ACS headquarters. We can expand our next show to include invited speakers who could use the Kanapaha band shell for lectures. We could also make several placards highlighting the history of the ACS, Wilmot Garden, local private gardens and the GCS. And we should display our Beautification Award.



Dragon Fireball

Irma proposed to have a speaker program on the ACS history. She will invite Dr. Tisher to speak about Wilmot Garden and the movement of Gordy plants to the Garden and the UF campus. There could also be a Master Gardener presentation. She suggested that speakers could provide lectures while the show judging is taking place and this could relieve some congestion. Speakers would only lecture on Saturday.

Karen suggested that we have a planting demonstration in the plant sale area. Charles Simon said he liked that idea and would try to set it up with the sales group. Karen also suggested that we have some form of official GCS identity tags for the members working the show.

Irma moved that we setup a program committee at our first meeting in September to enact these and any other changes that would expand our show with educational programs. Karen seconded the motion. The motion passed.



Elegans-Chandler

Merry Reid said we need to order more aluminum plant tags for this year and asked the group if we preferred the large ones or the small ones. There is a 2x price difference but Merry informed us of a sale on the large tags. The Board urged her to purchase 600 large tags for the sale if she can get them for a good price. She'll also purchase a lot of small tags for members to buy.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm by our president, Bruce Cavey.

Charles Simon, Co-Secretary

Irma informed the Board that Bailey Hillman of Wilmot Garden will showcase blooms in late Spring of 2020. Mark Crawford will attend and the event will be held at Wilmot. The GCS will provide a speaker only. The first two weeks of March are best for us. She will check with Mark and Baily for a date.

Cathy Martin asked if there were better containers for the larger blooms. There were problems transporting the bigger blooms to the tables as they would frequently fall over. She asked if we could use water pics for this. There was some discussion and Chuck Ritter urged us to purchase four different sized flared, clear, hard plastic cups for this purpose. This will be suggested to the show committee.



Grace Bunton

Note: all photos in this newsletter are courtesy of John Swanson from flowers in his garden

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule for the Gainesville Camellia Society

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>
September 15, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Anna & Gerald Langford
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December 15, 2019	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Christmas party - potluck
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Program Chair: *Hawser Pearce*

Date: Sunday, September 15, 2019

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: "Tea culture from China to the world" by Tom Wood

Refreshments Chair: *Anna Langford*

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