



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

April 2024

President's Message



C. Amplexicaulus

Greetings,

What a beautiful spring we are having! The new growth is phenomenal. If you haven't fertilized, do so now.

Seed pods are forming. A few years ago, you could plan to harvest seed pods from mid August to mid September. With global warming, pods are maturing earlier than in the past. A Ville seed pod in our yard has a nice red color to it.

Wilmot Garden held their annual Spring Sale, and it was very successful. GCS members contributed and sold plants for the cause. Kanapaha Spring Festival was quite successful, where information was shared by GCS members, including a Mansize Camellia donated and raffled.

Progress continues on planning for the 2025 ACS Convention being hosted by GCS.



C. Edithae

A slate of officers and board members will be presented to the membership at this month's meeting.

This month's speaker will be our own Dr. Sanford Porter, who is going to talk about ants and bugs in Camellias. I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting on April 21st at 2:00.

Jay Ellis, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting March 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by our President, Jay Ellis, who introduced our very special guest speaker, Mark Crawford. Jay announced that this meeting would start with Mark's lecture on his trip to China to tour several large camellia nurseries and learn about the newest hybrids.

Educational Program

Mark Crawford, a plant pathologist by education and current owner of Loch Laurel Nursery, was mentored by Hulyn Smith. Mark is currently overseeing introduction of the newest Chinese four-season camellia-azalea hybrids into the United States. This process includes two years of quarantine and has experienced many problems.



Taylor's Perfection



Georgia Fire

New Business

Jay reminded Charles Simon to send an email to all Kanapaha Spring Festival volunteers serving as GCS booth-bunnies this year with the times for their service. He also told all volunteers to see Merry Reid at the April meeting for reimbursement of the Kanapaha entrance fee.

The American Camellia Society has asked the Gainesville Camellia Society to host the 2025 National Convention. Charles Simon reported that a GCS convention committee headed by Jay and Debbie Ellis has acquired pricing and availability for an 80-100 person convention from Hotel Indigo in Celebration Pointe, and it seemed very possible for GCS to host this event.

Chinese nurseries have been working on these hybrids for nearly 20 years and they've been introduced to all major nations except the United States due to our country's strict policies on importation of new plant species. There are many of these plants throughout Europe and Asia.

The four-season hybrids are all red and take on every camellia form, including singles, formal doubles, peonies and anemones. Most of them are grafted and Mark showed us amazing photos and a short video of the process of grafting dozens of scions onto old growth root stock. They grow in full sub-tropical sun and will flush and fill with buds right after pruning.

Mark provided us with a thrilling behind-the-scenes look at camellia cultivation on a massive scale in China and the wonderful people involved.



In the Pink variegated



Ruby Matthews

A discussion followed and Valerie Malkemes mentioned that the Hilton Convention Center could also easily accommodate the ACS. Charles replied that the hotel and costs were secured for now but there are plans to secure cost bids from the Hilton and possibly other hotels.

John Swanson made a motion to accept the ACS request to host the 2025 National Convention. The motion was seconded and passed by a majority of the members present.

Old Business

There was no Treasurer's report at this meeting. The March report is re-printed below.

Checking: \$12,133

Savings: 10,579

Total: \$22,712

Charles Simon, Secretary



Mabel Bryan Strawberry

Addendum to the minutes

A slate of GCS candidates for the upcoming year is presented below. Any GCS member can nominate any other member to oppose any candidate listed. We will vote on these candidates and any nominees at the April meeting.

<u>President</u>	Jay Ellis (2 nd year of 2-year term)
<u>First Vice President/Show Chair</u>	Debbie Ellis (2 nd year)
<u>Second Vice President/Program Director</u>	Sanford Porter
<u>Secretary</u>	Charles Simon (4 th year)
<u>Treasurer</u>	Merry Reid (10+ years)
<u>Newsletter</u>	Anna Langford (10+ years)

Board Members

- Ron Stevens (2nd year)
- Deborah Engquist (2nd year)
- Julie Burton
- George Sharrad
- Cat Spurgeon
- Rick Davis
- Alex Theodore
- Joanne Theodore

There are two more board member positions that can be filled.

Photos of flowers are from the garden of John Swanson.

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>	
		<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Victoria Watson	Mary Mac Watson
May 19, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Amy & Phil Puccio

Air Layering Event

This year's Air Layering will take place at the Swanson residence (2607 NW 25th Place, Gainesville, 32605, Phone/text at 352-672-2644) on Friday, April 26th from 9am to noon approximately. A meat dish and drinks will be provided by the host, so please bring a side, salad, or dessert if possible. No experience is necessary. A short seminar/lesson will demonstrate the process, so if this is your first time, welcome. Below is a list of things that are usually used.

1. A sharp knife (small to medium) for girdling the branch to be air-layered. If using the pliers method, this might not be necessary
2. A disinfectant solution, (Isopropyl Alcohol, or a bleach solution) in a spray bottle to make sure tools are clean and not spreading a virus, including the variegated virus used to add white to solid color blooms.
3. Heavy duty aluminum foil - can be pre-cut to save time (To protect from birds and/or squirrels).
4. Plastic food wrap, like Glad wrap, Saran Wrap, or similar. (optional)
5. Ties to secure air layer on branch - some folks use tape.
6. Sphagnum Moss. Can be obtained at farm supply store, Lowes, Home Depot, or Garden Gate. One cu.ft. bag is enough for several plants. On line Walmart sells a 3 cu.ft. bag. If you cannot find any, some is available at Swansons
7. A bucket for water in which to soak the moss, prior to use.
8. Plant tags to identify your air layer/plant. (Include your name and the name of the plant.)
9. A clip board or note book to keep track of air layers made and general location of the plants air layered geographically.
10. Rooting powder or liquid (hormone) and applicator brush (small artists' paint brush works well.)
11. A bright orange or yellow or other color plastic strip to help identify and find your air layers when it is time for cutting in October or November.
12. A step ladder. Many plants are tall. Two are available to share.
13. Kits - globular plastic hemispheres are also available.

Dues

The annual dues for Gainesville Camellia Society are due at this time. The amount is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please mail a check for your dues to the Treasurer:

Merry Reid
7631 Monongahela Avenue
Keystone Heights FL 32656
reidm729@gmail.com

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has joined social media!***

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Officers

President: Jay Ellis
1st VP & Show Chair: Debbie Ellis
2nd VP & Program Chair: Committee
Treasurer: Merry Reid
Secretary: Charles Simon

Board Members

Carter Brenneman
Deborah Engquist
Bill Hayes
Larry Hice
Jerry Hogsette
Konrad Hooper
Sanford Porter
Diane Simon
Ron Stevens
Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, April 21, 2024
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: Ants and Bugs in Camellias by Dr. Sanford Porter

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



Gainesville Camellia Society

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Editor: Anna Langford

March 2024

President's Message



Dixie Knight variegated

Greetings,

Spring is upon us when there are nice blooms that will lead to new growth flushes. We toured Charles and Diane Simon's collection and noticed several bushes with new growth starting - amongst them was a Diane Simon.

If you haven't already done so, now is the perfect time to fertilize your plants. In containers, Cybercoat Slow Release is good. For plants in the ground, 16-4-8 is good, as well as 12-4-8, 8-8-8 or 10-10-10.

I find year round enjoyment growing Camellias. We see blooms in the fall and winter, new growth in the spring and summer, seed pods in August along with the formation of flower buds, especially in varieties you have not seen before.

Recently there has been discussion of the GCS hosting an ACS Convention. Host hotel, venues, and activities, among other things, were covered.



Joan Holden

At our March meeting, March 10th, Mark Crawford of Loch Laurel Nursery will present an interesting and entertaining program.

The Kanapaha Spring Festival is March 23rd and 24th. Plan on helping and attending. See you there.

Jay Ellis, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting February 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm by Charles Simon, Secretary, acting for Jay Ellis, President, who is in the hospital. New members were introduced: Phil, Linda, and Howard, and were reminded that they are to take home a camellia plant.

New Business

Next month, March 23rd and 24th, is the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Festival, and our booth will be inside this year. A signup sheet was passed around with the request that two people sign in each slot for 2 hour blocks from 8am to 4pm.



Stephanie Golden

*Sultana*

Dennis Hart, ACS President, wants to know if we would like to host the ACS National Convention next year. This gives us eleven months' notice, unlike last year, when we were asked only six months ahead of time. If we hold the convention as the same time as our show and sale, we would need about six volunteers who are not working the show or sale.

Jerry Hogsette reported that he spoke with Dennis Hart and was told that ACS will be responsible for registrations and collecting fees, will cover all expenses and will actually run the convention. GCS has a list of needed tasks and personnel assembled by Jay and Debbie Ellis last year, as well as a selected hotel with catering service, meeting rooms and cold storage for blossoms.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed that we accept the minutes and Treasurer's report for last month as included in the newsletter. Merry Reid, Treasurer, was absent, as she is recovering from Covid. Charles provided the Treasurer's Report.

Checking:	\$12,133
Savings:	<u>10,579</u>
Total:	\$22,712

This amount is down \$4,000 from last month after sending out the prize money for the Show winners and making donations to the American Camellia Society approved by GCS in memory of Bev Ritte and Paul and Dolly Warner. We need to hold \$14,000 for our next show and plant sale, and \$1,000 for next season's room rental from Kanapaha. That leaves us about \$7,000 for our philanthropic donations which will be discussed at the summer Board meeting. The Board will make recommendations to the full group for discussions and votes during the September 2024 meeting.

*Mary Fischer*

*Desire*

Old Business

Charles brought up the trip to Masee Lane Gardens that we have discussed before. The National Show is this coming weekend, which would be a good time to go. He can take six people in his van, and if any more than that want to come, more cars will be needed.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting.

Educational Program

John Swanson showed a series of video programs about pruning camellias that he and Hawser Pearce put together several years ago. Pruning should be done after the flowers finish blooming. Hawser said that the purpose of pruning is to get light and air through the plant.

*Destiny*

Discussion ensued, with some members in favor and some not. A suggestion was made that we form a committee from members who are familiar with conventions to look into the possibility. Another suggestion was made that we sell fewer plants so that we would need fewer workers if the convention is coincident with our Show. Charles reminded us that we have a good number of new members who may be willing to work. He said we had 11 workers on the sale lot which was more than enough.

Carter Brenneman announced that she is now a Novice Judge and received a round of applause!



Berenice Beauty

As he progressed up the plant, he removed dead wood and inward leaning branches, as well as any branches that cross. This encourages new branches in the middle of the plant.

If a large branch is cut, use sealer on the cut, especially for *Reticulatas*. John said he uses a spray called “grafting seal.” John said that when you are finished pruning, the plant should be open enough that you can “throw a cat through it.” The video demonstration was followed by a question and answer period.

The Educational Program was followed by an auction of several camellia plants, small bags of fertilizer, and two books. Refreshments were furnished by Jerry Hogsette and Rick Davis.

***Anna Langford, Acting Secretary
For Charles Simon, Secretary***

This necessitates pruning to the main skeleton of the plant by removing minor branches, as well as root suckers. For large branches he uses a Corona saw and sterilizes the saw with alcohol between cuts. You should cut flush with the main trunk and not leave a stub. For a big branch, cut twice, first to remove the weight of the branch, then cut again close to the trunk.

Hawser showed a small, potted air-layered plant to demonstrate the skeletal system at a young stage. You might prune any low branches and prop up the main stem for more upright growth.

On mature plants, the process starts at the bottom of the plant, removing low hanging branches using clippers. You don’t want lower branches to touch the ground to avoid scale insects.



Adolphe Audusson

Photos of flowers are from the gardens of John Swanson and Jay and Debbie Ellis.

Date and place of meeting		Refreshments	
		Food	Drinks
March 10, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon *	John Swanson
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Victoria Watson	Mary Mac Watson
May 19, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Amy & Phil Puccio

* Note: The Simons plan to bring their famous and bodacious chili!

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Sanford Porter
Diane Simon
Ron Stevens
Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, March 10, 2024
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: Mark Crawford of Loch Laurel Nursery

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February 2024

President's Message



Tomorrow's Dawn

Greetings! Camellia blooming season is almost over. Now is a good time to prune and fertilize your plants. Now is also a good time to plant container plants. For those who graft, you have until the end of February for best results. Don't forget that the March meeting has been moved to March 10th to accommodate the Kanapaha Spring Festival on March 16th & 17th. In closing, don't forget to sign up for our booth at the Kanapaha Spring Festival. This year we will be inside in the air conditioning. This is an informational booth with 3 or 4 members at a time. See you on Sunday.

Jay Ellis, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting January 21, 2023

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:12. He reported that our recent show had 736 Blooms on display with excellent quality. The show was a big success thanks to the many helpers.

Jay asked all new members to stand and we all welcomed Frank, Wally, Cat and Peggy. Wally was the show raffle winner and he and the other new members each received a free plant!

Old Business

A motion was made and passed to accept the December minutes and Treasurer's report.



Prof. Charles S. Sargent



Sparkling Burgundy

New Business

The January Treasurer's Report was presented by Merry Reid.

Savings	\$14,655
Checking	<u>\$12,049</u>
Total	\$26,704

Charles Simon thanked the many volunteers that helped with the plant sale. He reported that there were 31 Camellia plants left over from our sale that started with 705 plants. That's just enough to give all new members who come to their first meeting a free plant and have a few left for auctions at our remaining meetings. The sale success will allow us to continue our philanthropic activities in support of botanical gardens and ornamental horticulture students.

Jay ended the meeting at 2:30 PM and proceeded to the educational portion of our meeting.

Educational Program

Two techniques for grafting Camellias were presented. The first demonstration and lecture was by Konrad Hooper. He showed us a conventional cleft graft technique where the small camellia scion was inserted upright into a split root stock trunk after carefully shaving two sides to expose the cambium layer. Alignment of the root stock and scion cambium layers is critical for a successful graft. Konrad reported ~80% success rate with this method. He does not use fungicide to treat the graft since he found no difference in success rate with and without it.



October Affair

Jay Ellis presented the second technique called a 'sideways graft'. In this case the root stock is split and the scion is shaved as in the cleft technique, but the scion is inserted sideways into the split root stock trunk. In this way there is almost a guarantee that the two cambium layers will be aligned at one or more points. Jay said that the scion will grow upright. He reported 80-90% success rate with this method, and he does use fungicide to treat the graft.

Whatever method is used for the graft, the same level of care is required after the graft is set. It must be covered and kept moist for 6 weeks or more. Conrad uses white Styrofoam cups to cover his grafts and Jay use plastic milk jugs. The graft will start to callous after ~10 days. Once growth is apparent the covering must be removed slowly in stages over several days to allow the new growth to acclimate to the sunlight.



Brooke

Charles Simon, Secretary

Photos of flowers are from the gardens of John Swanson and Jay and Debbie Ellis.

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>	
		<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
February 18, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jerry Hogsette	Rick Davis
March 10, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon	John Swanson
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Victoria Watson	Mary Mac Watson
May 19, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Amy & Phil Puccio

<i>Upcoming Camellia Shows</i>		
February 24-25, 2024	Middle Georgia Camellia Society – ACS National Show	Fort Valley, GA
March 2-3, 2024	Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society	Columbus, GA

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Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: “Pruning” by John Swanson

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Editor: Anna Langford

January 2024

President's Message



Big Apple variegated

Greetings,

What a great show this year! While smaller than some years ago, the quality was phenomenal. The judges remarked how smoothly the placement went due to the efficient teamwork of all involved. A good show is not a one day event - it takes a lot of time and preparation. So, kudos to our Show Chairperson Debbie Ellis for all of her hard work.

A nominating committee is in the works and will be announced at the February meeting. The Doris Ellis plant resulted in \$152 in raffle ticket sales. It was won by Wally and Jenny Belford of Lawtey - let's give them a big round of applause. See you Sunday!

Jay Ellis, President

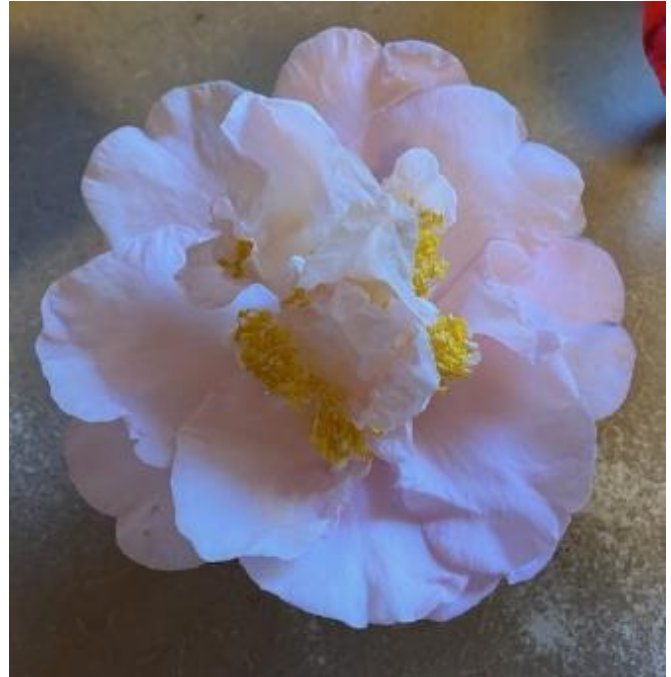
Minutes for GCS Meeting December 17, 2023

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 1:48 PM and welcomed everyone. Jay announced that Bev Ritter passed away on December 4, 2023. A motion was immediately made and passed to donate \$200 to the American Camellia Society (ACS) in her name.

Old Business

A motion was made and passed to accept the November minutes and Treasurer's report.



Nuccio's Pink Lace



Lady Ruth Ritter variegated

New Business

The December Treasurer's Report is presented below by Merry Reid.

Savings	\$8,437
Checking	\$1,366
Total	\$9,823

Anna Langford mentioned that long-time GCS members Paul and Dolly Warner also passed away recently. The group made and passed a motion to donate \$200 to ACS in their names. Bev, Paul, and Dolly will be sorely missed by all who knew them.

Jerry reported that the Vice President of the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) scholarship fund contacted him to personally thank the GCS for their donation to the fund.

Jerry also brought bloom entry cards for the upcoming Show. There are different color cards for the general categories of protected (indoor), unprotected, and gibberellic acid-treated blooms. The ACS website has our list of bloom categories and prize levels.



Red Giant



Miss Lillian

Deborah Enquist mentioned that Rural King has yellow vests for \$5 each that could be worn by plant sale volunteers. Charles Simon said he would purchase ten of these vests for CGS.

Debbie Ellis said she had a list of the Show clerks and would pass a signup sheet around for any more volunteers.

John Swanson reported that his air layer potting party produced over 300 potted plants that will be sold in the next 1-2 years. There was an enthusiastic round of applause for the pot-party volunteers!

Jerry asked everyone to recognize John's tremendous contribution for hosting and training the volunteers and for supplying materials and care for the plants. There was another resounding round of applause.

Carter Brenneman reported that she had no responses from the area high schools she contacted seeking youth volunteers for the GCS plant sale. She was very disappointed. Charles Simon thanked her for her efforts and the good idea.

(Secretary's note: Six volunteers from Santa Fe Community College and St Francis Catholic High school showed up early Saturday morning and were a tremendous help with the fast-passed early hours of the sale! Way to go Carter---force multiplier!)



John Rumbach



Donna Houghton

Educational Program

There was no educational program as this was our annual Christmas party and gag-gift exchange, which was hosted by Sammy Klaus and Amy Elf.

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 PM. The most outrageous gag-gift was "Sparkle Toots" re-gifted from 2022 by John Swanson.

Before our repast, Mrs. Elise Karen Atlas, a guest of John Swanson, read her deeply moving poem entitled "Camellias" which is reprinted below with her permission. The author's presentation was so sweet we were moved to tears.

Charles Simon, Secretary

Photos of flowers are from the garden of Jay and Debbie Ellis.

Camellias

By Elise Karen Atlas

I would like to bury my face in the pink cotton candy cloud of the camellia in winter.

When the holidays are behind me and red and green are starting to blur into the concoction of gray covering my world.

The pink and white curls tossing themselves among the shiny leaves surprise me out of myself.

They are an epiphany of color and a joy of awakening.

I have only known them in tropical locations – California, Florida.

Though I understand from catalogs that now they have been bred to bloom anywhere.

I remember an angel food birthday cake my mother baked for my 15th birthday – covered with Camellias.

The cake is gone from her 94 year old memory.

The blithe flowers are still vivid in her mind.

My son has camellias growing in his Florida backyard.

I discovered the gift on my birthday.

I will never forget the camellias.

March 22, 2013

Major Awards – GCS 2024 Show

Sweepstakes

Gold (unprotected): Nancibeth Shealy

Silver (unprotected): JD & Kay Thomerson

Gold (protected): Jerry & Carol Selph

Silver (protected): Howard & Mary Rhodes

GCS Member Sweepstakes: Bart Maris

Outstanding Blooms

Best Bloom in Show unprotected: Bob & Gail Reese

Best Bloom in Show protected: Howard & Mary Rhodes

Note: complete results from the show can be found on the ACS website.

A Message from your Show Chair

Another successful show has come and gone. Many thanks to all of you who showed up with a smile and what appeared to be endless energy! We had 737 blooms, 45 exhibitors and signed up three new members. Now to start planning next year's show!! Thanks to all.

Debbie Ellis, Show Chair

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>	
		<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
January 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Allison Kemp	Bill Hayes
February 18, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jerry Hogsette	Rick Davis
March 10, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon	John Swanson
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Victoria Watson	Mary Mac Watson
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<i>Upcoming Camellia Shows</i>		
January 13-14, 2024	Tallahassee Camellia Society	Tallahassee, FL
January 13, 2024	Lakeland Camellia Society	Lakeland, FL
January 20, 2024	Camellia Society of Central Florida	Winter Park, FL
January 27-28, 2024	Ocala Camellia Society	Silver Springs, FL
February 2024	Quitman Garden Club	Quitman, GA
February 3, 2024	Augusta Camellia Society	Augusta, GA
February 10-11, 2024	North Georgia Camellia Society	Atlanta, GA
February 24-25, 2024	Middle Georgia Camellia Society – ACS National Show	Fort Valley, GA
March 2-3, 2024	Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society	Columbus, GA

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Date: Sunday, January 21, 2024
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: “Two different styles of grafting” by Konrad Hooper and Jay Ellis.

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December 2023

President's Message



Royal Velvet variegated

As we enter this Christmas Season, camellias are blooming everywhere, As Dr. Tom Farmer, our retired minister, once told me, camellias and babies are amongst God's greatest creations.

If you have not started gibbing for OUR show, time is of the essence. Charles Simon and his team have assembled a variety of quality camellias for sale during our show. John Swanson and Jerry Hogsette have assembled a great variety of air layered camellias that they have spent two years growing and babying for the club sale. Presales are also available. If you have not yet volunteered to help in our show, please do so now. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!** We are a team that can present one of the finest shows anywhere.

Members, we need to save our milk jugs for our show. When you empty them, just rinse them well and turn them upside down to dry. Bring them with you so we can fill them to have water available for our guests to use to enter their blooms on show morning. That is one of the many jobs that we do on the day that we setup for our show. Another is placing tablecloths on the tables. There is a job that you can do! Thanks.

We have lost Bev Ritter, who passed December 4th. Bev was the longtime editor of our newsletter. Bev was the wife of longtime member Chuck Ritter. Our condolences to Chuck and family!

Our annual Christmas Party is December 17th. Don't forget to bring your favorite dish and a gag gift. I look forward to seeing you there!

Jay Ellis, President



Fircone

Minutes for GCS Meeting November 19, 2023

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:08 PM and welcomed everyone,

Old Business

A motion was made and passed to accept the October minutes and Treasurer's report.

Jay announced that he brought several more bottles of gibberellic acid to give to anyone who's interested.



Frankie Winn variegated



Ray Gentry

Jerry Hogsette showed an example of an under developed “bull-nosed” Camellia blossom and emphasized the importance of dis-budding to allow one or two buds in a cluster to develop fully.

Jerry also announced that GCS has received two letters of gratitude from the University of Florida, and a personal letter of thanks from Dr. Tisher of Wilmot Botanical Gardens for our philanthropic contributions.

Charles Simon reminded everyone that the 2024 plant sale list has been sent out with the last newsletter and anyone interested in purchasing pre-sale plants should email him at cgsimon@gowebway.com with their selections.

Charles also said he needs help with getting four high school volunteers for the plant sale. Carter Brenneman volunteered for this task. Charles will send her a schedule of when students are needed.

New Business

The November Treasurer’s Report was presented by Merry Reid.

Savings \$8,456

Checking \$5,532

Total \$13,988

Debbie Ellis, 2024 Show Chair, passed a signup sheet for help with the show. She also told us that a “People’s Choice” award has been added to the prize categories.

Anna Langford reminded everyone that our December 17, 2023 meeting will start at 1:00 PM and will include our annual Christmas party and gag-gift exchange. She passed a signup sheet for volunteers to prepare a table with six place settings and a center piece.



Isabel Lewis



Henry Huntington

Mr. Hart explained that he had just taken over as ACS president in July of this year after serving as the Gulf Coast Camellia Society president. He pointed out the advantages of ACS membership including quarterly journals, a year book and free or reduced cost admission to hundreds of botanical gardens across the nation. He surveyed the 30+ GCS members present and discovered that nearly all of us are already members of the ACS! He promised to respond to emails quickly.

One last pitch: On December 23, 2023 there will be a college football game in the “Camellia Bowl” where the ACS will present a lot of information to viewers.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40PM and was followed by a plant auction.

Charles Simon, Secretary

John Swanson announced that he will have an air-layer potting party at his house on Friday, November 24 from 9:00 AM-12:00 followed by a pot luck feast. Air layers will be harvested the day before starting at 9:00 AM and volunteers are also welcome on that day.

Educational Program

Our President, Jay Ellis, introduced American Camellia Society (ACS) President Dennis Hart. This was a meet-and-greet opportunity for GCS. Mr. Hart stayed at the Ellis Ranch overnight and had the opportunity to view thousands of Camellia plants and learn about the development of many new varieties by the Ellis’s. The next morning, he travelled to Dr. John Swanson’s expansive Camellia and Citrus gardens and was treated again to viewing another stunning botanical collection.



Renee Land

Photos of flowers are from the garden of Jay and Debbie Ellis.

Date and place of meeting		Refreshments	
		Food	Drinks
December 17, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Alex & JoAnne Theodore
January 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Allison Kemp	Bill Hayes
February 18, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jerry Hogsette	Rick Davis
March 10, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon	John Swanson
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Victoria Watson	Mary Mac Watson
May 19, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Amy & Phil Puccio

Upcoming Camellia Shows		
January 6-7, 2024	Gainesville Camellia Society	Gainesville, FL
January 13-14, 2024	Tallahassee Camellia Society	Tallahassee, FL
January 13, 2024	Lakeland Camellia Society	Lakeland, FL
January 20, 2024	Camellia Society of Central Florida	Winter Park, FL
January 27-28, 2024	Ocala Camellia Society	Silver Springs, FL
February 2024	Quitman Garden Club	Quitman, GA
February 3, 2024	Augusta Camellia Society	Augusta, GA
February 10, 2024	North Georgia Camellia Society	Atlanta, GA
February 2024	Middle Georgia Camellia Society – ACS National Show	Fort Valley, GA
March 2-3, 2024	Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society	Columbus, GA

Dues
<p>The annual dues for Gainesville Camellia Society are due at this time. The amount is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please mail a check for your dues to the Treasurer:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Merry Reid 7631 Monongahela Avenue Keystone Heights FL 32656 reidm729@gmail.com</p>

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 Larry Hice
 Jerry Hogsette
 Konrad Hooper
 Sanford Porter
 Diane Simon
 Ron Stevens
 Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: Pot Luck Party – socialize at 1 pm; eat at 2 pm

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



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

November 2023

President's Message



GentryJ.

Greetings,

Here we are in the middle of November. Camellias are blooming.

Debbie and I attended the Wiregrass Camellia Show in Boston, GA, on November 4th. 960 blooms were on display, one of the finest early shows we have ever attended.

Our Show Chairperson, Debbie Ellis, will be asking for volunteers for OUR show. Remember, OUR show is dependent on our entire club to stage one of the best shows in the Southeast. Now is the ideal time for gibbing buds for OUR show and other January shows.

Please plan on attending the November 19th meeting with Dennis Hart, President of the American Camellia Society, speaking about ACS and other Camellia Gardens. Let's plan on a full house. Dennis is traveling from New Orleans.

Jay Ellis, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting October 15, 2023

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:12 PM and welcomed everyone,

Old Business

A motion was made and passed to accept the September minutes.

The September Treasurer's Report is presented below by Merry Reid.

Savings	\$18,454
Checking	<u>\$ 6,201</u>
Total	\$24,655



Doris Ellis



Rena Land

New Business

October Treasurer's Report

After issuing checks for the donations approved at the last meeting totaling \$8,000 and paying one of the three commercial Camellia growers \$1,800 plus other expenses, Merry Reid reported the following balances:

Savings	\$ 8,454
Checking	<u>\$ 5,603</u>
Total	\$14,058

Jerry Hogsette reported that all potential judges for the 2024 show have been invited by email. He will send them a reminder in December and add a note and PDF attachment about our Camellia Plant sale. Ours will be the only show that weekend and Greenhouse growers will participate. There should be a good showing of blooms, and a large crowd if the weather is nice!

Jerry also reported that we have plenty of entry cards for all bloom categories for the upcoming show.

Jerry proposed that GCS purchase eight Camellia plants for \$15 each from Wilmot left over from their last sale, for a total of \$120. A motion was made and passed to buy the plants for this amount.



Tama Glitters



Langford's Legacy

Jerry delivered the GCS check for \$3,000 to the UF IFAS Foundation. He'll mention the request that student recipients of the funds deliver a talk on their research at a GCS meeting as part of our Continuing Education Program. This would provide the students with an opportunity to present their research in a low-stress scenario.

Debbie Ellis passed around a signup sheet for Show setup, which takes place the Friday afternoon before the sale (January 5, 2024).

Charles Simon passed around a signup sheet for people interested in visiting ACS Headquarters and Masse Lane Gardens in February of 2024. Eight people were interested to date.

Secretary's Note:

A complete list of camellia plants with pictures and characteristics, secured and/or ordered for our 2024 plant sale that was included with the last newsletter mailing. We still have ~750 plants and encourage members to make pre-sale selections of cultivars they would like to purchase. Anyone who purchases 10 or more plants will receive an extra plant for FREE. GCS will auction off two sale plants at each meeting in November and December with bidding started at \$15.

Please order early for the best selection. Members should email Charles Simon at: cgsimon@gowebway.com

Pre-sale Camellia prices:

1 gal	\$15
2 gal	\$25
3 gal	\$30 (\$35 for Reticulatas)
5 gal	\$45 (only 2 for sale)

*Silver Waves**Early Autumn*Educational Program

Our President, Jay Ellis, presented a lecture and demonstration on camellia disbudding, application of gibberellic acid to camellia buds, and preservation of blooms after harvest until show time. GCS members had an up close look at each process and the tools and materials used. This was a great demonstration that generated much interest and enthusiasm.

At the end of the presentation, Jay offered bottles of red-dyed "Gib" free to all members. He told us to get spray cans of bloom-preserving coating from a florist shop, not a plant store.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Charles Simon, Secretary

Photos of flowers are from the gardens of John Swanson and Jay and Debbie Ellis.

Date and place of meeting		Refreshments	
		Food	Drinks
November 19, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid	Jay & Debbie Ellis
December 17, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Alex & JoAnne Theodore
January 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Allison Kemp	Bill Hayes
February 18, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jerry Hogsette	Rick Davis
March 10, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon	John Swanson
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Victoria Watson	Mary Mac Watson
May 19, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Amy & Phil Puccio

Upcoming Camellia Shows		
December 9, 2023	Pensacola Camellia Club	Pensacola, FL
January 6-7, 2024	Gainesville Camellia Society	Gainesville, FL
January 13-14, 2024	Tallahassee Camellia Society	Tallahassee, FL
January 13, 2024	Lakeland Camellia Society	Lakeland, FL
January 20, 2024	Camellia Society of Central Florida	Winter Park, FL
January 2024	Ocala Camellia Society	Silver Springs, FL
February 2024	Quitman Garden Club	Quitman, GA
February 3, 2024	Augusta Camellia Society	Augusta, GA
February 10, 2024	North Georgia Camellia Society	Atlanta, GA
February 2024	Middle Georgia Camellia Society – ACS National Show	Fort Valley, GA
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<p>The annual dues for Gainesville Camellia Society are due at this time. The amount is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please mail a check for your dues to the Treasurer:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Merry Reid 7631 Monongahela Avenue Keystone Heights FL 32656 reidm729@gmail.com</p>

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 Jerry Hogsette
 Konrad Hooper
 Sanford Porter
 Diane Simon
 Ron Stevens
 Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: “ACS and Other Camellia Gardens” by Dennis Hart, President of the American Camellia Society

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



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

October 2023

President's Message



Tudor Baby var.

Camellia season is rapidly descending upon us, with Georgia National Fair on Saturday, October 15th, followed by the Wiregrass Show in Boston, Georgia, on November 4th. They are both an easy two hours away if you wish to attend.

Early blooms in our yard include Kiki Toji Var., Doris Ellis, Tudor Baby Var., Debbie Ellis, Tomorrow's Dawn and Sandra Williams. Early preparations for our show on January 6th and 7th are underway. Please volunteer where needed - we can't have a show without your help.

The program for Sunday's meeting will be Gibbing and prepping blooms for shows.

Hoping to see all of you Sunday!

Jay Ellis, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting September 17, 2023

Business Meeting

Debbie Ellis, GCS Vice- President, opened the business meeting at 2:15 PM and welcomed everyone,

Old Business

A motion was made and passed to accept the May meeting minutes and June Board meeting minutes and the May Treasurer's Report.

New Business

September Treasurer's Report

Savings	\$18,453.49
Checking	<u>6,201.25</u>
Total	\$24,654.74



Daikagura

Merry Reid reported that we have paid Kanapaha \$1100 for this season's meeting room rent, and our remaining funds total ~\$25,000.

Funds from the Wilmot Spring plant sale are still not included in the Treasurers report due to complications transferring the funds from the University of Florida. The amount is ~\$400. A discussion followed where members proposed substituting these funds for part of our planned giving to Wilmot Botanical Gardens for this year and in future years. After some discussion a motion was made and passed to adopt this new giving policy for Wilmot.

Charles Simon then presented the planned giving allocations suggested by the Board and printed in the last newsletter. He reminded the group that we need ~\$17,000 to put on the 2024 Show and Plant Sale.



Edna Bass variegated

This leaves us \$8,000 for donations to selected non-profit groups and Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Motions were made and passed for the following donations and recipients:

UF/IFAS student support	\$3,000
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	\$2,000
American Camellia Society	\$1,500
Wilmot Botanical Gardens	\$1,000 plus
\$400 owed to GCS from their Spring Plant Sale.	

The UF support will be presented with a request that one or more students deliver a lecture on their thesis research at a GCS meeting as part of our continuing education program.



Pink Icicle



Sawada's Mahogany

Secretary's Note:

Dr. Sanford Porter prepared a complete list of Camellia plants, with pictures and characteristics, secured and/or ordered for our 2024 plant sale that is included with this newsletter mailing. We will secure ~770 plants this year and encourage members to make pre-sale selections of cultivars they would like to purchase. Members should email Charles Simon at: cgsimon@gowebway.com

Please order early for the best selection. A text list of plants in alphabetical order along with the type of cultivar, the number in hand, the provider, and the pot size are also included. We may not get all of the plants ordered from County Line Nursey (C) and Loch Laurel Nursery (L), but we have all listed plants in hand from our three GCS suppliers, Jay Ellis (E), Jerry Hogsette (H) and John Swanson (S). If you select plants from these growers, we can bring them to the GCS meeting or you can pick them up from the grower.

Pre-sale Camellia prices:

- 1 gal \$15
- 2 gal \$25
- 3 gal \$30 (\$35 for Reticulatas)
- 5 gal \$45 (only 2 for sale)

If members purchase ten or more plants in the pre-sale, they will receive an additional plant for free.

Bill Hayes will be our financial auditor this year.



Purple Swirl



Berenice Beauty

Educational Program

A lecture on international shipping of produce was presented by Professor Jeffrey Brecht of the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Dr. Brecht took us on an historic journey of improvements in cold storage of produce in shipping containers and trucks. The incremental improvements in cooling technology have culminated in today's micro-processor controlled cooling systems aboard shipping containers and trucks that allow consumers to purchase 'seasonal' produce year-round.

This was a fascinating lecture by a world renowned leading expert in the field.

Charles Simon, Secretary

Photos of flowers are from the gardens of John Swanson and Jay and Debbie Ellis.

Date and place of meeting		Refreshments	
		Food	Drinks
October 15, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jay & Debbie Ellis	Charles & Diane Simon
November 19, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Merry Reid	Jay & Debbie Ellis
December 17, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Need volunteer for drinks
January 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Allison Kemp	Bill Hayes
February 18, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jerry Hogsette	Rick Davis
March 10, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon	John Swanson
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Need volunteer	Need volunteer
May 19, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Need volunteer

Upcoming Camellia Shows		
October 14, 2023	Middle Georgia Camellia Society	Perry, GA
November 4, 2023	Wiregrass Camellia Society	Boston, GA
December 9, 2023	Pensacola Camellia Club	Pensacola, FL
January 6-7, 2024	Gainesville Camellia Society	Gainesville, FL
January 2024	Tallahassee Camellia Society	Tallahassee, FL
January 13, 2024	Lakeland Camellia Society	Lakeland, FL
January 20, 2024	Camellia Society of Central Florida	Winter Park, FL
January 2024	Ocala Camellia Society	Silver Springs, FL
February 2024	Quitman Garden Club	Quitman, GA
February 10, 2024	North Georgia Camellia Society	Atlanta, GA
February 2024	Middle Georgia Camellia Society – ACS National Show	Fort Valley, GA

Dues
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 Konrad Hooper
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 Diane Simon
 Ron Stevens
 Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, October 15, 2023
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: “Gibbing for larger earlier blooms and prepping blooms for shows”
 by Jay Ellis

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



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

September 2023

President's Message



Debbie Ellis var.

Camellia season is upon us. Bountiful rain has given us many large buds to disbud. In doing so it gives you larger blooms. Late season fertilization with 16-4-8, CyberCoat slow release or Milorganite will provide nutritional needs throughout the blooming season.

Early gibbing has resulted in early blooms such as the first four photos in this newsletter. Gibbing now could provide blooms for the Georgia National Fair Show in Perry, Georgia, and the South Carolina State Fair Show in Columbia, South Carolina.

Our September Program procured by Charles Simon will be Professor Jeff Brecht with IFAS Fruit Crops in charge of International Shipments of Fruits and Vegetables.

Our Plant Guru has compiled a large list of plants for sale by our club with profits to fund our show and other non-profits. A complete plant list is attached with the newsletter. You can e-mail Charles Simon at CGSimon@gowebway.com.

I look forward to seeing all of you Sunday, September 17th @ 2pm for our first meeting of the season.

Jay Ellis, President



Ray Gentry

Minutes for GCS Meeting May 21, 2023

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, our new GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:08 PM and welcomed everyone,

Old Business

A motion was made and passed to accept the April meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report.



Sandra Williams



KiKi Tojo var.

Jay led a brief discussion about the American Camellia Society's (ACS) request for the GCS to host their National Convention this year. The topic was tabled until our annual Board meeting, which was scheduled for 1:00 PM on June 4, 2023 at Wilmot Gardens.

The short business meeting was followed by our end-of-the-year banquet.

Charles Simon, Secretary

New Business

May Treasurer's Report

Merry Reid presented this report:

Savings: \$18,444

Checking: \$6,636

Total: \$25,080

The total includes funds from the Kanapaha spring plant sale raffle and deductions for final 2023 Camellia Show expenses. Funds from the Wilmot Spring plant sale are not included.



Tama Vino

Minutes for GCS Board Meeting June 4, 2023

Twenty-two GCS members, including the full Board, attended this meeting. There was a detailed discussion led by Jay Ellis of the potential ACS annual convention. Costs and member-support for each activity and overall logistics were noted. It would take 6-10 GCS members to support the ACS convention. The convention would take place concurrent with the GCS annual Show and Plant Sale. Members expressed much concern over our ability to support all three events at the same time. Many people felt that the late notice from ACS would greatly hinder our performance.



Terry Gilley var.



Mark Chason var.

After more than an hour of discussion, a motion was made for GCS to sponsor the ACS annual convention. There were 8 yeas and 11 nay votes, and 3 abstentions. The motion failed.

The Board again appointed Bill Hayes to be our Financial Auditor for the 2023/2024 season.

The next subject discussed was GCS philanthropic donations for 2023, which will be made in October-November. Charles Simon reminded everyone that it costs \$17,000 to put on a Show and Plant Sale. That leaves us \$8,000 for donations. The Board recommended the following support:

American Camellia Society -	\$1,500
Kanapaha Botanical Gardens -	\$2,000
Wilmot Botanical Gardens -	\$1,500
UF/IFAS student support -	\$3,000



Northern Lights



Dragon Fireball

The UF support would require two or more students to attend a GCS meeting. Alternately we could request that one or more students deliver an educational lecture covering their research area.

The recommendations will be presented at the September GCS meeting for further discussion and a vote on approval.

Charles Simon, Secretary

Secretary's Note

A complete list of Camellia plants secured and/or ordered for our 2024 plant sale is included with this newsletter mailing. We will secure ~770 plants this year and are counting on members to make pre-sale selections of cultivars they would like to purchase. Members should email Charles Simon at:

cgsimon@gowebway.com



Early Autumn



Yuletide

Please order early for the best selection. Note that plants are listed alphabetically along with the type of cultivar, the number in hand, the provider and the pot size. We may not get all of the plants ordered from County Line Nursery (C) and Loch Laurel Nursery (L), but we have all listed plants in hand from our three GCS suppliers, Jay Ellis (E), Jerry Hogsette (H) and John Swanson (S). If you select plants from these growers, we can bring them to the GCS meeting or you can pick them up from the grower.

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5 gal	\$45 (only 2 for sale)

Photos of flowers are from the gardens of John Swanson and Jay and Debbie Ellis.

Date and place of meeting		Refreshments
September 17, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Anna & Gerald Langford Volunteers are needed for future meetings.
October 15, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	
November 19, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	
December 17, 2023	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	
January 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	
February 18, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	
March 10, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	
May 19, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	

Upcoming Camellia Shows		
October 14, 2022	Middle Georgia Camellia Society	Perry, GA
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January 2024	Ocala Camellia Society	Ocala, FL

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Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, September 17, 2023
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: Professor Jeff Brecht with IFAS Fruit Crops International Shipments of Fruits and Vegetables

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