



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

November 2024

President's Message



Alice Creighton

Greetings,

Here it is mid November already. Today, November 10th, we are having our first rain since Milton. As of 2:30 pm there has been about 1/2 inch. Blooms will be a-popping!

On a sad note, "Old Goat" Gerald Langford has passed away. He and Anna have done so much for our club. Our prayers go out for Anna and family. I am proud to call him my friend!

There are still positions open for our show - please see Debbie for details. There are also openings for the convention - see Charles. Don't forget to register for the different events during the convention week. Also remember to register for the hotel if you are planning on staying there during the convention.

Now is the time for gibbing for our show, as there are several new categories and cash prizes for local growers.

This month's program will be: how to fill out entry cards for the show and training for various jobs in the show. We will also have a demonstration of preparing your flowers for the show.

I look forward to seeing you all Sunday, November 17th, at 2pm.

Jay Ellis, President



Barbara Colbert

Minutes for GCS Meeting October 13, 2024

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:17 PM and welcomed everyone. There were no visitors at this meeting.

Old Business

A correction to the 9/15/24 minutes was made by Charles Simon to add Wilmot Gardens as the recipient for the 30 plants valued at \$1500.



Bart Colbert, Variegated

*Yuletide*

Charles Simon reported that plans for the ACS National Convention have been completed and attendees are currently registering. He invited all members to consider registering for the full convention, or for individual events listed in the convention schedule. The ACS website has a link to the schedule and event costs, which are also appended to these minutes.

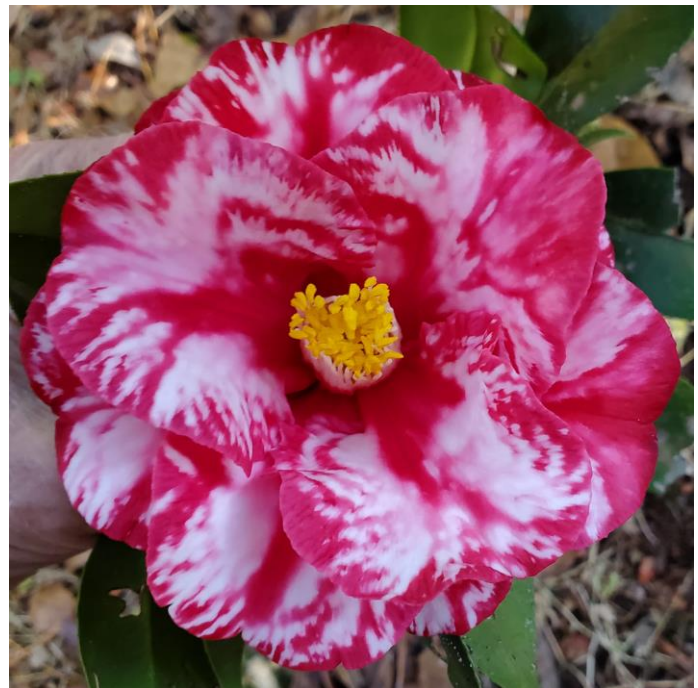
Charles also mentioned that people interested in helping at the convention can sign up next month for time slots and events. He said they will also need help with adding homemade Florida goodies to the bags, and with preparing snacks for the cocktail hours.

New Business

Treasurer's report for October, 2024 by Merry Reid.

Checking:	\$11,703
Savings:	<u>10,579</u>
Total:	\$22,282

Debbie Ellis reported that the tables for the 2025 Show have been ordered, and work has begun on assembling goodie bags for the judges. Debbie also told us that GCS t-shirts and polos will be available for purchase and she hopes all Show participants will wear one. She passed around a sheet for people to sign up to be clerks at the Show and to provide food and drinks for the rest of our meetings, and to purchase shirts. She'll have examples of the shirts at the next meeting.

*Ville de Nantes*



Whoopee

We'll also need people to attend the registration desk and serve as bartenders and servers (cleaners) at the cocktail hours and the picnic lunch. He encouraged everyone to send him their personal 'Camellia story', even a paragraph or two with pictures if you like. These will be published in the convention program. Charles also needs help with producing this program and creating the printer's layout.

Educational Program

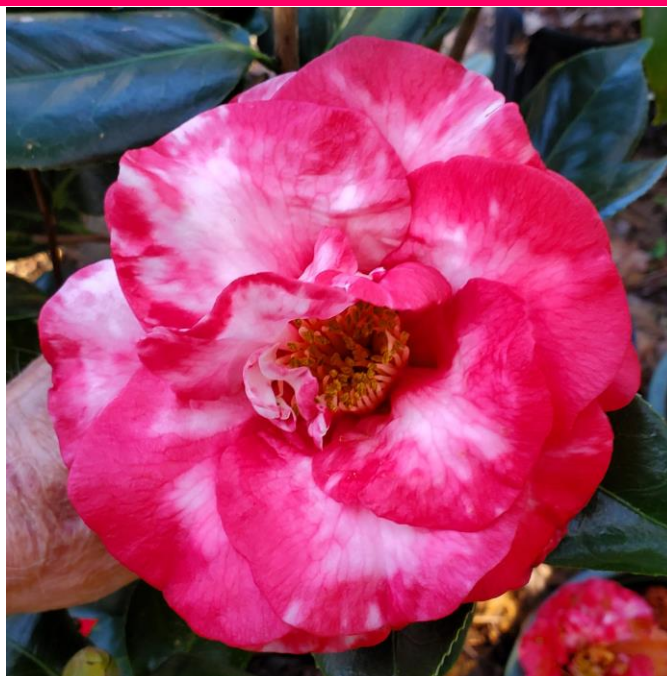
Dr. Sanford Porter introduced Dr. Kevin Korus, a plant pathologist with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS). Dr. Korus spoke to us about plant diseases with emphasis on camellia plants. He defined a disease as any condition that prevents a plant from realizing its maximum potential. There are abiotic diseases, or conditions, caused by environmental stress like too much or too little sunlight, too much or too little water, from chemical exposures such as over fertilizing or nutrient deficiency from under fertilizing. Then there are biotic diseases caused by micro and macroscopic organisms such as molds, bacteria, nematodes, mites and other 'bugs'.



Faith

Dr. Korus spoke at length about each biotic disease and passed out a full color handout describing these diseases and their treatments. The article is available online at the UF IFAS extension as circular ENH1294.

Charles Simon, Secretary



Dr Cy Echols

APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES: INDIVIDUAL ACS CONVENTION EVENT COSTS
JANUARY 2-5, 2025

<u>Thursday</u> open-bar cocktail hour (Free to volunteer helpers.)	\$20
<u>Friday</u> tour of UF Butterfly Garden	\$15
<u>Friday</u> picnic lunch at Wilmot Gardens (Free to volunteer helpers.)	\$25
<u>Friday</u> Lecture at the Hilton	Free
<u>Friday</u> open-bar cocktail hours:	\$20
<u>Friday</u> Judges Banquet at the Hilton	\$85
<u>Saturday</u> Judges Luncheon at Kanapaha	\$30
<u>Saturday</u> Lecture at the Hilton	Free
<u>Saturday</u> open-bar cocktail hour (Free to volunteer helpers.)	\$20
<u>Sunday</u> trip to Silver Springs with luncheon	\$65
<u>Sunday</u> open-bar cocktail hour (Free to volunteer helpers.)	\$20
<u>Sunday</u> Plant Auction	Free
<u>Sunday</u> Members meeting	Free
<u>Sunday</u> Farewell Banquet at the Hilton	\$85
Full registration for all events	\$335

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>	
		<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
11/17/2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Volunteers needed	Volunteers needed
12/15/2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens		
1/19/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens		
2/16/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens		
3/16/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens		
4/20/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens		
5/18/2025	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens		

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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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.



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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, November 17, 20224

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: “A Practice Camellia Show” Please bring 1-3 flowers to enter.

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.



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Editor: Anna Langford

October 2024

President's Message



El Rojo

Another Camellia season is upon us. A few varieties are blooming for us now Early Autumn, Kiki Toji , Debbie Ellis , Rubra , Gene's Autumn Fire various Sasanquas . As I write this on Sunday the 6th it's raining and we're wondering how Milton is going to affect our state. Prayers go out to those in its path and to all those who are recovering from Helene.

Showchair Debbie Ellis will be passing out sign up sheets for positions to be filled for our show.. We will also be taking orders for Polo or T -Shirts. These are nice for the show and especially this year we will have the National Convention. They will be \$20.00 apiece. Charles Simon our convention chair will be talking about slots to be filled.

This month's program features disbudding & gibbing of blooms. Looking forward to seeing everyone Sunday, October 13th.

Jay Ellis, President



C. Roseaflora

Minutes for GCS Meeting September 15, 2024

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:07 PM and welcomed everyone. Jay announced that the business meeting would be kept short to allow our loquacious educational speaker to have more time.

Old Business

A correction to the Board meetings was made to reflect the decision of the Board to eliminate protected blooms from completion. With this correction, a motion was made and passed to accept the September 2024.



Joan Holden



Coral Delight

New Business

There was no Treasurer's report for September, 2024. The latest treasurer's report is for April 2024 by Merry Reid.

Checking: \$11,934

Savings: 10,579

Total: \$22,513

John Swanson told everyone that the Atlantic Coast Camelia Society would have their annual convention on September 30- October 1, 2024 and all are invited. John and Charles Simon will make the trip together.

Charles Simon brought up for a general vote the 2024 GCS donation list that the board approved. The following donations were approved with the stated stipulations unanimously by the 32 GCS members present:

\$500 to Grow Hub to be used for the Camellia Garden under the direction of Amy Puccio.

\$2000 to Kanapaha Botanical Gardens for the care of the Camellia Garden and other uses.

\$3000 unrestricted scholarship to the University of Florida Institute for Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Horticultural graduate students with the requirement to have one or more students present their research at a GCS meeting.

\$1500 to the American Camellia Society, to be used to cover ACS National Convention costs if needed.

\$1500 worth of 2-3 gallon Camellia plants (~50 plants).

Charles Simon, Secretary



Esther Smith

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM AND Dr. Sanford Porter introduced our guest speaker, JD Thomerson.

JD regaled us with his Camellia Story, which started out, like many of us, with the purchase of a property with mature Camellia plants, and the subsequent purchase, planting and killing of eight lovely Camellia plants! JD went to a Camellia Society meeting and later learned from Hulyn Smith that he had planted them too deep, a common mistake. From that point on Hulyn lead JD by the hand, literally, to meetings and shows, and then he was HOOKED!

JD's lecture was on the ways to propagate Camellias from Seed. He brought dozens fo seeds to give away and showed a simple method of germinating them by enclosing them in a bed of moist sphagnum moss in a Ziploc bag. Place the bag on a warm surface, like to top of your freezer, and in 2-3 months the seeds will sprout and grow some roots. We were very receptive of this simple, low maintenance method of sprouting Camellia seedlings and many members took seeds home after the lecture.

Photos of flowers are from the garden of John Swanson.

Charges to Members for Convention Activities

Board meeting, general meeting, lectures and plant auction: no charge

Breakfast at the Hilton can be purchased by non-guests for \$25.

Thursday Presidents Reception and other cocktail hours-open bar: \$25

Friday picnic lunch at Wilmot Gardens: \$30

Friday Judges Banquet: \$85

Saturday Judges Luncheon at Kanapaha: \$30

Sunday Luncheon at Silver Springs, including entrance fee and boat tour: \$65

Sunday Farewell Banquet: \$85

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Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, October 13, 2024

Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

Program: “The Biology of Plant Pathology” by Dr. Kevin Korus, UF Extension Service, followed by a short hands on presentation by Jay Ellis about gibbing camellia flowers.

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.



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September 2024

President's Message



El Rojo

Greetings! What a wonderful year for growing camellias. New growth like I have never seen before! Seed pods are mostly gone. If you didn't collect them in August, the squirrels probably beat you to them.

Disbudding and gibbing now will give you earlier and larger blooms. Some growers like to fertilize in September.

GCS has the honor of hosting the Annual American Camellia Society Convention in conjunction with our annual show this year. Charles Simon has done a wonderful job of organizing the convention. Show Chair Debbie Ellis will be passing out sign-up sheets for various positions for our show.

Sanford Porter has lined up some wonderful and entertaining speakers for the new camellia season starting with J.D. Thomerson from Valdosta, GA. Be prepared for an entertaining program.

October's meeting date has been changed to October 13th due to a scheduling conflict with Kanapaha.

As many of you know, Gerald (Old Goat) Langford is not doing well. He and Anna have done so much for our club. Please keep them in your prayers.

Looking forward to seeing everyone Sunday September 20th at 2:00.

Jay Ellis, President



C. Roseaflora

Minutes for GCS Board Meeting July 21, 2024

GCS President Jay Ellis called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. All Board members and officers were present.

Jay said the October meeting this year will be held on the 13th due to a schedule conflict with Kanapaha.

Debbie Ellis, Show Chair, stated that the rental tables were ordered and cost \$763. This year we will eliminate the "protected" category due to the lack of greenhouse completion in our region. Protected and unprotected blooms will compete in the same fields. That lowers the cash prize total to \$1,220.

We will add two new categories to encourage local competition: Best local formal double and best plate of three. This will increase the cash prize total to about \$1,400.



Borom's Gem

*Hawaii*

Sanford also said that he would contact IFAS and make it clear that GCS expects one or more students to present talks on their respective research projects at one of our meetings.

Alex and Joanne Theodore volunteered to contact a florist for advice on how to display Camellia blooms, which we would like to have for the ACS convention rooms and hotel lobby.

The group suggested that we dedicate this year's Show to Gerald (Old Goat) and Anna Langford. There was unanimous approval from those present. We hope to devote next year's Show to Chuck and Bev Ritter.

John Swanson will talk with Alex about having Kanapaha join the Camellia Trail, and also ask her to present a talk at a GCS meeting this year.

Charles Simon mentioned that the judges' luncheon cost will be covered by the ACS convention. So the total Show cost for rental tables, cash prizes, lunch for the workers and judges goody bags will be about \$3,000.

Charles said that we'll spend about \$8000 on plants and fertilizer and we should gross about \$20,000 from plant sales if all goes well. That should leave us about \$8,000 to \$9,000 for operational expenses and philanthropic giving.

Sanford Porter suggested we set up a savings/investment program to build up a reserve for future expenses and charitable donations. We could start with ~\$2,000 and add a similar amount each year up to ~\$20,000.

*Fragrant Joy*



Evening Glow Pearl

John also reported that ACS lowered the cost for new Camellia plant registration from \$150 to \$50 per plant, and added a new “Memorial” category that can be included in individual shows.

Cat Spurgeon volunteered to take charge of the GCS website and member list. Everyone welcomed this.

Several members mentioned a luncheon restaurant in the UF art museum called “The Camellia” that we should go see for fun.



Gilley 144



Florence Stratton

John Swanson invited everyone to come to the ACS Board meeting and General Assembly meeting on January 3, 2025 in the Hilton UF Convention Center. There is no charge for these events. He said there’s usually a good participation in ACS national conventions from the Atlantic Coast (ACCS) and the Gulf Coast (GCCS) Camellia Societies. The ACCS will have their annual convention on September 30 to October 1, 2024, and the GCCS will have their annual convention on October 18-19, 2024.

Jerry Hogsette reported that he Master Gardeners will have another sale on October 19, 2024, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. GCS can have a table at the venue for \$25 and can sell Camellia plants and keep the proceeds. We may try this with some club-generated plants.

The following recipients and amounts for philanthropic giving will be presented to the full membership at the September 2024 meeting for discussion. After any changes, a vote will be called for approval or denial.

UF Horticulture, Ornamental Sciences for unrestricted use by graduate students:\$3,000
 Kanapaha Botanical Gardens: \$2,000
 American Camellia Society: \$1,500
 Wilmot Botanical Gardens: 50 Camellia plants for their spring sale (equal to \$1,500)
 Grow Hub Camellia Garden: \$500

The Board meeting was adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Charles Simon, Secretary



Gigantea

Minutes for GCS Meeting May 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by our President, Jay Ellis. This was an abbreviated meeting as it was the end of the year party. There was no educational lecture.

Old Business

A motion was made and seconded to accept the April 2024 minutes. The motion passed.

New Business

The May 2024 Treasurer’s report was presented by Merry Reid.

Checking: \$12,099
 Savings: 10,579
 Total: \$22,678



Joan Holden



Coral Delight

Charles said he would ask for volunteers to staff the convention and to help transport people to Silver Springs in vans or 6-passenger cars. A list of time slots and events will be published in the September Newsletter.

John Swanson reminded everyone about the great benefits gained from membership in the ACS, including free admission to over a hundred botanical gardens across the nation.

The GCS officers elected during the April, 2024 meeting were installed by John Swanson.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50PM.

Charles Simon, Secretary

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion passed

Anna Langford announced that she was stepping down from the GCS Hospitality Chair and asked for volunteers to replace her. Valerie Malkemes said she would be glad to take over, so Valerie will be the new Hospitality Chair.

Charles Simon described the American Camellia Society (ACS) convention schedule and costs. The event should pay for itself through registration fees, a plant auction, advertisements and the Alachua County tourism bureau. We will also withhold any donation funds slated for the ACS until after the convention in case they're needed for convention expenses.



Esther Smith

Photos of flowers are from the garden of John Swanson.

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