

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Editor, Lisa Freeland

Welcome Back!

February 2025

NEXT CLUB MEETING: Sunday, February 2nd 2025

**We meet at 2pm:
Marion County Sheriff's Office
South Multi-District Office
3260 SE 80th St.
Ocala, FL 34480**

**Welcome to Our New
Members who joined at our
recent show!**

Guest Speaker: [REDACTED] is Dr. Charles Guy, an Emeritus and Courtesy Professor at the Department of Environmental Horticulture at the University of Florida. He has been doing research on understanding the effects of gardening and soil exposure on human health. This study is has demonstrated that contact with the soil may lead to modulation of immune system function. This study shows how gardening can lead to changes in a gardener's microbiome. He has also been working at the Wilmot Botanical Gardens to help solve problems with both the loss of mature trees in the garden and in the camellias.

Plus, we'll have plants for auction this month!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, fellow camellia lovers!

Our show was quite the success with a bounty of flowers presented; our official bloom count was 719! This was especially good news in light of the deeply unpleasant weather in south Georgia and far north Florida that happened the week before the show. Some of our exhibitors contended with actual SNOW in their yards—gasp!

I have so many volunteers to thank but let me start with our club officers, Sally Layendecker, Jill Reed and Kathryn Sickling. Committee chairs also did a great job in managing their tasks: Marge got our judges in place; Jill Reed handled placement; Martha Campbell-Thompson handled the clerks; Justin Schneider wrangled the plant sales; Kathryn provided our breakfast on Saturday; Laura picked up the extra plants at John's Nursery; and the whole team rotated among the tables, sales and clean-up. The phrase "Many hands make light work" certainly proved true for us. We were out of the church by 5:30 on Saturday and done by 3:30 on Sunday.

Our last meeting of the season will be Sunday, March 2, same bat time, same bat channel. We'll have our annual potluck, so I'll pass out sign-up sheets at our meeting this Sunday. And we can discuss the option of getting a different entrée provided by the club. The Lee's fried chicken at the show was a definite hit with our judges!

Hope to see you this Sunday!

Belea T. Keeney, President



Ocala Camellia Society General Meeting Minutes January 5, 2025

Introduced visiting guests and new members.

Mark Crawford talk/presentation was on Four Season Camellias and his trip on behalf of ACS to China to tour the nurseries that are developing and growing the new C. Changii (azalea)

This new variety blooms all summer, red is the dominant color, most are grafted on Gaochowensis camellia root stock. The plant is petal blight free and it is fast growing.

The partnership is between the growers and ACS. After two years in quarantine what plants survived are in Lockslee, Alabama. Product should be available in some markets including Florida by 2026.

Business meeting items:

1- Minutes from previous meetings, approvals.

2- Show stuff

a. Announced committee leaders: Justin doing plant sales; Jill doing placement; Marge handles judges; Martha doing clerks; Ricardo did press, etc.

b. Show tasks/items for discussion:

- Decided to buy 150 more plants from John's Nursery which includes Sassanquas. Margie and Laura will pick them up and deliver them on Friday.
- Plant sales to start at 7AM for judges, if they want them they should set them aside and put their name on it till the show starts
- Marge still working on judges, Brian Dick will be head judge.
- Belea and Susan will do tag counts in the kitchen to determine prizes.
- 2pm presentations Sat will be done by Mike and Sun by Sally in the stage area.
- Walked thru Fri, Sat, Sun task sheets and filled in PRN
- Discuss re Square and using Laura's again this year. We will use Laura's this year and figure out how to set it up before the show next year. We will talk to Gainesville and Lakeland clubs to see how they set them up.
- Passed around show task sheets for additional sign ups.
- It was voted to have Sally order 25 2 piece meals from Lees Chicken and Kathryn will get the drinks when she buys the breakfast items.
- Kathryn will buy donuts and provide other foods for breakfast.
- We will meet at 10:00 to load the plants at Jill's. We will need people to meet at

the Ft King Church at 11:30 to unload the plants, fill water cups, put plastic on tables, etc.

- Laura to get the black plastic 2700 linear feet.
 - Jill to provide the alphabetical signs and labels to use when we put the plants out. Sassanquas and Reticulatas will be in a separate section.
 - Marge needs to have 100 programs printed up once Belea gets the program to her.
 - Judges packets are done by Marge the week before so she needs the programs before then.
 - Citrus Chronicle likes to put show promotional information in their paper so they should be contacted.
 - Time for starting on Sunday needs confirming as we didn't know what time was given to the advertisers. It was said that starting at noon would be preferable due to church member parking issues.
 - We voted to have the Peacock Cottage provide 25 \$10 plants to give as judges gifts. Laura will bring them on Saturday.
 - Judges and those with large numbers of entries should park in the back and bring in plants thru the east door rather than the front door.
 - Belea will bring the tape and Marge will recommend how far apart placing it.
 - Pioneer garden club will not do arrangements this year.
 - We will not have show donations this year the club will handle all prize costs.
 - Belea will scan all the sign-up sheets and Lisa will email it out to our members.
 - Buddy McKay passed away at the age of 92. We should do a sympathy card from the club.
 - If weather calls for rain people volunteered to bring tents for the outside plant sellers.
 - Everyone is encouraged to bring plants to enter. We have the forms available and if you have address stamps or stickers utilize them on your entry forms to save time writing.
- 3- Field trips. Sally working to organize Wilmot trip to UF. No update yet.
 - 4- Aprons for shows. Justin provided in exchange for \$160 of County Line plants.
 5. Reminder: Next meeting will be Feb 2, March 2 (potluck/end of season party)

Submitted by Kathryn Sickling, secretary

How to Wax Camellias

Presentation by Sally Layendecker, OCS Vice-President

Sally showed us in our December meeting how to wax and preserve our lovely camellias. Here's the process if you'd like to try it yourself:

Supplies needed:

- 5 pounds canning wax
- 1.5 pints of mineral oil
- Ice water, as needed
- Old crockpot (you won't be using this for food ever again!)
- Bowl for water and ice cubes
- Candy thermometer

Heat the wax and oil in the crockpot until it reaches 138 degrees. Remove the leaves and the buds on your camellias bloom and give yourself a fairly long stem (4-6 inches) to hold the bloom. Pull back any remaining leaves and dip the entire bloom into the heated wax mixture using a slanted approach, not straight up and down. Remember you're dipping with more of a sideways motion than just plonking it straight down. Immediately drop the waxed bloom carefully into the ice water basin. Try not to bump the flower; you want to retain that waxy seal. Leave it in the cold water for up to 30 minutes to let it set completely. If the wax seal isn't broken, blooms can last up to several months!

Ocala Camellia Society Meeting Schedule

Mark your calendars!!

March 2, 2025- final season meeting and potluck meal

The Board of Directors will meet over the summer and determine next season's schedule; it's likely we will keep the same first Sunday afternoon general time frame, but we are looking for a more central location for the meetings. Anyone with concrete information or who wants to research some meeting space, please do so. 😊

Ocala Camellia Society 2025 Show

**Best Bloom in show - Ray Gentry Var –
exhibited by Louis and Joanne Raska**



Best Species - Star Above Star - Susan Dunn



Runner Up, Species - C. handelii, Susan Dunn



Best Mutant - color sport of Joy Kendrick, Jill Reed



Best Local Pink - Rosalyn Carter, Belea Keeney



Best Local Variegated- C. M. Wilson V, Susan Dunn



Best Local Formal Double- Buttermint, Martha Campbell-Thompson



Show photos, courtesy of Jill Reed

The following plants will be auctioned at the Feb 2 meeting:

Phyllis Hunt



Lady Van Sittart



These plants will be raffled at the Feb 2 meeting:

Extra Point



Taylor's Perfection



Pleasant Memories



Tom Perkins



High Fragrance



Borom's Gem



Taylor's Perfection

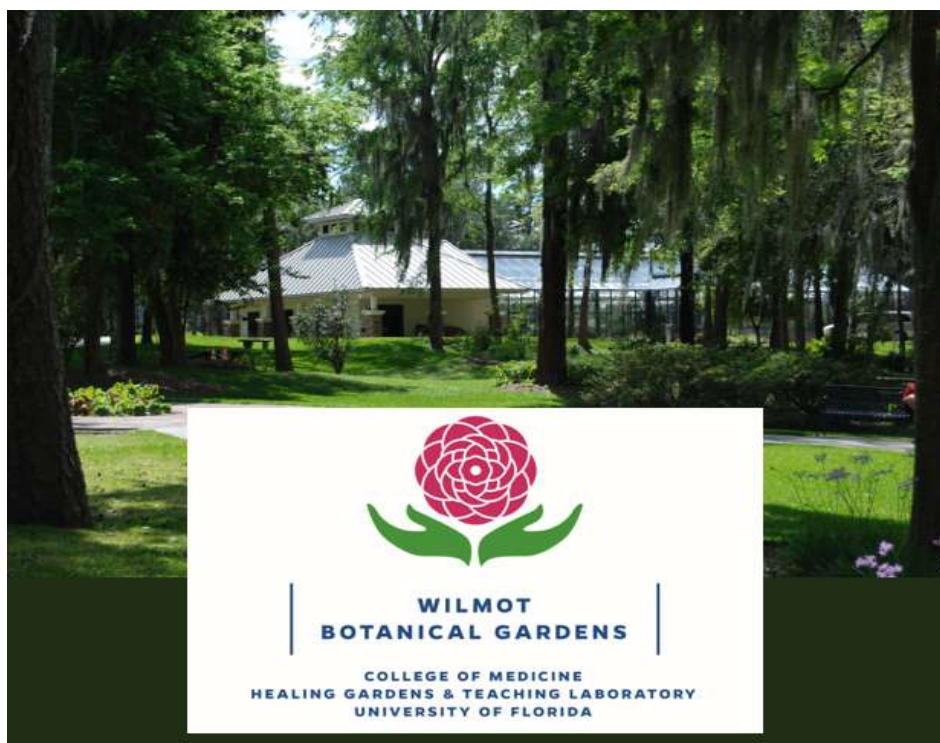


photos, courtesy of Jill Reed

UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

February 7, 2025: Field Trip to The Wilmot Botanical Garden, Gainesville, FL.

Please join us on a field trip to the Wilmot Botanical Gardens on the University of Florida's campus in Gainesville, Florida. These gardens are on the American Camilla Trail and are the home to many of the over 300 camellias that were donated to UF from the private collection of Drs. Clarence and Lillian Gordy. We will be taking a tour with Dr. Craig Tisher, the director of the gardens. We have a guided tour set up on Friday, Feb. 7 at 1:00 PM. We may also, if time permits, visit some more of the camellia gardens on the UF campus. As parking in the gardens is limited, we will need to carpool. At our meeting In Feb., we will have signup sheets to travel together.



UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS

(Listings per ACS website)

If you still have blooms and want to show them, several upcoming camellias shows are on the calendar. We've only listed the ones in the southeast.

February 8-9, 2025: Grand Strand Camellia Society, Murrells Inlet, SC, Murrells Inlet Community Center

February 15-16, 2025: Greenville Camellia Society, Greenville, AL, LBW Community College

February 22, 2025: Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Fort Valley, GA, Masee Lane Gardens.

February 22, 2025: Tidewater Camellia Club, Wilmington NC, New Hanover County Arboretum

February 22, 2025: Camellia Club of New Orleans, New Orleans LA, University of New Orleans

The officers and Executive Committee of the Ocala Camellia Society for 2024-2025 are:

President: Belea Keeney, 919-623-5375
Vice-Pres. Sally Laynedecker 352-877-8128
Secretary: Kathryn Sickling, 352-625-2179
Treasurer: Jill Reed, 352-591-4343

Directors:

Annie & Paul Aierstock, 352-270-9191
Patrick Andrews, 352-895-8762
Dick Greenwood, 352-347-9992
Marge Hendon, 352-625-3510
Laura Perdomo, 352-624-0116
Zlata Sabo, 352-237-5537
Justin Schneider, 352-843-6142
Judy Vaughn, 352-502-3847
Bob Weidman, 352-595-3365



OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024-2025

The Ocala Camellia Society is a local society, affiliated with the American Camellia Society, whose members meet the first Sunday of the month, September through March, and presents an annual camellia show during January. Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples. Dues are collected in September for the camellia season. Please complete the application below for membership in the Ocala Camellia Society.

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Single Membership () \$10.00
Couple Membership { } \$15.00
Corporate Membership { } \$50.00
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address/City/State/Zip

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: please write legibly!! _____

Do we have your permission to share your member info with other chapter members? Yes ___ No ___

Please make your check payable to OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY and give to: Jill Reed, Treasurer. You can mail it to her at: 19800 N Highway 329, Micanopy FL 32667.