

# OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Belea Keeney, Patrick Andrews, Co-Editors  
November 2018

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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

## **NEXT MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018**

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, November 1, 2018, at the Community Room at the Ocala Police Station located at 402 S. Pine (Pine Plaza) in Ocala.

Light refreshments will be served at 6:30, and the meeting will begin at 7:00. This month, Laura Perdomo, our wonderful treasurer, will give a presentation about gardens within driving distance in our area that our members might want to visit. It should be a crowd pleaser since we are entering the blooming season and members might want to organize little field trips to these gardens.

We will conclude the meeting both raffle and auction plants. See page 6 for details. Tickets will be available throughout the meeting: one ticket for \$1, or 6 tickets for \$5.

## **DUES REMINDER**

If you haven't paid your dues for the 2018-2019 season, please do so at the meeting, or you can mail them to Laura Perdomo, Treasurer, at the address on the order form on the last page of this newsletter.

Your support and participation in the meetings are greatly appreciated!

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **THE OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY WEB PAGE IS ON TWO WEBSITES**

The following link is the web page for the Ocala Camellia Society on the American Camellia Society website. While we don't have anyone to add much content to our page, Camille Bielby at ACS does update the information for us based on information in our newsletter. You can find our newsletter there and thus know when our meetings are in case you forget. You can also download our show program to prepare for our camellia show. If you are reading this on your computer, just click on the link to visit the site.

<https://www.americancamellias.com/about-american-camellia-society/clubs-societies/local-clubs-societies/florida-clubs-societies/ocala-camellia-society>

Another website that provides a web page for us is the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. They also provide information about our club, and they also post our newsletter and show program. This is the link to visit our page there:

<http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Ocala%20CS.html>

Both of these websites have valuable information, and most of it is free. I encourage you to join both organizations, as they support us with these services and tools. In particular, the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society has probably the largest picture resource in the world, and you can search by cultivar or flower feature (e.g., color, form, species). Be sure to check it out!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jill Reed, President

At last, the season for camellias is here. Blessed “Debutante” has started blooming by my back door, along with a few sasanquas. The daily rains have stopped and with that, the constant need for mowing and weeding has ended. And to everyone’s relief, we are having some cooler weather. Although I have had holes dug and ready for planting some of the many camellias I still have in pots, I felt it was too risky to put them in the ground during the brutal summer and early fall heat. This past weekend I finally felt it was safe to plant and put five camellias in the ground.

However, the change in weather is not all for the best. True, we have a break from the high heat and humidity and the torrential rains of this summer, but during this very rainy summer, there was never a thought or need for watering. I am one of those people who does not have an irrigation system in place. My irrigation consists of moving sprinklers and dragging hoses, setting timers, and making sure all the camellias are getting adequate water. This weekend, in addition to planting several camellias, I found there was a camellia emergency – several plants were very wilted because I was accustomed to letting nature provide the irrigation, and nature failed me last week. This weekend, after several dry days, I couldn’t get enough water to the plants fast enough with sprinklers and had to hand water many plants to save them.

I’ve come to believe that of all the things that camellias need to thrive, the most important is the right amount of water. With the wrong sun exposure there may be slow growth, few flowers, or sunburned foliage or blooms, but not death. With nutrient deficiency, again, slow growth and few blooms. I suppose you could kill a camellia with too much chemical fertilizer, but I haven’t heard of it. But with water, the camellias are unforgiving. Too much, and they die. Too little, and they die.

I’ve been contemplating installing an irrigation system for years. My husband told me recently it was time to stop talking about it and act. (Frankly, I have been talking about it to him repeatedly in the hope that HE would be the one to act! It would have been such a nice Christmas or birthday present!) I took careful notes when our recent speaker Jerry Selph described the irrigation system he installed. It is “orange grove” irrigation, using  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, “blue stripe,” UV resistant irrigation tubing and red-base micro sprinklers, one per camellia, that emit 32 GPH at 50 PSI water pressure. Now I’m looking for a supplier for the parts. It’s time to act!



**In the Spotlight – Zlata Sabo**

I was born in Yugoslavia and came to the United States at age 22 with my husband, Joseph, and our 14-month-old son. We lived in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, for a year until we figured out that America is a land of opportunity when it comes to climate, so we moved to Florida. We packed all our earthly possession in two cars. Our knowledge of English language was just as limited, since prior to our arrival, neither one of us spoke or understood any English.

The road to success was difficult, but I persisted and in spite of all hurdles with language and finances, I became a licensed Real Estate Agent. After a couple of years, I enrolled in CFCC in Ocala and then UF, and earned my degree in Music Education. I always enjoyed singing and playing piano and organ, and while working as a full-time music teacher in public elementary schools, I also played in many different Saturday and Sunday churches for their worship services. Soon I joined Marion Civic Chorale and have been singing and performing with the group for the last 24 years.



I also love the ocean and beach and whenever I can, I go, mostly by myself, to spend a day relaxing by the water.

I was thankful that my teaching job made it possible for me to pursue my love of travel. Long

summers and Christmas breaks allowed me to take many trips. In April of 1986, on the spur of a moment, Dot Carey and I, who at that time were only acquaintances, decided to attend a series of concerts in Tennessee. We soon became traveling buddies and best friends. Every year she and I took a number of trips all over the US and several cruises, to Alaska, Central America, and the Panama Canal. Our husbands were totally satisfied staying home and taking care of themselves while we were away. Unfortunately, we are not able to continue our travels, but the friendship is as strong as ever, and the memories will live forever.

I've also traveled alone to Europe several times to visit my family in Slovenia, but also taking time to play tourist on my own. I have quite a few interesting stories to tell from these expeditions. I visited Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and Croatia, often taking long trips on their fast trains. Of course, my faithful camera is always with me – I have thousands of pictures in my computer to prove my obsession with taking photographs, mostly good, and sometimes not so good. This hobby directly connected me with camellias.

When Joe became interested in camellias, I would just look at them for a few minutes and then off I went to do my own things. But I started spending more time in the garden when I noticed how important it was for him to share them with me. I was a city girl and was never into flowers or gardening. But then I started taking pictures of camellias, and the more pictures I took, the more I start liking them. After I exhibited a flower in a show for the first time and won first place as a novice, I started getting more involved with the club and plants.

And so, now after approximately 30 years since Joe bought his first camellia, I am in with him. He still takes care of them and I take pictures and enjoy them, but when the show time comes, it's all Zlata. Well, almost all! But thanks to me, we now have a number of sweet pinks and variegated camellias that he didn't want before I became interested in them. My favorites are numerous: Doris Ellis, Taylor's Perfection, High Fragrance, Georgia National Fair and most single form, simple plain flowers. Our present garden with approximately 150 plants is small compared to the one we previously had with over 500 varieties.

Last year I started vegetable garden. This project has turned into my newest hobby. Now, most of my free time is spent there. I get excited watching young plants grow, bloom, and produce. My garden supplied many of our produce needs, and I know it is clean and free from any pesticide and harmful products. I tease my husband that we benefit from my gardening while his is only for looks. I guess this city girl has finally turned into a farmer.

We don't have any family living near us, but we do have a very spoiled Maltese dog who totally rules over us. He just looks at one of us, his eyes saying "pick me up," and up he goes into our arms.

I enjoy friendship and sincerity of the friends of camellias in our club. No matter how small or large the group is, when the time comes to pull together we are all there willing to do our part.



## Minutes from October 5, 2018 Ocala Camellia Society Meeting

**By Zlata Sabo**

Our monthly gathering started at 6:30 pm with light refreshments and socializing, and the October meeting started promptly at 7:00 pm. with Jill reminding us all to the buy raffle tickets for the beautiful plant that Bob and Patrick provided.

Susan introduced our guest speakers Jerry and Carol Selph from Quitman, Ga. They both came from the families with extensive collection of camellias on their land. Jerry and Carol are well-known camellia growers who made a career of bringing award-winning camellia blooms to numerous camellia shows. They were very generous sharing with us their proven methods of growing and preparing camellia flowers for the shows. We had all learned a lot from their experience and enthusiasm.

Zlata won a door prize – a free One-day pass to any Florida State Park.

Minutes from the last month as presented in the newsletter were approved.

Marge gave the Treasurer Report for the previous month. The ending balance is \$6773.92.

Susan reported that the kiosk at Silver Springs is almost done, and the pictures that will be in the kiosk are chosen. She also said that on the last work day, which was a National Work in the Garden Day, four people from the Camellia Club came to work at Silver Spring.

Patrick Andrews informed the group that United States will be hosting the International Camellia Congress in 2024. Patrick and Forrest Latta of Mobile, Alabama are co-chairs of the planning committee. Congress will be held at the America Camellias Society Headquarters, and the attendance is expected to be around 500 individuals. ACS is now doing major improvements on the property and opening new gardens. Five million dollars are already donated toward the improvements.

Jill invited members to put in a suggestion box their ideas of whom they would like to have as guest speakers, or what to hear during the two- minute tips. There was also a suggestion to visit the Selph's garden in Georgia this winter.

For her two-2 minute tip, Jill discussed question: What is eating my camellias? She showed pictures of several damaged plants and offered suggestion on how to get rid of leaf beetles.

Marge was thrilled when she won the raffled plant.

Meeting was adjourned, and the plant auction began.

## CAMELLIA IN THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE

### Burgundy Rose



## CAMELLIAS IN THIS MONTH'S AUCTION

Lillian Gordy



Satsuma-kurenai



Adalyn



Chief Arnold



Willard Scott



Bev Piet's Smile



## CAMELLIA CULTURE –FALL

**DISBUDDING:** Disbudding is the process of removing all but one bud from the tip of a branch. You should never leave two or more flower buds side by side if you want big, beautiful flowers. Plants have only so much energy for each bud, and if there are too many, none of the buds may open completely. You may also want to remove interior buds from a branch, as these will also take energy from the terminal bud. Some growers even take single buds from some branch tips so the plant's energy will be directed to even fewer buds. If you have ever wondered how some growers consistently have larger flowers, this is the reason. Don't be shy about removing buds.

**GIBBING:** Gibbing is the process of removing the growth bud next to a flower bud and filling the "cup" with a drop of gibberellic acid. This causes the remaining flower bud to swell and bloom much earlier than it normally would, and in most cases the flower is much larger. Start gibbing around Labor Day, and treat several buds on large bushes at weekly intervals. Don't gib more than one or two buds on small bushes, if at all. You can order a gib on the web; just Google Progibb.

**SPRAYING:** Spider mites and scale insects are still a problem at this time a year, so keep a close eye out for them. Spider mites cause the leaf to appear bronze, particularly along the central rib, and can ruin the look of the foliage. Scale insects can be seen on the lower surface of leaves and result in yellowing and dropping of the leaves. You can spray with Orthene (or other chemical) to control mites. Insecticidal oil (such as Super Fine) kills mites and scales but be sure to coat both sides of the leaves, and do not spray during hot temperatures. Check with local camellia growers for other spraying tips and to find out what they spray with to control these insects.

*(continued in the next column)*

**COLLECTING AND PLANTING SEEDS:** Some of your camellia seeds have probably already matured, but you can continue to collect and plant fresh seed through September. Place the seeds immediately in moist vermiculite or other soilless mix, and cover with plastic wrap until they sprout, at which time you can plant them in pots.

**PLANTING:** Potted camellias can be planted at any time of the year, but remember to water at least twice a week. Be sure to plant them above the soil level to allow for settling. Never plant a camellia at a level lower than it is growing in the pot.

**WATERING:** It is very important to water regularly during any dry periods. Camellias should receive a deep watering (1 inch) once a week. This is true year-round, but is more crucial during dry periods.

**FERTILIZING:** You probably do not want to fertilize after the end of August or very beginning of September, as you do not want to encourage plant growth at this time of year. You can use any fertilizer up until this time, but if you fertilize after September, you should use only a very low nitrogen fertilizer, and fertilize lightly. Be sure to spread the fertilizer out to the drip line.

## SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK WORK DAY

If you'd like to help out at the next work day in the camellia garden at Silver Springs State Park, check with Susan Dunn at the meeting to find out the next day and time. The garden usually needs some minor weeding and shifting of mulch away from the trunks of the shrubs. And this time we might catch them in bloom!

## UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

**BOSTON, GA**, Wiregrass Camellia Society, **11/3-4/2018**, at Boston Baptist Church, 143 S. Main Street, Sandra Jones, (229) 263-8661, [sandrayjones@windstream.net](mailto:sandrayjones@windstream.net)

**BYRON, GA**, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, **11/10/2018**, at Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Tommy Alden, (478) 825-1337, [tommy@countylinenursery.com](mailto:tommy@countylinenursery.com)

**SAVANNAH, GA**, Coastal Georgia Camellia Society, **11/17-18/2017**, at Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens - Andrews Visitor Center, 2 Canebrake Road, Gene Phillips, (912) 644-9043, [hep1198@gmail.com](mailto:hep1198@gmail.com)

**PENSACOLA, FL**, Pensacola Camellia Club, **12/8/2018**, at University of West Florida Conference Center 11000 University Parkway Building 22, Skip Vogelsang, (850) 438-3790, [lbv3rd@gmail.com](mailto:lbv3rd@gmail.com)

**GAINESVILLE, FL**, Gainesville Camellia Society, **1/5-6/2019**, at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW 58th Drive, Bruce Cavey, 352-562-3273, [brucecavey@gmail.com](mailto:brucecavey@gmail.com)

**TALLAHASSEE, FL**, Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee, **1/12-13/2019**, at Doyle Connor Administration Building, 3125 Connor Boulevard, Stewart Tomlinson, (850) 510-1911, [stewarttomlinson@outlook.com](mailto:stewarttomlinson@outlook.com)

**WINTER PARK, FL**, Camellia Society of Central Florida, **1/19/2019**, at Mead Botanical Gardens, 1500 South Denning Drive, Joseph Raska, (386) 956-2036, [joseph.raska@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.raska@gmail.com)

**OCALA, FL**, Ocala Camellia Society, **1/26-27/2019**, at Ocala Golf Club, 3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Patrick Andrews, (352) 895-8762, [patrickandrews@att.net](mailto:patrickandrews@att.net)

**LAKELAND, FL**, Lakeland Camellia Society, **2/2/2019**, at Together Church Fellowship Hall 6725 N Socrum Loop, Sandra Wyche, (863) 816-3743, [Swyche2@gmail.com](mailto:Swyche2@gmail.com)

**QUITMAN, GA**, Quitman Garden Club, **2/2-3/2019**, at Brooks County Extension Office, 400 East Courtland Avenue, Nancibeth Shealy, (229) 263-8661, [nursenbs@windstream.net](mailto:nursenbs@windstream.net)

**THOMASVILLE, GA**, Thomasville Garden Club, Inc., **2/9-10/2019**, at Thomasville Garden Center, 1002 South Broad Street, Annelle Lauder and Carol Selph, (229) 226-7398, [2015quitmancamellia3000@gmail.com](mailto:2015quitmancamellia3000@gmail.com)

**ACS ANNUAL CONVENTION, Mobile, AL**, Alabama Camellia Society, **2/17/2019**, at Mobile Convention Center, Chuck Shirk, 985-705-3052

**FORT VALLEY, GA**, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, **2/23/2019**, at Fetterman Building, Massee Lane, Tommy Martin and Jo Creel, (478) 235-0096, [tommymartin0096@gmail.com](mailto:tommymartin0096@gmail.com)

**OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The officers of the Executive Committee of the Ocala Camellia Society for 2017-2018 are:

- President: Jill Reed, 352-591-4343  
Vice-President: Susan Dunn, 352-694-4461  
Secretary: Zlata Sabo, 352-237-5537  
Treasurer: Laura Perdomo, 352-625-6467  
Directors: Patrick Andrews, 352-895-8762  
Charlotte Bunyan, 352-624-3022  
Ann Greenwood, 352-347-9992  
Marge Hendon, 352-625-3510  
Joan & Don LaClair, 352-693-5047  
Judy Vaughn, 352-502-3837  
Bob Weidman, 352-840-3911

**OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

The Ocala Camellia Society meets on the first Thursday of each month, September through March, at 6:30 p.m., at the Community Center of the Ocala Police Department, 402 S. Pine, Ocala, Marion County, Florida. Members, friends, and interested gardeners from the general public are invited to attend. Members are encouraged to bring friends.

November 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department  
December 6, 2018, Ocala Police Department  
January 3, 2019, Ocala Police Department

January 26, 2019, Ocala Municipal Golf Club  
3130 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL

February 7, 2019 Ocala Police Department  
March 1, 2019, Ocala Police Department  
April 4, 2019, Ocala Police Department

**OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018-2019**

The Ocala Camellia Society is a local society, affiliated with the American Camellia Society, whose members meet the first Thursday night of the month, September through March, and presents an annual camellia show during January. The monthly meetings are devoted to various cultural aspects of camellias. 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

Ms./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: Home ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY and send to: Laura Perdomo, Treasurer, Ocala Camellia Society, 11960 NE 52nd Place Road Silver Springs, FL 34488.