

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Editor, Lisa Freeland

Welcome to Fall

November 2024

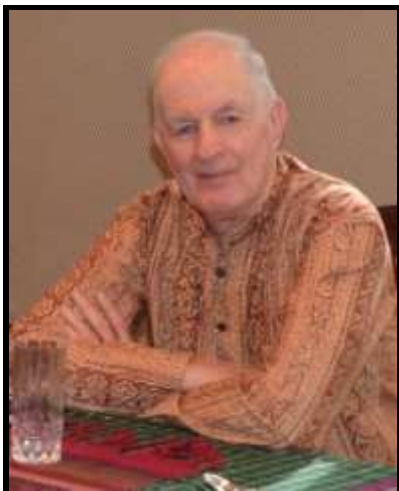
NEXT CLUB MEETING: Sunday, November 10, 2024

2 PM

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

We'll have a speaker presentation, snacks the club meeting, and plants for auction!

Our speaker this month is John Swanson, president of the Gainesville Camellia Society.



John will offer an overview of camellia care based on his extensive professional experience as an agriculture educator and has been involved with the Gainesville Camellia Society since 2008. He'll be able to offer lots of advice about our plants!

Refreshment Volunteer Reminder!
Sally Layendecker, Marge Hendon and Diane Price. Also, anyone is welcome bring drinks/finger food/snacks too.

Shout out to the volunteers who helped unload the County Line Nursery camellia delivery at Jill's property.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, fellow camellia lovers!

With all the rain we had in August and September, my camellias are budding out like crazy! I hope yours are too, and it just goes to reinforce that watering regularly helps our plants so much. The photo above is from February 2022 of my Nuccio and Purity; neither of them are blooming yet this season, and they seldom bloom in time for our show, alas. But I enjoy them anyway and think they are so pweddy!

The delivery from County Line has arrived at Jill's and the dozens of plants are now under her care. The specimens really looked fabulous and we should get good sales from them at the show.

The Gainesville club is hosting the big annual American Camellia Society show in early January. If you're interested in attending or volunteering, there's more detailed info on page 6.

And just to clarify: Anyone who wants to bring snacks and/or drinks to our meetings is welcome to do so. We ask for committed volunteers to ensure we'll have something, and if you're inspired to bring something else, you don't have to be on the assigned snack list. We'll do our holiday potluck at our December meeting, and we close out the season in March with a big potluck as well.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Let's have a great 2024-25 camellia season!

Belea T. Keeney, President

Meeting Minutes, October 6, 2024
By Kathryn Sickling, Club Secretary



Ocala Camellia Society General Meeting agenda and notes, October 6, 2024 2pm

16 members attended

Our speaker was Sanford Porter, a member of the Gainesville Camellia Society and has more than 50 varieties of camellias in his yard.

Sanford talked about the Camellia ant, also called a Winter ant. It does not bite but takes the nectar from the plant during the months of mid-November till early April. The slender twig ant also likes camellias, but they do bite.

Fire ants need sun. The best way to get rid of them is poison bait, not granules. Put bait around the mound not on it and do it at least 3 to 4 hours before any rain. A week later check the mounds and drench and put granules on any that are left. Don't do in the heat of the mid-day. Grits don't work. Boiling water only gets a portion of the nest killed. Gasoline is fairly effective but not recommended as it gets into the ground water. Orthene is an effective killer.

Snacks were provided by Laura, Belea, Diane, and Ann and others for this meeting.

Business meeting items:

Jill gave the Treasurer's report: Since last month \$275 was paid to Ft. King church for the show site. \$60.50 was paid to Marge Hendon for auction camellias. \$537 was deposited making a current balance of \$15,819.29. We discussed donating to a cause after the show expenses and sales are finalized per Jill's request.

We discussed the site for the show in January. The contract for Fort King Presbyterian Church was delivered in Sept. We should be all set to go and we can add this info to the show program and ACS info. We'll use south and east side of bldg. for plant sales and use the front/right area inside for exhibitor set up and then re-set the area for the general public after judging commences.

For those interested in field trips, Sally is willing to organize Wilmot trip to UF in February 2025. There are 7 locations at the university that has the camellia gardens. It was suggested that at the end of the tour day we go from there to see the bats flying out for the night.

Anyone else who wants to take on a trip and be the main organizer please let Belea or Sally know.

Air layers from last year will be picked up on OCTOBER 27th at 11.

County Line Nursery plant order will be delivered late October and Jill requested at least 6 to 8 people to help unload. Also pick up any pre orders from Jill at that time if possible and pay cash or by check.

General camellia care reminders. Now is the time to disbud and remember to water each week. Pour left over coffee or grounds around the plants.

We thanked Lisa for taking on the role of newsletter editor. We also had the following people offer snacks for our next meeting on November 10 - Sally, Marge and Diane Price

Jill reminded up that ACS is a great organization to join. Communication from them is better with more updated information on the website than in the past. Also, they have a horticulturalist on staff that you could talk to.

Reminder: Next meeting will be December 1. Meeting dates; Dec 1 (potluck/holiday meal), Jan 5, Feb 2, March 2 (potluck/end of season party)

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Sickling, secretary



CAMELLIA CULTURE –FALL/WINTER

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 of 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.

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: Do not 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.

Photo credit: Alba Plena, courtesy Jill Reed.

Ocala Camellia Society Meeting Schedule Mark your calendars!!

December 1, 2024- holiday potluck meal

January 5, 2025- pre-show prep meeting

February 2, 2025

March 2, 2025- season potluck meal

November Speaker: John Swanson from the Gainesville Camellia Society

American Camellia Society Convention Schedule January 2-5, 2025

(Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville, 1714 SW 34th Street)

The Early Bird registration deadline for the American Camellia Society's and Gainesville Camellia Society's 2025 National Convention has been extended to November 15, 2024.

Register Now to Not Miss Out on Early Bird Rates!

The Gainesville Camellia Society is hosting the national camellia convention and putting on their own show during the first weekend of January. Chair coordinator Charlie Simon would be tickled to have volunteer assistance with the days' activities. His email is: cgsimon@gowebway.com Here's a brief outline of the schedule in case you're able to help.

THURSDAY, January 2: 1-7 pm- Early registration at the desk in the Convention Center Lobby area; President's Reception: Cocktails and snacks in the Presidential Suite with Host Dennis Hart.

FRIDAY, January 3: Registration at the desk in the Convention Center Lobby area 2+ volunteers; ACS Board Meeting in the Convention Center; Picnic lunch and tour of Wilmot Gardens; General Meeting in the Convention Center. Guest speaker: Mark Crawford; Cocktails and snacks in the Presidential Suite; Judges Dinner in the Convention Center; Attendees: dinner on your own.

SATURDAY, January 4: Tour Kanapaha Botanical Gardens; view and purchase Camelia plants at the GCS plant sale with over 700 plants and 200 varieties to choose from (See plant list with your Registration Materials.); Judge's lunch at Kanapaha, GCS show starts; View blossoms at show; Return to Convention Center; Guest Speaker: Dr. Craig Tisher; Cocktails and snacks in the Presidential Suite; Attendees: dinner on your own.

SUNDAY, January 5: Travel to Silver Springs 6+ volunteers and 5+ passenger vehicles needed; Silver Springs tours; Luncheon in the Silver Springs Paradise Ballroom; Silver Springs tours continued; Board bus and vans and travel back to Convention Center; Cocktails in the Presidential Suite; Plant auction in the Convention Center; Farewell Banquet dinner

MONDAY, January 6- Farewell Breakfast in the Convention Center



Camellia photo, courtesy of Jill Reed:

UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

(Listings per ACS website)



November 16, 2024: Norfolk, VA, Virginia Camellia Society, at Virginia Zoological Park.

November 16, 2024: Loachapoka, AL, Auburn-Opelika Men's Camellia Club. Note: Exhibition only, not judged.

December 7, 2024: Slidell, LA, Ozone Camellia Club, at Slidell City Auditorium.

December 9, 2024: Pensacola, FL, Pensacola Camellia Club, at WSRE Jean & Paul Amos Studio.

January 3-5, 2025 ACS ANNUAL CONVENTION, Gainesville, FL.

<https://www.americancamellias.com/news-events/acs-convention-january-2-5-2025>

January 25-26, 2025: Ocala, FL, Ocala Camellia Society, Fort King Presbyterian Church.

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.