

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Editor, Lisa Freeland

Happy Holidays!

December 2024

NEXT CLUB MEETING: **Sunday, December 1st, 2024**

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

We will have the Holiday Potluck Dinner, a camellia waxing demonstration, and club meeting. Please join us for good food, fun with our flowers, and plans for the January show!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, fellow camellia lovers!

Many of you are reporting that some of your plants have started blooming. I'm jealous. So jealous. My Rosalynn Carter usually starts blooming in mid-December, and the Nuccio and Purity pictured above, *sometimes* give me flowers in time for our show. Sometimes. Some years, I've literally knocked on neighbors' doors and asked to cut flowers from their yards to display in our show! Is that devotion or insanity??

We are looking forward to our holiday potluck December 1. The club is providing fried chicken and Honey Baked ham, and club members are bringing their sides and desserts. The current list of selections/sign-ups is on page 5, and feel free to email me directly and let me know if you'd like to bring more goodies. We definitely could use drinks and ice if anyone is inclined.

This month, we'll have the always-fun camellia waxing demonstration. Bring the flowers you have ready!! Sally reports that lighter colored flowers do better with waxing, and they'll last up to three weeks once waxed.

We'll also talk a bit more about the show logistics, and I'll pass around the sign-up sheets for volunteers. Right now, we need a couple more folks on the membership table and a crew to load and unload the sales plants.

Hope to see you this Sunday!

Belea T. Keeney, President

Ocala Camellia Society General Meeting Notes

November 10, 2024 2pm



We welcomed a new member at the meeting: Ricardo Garavito.

Our speaker John Swanson, who is president of the Gainesville ACS chapter, gave us some history and info about our favorite flowers. Some of his comments and recommendations are as follows:

Camellias were first introduced in China at 2700 BC. Camellia to the US first through England and raised in pots. There are about 280 species of camellia.

Sasanquas are more tolerant to heat and cold. Reticulatas and reds are more tolerant of sun, but whites need more shade. Don't prune Reticulatas except dead branches.

Variegated camellias can produce a Sport. If you see you have a Sport two years in a row you should air layer it and name it if there hasn't been recorded yet.

Hybridizers are crossing camellias and camellia azalea to make a new variety that blooms in the off season. It is in the camellia family. Many are being propagated at this time and will be available in about a year.

Horticulture oil spray can be put on one to two times a year. Good to do in spring when new buds come out.

Don't overwater plants, especially those in pots. Twice a week is plenty, let the pot dry off in between.

Air layering roots form at the top of the air layer. Squeeze moss so not too much water is in it. Seal the top and middle with plumbers tape but leave the bottom open to drain.

He buys soil from Blooming House Nursery but you can use pine bark, sand and fertilizer for your soil.

Peacock ginger is a nice complement when planted with camellias.

Business meeting items:

1- Show stuff

- a. Jill has our show info updated with ACS.
- b. Committee leaders are: Justin doing plant sales; Jill doing flower placement; Marge handles judges; Martha doing clerks; Lisa handles press, Kathryn and Annie will do hospitality. If Annie can't then Laura will help.

c. Plants from Jill's to church will be picked up by Kathryn on January 24th at 12 and we need 6 to 8 people to help load and unload the plants. Cash will check at the church to see if the Boy Scouts would help unload. We need a diagram of how we want them placed so they are only handled once.

d. Task sheets for volunteers were passed around. We need volunteers for all categories.

e. Press releases needed to various media. Ricardo offered to handle. Belea sent him templates of emails, the new press release and a list of media outlets.

g. Suggestions/comments?

2- Treasurer's report- Jill reported on October 1st we had \$15,969.29 and on November meeting we have \$10,314.08. Most of this was from the purchase of plants for the camellia show.

3- Discussed Dec potluck. Sally will buy the chicken and Belea will get the ham for the club to purchase and the sheet was passed around for what others will bring.

4- Plant pick up at Jill's will be at noon on January 24th. 6-8 volunteers are needed to load the horse trailer.

5- Field trips. Sally is working to organize Wilmot trip to UF in February after the ACS show. We will carpool there.

6- New items from club members? Laura wanted to know if we are getting a credit card reader for the show this year. Jill to research.

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

9- The plant auction was a big success with very lovely plants bought and picked up by Marge Hendon. Thank you, Marge!

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Sickling, secretary.



Photo from the McKay's garden from our 2021 field trip.

Holiday Potluck items: Fried chicken and ham provided by club!



Here's who signed up at our last meeting. We could use someone to specifically bring ice and drinks. If you'd like to bring something, please email Belea directly at [belea dot keeney AT gmail.com](mailto:belea_dot_keeney_AT_gmail.com)

Judy V, potato casserole
Gwynn P, corn casserole
Ricardo G, chicken & rice
Annie A, casserole
Martha CM, side dish
Diane F, fruit plate

Diane P, salad, dessert
Ann G, appetizer
Lisa F, dessert
Patricia M, side dish
Belea K, side dish

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.

Ocala Camellia Society Meeting Schedule Mark your calendars!!

January 5, 2025- pre-show prep meeting and speaker
January 25-26, 2025 show dates!
February 2, 2025, regular meeting and speaker
March 2, 2025- end-of-season potluck meal

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 December 2, 2024 (Last Call).

Register Now to Not Miss Out on Early Bird Rates!

The Gainesville Camellia Society is hosting the national camellia convention and putting on its 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

UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

(Listings per ACS website)



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. Details to come.
<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.