

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patrick Andrews, Editor

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

February 2015

NEXT MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, February 5, 2015, at the Coldwell Banker/Ellison Realty Building at 2226 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with light refreshments. Bob Weidman, Vice-President and program chairman, has arranged a very interesting program that you won't want to miss! Our guest speaker, David Van Buskirk of D&L Nursery in Oklawaha, FL, will give us an introduction to the art of bonsai. He will bring a few bonsai trees and discuss how he grew and styled them. He may even bring a camellia and demonstrate cutting it back to a line to start it on the path to becoming a bonsai. If any members want to bring a camellia they want to train as a bonsai specimen, bring it and David will discuss how to go about it with your plant.

D&L Nursery started as a love of plants by David and his wife -- a hobby gone awry you may say. They have collected, propagated and grown hundreds of varieties of plants over the years, and it was this knowledge and experience that lead them to bonsai. One always strives to learn more, and with bonsai that never ends. All of the horticulture knowledge you have gained over the years can all be put to use when growing and styling a bonsai tree.

The meeting will conclude with a plant auction to benefit the Ocala Camellia Society.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2015 MEETING

Gwynn Pealer, Secretary

The meeting was called to order on January 8, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. by President Susan Dunn.

APPROVED: Minutes of December meeting. (Patrick Andrews moved; Joe Sabo second)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Laura Perdomo

1. December plant auction - \$56
2. December raffle - \$48
3. Dues - \$30
4. Show Plant Sales - \$50
5. Show Awards - \$280
6. Ending Balance: \$5994.97

OLD BUSINESS: Silver Springs State Park will have a work day February 7 from 9-3:00. Members can clean out the Camellia Garden. Patrick Andrews wanted to be sure that old camellias elsewhere on the property not be moved to the camellia garden.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Marge Hendon

1. Proposed slate:
President: Patrick Andrews
Vice President: Jill Reed
Secretary: Marge Hendon
Treasurer: Laura Perdomo
Directors: Madelyn Braisted, Charles Nichols,
Charlotte Bunyan, Susan Dunn, Bob Weidman

APPROVED: Waive the term limit rule so Laura can continue as treasurer.

(Continued on page 2)

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2015 MEETING

(Continued from Page 1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Bob and Patrick are having their Open House on Sunday January 18 in the afternoon. All are invited to attend.
2. There are several journals from other Camellia Societies available to borrow.
3. The Gainesville Camellia Society trip to the American Camellia Society in Massee Lane Georgia will be on February 14. The cost is \$30/per person. There may be room on the bus so anyone interested should take action now.
4. The National Convention will be in Tallahassee on January 28 - February 1. Patrick Andrews discussed the program.

MASTER GARDNER REQUEST: The Master Gardeners sent us a request to have a booth at the Master Gardener Spring Festival on March 14-15. Discussion included 1) the difficulties: long time, hard to find people to staff the booth; 2) the positives: opportunity to get in touch with lots of people; get addresses to contact interested people; provide information about camellia care and show our work at Silver Springs Park. No action was taken; Susan will get more information about the “booth” that was mentioned in the letter.

OCALA CAMELLIA SHOW

1. Publicity: notice in today’s Star Banner; an announcement will be emailed to members to copy and place around town; will be on Ocala online; signs to put around the golf course.
2. Sign up sheets were sent around and all were encouraged to help on Friday after 2:00 or from 6:30 on Saturday.
3. Patrick suggested we enter an ACS booth contest. Discussion included ways to decorate a winning booth.

PROGRAM: Those present broke up into small groups each with several types of camellias to study. Patrick, Bob, Marge, and Donna and Charles Nichols each took a group and helped members understand how to find the camellia in the book and how to evaluate a winning camellia blossom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 after a plant auction.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Susan Dunn, President

Wow! What a fun show we had in January! The blooms were stunning and the winning entries were impressive on the head table! Congratulations to all of the winners, especially our local members whose flowers were gorgeous!

And speaking of our local members (aka worker bees!), thank you for coming and helping out with every task during our twelve hour day! This show is only a success because we can count on each other to pitch in and be ready to do a job that you are really good at or be flexible enough to learn something new. A million thanks to all of you!

Our next opportunity to share camellias with the public will be this Saturday, February 7th, at the camellia garden at the Silver Springs State Park’s work day. Please come and join us to weed and mulch the camellias and/or help out in another garden in the park. Bring your own tools and gloves and meet us starting at 9:00 AM. I’ll have more details at our meeting on Thursday February 5th. See you then!

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL FLOWER BY THE GORDYS!

Local member Lillian Gordy recently donated six camellia seedlings to the American Camellia Society to be used as a fundraiser for the ongoing Endowment Fund campaign. These seedlings, developed by Lillian and her late husband “Gordy,” can be registered and named by a donor when a contribution of \$25,000 to the campaign is made, and I am pleased to announce that the first donor came forward at the recent ACS meeting in Tallahassee. Larry Barlow of Virginia increased his current donation to the Endowment Campaign by \$25,000 to receive his choice of the six seedlings. He chose Gordy Seedling #1084, and he named it “Bombshell.”

Thank you, Lillian, for these generous gifts! Here are some pictures of the new “Bombshell.”



CAMELLIA CULTURE -- WINTER

(Continued from the previous column)

PLANTING: This is the best time of year to plant camellias. They are dormant now, so they won't be putting on leaf growth. The roots, however, will continue to grow all winter. You may want to add a little Super Triple Phosphate fertilizer to the hole when planting, but don't overdo it. This fertilize promotes root growth but not leaf growth. 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. Keep newly planted camellias well watered.

WATERING: Watering is critical in November and December, since these can be very dry months. 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.

SPRAYING: Spider mites and scale insects can still be 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.

(Continued in the next column)

Scale insects can be seen on the lower surface of leaves and result in yellowing and dropping of the leaves. You can spray with chemicals such as Orthene to control mites, but a better, more environmentally friendly solution would be to spray with insecticidal oil (such as Ultra Fine or Ultra Pure). These oils kill 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.

GIBBING: You can still gib blooms to make sure you have blooms to enter into specific shows this winter. 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. Be sure not to gib more than one or two buds on small bushes, if at all. You can order a gib on the web; just Google Progibb.

DISBUDDING: Continue disbudding if you find more than one bud at the tips of branches to ensure that the remaining bud will open larger and more beautiful.

UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS IN 2015

QUITMAN, GA, Quitman Garden Club, 2/7-8/2015, at Brooks County Extension Office, 400 East Courtland Avenue, Nancibeth Shealy, (229) 263-8661, nursenbs@windstream.net

ATLANTA, GA, North Georgia Camellia Society, 2/21-2/22/2015, at Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Park at the Prado, John Newsome, (404) 355-4478, newsomewthon@aol.com

FORT VALLEY, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, 2/28-3/1/2015, at Fetterman Building, Masee Lane, John Gamble, (478) 825-3749, jsgamble@earthlink.net

COLUMBUS, GA, Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society, 3/7-3/8/2015, at The Columbus Museum, 251 Wynnton Road, Sam Wellborn, (706) 615-0965, samwellborn36@gmail.com

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers of the Executive Committee of the Ocala Camellia Society for 2014-2015 are:

President: Susan Dunn, 352-694-4461
Vice-President: Bob Weidman, 352-595-3365
Secretary: Gwynn Pealer, 352-873-7197
Treasurer: Laura Perdomo, 352-625-6467
Directors: Patrick Andrews, 352-595-3365
Madeline Braisted, 352-854-6500
Charles Nichols, 352-694-2973
Marge Hendon, 352-625-3510
Charlotte Bunyan, 352-624-3022
Jill Reed, 352-591-4343

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 Coldwell Banker/Ellison Realty Building located at 2226 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, Marion County, Florida. Members, friends, and interested gardeners from the general public are invited to attend. Members are encouraged to bring friends.

February 5, 2015, Coldwell Banker Building
March 5, 2015, Coldwell Banker Building
September 3, 2015, Coldwell Banker Building

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014-2015

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.

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patrick Andrews, Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 2015

NEXT MEETING SET FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, January 8, 2015, at the Coldwell Banker/Ellison Realty Building at 2226 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with light refreshments. Bob Weidman, Vice-President and program chairman, has arranged for an interactive, hands-on program where you will learn what the judges look for in a flower when they are judging. This will be a lot of fun, and you will learn a lot. We will also review the final details of our upcoming camellia show, and the meeting will conclude with a plant auction to benefit the Ocala Camellia Society.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Dunn, President

Hello OCS Members! I hope everyone's new year is off to a good start! The word for the Ocala Camellia Society in January is "showtime!" Please circle, star, and highlight Saturday January 24th on your calendars because that is our annual camellia show date and we will be counting on our members to give the community a chance to see these blooms at their best!

Whatever your particular talent is, we can use your help! Come to our next meeting and find out the details of entering flowers from your own garden as well as taking on one of the many jobs required to make the show a success. Remember, many hands make light work; anything you can do to help in this tribute to camellias will be appreciated! See you at the meeting!

AWARD SPONSORS NEEDED

Please consider sponsoring at least one award for the upcoming show to help reduce show costs for the club. Each award is \$20, so dig as deep as you can to sponsor however many that you can. You will be recognized at the show in a prominently displayed "Thank You" list.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING

Prior to the meeting, there was the Christmas buffet. The meeting was called to order at about 7:00.

UPDATE – CAMELLIA SHOW: Patrick Andrews

- The show is January 24 at the Ocala Golf Club
- More than 20 judges have agreed to come.
- There will be a protected class; There will not be a small reticulata
- Marge will be displaying fliers at the Cracker Christmas this weekend at the Silver River State Park.
- Members were asked to sign up for jobs at the Show and to sponsor awards.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Marge Hendon is chair.

APPROVED: the November minutes as published.
(Patrick moved and Laura seconded)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Laura Perdomo

- November balance: \$6470.97
- Additions: \$85 from plant auction, \$25 dues and \$1300 from early plant sales
- Debits: \$1975 plants to sell at show and \$750 for golf course reservation
- December balance: \$5530.97

VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Open House at Bob and Patrick's January 18
- Gainesville Camellia Society is inviting OCS member to join their trip to the American Camellia Society headquarters in Masee Lane, Georgia on February 14. \$30 for bus and \$10 for box lunch.
- ACS National Convention will be held January 31-February 2, 2015 in Tallahassee.

RE LILLIAN GORDY:

- Patrick suggested a field trip to Lillian's gardens.
- A card from Lillian was read to the group. She thanked OCS for the ACS donation that was made in memory of her husband Clarence Gordy.
-

ADJOURNED: 7:55, followed by a raffle for an ACS 2015 calendar and for 2 camellia plants – Merry Christmas and Shibori Egao. Three plants were auctioned – Fran Mathis Var., Wilamina, and Brooke.

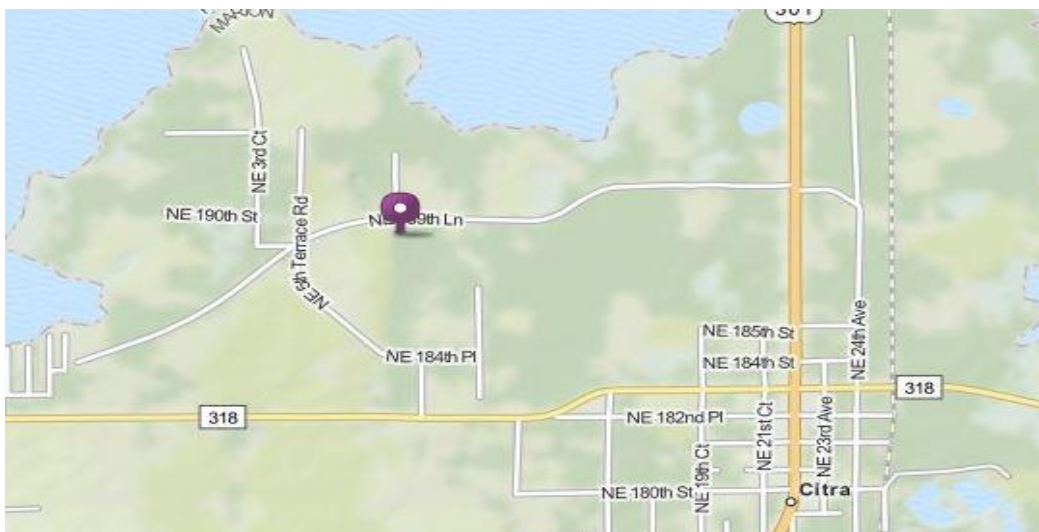
You Are Invited to Our Thirteenth Annual Camellia Open House

Please join us on Sunday, January 18, 2015, at 12:00 p.m., for the thirteenth annual tour of our Camellia and other gardens -- rain or shine! We are constantly planting new cultivars and other types of plants, so there are plenty of new plants and flowers to see. This is also a chance to purchase camellia plants that will be sold at the upcoming Ocala Camellia Show. The japonicas and hybrids are \$25, and the reticulatas are \$35. We will be hosting the Ocala Camellia Society, the Gainesville Camellia Society (meeting at 3 p.m.), and other gardening friends and neighbors. We'll have plenty of delicious food and refreshments, so come hungry! Our address is 950 NE 189th Lane, Citra, FL.

From Gainesville: Go south on US 441, go east on CR318, and then left on NE 10th Avenue. Follow the paved road around (it changes name three times in a few short blocks) until the pavement ends. Take a sharp right onto NE 189th Lane (dirt road), and our house is the third on the right (you will pass a tall Red Cedar hedge).

From Ocala: Go north on US 301 to intersection with CR 318 in Citra, go west on CR 318 about a mile, and then right on NE 10th Avenue. Follow the paved road around (it changes name three times in a few short blocks) until the pavement ends. Take a sharp right onto NE 189th Lane (dirt road), and our house is the third on the right (you will pass a tall Red Cedar hedge).

The house is white with dark green trim. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes. We hope to see you! Bob Weidman and Patrick Andrews. 352-595-3365.



CAMELLIA CULTURE -- WINTER

(Continued from the previous column)

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UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS IN 2015

WINTER PARK, FL, Camellia Society of Central Florida, 1/17/2015, at Mead Gardens, 1500 South Denning Drive, Katie Wollam, (352) 227-8011, kwollam@gmail.com

OCALA, FL, Ocala Camellia Society, 1/24/2015, at Ocala Golf Club, 3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Susan Dunn, 352-694-4461, dunns@embarqmail.com

TALLAHASSEE, FL, Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee, 1/31/2015, National Camellia Show, at Doyle Connor Administration Building, 3125 Connor Boulevard, Stewart Tomlinson, (850) 878-3872, stewarttomlinson@comcast.net

QUITMAN, GA, Quitman Garden Club, 2/7-8/2015, at Brooks County Extension Office, 400 East Courtland Avenue, Nancibeth Shealy, (229) 263-8661, nursenbs@windstream.net

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
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January 8, 2015, Coldwell Banker Building
(We are meeting on the 2nd Thursday in January because the 1st is a holiday.)

January 24, 2015, **Annual Show**, Ocala Golf Club

February 5, 2015, Coldwell Banker Building

March 5, 2015, Coldwell Banker Building

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014-2015

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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.

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patrick Andrews, Editor

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

November 2014

NEXT MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, November 6, 2014, at the Coldwell Banker/Ellison Realty Building at 2226 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala.

We will meet at 6:30 for light refreshments, and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker is Bob Weidman of the Ocala Camellia Society, who will be speaking about and demonstrating how to wax camellia flowers. Bob is a lifelong gardener who studied horticulture at the University of Massachusetts and the University of Florida. He has grown camellias for 32 years.

Bring any flowers that you would like to wax. It's a fun way to preserve your camellia flowers so they will last weeks instead of days. White and pink flowers wax better than red, but you can also bring red flowers. The darker the flower, the more you can notice the wax.

The meeting will conclude with a plant auction to benefit the Ocala Camellia Society. Please bring any plants or other items you would like to donate for the auction to the meeting.

See you there!

SHOW PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Bob ordered 150 plants to defray show costs, and 70 have already been sold as a result of informing members they were available. That means we have 80 left. If you would like to get a list of the plants that are available, see Bob at the show or give him a call. Japonicas and Hybrids are \$25; Reticulatas are \$35. We will get more plants by show time!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Susan Dunn, President

Hello OCS Members!

November is a month of reflection for all that we have to be thankful for so I want to start off my list with the Ocala Camellia Society! As we enter the blooming season, it will be fun to compare what is bursting into bloom in our gardens.

I am also grateful to know what wonderful members we have and how nice it is that we can meet together and "talk flowers" each month! I am thankful that all of you will decide how you can help with our upcoming show in January and help make the work lighter for our show committee members by offering to work before, during, and/or after the show. Please sign up for at least one of the opportunities to work at the show and make this one of the best ever. There are also prizes that our members can volunteer to sponsor for a small amount if you are able to donate in this way to the show effort. This event is only a success because we can count on you for help and support!

Thanks in advance for being a member of this society and spreading the word about these beautiful flowers!

DUES REMINDER

Hopefully you have already paid your dues for the 2014-2015 year. If not, you can fill out the membership renewal form on page 5 of this newsletter and send it with your check to Laura Perdomo, Treasurer, at the address on the membership form, or pay her at the next meeting.

MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING

By Jill Reed, Acting Secretary

(Editor's note: Get ready to do some reading! Jill asked me to edit these if I thought there was too much information, but the notes are so incredible and complete that I decided to include them in their entirety. Thanks, Jill!)

The speaker, invited by Bob Weidman, was Jeff Kneisley, the head ranger at the Silver Springs State Park. Jeff said he was very pleased about the partnership established with the Ocala Camellia Society to care for the camellia garden in the park.

The Silver Springs State Park had the day before celebrated its 1 year anniversary since the transfer of the park into the Florida State Park system. He reviewed the background, present status, and future plans for the park.

In the 1850s, Silver Springs was a commercial hub. Steamships travelled the Ocklawaha River to the Springs where there was a river-to-rail connection. During the park restoration, some of the original rail lines have been uncovered.

In 1878, glass bottom boats were invented, which became an important element of Silver Springs as a tourist destination. The golden era of Silver Springs as a tourist attraction began in the 1920s. In 1955, the Lundy Building was built, which faces the glass bottom boat dock at the headsprings. This building is being restored, including the terrazzo floors which were common at that time. The springs were used for filming moves, such as the Johnny Weismuller Tarzan movies. ABC-TV owned the park in the 1960s-1980s.

In 1993, the State of Florida purchased the property to protect it. The State leased the property to a private company, an arrangement that was planned to extend to the year 2029. However, the deal with the state was changed to allow the company out of the lease prematurely, and the state took control of the springs in 2013.

The Silver Springs attraction was closed for a few weeks In September, 2013 , major maintenance projects and renovations were done, then Silver Springs reopened as a state park 10/1/2013. Many changes and improvements have taken place since the state acquired the property. The animals that had been part of the tourist attraction were moved before the State of Florida took over. Important repairs to the old infrastructure have been a priority, such as repair to the old sewer pipes to stop water leaks from the system which were a source of contamination of the springs.

The plan over the next 3-5 years includes improving areas around the Twin Oaks Amphitheatre; where performances will continue and which is a welcome source of revenue for the park. The Ross Allen Island structure has been removed, and the park is building a boardwalk for wildlife walks. The amphitheatre on the island was kept and is used to let visitors see or touch "Indi," a 7 ft. long indigo snake, and corn snakes (yellow rat snakes). Wild Waters is operated by the commercial concession and has a contract until 2016.

Upcoming events: Cutter Trail 5K run, 11/30/14; Marion County Springs Festival in March. More information about activities at the park is available at www.FloridaStateParks.org/SilverSprings or (352) 236-7136.

(continued on page 3)

MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING (continued)

By Jill Reed, Acting Secretary

The Camellia Garden: Bob Weidman and Patrick Andrews planted more camellias on the previous Saturday. The Camellia Garden has not been a focus of attention in the past. The State of Florida wants to bring the park back as a destination, as a “garden park.” The focus is on “Florida friendly” plants that don’t spread uncontrollably and those that have a cultural value and history at Silver Springs. Elsewhere in the park, a great deal of effort has been spent on removing cogon grass, paper mulberry, and air potato. Replanting will largely be native plants to minimize maintenance, and planting to attract butterflies. However, some non-native plants will remain, including the camellias and non-native azaleas. “The Secret Garden,” an area directly below the Twin Oaks stage, was totally overgrown and the park is in the process of recovering and restoring that area, which is shaded with a pond. Other projects include the development of an artificial wetland, formal gardens on “Bear Hill,” which was bare ground, a picnic pavilion, an overlook at the “Lost River Voyage” dock, conversion of the old jeep loops to trails, which may one day connect with the equestrian entrance, parking lot reduction and retention ponds to diminish runoff into the springs, and breaking up the pavement by the 400 year old cypress trees (“free the trees”). A swimming area is possible and may be open as early as this summer, but the site has not been decided yet. Attention is being paid to safety in the park, especially for non-Floridians unprepared for the heat, including availability of water, air-conditioning, and wheel chairs.

Volunteers: The park plans to have recurring garden workdays with the staff, probably the 3rd Thursday of each month. The park staff is in the process of reorganizing the volunteer program, including communications by email and planning monthly meetings for volunteers. Volunteers generally can work any time. The only volunteers with set hours are those that volunteer in the Silver River Museum (set 4 hour shifts) and the River Patrol. Park entry is free for volunteers. Volunteer applications are available in electronic or paper format. The volunteer agreement is renewed annually, there is a background check, and training provided if needed. There are also independent volunteer organizations benefitting Silver Springs. The Friends of Silver Springs is involved in fund raising, particularly for bigger projects (See <http://www.thefriendsofsilversprings.org/>). The Silver Springs Alliance works to protect the Silver Springs ecosystem (See <http://www.silverspringsalliance.org/>).

Ocala Camellia Society business:

The next meeting is 11/6/2014.

Minutes of the September meeting published in the newsletter were approved.

Silver Springs Camellia Garden activities: OCS volunteers removed a lot of plants along the walkway in the Silver Springs camellia garden, Bob Weidman and Patrick Andrews donated camellias and planted them in the cleared area and labeled all the camellias. There is space for a few more camellias and native azaleas. Ongoing needs in the garden are mostly weeding and mulching. Presently there are 10-12 large camellias and a few smaller transplanted camellias. An informative kiosk is planned.

(continued on page 4)

MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING (continued)

By Jill Reed, Acting Secretary

Treasurer's report: revenue from last month's plant auction and dues collections was added to the previous balance; ending balance is \$6470.97.

American Camellia Society 2014 calendars did not sell well; 11 of 25 the OCS purchase for resale remained. OCS will not order calendars to sell again. The leftover calendars were distributed among the members present.

Proposed trip to Masee Lane Gardens: The Gainesville Camellia Society is planning a bus trip to Masee Lane Gardens on February 7, 2015. It will be a day trip leaving from the Oaks Mall in Gainesville. The cost is \$30 per person and will include transportation on the chartered bus, a box lunch at the gardens, and tours at the garden. The Gainesville Camellia Society is subsidizing the cost for their members to bring it to \$15 per person. Several OCS members expressed interest in going on this trip with the GCS members and improving connections between the GCS and OCS.

2015 OCS show: The show will be held Saturday, January 24, 2015. Volunteers will be needed. The judges have been invited, but the show is not yet registered with the ACS. Information promoting the show was sent to Southern Living, Florida Gardening magazine, and the Atlantic Coast and American Camellia Societies. The plants to sell at the show have been ordered, and members will get first choice of the plants when they arrive.

The OCS received a letter of thanks from the ACS for the generous gift of \$500.

The membership supported a motion to pay for a kiosk at Silver Springs State Park Camellia Garden; for one sign initially. The exact cost and the wording will be determined. The wording will include information about the history of camellias at Silver Springs and will mention the OCS involvement in the garden restoration and maintenance.

Four plants donated by Bob and Patrick were auctioned: Raspberry Flambe, Early Autumn, Sweet Auburn, and one other. There was a "free raffle" of 2 plants, First Lady Bettyjean, which were started from cuttings obtained from Gene Phillips of Savannah, GA.

The meeting was adjourned.

(THANK YOU, JILL!!!)

Jeff Kneisley giving his talk at the October 2014 Ocala Camellia Society meeting:



Randolph Maphis (center of picture behind projector) giving his talk at the September 2014 OCS meeting.



CAMELLIA CULTURE – LATE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL

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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.

ACS CALENDARS

Although the club isn't purchasing a quantity of calendars this year, they are available through the ACS Gift Shop on a first-come, first-served basis. These calendars are filled with beautiful pictures of camellias. Remember that ACS members receive a 10% discount on all gift shop purchases.

UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS IN 2014-2015

BYRON, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, 11/8-11/9/2014, at Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Tommy Alden, (478) 825-1337, tommy@countylinenursery.com

VALDOSTA, GA, Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club, 12/6/2014, at First United Methodist Church, 220 North Patterson Street, Mark Crawford, (229) 242-2965, craw142@bellsouth.net

PENSACOLA, FL, Pensacola Camellia Club, 12/13/2014, at First Baptist Church, 500 North Palafox Street, Skip Vogelsang, (850) 438-3790, lbviii@cox.net

GAINESVILLE, FL, Gainesville Camellia Society, 1/3-4/2015, at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 Southwest 58th Drive, John Swanson, (352) 672-2644, johnbssquaredetc@gmail.com

WINTER PARK, FL, Camellia Society of Central Florida, 1/18/2014, at Mead Gardens, 1500 South Denning Drive, Katie Wollam, (352) 227-8011, kwollam@gmail.com

OCALA, FL, Ocala Camellia Society, 1/24/2015, at Ocala Golf Club, 3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Susan Dunn, 352-694-4461, dunns@embarqmail.com

TALLAHASSEE, FL, Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee, 1/31/2015, National Camellia Show, at Doyle Connor Administration Building, 3125 Connor Boulevard, Stewart Tomlinson, (850) 878-3872, stewarttomlinson@comcast.net

LAKELAND, FL, Lakeland Camellia Society, 1/31/2015, Brian Dick, brian.dick@lakelandgov.net

QUITMAN, GA, Quitman Garden Club, 2/7-8/2015, at Brooks County Extension Office, 400 East Courtland Avenue, Nancibeth Shealy, (229) 263-8661, nursenbs@windstream.net

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers of the Executive Committee of the Ocala Camellia Society for 2014-2015 are:

President: Susan Dunn, 352-694-4461
Vice-President: Bob Weidman, 352-595-3365
Secretary: Gwynn Pealer, 352-873-7197
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Jill Reed, 352-591-4343

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October 2, 2014, Coldwell Banker Building
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December 4, 2014, Public Library
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(We are meeting on the 2nd Thursday in January because the 1st is a holiday.)
January 24, 2015, Ocala Golf Club
February 5, 2015, Coldwell Banker Building
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014-2015

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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.

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patrick Andrews, Editor

Happy Halloween!

OCTOBER 2014

NEXT MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, October 2, 2014, at the Coldwell Banker/Ellison Realty Building at 2226 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala. Last month was our first meeting at this location, and it worked out perfectly.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30 (provided by Ann Greenwood and Joan LaClair), and the meeting will begin at 7:00. Bob Weidman has arranged for another fantastic program: Jeff Kneisley, Park Services Specialist at Silver Springs State Park, will be talking about where Silver Springs has been in the past and what the future holds now that it's a state park.

Plan to be at the meeting on Thursday and give Jeff a big welcome. See you there!

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society met in Litchfield Beach, South Carolina on September 19-20. This regional camellia society is affiliated with the American Camellia Society and serves the states all along the Atlantic Seaboard from Virginia down to Florida.

Activities included a business meeting on Friday morning, time during the afternoon for area excursions, barbecue on Friday night, general meeting and auction on Saturday morning, educational seminars (including one on grafting and another on Professor Gao's camellia nursery in China) and a judges' symposium in the afternoon, and a banquet on Saturday night, highlighted by a talk by Dr. Brenda Litchfield on her travels to Chile and Easter Island!

It's all great fun. Contact Patrick Andrews if you would like more information on how to join the ACCS. Patrick is the incoming first vice-president, and is also the membership committee chair. Dues are currently \$15 for individuals and couples.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Dunn

Hello to all OCS members. October is the month of "tricks and treats" so we are all anticipating the "treats" of the buds on our camellias opening soon! What a fun season for us. If you have any early blooms that you would like to share with us at our meeting on Thursday, Oct. 2nd, please bring them. If you have questions about camellias, please bring those also to hear "tricks" from our members that might be of help to you.

We will be meeting at 6:30PM at the Coldwell Banker/Ellison Realty building at 2226 E. Silver Springs Blvd. for refreshments and our business meeting. Our guest speaker, Jeff Kneisley from the Silver Springs State Park, will be telling us about the work going on there to care for and improve the gardens in the park. So, please come and join the fun!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Jeff Kneisley is a Park Services Specialist at Silver Springs State Park. His areas of responsibility include but are not limited to safety, park outreach and assisting the park's volunteer program. He has worked as a ranger at several Florida State Parks and began his career with the Florida State Park AmeriCorps program in 2008. He graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from James Madison University. Jeff is currently working with the Friends of Silver Springs State Park to increase park recycling and plan upcoming events. Jeff enjoys all of the unique challenges and opportunities that Silver Springs State Park has to offer.

Silver Springs State Park Camellia Garden

SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK NEWS

Silver Springs State Park had a work day on Saturday, September 29. Patrick Andrews and Bob Weidman were the only Ocala Camellia Society members to participate in the work day, but several other volunteers joined them in weeding, pruning, and planting new camellias and other plants, and planning for near-future additions to the garden. Bob and Patrick donated and planted four camellias – Betty Sheffield Supreme, Esther Smith, Royal Velvet, and Elegans Champaign – and two needle palms (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*), and reserved space for about seven more camellias and another needle palm. Silver Springs State Park is going to receive some native azaleas, and the plan is to incorporate a few of them into the camellia garden as well. Patrick finished identifying and labeling the existing camellias in the garden. Following are some pictures of Bob, Patrick, and two of the volunteers who worked in the camellia garden last Saturday. Also pictured is Jeff Kneisley, park services specialist, who will be our guest speaker at the meeting on Thursday.

Bob admiring a beautiful Elegans Splendor



Patrick and Bob with Jeff Kneisley



New part of camellia garden; still needs work.



Two volunteers who adopted us on Saturday.



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SUMMER AND EARLY FALL

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(continued in the next column)

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Gwynn Pealer, Secretary

The September 2014 meeting began at 7:00 at the Coldwell Banker meeting room on Silver Springs Blvd.

1. Introductions of officers and board.
Thanks to Jill & David Fuller for use of the meeting room.
2. Program: Randolph Maphis gave a slide presentation of amazing camellias and gave an overview of the American Camellia Society' Annual meeting to be held January 2015 in Tallahassee.
3. March Minutes were accepted as published. Patrick moved and Donna second.
4. Treasurer's Report was given by Marge Hendon in Laura Perdomo's absence.
5. Announcements:
 - a. Susan Dunn: There is need for volunteers to work on the Camellia Garden in the Silver River State Park.
 - b. Susan Dunn: Sept 27 is National Public Lands Day at Silver River Park from 8:30-2:30. Members can bring tools and help work on the Camellia Garden on that day
 - c. Marge Hendon: Dec 6 the Pioneer Garden Club will use the Cracker Village at the Silver River State Park for their Christmas event: A Cracker Christmas.
 - d. Patrick Andrews: Feb 7 Gainesville Camellia Society is taking a bus to Masee Lane Camellia Gardens so we might want to participate in that.
7. Camellia Show progress:
 - a. Patrick passed out the show brochure
 - b. Marge Hendon agreed to do publicity for the show.
8. Gwynn Pealer agreed to put monthly meeting announcement in the Star Banner.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15.

Camellia auction followed.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number: Home () - _____ Cell () - _____

Email: _____

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