

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Patrick Andrews, Editor

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

March 2018

NEXT MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at the Community Room at the Ocala Police Station located at 402 S. Pine (Pine Plaza) in Ocala. Park in front of the police station and enter in the side door to the right before you get to the main front door.

We will meet at 6:00 for our end-of-the-year potluck dinner and socializing, and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Kristen Kozelsky, owner of Indigo & Co. Photography, a studio that offers a luxury photography experience crafted specifically for women and couples in their 30s and beyond who believe in artistry, exploration, connection and truth, and who are looking for something unique from their photos. Kristin is excited to help camellia lovers learn to take photos of their flowers that make them say 'Yes! This is it!'

Kristen would like to offer a hands-on experience and encourages our members to bring whatever device they use most frequently for photos - whether that is their phone or a handheld camera - so that we can practice together.

Bring in as many flowers from your garden as possible (in containers would be super convenient) in order to have blooms to use for practice.

(Continued in the next column)

The nominating committee submitted the following slate for election and installation at the March meeting:

President – Jill Reed

Vice-President – Susan Dunn

Secretary – Zlata Sabo

Treasurer -- Laura Perdomo;

Directors -- Patrick Andrews, Charlotte Bunyan, Mike Dorsey, Ann Greenwood, Joe Sabo, Kathryn Sickling, Judy Vaughn, Bob Weidman, and Cindy Witmer

See you at the meeting!

SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK WORKDAY

Susan Dunn, chair of the Silver Springs State Park Camellia Garden committee, has announced that there will be a SSSP garden workday on Saturday, March 17th, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Susan has requested that they drop off a load of mulch (pine bark) for us to spread, but Susan hasn't confirmed that yet. There will be the usual weeding and cleanup chores, and if we get the mulch, we can have that to work on, too.

CAMELLIA INFORMATION ON THE ACS WEBSITE

Be sure to visit the American Camellia Society website regularly for up-to-date information about everything having to do with camellias: show dates, judging seminars, meetings, workshops, etc. The website is www.americancamellias.org. Also like them and follow them on Facebook. The more stories you "share" the more people will be exposed to this wonderful organization.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jill Reed, President

One of our members asked this question: "How long does it take for a newly planted camellia to 'take off'?" I've been wondering that myself for some time! I started adding camellias to our property right after I joined the OCS in January 2013. Some of the camellias I have planted are growing nicely and blooming well, whereas others seem to be in stasis and a few have died. Also, some of blooms don't have the intensity of color that they should have. I've been wondering whether it is the soil, the sunlight, or water supply that accounts for the variation and the "poor doers."

So – at last – I decided to do a full soil test on the native soil from several locations where I have planted camellias, to determine what contribution the soil chemistry is making to the variations in growth. I did an experiment – collected soil samples from 6 locations from a strip of land about 30 ft wide by 150 yards long. I had the full gamut of tests run that the UF soil lab offers.

The upshot - there is significant variation in the soil analyses from this small strip of land. The pH values ranged from 5.6 to 6.8, with 3 areas in the optimal pH range for camellias (6.0-6.5). Phosphorus is high everywhere and there is no magnesium deficiency anywhere. However, in 5 of the 6 sites, copper content was zero or very low, and I'm wondering if this is the reason I have some disappointing red/purple colors, since it apparently is not due to magnesium deficiency. Manganese was borderline in a couple of places. Finally, zinc was very high in 2 of the 6 sites. I was interested in this because some time ago I read an article in the ACS 1990 yearbook by Clifford Parks, who found high soil zinc levels will cause decline and dieback in camellias, and in his case, it was caused by potting soil mixed in galvanized containers! The places where zinc tested really high were sites where 1) we had a piece of old metal roofing on the ground for years under our firewood stack, and 2) previous owners had a "midden pile" where I discovered all manner of buried rubbish, including metal pipes and car parts. The camellia planted in the "old woodpile" spot died. I never planted in the "midden pile," but planted around it, and 3 of the nearby camellias either died or look pitiful.

The bottom line – pH needs adjustment in a couple of areas, no phosphorus or magnesium is needed anywhere, potassium and maybe manganese are needed in some areas, copper is needed everywhere except the toxic midden pile, and watch out for zinc contamination of soils where galvanized metal has been! I'll let you know in a year if these adjustments make a significant difference in the health of my camellias!

Minutes from February 1, 2018 Ocala Camellia Society Meeting
Zlata Sabo, secretary

The February meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society started with refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

President Jill Reed officially opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with a warm greeting to our newest club members. At that time all club members, old and new, introduced themselves. We were all very happy to have our new members join us for their first club meeting.

Vice-president Susan Dunn introduced Craig Littauer, the Silver Springs State Park Services Specialist, as our guest speaker. Craig spoke of the changes and park improvements that have happened in the last 5 years. He stated the Park's mission: to provide resource-based recreation, while preserving, interpreting and restoring natural and cultural resources. He underlined that the Camellia Garden is in the group of cultural resources. He showed us a power point presentation with controlled burning, Paradise Ballroom remodeling, and other changes made in gardens.

Susan called for the work day on Friday morning. She also announced that on the next meeting our guest speaker will be a photographer, who will teach us how to take good photos of our flowers.

The minutes from the January meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Treasurer Laura Perdomo reported that the club made \$4,600 from the sale of the plants, which should easily cover costs of the show.

Jill suggested that the Executive Board meet in April or May, while all is still fresh in our minds. She also reminded us to submit our volunteer hours to Craig at SSSP. Jill then asked Marge Hendon, chair of the nominating committee, to submit the slate of officers, as follows: President Jill Reed, Vice-President Susan Dunn, Secretary Zlata Sabo, Treasurer Laura Perdomo, and Directors Patrick Andrews, Charlotte Bunyan, Mike Dorsey, Ann Greenwood, Kathryn Sickling, Judy Vaughn, Bob Weidman, and Cindy Witmer.

Patrick announced their Open House on 2/4/28, inviting all to come. He also said our club made a donation to the ACS earlier this year.

For the next meeting we are asked to bring our flowers plants to share for the photography talk.

For the two-minute tip Jill shared several questions to discuss: 1. which plants are easier to plant, 2. how long does it take for the plant to take off, and 3. when to prune them.

The meeting was adjourned and the plant auction began.

SPOTLIGHT ON JOE SABO!



Joseph Sabo was born in Yugoslavia to Hungarian parents. When he was 19 years old he met Zlata, and they married several years later. Right after the birth of their son, they emigrated to the United States. Neither one of them spoke English, but in spite of it, in late 1972, they left Cleveland, Ohio and all their friends from the old country, and moved to Ocala.

Sometime in January 1973, on their first visit to Silver Springs, Joe noticed beautiful large flowers he had never seen before. This was his first encounter with camellias. He vowed then, that one day flowers like this will bloom in his yard.

Joe started working with Link Brothers, a well-established firm in Ocala. After a few years he was offered a job with Driltex, a large international company that built rigs for the mining industry. He was a plant manager until the company moved to Williston and Joe, not willing to travel or move, accepted a job with Emergency One, where he became a manager for the Aerial Ladder Department. Under Joe's leadership they developed the manufacturing of the aerial ladder for fire rescue made of extruded aluminum, which made them a leading fire truck company in the USA.

Several years later Joe accepted a job as a consultant for the new fire truck company in Pennsylvania. After a while, tired of constant traveling, he opened his own small engine business. All the while, he was buying and planting camellia plants. He discovered Bob Wines Nursery and then later Jim Smith's Old South Nursery, and that's where all his extra money went. He would come home with a large 30-gallon camellia on his truck, and with a big smile brag to Zlata what a great deal he got for it, to which she would respond "Don't tell me, for whatever you paid for it, it was still too much."

After joining the Camellia club, he learned a lot and continued buying and later propagating camellias, to the point that he would leave his assistant at the shop, and he would come home for several hours to play with his camellias. He was constantly clearing woods and expanding the camellia garden. When he retired, it was all he would think of - at one point he had over 450 different camellia varieties planted around the house.

For a long time, his favorite camellia was Black Magic. Now, who knows? He likes them all. Right now, Joe doesn't push himself as hard as before, but still he has already managed to plant over 100 camellia plants in our new homestead. It is a love affair that will never end.

AUCTION PLANTS FOR THE MARCH MEETING

MY DEBBIE

(Japonica, medium, formal double, light red to dark red)



ALCYONE OSTBERG

(Japonica, large to very large, semidouble to peony, deep pink)



Camellia sinensis (tea plant) This one is from Nepal being tested in the US



CAMELLIA CULTURE – SPRING AND SUMMER

GRAFTING: There is still plenty of time for grafting, although all grafting should be completed before new growth begins. Scions will keep in a sealed plastic bag in the refrigerator for three weeks or longer, so even if you aren't ready to graft immediately, cut your scions now, before they start to grow, and store them for later. Once the growth bud has begun to feather it is too late to be used as a scion.

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. 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 Super Fine or Ultra Pure) or insecticidal soap. These oils and soaps 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.

PLANTING: You can still plant and move camellias, as they are still dormant. 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.

MULCHING: Camellias should be mulched to help keep the roots cool and to help the soil retain water. Mulch also cuts down on the need to weed, while contributing to the organic content of your soil.

WATERING: Watering is extremely important during the blooming season, as flowers consist mostly of water, and during our usually dry spring, when camellias start to put on a major flush of growth. A well-watered plant will bloom much more freely and the flowers will be much larger if the plant is watered well. 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.

(Continued in the next column)

(Continued from the previous column)

FERTILIZING: It's time to start thinking about applying the first round of fertilizer to your camellias. You can use any fertilizer, but a Camellia, Azalea, Gardenia fertilizer is ideal. Be sure to spread the fertilizer out to the drip line. Many local camellia growers fertilize during the first week of April, the middle week of May, and the last week of June or first week of August. Other gardeners fertilize at the beginning of each season, so this would mean the first application would be in the latter part of March. Your last application of fertilizer should probably be in late August or early September, as fertilizing after this may cause camellias to grow again, and the new growth may not harden off before cold weather starts. Some growers like to apply a light application of a low-nitrogen fertilizer in the fall to stimulate root growth.

PRUNING: There is plenty of time to prune, but it is best to prune before growth has begun in earnest. Prune for shape, to limit the size, and to produce new growth for next season's flower buds. Be sure to remove dead wood. You may wish to seal large cuts with a commercial tree sealer. After pruning one plant, sanitize your clippers with a mild bleach solution before pruning another plant.

AIR LAYERING: Air layering can be done at any time where temperatures remain above freezing. Some people air layer as early as February, but many wait until May, when the parent plants are actively growing and the bark peels away easily. Air layers done in May are generally ready to harvest by August and September, and on into the fall for some slower-rooting varieties.

CUTTINGS: Cuttings are generally taken during the summer, around June or July, when they will root quite readily. Reticulatas are the hardest to root (and many varieties won't root from cuttings at all), so it's a safer bet to stick with japonicas and non-reticulata hybrids. Take cuttings with about four leaves; snip off the lower two leaves and cut the others in half. Trim the base just below a leaf axil, dip it in a rooting hormone, and insert the cutting into a small pot filled with a moist, sandy potting medium. You may want to put the pot in a plastic bag (to keep the air around the cutting humid) and place in a shaded spot. Check the bag regularly and add water when needed. The roots don't develop immediately, but they should form within 4-6 weeks on some varieties, longer on others. Cuttings can be taken at other times of the year, too, but rooting takes longer.

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.

- March 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department
September 6, 2018, Ocala Police Department
October 4, 2018, Ocala Police Department
November 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department
December 6, 2018, Ocala Police Department
January 3, 2019, Ocala Police Department
January 26-27, 2019, Ocala Camellia Show, **Paradise Ballroom, Silver Springs State Park, 5656 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs, FL**
February 7, 2019, Ocala Police Department
March 7, 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.

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Patrick Andrews, Editor

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

February 2018

NEXT MEETING SET FOR **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018**

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, February 1, 2018, at the Community Room at the Ocala Police Station located at 402 S. Pine (Pine Plaza) in Ocala. Park in front of the police station and enter in the side door to the right before you get to the main front door.

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

Our guest speaker will be Craig Littauer of the Silver Springs State Park. He will be highlighting the changes that have taken place at Silver Springs State Park since it became a state park, and he will have a slide show with before and after pictures.

ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW

We had a great turnout at the annual camellia show held at Silver Springs State Park on Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, 2018. You can view the complete show results on both the American Camellia Society website and the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society website.

We had an estimated 800 attendees spread over the two-day show. We had 31 exhibitors who brought 1,092 flowers. Not bad for having had such a hard freeze in the very recent past. We also signed up 18 new members!

Four of our members were represented with wins on the awards table. Donna and Charles Nichols won Best Large Japonica with Mark Alan Var. and Best Large Hybrid with Super Star. In the "Local" division, Susan Dunn won Best Small Japonica with Pink Perfection and Best Medium Japonica with Magnoliaeflora. Jill Reed won Best Large Japonica with Stephanie Stanley.

MINUTES FROM THE **JANUARY 4, 2018 MEETING**

Zlata Sabo, Secretary

Jill Reed opened our January meeting at 7:00 pm, following refreshments and socializing time. Soon after, Susan Dunn introduced our speakers for the evening- Marge Hendon and Laura Perdomo. They presented elaborate and pertinent information referring to the preparation of flowers for the show. This information was especially beneficial to our new members who have never exhibited before. Marge handed out several camellia plants to the club members who participated in the discussion.

Joe received the door prize and also the honor to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

Minutes from the last month's meeting were approved as reported in the newsletter.

Laura gave a treasurer report. The ending balance for the month is \$3859.07.

Jill brought up the importance to honor our commitment in assisting in the camellia show. Since membership is low, we all must pitch in to make it a success. She passed out sign up list to add our names if we didn't already. Cash complimented Jill on her wonderful New Year presidential greeting.

Jill made a request that Marge lead a nominating committee to choose officers for the new year. However, even though Marge said no, she asked if the present officers would continue to serve another year. They all said yes, and the club's body voted to accept the nomination that the present officers continue their duty in the next year.

Susan said that, per Craig, progress has been made in the plans for the Silver Springs and the Silver River. We need to continue supporting the park with our manual contributions.

John talked about their wonderful experience in the Jungle Garden in Louisiana. Judy was interested in the plant sharing. Meeting was adjourned.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jill Reed, President

Our 2018 camellia show is now in the books. In my judgment, it was a great success! How should we judge the success of a camellia show as a club?

Certainly a successful camellia show has a generous display and large variety of camellia blooms for participants and visitors to enjoy. We were certainly lucky this year to have so many lovely blooms – 1092 in all- despite the hard freeze a few days before the show! Thanks to everyone that entered flowers!

For competitors, surely a successful camellia show is well-organized and judged well, and I think we succeeded there. Thanks to all those that helped in recruiting the judges, arranging the venue, food and gifts for the judges, placing flowers, clerking, tallying, and reporting results!

We consider our plant sales as a measure of success at the show and what more can I say - we sold every single plant this year! Thanks to the many people that helped order and care for the sale plants, haul them, tag them individually with information and photos, and sell them!

Finally, and to me most important, a show is successful if we are able to share the beauty of camellias with visitors and get them excited about growing them. In this respect, the show was an outstanding success! We had many, many visitors that came in to view the flowers and talk to us about camellias. Some reminded me of my first visit to the OCS camellia show in 2013 – I was overwhelmed with the flowers and the friendly OCS members! The result – an amazing 18 new members of ACS and OCS!

Thanks to all the helped put on the display, chatted with visitors, answered questions and staffed the membership table! Thanks again to all who worked to make the show a success and thanks to our new members for your interest in our favorite flower!

CAMELLIA CULTURE – WINTER

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 fertilizer 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.

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

LAKELAND, FL, Lakeland Camellia Society, **2/3/2018**, at Abundant Life Church in the Fellowship Hall, 6725 North Socrum Loop Road, Brian Dick, (853) 834-2237, brian.dick@lakelandgov.net

QUITMAN, GA, Quitman Garden Club, **2/3-4/2018**, at Brooks County Extension Office, 400 East Courtland Avenue, Nancibeth Shealy, (229) 263-8661, nursenbs@windstream.net

THOMASVILLE, GA, Thomasville Garden Club, Inc., **2/10-11/2018**, at Thomasville Garden Center, 1002 South Broad Street, Annelle Lauder and Carol Selph, (229) 226-7398, 2015quitmancamellia3000@gmail.com

ATLANTA, GA, North Georgia Camellia Society, **2/17-18/2018**, at Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Park at the Prado, John Newsome, (404) 355-4478, newsomecawthon@aol.com

FORT VALLEY, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, **2/24-25/2017**, at Fetterman Building, Massee Lane, Tommy Martin and Jo Creel, (478) 235-0096, 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.

February 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department

March 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department

September 6, 2018

**OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017-2018**

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 2017

NEXT MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, January 5, 2017, at the Community Room at the Ocala Police Station located at 402 S. Pine (Pine Plaza) in Ocala. Park in front of the police station and enter in the side door to the right before you get to the main front door.

We will meet at 6:30 for light refreshments (which will be provided by provided by Zlata Sabo, John Edwards and Janice Ray), and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Our January speaker will be Lori Wallace, manager of Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens in Williston, which is an old lime rock quarry that was transformed over 23 years into a botanical garden with lots of water features. The garden is now open to the public. Lori will talk about the garden and also tell us how they manage to grow camellias in the face of a lime rock quarry.

We will tie up any loose ends about the annual camellia show, which is set for Saturday, January 28, at the Paradise Ballroom at Silver Springs State Park. The meeting will conclude with a plant auction and raffle to benefit the Ocala Camellia Society.

Please bring any flowers you have in your garden to share and talk about with others.

STILL NEED SHOW AWARD SPONSORS!

Giving awards for winning blooms at our annual camellia show is very expensive, and each year we appeal to our members to give generously to sponsor awards so the club doesn't have to foot the entire bill. We will have a sign-up sheet at the upcoming meeting, and I encourage you to sponsor at least one award, if not more. Each award is \$20.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patrick Andrews, President

Happy New Year!

Well, summer continues in north Florida, at least it feels like it as of this writing (December 31). We had a brief one-day cold snap, but unfortunately we didn't get much rain from it. I'm beyond worrying about the lack of rain we've had and just wonder if it will ever return to us.

Despite the drought, though, camellia flowers are popping out all over! I'm always amazed at the diversity of the flowers. Each one is magnificent when you take the time to inspect it close up, no matter how common or rare.

It's exciting to see a shrub flower for the first time. Sometimes it seems to take forever to get the first bloom, but that's just because it usually takes about three years for a newly planted camellia shrub to become established. After that, growth and blooming get better and better.

It's almost time for our annual show. This year is particularly exciting since the show will be held at the Paradise Ballroom at Silver Springs State Park. The room is huge, and the view from the room out onto the springs is magnificent. I just hope the judges don't get too distracted. ☺ The volunteers helping out with the show will not be charged to get into the park.

The American Camellia Society has changed the structure of the board of directors, and there will now be nine "Club Directors" to promote grassroots participation on the board. Each club may nominate one person to run for club director, and then each ACS member will vote for three from the list of nominees. There will be three from each region (Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific). We will discuss this at the upcoming meeting. See you there!

**Minutes from December 1, 2016 Ocala Camellia Society meeting
By Marge Hendon, Secretary**

The Ocala Camellia Society Members met at 6:00 for the annual Christmas dinner.

Our meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by president Patrick Andrews. He thanked all who brought a dish for the dinner.

Our guest speaker was Cal Welbourn from the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He talked about mites, good and bad. His talk was very informative.

Marge Hendon read the minutes from the November meeting. They were accepted as read.

Laura Perdomo, treasurer, reported that the OCS balance was \$4,498.

Laura Perdomo will send Patrick Andrews a members list.

Our camellia show location will be free to us this year. It will be held within the Silver Springs State Park. The ballroom will provide ample show space. Jeff Kneisley, our go-to at the park, will be leaving and we will present him with a gift card. We will need to get insurance for the show. A generic poster will be made to tell public the hours of show. Sign-up sheets were sent around for members to indicate where they are willing to help. Show schedule can be viewed on ACS and Atlantic Coast Websites.

We will meet at Silver Springs around 2:00 PM on Friday, January 27. Party Time will bring tables to set up. We need help filling containers and placing tablecloths on tables.

Gates to Silver Springs will open around 6:45 AM, January 28. We need help with plant placement and then at 10:00 we will need clerks to help the 9 teams of judges. Plant sales are going on now at Bob and Patrick's home, call ahead. Plants are from County Line. Plant sale is open to the public when Silver Springs opens. Show opens to the public around 1:00 PM. We will start to tear down the show around 4:30.

Jill Reed reported that Wilmot Gardens will have their plant sale Dec. 3 &4.

The new nomenclature book is now on sale through Amazon.

The meeting was adjourned and the plant raffle and auction were held.

CAMELLIAS IN THIS MONTH'S AUCTION

Royal Velvet Var. (raffle)



Buttermint (raffle)



Sweetie Pie Red



Lindsey



MORE AUCTION PLANTS

Satsuma Kurenai



Nancy K



ACS Jubilee



You Are Invited to Our Fifteenth Annual Camellia Open House

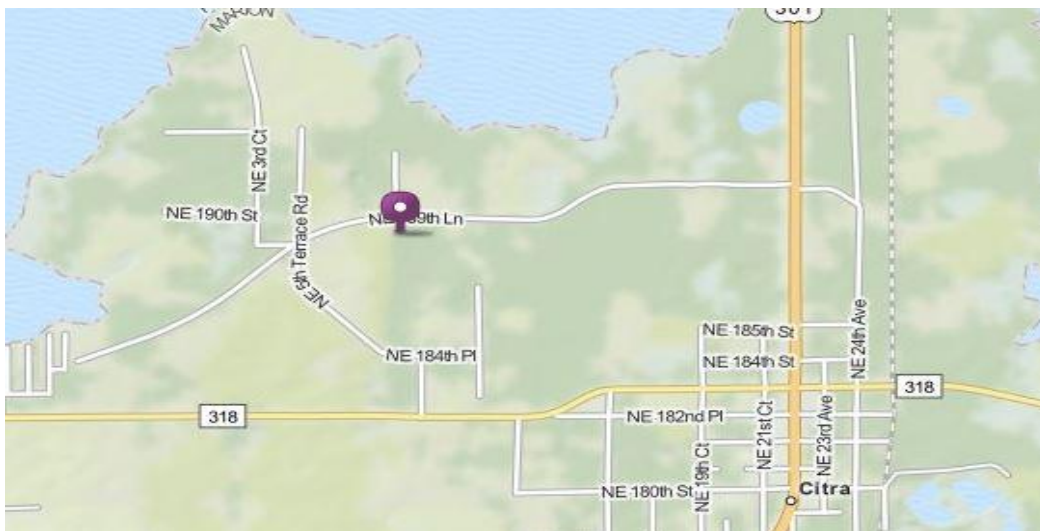
Please join Bob and Patrick on Sunday, January 22, 2017, at 1:00 p.m., for the fifteenth annual tour of our Camellia and other gardens -- rain or shine! The camellias are really growing strong, and we are always planting new cultivars and other types of plants, so there are plenty of new plants and flowers to see. 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. 352-895-8762.



UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

GAINESVILLE, FL, Gainesville Camellia Society, **1/7-8/2017**, at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW 58th Drive, John Swanson, johnbssquaredetc@gmail.com

TALLAHASSEE, FL, Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee, **1/14-15/2017**, at Doyle Connor Administration Building, 3125 Connor Boulevard, Randolph Maphis, (850) 878-3872, crmaphis@comcast.net

WINTER PARK, FL, Camellia Society of Central Florida, **1/21/2017**, at Mead Botanical Gardens, 1500 South Denning Drive, Katie Wollam, (407) 440-8384, kwollam@gmail.com

OCALA, FL, Ocala Camellia Society, **1/28/2017**, at Paradise Ballroom, Silver Springs State Park, 5656 East Silver Springs Blvd., Patrick Andrews, 352-895-8762, patrickandrews@att.net

QUITMAN, GA, Quitman Garden Club, **2/4/2017**, at Brooks County Extension Office, 400 East Courtland Avenue, Nancibeth Shealy, (229) 263-8661, nursenbs@windstream.net

THOMASVILLE, GA, Thomasville Garden Club, Inc., **2/11/2017**, at Thomasville Garden Center, 1002 South Broad Street, Annelle Lauder, (229) 226-7398, alauder@rose.net

ATLANTA, GA, North Georgia Camellia Society, **2/18-10/2017**, at Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Park at the Prado, John Newsome, (404) 355-4478, newsomecawthon@aol.com

FORT VALLEY, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, **2/25-26/2017**, at Fetterman Building, Masee Lane, Tommy Martin, tommy martin0096@gmail.com

COLUMBUS, GA, Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society, **3/4-5/2017**, at The Columbus Museum, 1251 Wynnton Road, Sam Wellborn, (706) 615-0965, samwellborn42@gmail.com

NEWBERG, OR, Oregon Camellia Society and City of Newberg, National Camellia Show in conjunction with the American Camellia Society Annual Convention, **4/8/2017**, at The Chehalem Cultural Center, 415 E Sheridan St, Newberg, OR

CAMELLIA CULTURE – WINTER

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 fertilizer 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.

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.

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

You might want to consider becoming a member of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. This is a regional camellia society, consisting of members from throughout the eastern United States, from Virginia to Florida. We even have members from other regions.

The purpose of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society is to stimulate and extend the appreciation of camellia cultures and to promote the science of camellia culture; to bring together in friendship and fellowship those interested in camellias; and to undertake and carry on such other business, enterprises and pursuits incidental to the purposes of the society as herein expressed or as may from time to time seem desirable by the Executive Committee or the membership at large. Membership is open to anyone and everyone!

Check out the ACCS website at www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org. Of particular interest is the outstanding camellia list and encyclopedia (to view it, click on <http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Camelliae%20Floris%20Bibliotheca/pictures-control.html>). This incredible camellia resource contains pictures and information on hundreds of the most commonly researched camellias.

The ACCS meets once a year on the third weekend in September for two days. The meeting consists of a brief business meeting, a barbecue, a terrific plant auction, and a banquet. It's a great opportunity to visit with camellia friends from all over the United States, and to make new friends.

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers of the Executive Committee of the Ocala Camellia Society for 2016-2017 are:

President: Patrick Andrews, 352-895-8762

Vice-President: Jill Reed, 352-591-4343

Secretary: Marge Hendon, 352-625-3510

Treasurer: Laura Perdomo, 352-625-6467

Directors: Madeline Braisted, 352-854-6500
Charlotte Bunyan, 352-624-3022
Susan Dunn, 352-694-4461
Ann Greenwood, 352-347-9992
Charles Nichols, 352-694-2973
Zlata Sabo, 352-237-5537
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.

January 5, 2017, Ocala Police Department

**January 28, 2017, Annual Camellia Show,
Paradise Ballroom, Silver Springs State Park.
5656 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs, FL**

February 2, 2017, Ocala Police Department

March 2, 2017, Ocala Police Department

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016-2017

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 2017

NEXT MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, December 7, 2017, at the Community Room at the Ocala Police Station located at 402 S. Pine (Pine Plaza) in Ocala. Park in front of the police station and enter in the side door to the right before you get to the main front door.

The special holiday meeting will begin at **6:00 p.m.** instead of our usual time, and you will want to get there on time since it's the annual Holiday Potluck dinner. Meat and beverages will be supplied, so bring a side dish or a dessert.

Vice-President Susan Dunn has arranged for our guest speaker, Joe Sabo, to educate us about general camellia culture. We will also go over the details of our upcoming camellia show.

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

NEED FOR SHOW VOLUNTEERS AND AWARD SPONSORS!

Giving awards for winning blooms at our annual camellia show is very expensive, and each year we appeal to our members to give generously to sponsor awards so the club doesn't have to foot the entire bill. We will have a sign-up sheet at the upcoming meeting, and I encourage you to sponsor at least one award, if not more. Each award is \$20.

We will also have sign-up sheets for other chores at the show, including set-up, tear-down, placement, clerking for the judges, and being there during the show to answer questions. I encourage all of our members to participate. You'll have fun, and you'll learn a lot!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jill Reed, President

The beautiful *Camellia japonica* absorbs most of our attention at our club meetings, auctions, and plant sales, but japonicas are only one of many species in the *Camellia* genus. On a recent trip, I was treated to a glorious display of *Camellia sasanquas*.

My husband, Ken, and I had the pleasure of meeting Gene Phillips at his nursery in Savannah this summer. Gene is the president of the Coastal Georgia Camellia Society and he encouraged us to come back for their show and to see the camellia collection at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden (CGBG). To my surprise and delight, Kenny suggested that we do just that, and so we took a weekend trip before Thanksgiving up to lovely Savannah.

I was looking forward to seeing the camellias growing at the botanical garden, which Gene had touted in his pitch for the show. Of course, it was too early for many of the japonicas to be blooming, but the garden had an extensive collection that included numerous *Camellia* species I had never even heard of. Many of these were lovely, with simple flowers and graceful habits.

However, the stars of the garden were the *Camellia sasanquas*! They towered over us in an unfettered, glorious display of flowers! We were surrounded by billowing clouds of white and pink and lightly scented air.

I was familiar with *sasanquas* and have always appreciated their early bloom, abundant flowers, and attractiveness to bees. In addition, they will take more sun than japonicas, are relatively carefree, and fast growing. After seeing the amazing display of *sasanquas* at the CGBG, I am already thinking of places where I can plant *sasanquas* and let them grow unabated. I'm looking forward to future autumns and my own billowing clouds of pink and white in a few years!

Minutes from November 2, 2017 Ocala Camellia Society meeting
By Zlata Sabo, Secretary

The November meeting started at 6:30 with refreshments served.

Vice-president, Susan Dunn, officially opened the meeting, inviting Laura Perdomo to introduce the speaker for the evening, Carolyn Carter. Carolyn is a member of the local African Violets Club. She is very knowledgeable about violets, and is the original organizer of the club.

Carolyn told us that all violets belong to one of three groups. They like fertilizer 14-12-14 for growth, and 15-30-15, for bloom, and gave us advice on how to combat insects and diseases. At the end of her presentation, she had several African Violets for sale.

The October minutes as presented in the November Newsletter were accepted by Donna DiSclafani and seconded by Patrick Andrews.

Laura Perdomo presented the treasurer's report, with the closing balance of \$6056.63. She informed us that we can still purchase name tags.

Susan Dunn reminded members about the work day scheduled for the upcoming Saturday and encouraged members to donate as much time as they can in the upkeep of the Gardens at Silver Springs State Park.

Bob Weidman informed us that the camellia order still hasn't arrived and we don't know yet what plants we will have for the show.

Susan Dunn announced that the next meeting will start at 6:00 with our Holiday Meal, and encouraged all members to bring their favorite dish to share. She also thanked Patrick for beautiful and informative newsletter he produces each month.

The meeting was then adjourned and the plant raffle started.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT – CHARLOTTE BUNYAN!



I am originally from Anthony, grew up in this area and graduated from Ocala High School. Although I moved away after graduating, to Tampa and to the Washington DC area, I had family ties here and came back often to see parents and family throughout the 45 years away.

I am originally from Anthony, grew up in this area and graduated from Ocala High School. Although I moved away after graduating, to Tampa and to the Washington DC area, I had family ties here and came back often to see parents and family throughout the 45 years away.

I have worked several different jobs, including beautician, cosmetology teacher, owner of several beauty shops, substitute teacher in public schools, and real estate, and finally retired in 1990. In addition, I volunteered with many charities, including working with drug and alcoholic abuse programs for many years, serving as president of several organizations, including Meals on Wheels (10 years), Own Our Own, Helping Others Help Others, and Blues Alley Music Society (12+ years). In 2005, we moved back home to Ocala.

I have always loved flowers, and at our home in Maryland I had 2 camellia trees at least 20 ft. tall, one pink and one red. They were always full of bloom in the winter, sometimes even in the snow – just beautiful. I had many other plants that bloomed all year on rotation plus fruit trees. After moving here, I went to the camellia show at the garden club. Marge was in the front talking to everyone and told me about the camellia society so I joined, thinking I could duplicate what I had in Maryland.

I have 14 camellia plants now. They bloom well, but not at the right time for our show. I hope to have one or two for the show this year. I have Pink Perfection, Debutante, Professor Sargent, April Tryst, a bright red anemone, Buttons N Bows, Fire Falls, a vivid red peony or loose double, and Dad's Pink, which is pink w/red streaks. I don't know the names of the others. Professor Sargent and Pink Perfection are always loaded with blooms, and are just beautiful in my front yard where everyone gets to enjoy them.

I learn about camellias from books and the Ocala Camellia Society meetings. The club is a good mixture of people and there is a good mixture of information from many guest speakers that teach us new things. I have many other interests. In addition to camellias, I also grow gingers and many other flowers. I work out at the YMCA almost every morning, I like many types of crafts, I enjoy working in my yard, and giving support to the community by donating blood (platelets) every other week.

Finally, my husband, John, and I enjoy our small Princess Popsi, a yorkie mix breed dog, and I'm proud of my son and daughter-in-law that live in DC.

CAMELLIAS IN THIS MONTH'S AUCTION

Miss Lillian

Japonica, blush pink, formal double



Just Peachy

Hybrid, peach pink to cream, med.



Egao

Vernalis, light pink, medium, SD



Wilamina

Japonica, pink, small formal double



UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

PENSACOLA, FL, Pensacola Camellia Club, **12/9/2017**, at First Methodist Church, 80 E. Wright Street, Skip Vogelsang, (850) 438-3790, lbv3rd@gmail.com

ACS ANNUAL CONVENTION, COVINGTON, LA, Northshore Camellia Club, **1/6/2018**, at Southern Hotel, 428 East Boston Street, Hunter Charbonnet, 985-705-3052, hcharbo1@gmail.com

GAINESVILLE, FL, Gainesville Camellia Society, **1/6-7/2018**, at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW 58th Drive, Bruce Cavey, 352-562-3273, brucecavey@gmail.com

TALLAHASSEE, FL, Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee, **1/13-14/2018**, at Doyle Connor Administration Building, 3125 Connor Boulevard, Stewart Tomlinson, (850) 510-1911, stewarttomlinson@outlook.com

WINTER PARK, FL, Camellia Society of Central Florida, **1/20/2018**, at Mead Botanical Gardens, 1500 South Denning Drive, Katie Ferguson, (407) 440-8384, camelliacfl@gmail.com

OCALA, FL, Ocala Camellia Society, **1/27/2018**, at Paradise Ballroom, Silver Springs State Park, 5656 East Silver Springs Blvd., Patrick Andrews, (352) 895-8762, patrickandrews@att.net

LAKELAND, FL, Lakeland Camellia Society, **2/3/2018**, at Abundant Life Church in the Fellowship Hall, 6725 North Socrum Loop Road, Brian Dick, (853) 834-2237, brian.dick@lakelandgov.net

QUITMAN, GA, Quitman Garden Club, **2/3-4/2018**, at Brooks County Extension Office, 400 East Courtland Avenue, Nancibeth Shealy, (229) 263-8661, nursenbs@windstream.net

THOMASVILLE, GA, Thomasville Garden Club, Inc., **2/10-11/2018**, at Thomasville Garden Center, 1002 South Broad Street, Annelle Lauder and Carol Selph, (229) 226-7398, 2015quitmancamellia3000@gmail.com

ATLANTA, GA, North Georgia Camellia Society, **2/17-18/2018**, at Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Park at the Prado, John Newsome, (404) 355-4478, newsomecawthon@aol.com

FORT VALLEY, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, **2/24-25/2017**, at Fetterman Building, Masee Lane, Tommy Martin and Jo Creel, (478) 235-0096, tommymartin0096@gmail.com

CAMELLIA CULTURE – WINTER

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 fertilizer 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.

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.

ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY

You might want to consider becoming a member of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. This is a regional camellia society, consisting of members from throughout the eastern United States, from Virginia to Florida. We even have members from other regions.

The purpose of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society is to stimulate and extend the appreciation of camellia cultures and to promote the science of camellia culture; to bring together in friendship and fellowship those interested in camellias; and to undertake and carry on such other business, enterprises and pursuits incidental to the purposes of the society as herein expressed or as may from time to time seem desirable by the Executive Committee or the membership at large. Membership is open to anyone and everyone!

Check out the ACCS website at www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org. Of particular interest is the outstanding camellia list and encyclopedia (to view it, click on <http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/Camelliae%20Floris%20Bibliotheca/pictures-control.html>). This incredible camellia resource contains pictures and information on hundreds of the most commonly researched camellias.

The ACCS meets once a year on the third weekend in September for two days. The meeting consists of a brief business meeting, a barbecue, a terrific plant auction, and a banquet. It's a great opportunity to visit with camellia friends from all over the United States, and to make new friends.

**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.

December 7, 2017, Ocala Police Department

January 4, 2018, Ocala Police Department

January 27, 2018, Ocala Camellia Show, Paradise Ballroom, Silver Springs State Park, 5656 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs, FL

February 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department

March 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department

**OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017-2018**

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 THANKSGIVING!

November 2017

NEXT MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, November 2, 2017, 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.

We will conclude the meeting a little differently, with a raffle of five plants (no auction):

Gordy's Pretty Lady (japonica)

Tar Baby Variegated (japonica)

Ack-Scent (lightly fragrant hybrid)

Valley Knudson (reticulata hybrid)

Jim Smith (japonica)

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 2017-2018 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

I don't belong to a gym. My doctor always asks if I exercise, and I tell her "not intentionally." But I have developed a camellia obsession. That means a lot of manual labor.

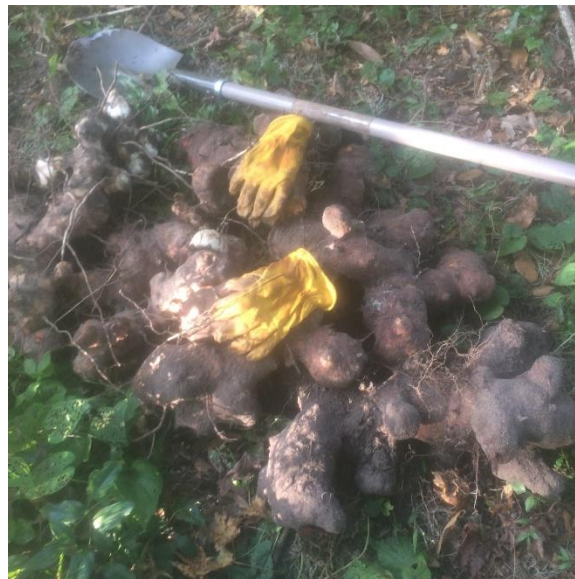
It starts with soil preparation. Every couple of weeks, I unload and stack 50-pound horse feed sacks and hay bales. The horses kindly turn these into organic camellia fertilizer, which I collect and haul to compost for soil amendments or to mulch around camellias.

I confessed to you that I buy camellias faster than I can plant them. I've convinced myself that it is rational to buy a lot of camellias when they are available. Camellias take a long time to mature and I don't have all the time in the world, so I figure I'd better buy and plant all the camellias I want ASAP. But I have trouble keeping up with the planting part.

It's digging the holes that is the bottleneck. My soil varies from rocky, clay soil (boo!) to sandy loam (yay!), filled with a network of roots of trees, smilax briars, and grapevine (boo!).

For Christmas a couple of years ago, my husband bought me an auger for our tractor to drill holes for planting camellias. I thought this was a great idea and a sign of true love. We made quite a few holes this way. Deep holes. We also drilled into the water line to our house.

Now I'm back to digging holes by hand. First clearing vines and cutting down small trees. Plunging into the dirt, jumping on the shovel blade, prying up rocks, roots, and an amazing number of old bottles, car parts, old barbed wire and other archaeological finds. Swinging an ax to chop through roots that are too big to cut with a shovel. And every once in a while, there are giant smilax tubers that need to be pried up and dragged out. Last weekend, I bagged a trophy smilax tuber – my personal record. It was almost as long as my shovel! (See below for evidence.)



Then comes the easy part: bending, pulling out rocks and bits of roots, turning the soil, hauling and turning in pine bark fines and rotted manure, tamping down the center, and at last planting a camellia.

I'm pretty sure this is a good substitute for going to the gym. In fact, I'm thinking of making an exercise video to promote growing camellias. One thing for sure, for the price of a gym membership, I can buy at least 24 new camellias every year!

Happy planting, everyone! 'Tis the season! Jill

In the Spotlight – Judy Vaughn

I was born in Phoenix, Arizona, but moved here for first grade. I've been married 43 years, and have a daughter who lives in Boston with her family. She has a 3 year old and a 1 year old.

I've worked my entire life, much of it in sales positions. I had jobs as a sales secretary and sales coordinator for the mobile home industry, and I sold furniture as an outside salesperson. I had an AA degree, and I ultimately went back to school at night to complete my bachelor's degree and became a third grade teacher. I wish that would have been my entire career. I enjoyed being a teacher.



Judy on one of her adventures in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at a historical nuclear museum

My hobbies are travel, travel, travel. Last summer I went to Greece. I'm currently teaching first grade as a substitute so I can go to Iceland in March. I also love photography, kayaking, and working out at the Y. I'm a member of a retired teachers group, which gets together for different adventures, mostly day trips. I love art and go on the Appleton trips to museums throughout Florida.

I probably inherited my love of plants. My parents grew an amazing vegetable garden every year. My mom canned all of her own tomatoes. She had a green thumb, especially with roses. I do not. She had a beautiful Rubra camellia. Some of my landscaping ideas are rather bad ones. I like bamboo so I went to all the bamboo seminars at Kanapaha Gardens. I bought running bamboo first... Then finally changed to clumping. They block a lot of light from my lawn.

My love of camellias really started when my husband's friend lived in his parents' home in the historic area. He let me cut all the flowers I wanted for Christmas decorating. I wish I knew what they were. I now have about ten camellias, and I also have a lot of azaleas. My best moment with my camellias was winning the novice year before last with 'Rena Swick.' My worst moment was trying to move a plant I had for about 20 years. It was hidden by my azaleas. I read the newsletter and thought I was doing it right, but it immediately died. My favorite camellias are all the variegated ones. Three of my plants are old. I currently have two duds, one from our raffle and the other purchased from Wines.

I want to learn more at our meetings. I enjoy learning from others in our club and I'm enjoying the companion plant speakers this year.

Minutes from October 5, 2017 Ocala Camellia Society Meeting

Zlata Sabo, Secretary

The October meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society started at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and then our president Jill Reed introduced the newest members of the club and the speaker for the evening, Tom Wood, from the Garden Gate Nursery in Gainesville. The theme of his presentation was "Ginger plants as a companion plants in camellia gardens."

Tom's Nursery specializes in Ginger plants and according to him there are around 1,500 various ginger species. Ginger grows in the places where the ground doesn't freeze. His interesting PowerPoint presentation included a number of beautiful photos showing various ginger species, some with beautiful colorful flowers, while others exhibit their interesting foliage. Tom also brought with him a number of ginger plants, some as a door prize, others for sale.

* The September minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter with a motion by Charlotte Bunyan and seconded by Laura Perdomo.

* Laura Perdomo presented a monthly treasurers report. She reminded members that they can order a name tag for \$10.00 each. Plant preorder was extended to the next 2 days. There was no information presented about the January Show.

* Susan Dunn informed the club about upcoming work day at Silver Springs on Nov.4 from 9:30 to 12:00 encouraging members to come and put some work in the Camellia Gardens.

* Jill presented a **2 Minutes Tip**, discussing Post Hurricane Care of camellias. The information shared was based on her conversation with Caroline Hess from North Carolina, and some other camellia growers.

* Zlata gave an update on the Prestige 55 seminar that will be presented on January 11 from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Munroe Regional Auxiliary Conference Center at 1542 SW 1st Avenue, Ocala. (next to Munroe Regional). To attend any class you need to be a member of the Prestige 55. Call (352) 671-2114 for information. (Low membership fee.)

* Laura brought our attention to the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Open House in Gainesville on Oct 21-22. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. No charge during these two days. Exit 384 from I 75.

Laura called for the meeting to adjourn and the auction and plant sale followed.

CAMELLIAS IN THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE

GORDY'S PRETTY LADY

(L-VL, semidouble to loose peony)



TAR BABY VARIEGATED

(Med, anemone)



VALLEY KNUDSEN

(L, semidouble, Retic hybrid)



ACKSCENT

(Med., peony, non-retic hybrid)



JIM SMITH

(L, semidouble, japonica)



CAMELLIA CULTURE – LATE SUMMER AND EARLY 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 day and time. The garden really only needs some minor weeding and shifting of mulch away from the trunks of the shrubs.

UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

BOSTON, GA, Wiregrass Camellia Society, **11/4-5/2017**, at Boston Baptist Church, 143 S. Main Street, Sandra Jones, (229) 263-8661, sandrayjones@windstream.net

BYRON, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, **11/11-12/2016**, at Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Tommy Alden and Grady Stokes, (478) 825-1337, 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

PENSACOLA, FL, Pensacola Camellia Club, **12/9/2017**, at First Methodist Church, 80 E. Wright Street, Skip Vogelsang, (850) 438-3790, lbv3rd@gmail.com

ACS ANNUAL CONVENTION, COVINGTON, LA, Northshore Camellia Club, **1/6/2018**, at Southern Hotel, 428 East Boston Street, Hunter Charbonnet, 985-705-3052, hcharbo1@gmail.com

GAINESVILLE, FL, Gainesville Camellia Society, **1/6-7/2018**, at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW 58th Drive, Bruce Cavey, 352-562-3273, brucecavey@gmail.com

TALLAHASSEE, FL, Camellia & Garden Club of Tallahassee, **1/13-14/2018**, at Doyle Connor Administration Building, 3125 Connor Boulevard, Stewart Tomlinson, (850) 510-1911, stewarttomlinson@outlook.com

WINTER PARK, FL, Camellia Society of Central Florida, **1/20/2018**, at Mead Botanical Gardens, 1500 South Denning Drive, Katie Ferguson, (407) 440-8384, camelliacfl@gmail.com

OCALA, FL, Ocala Camellia Society, **1/27/2018**, at Paradise Ballroom, Silver Springs State Park, 5656 East Silver Springs Blvd., Patrick Andrews, (352) 895-8762, patrickandrews@att.net

LAKELAND, FL, Lakeland Camellia Society, **2/3/2018**, at Abundant Life Church in the Fellowship Hall, 6725 North Socrum Loop Road, Brian Dick, (853) 834-2237, brian.dick@lakelandgov.net

QUITMAN, GA, Quitman Garden Club, **2/3-4/2018**, at Brooks County Extension Office, 400 East Courtland Avenue, Nancibeth Shealy, (229) 263-8661, nursenbs@windstream.net

THOMASVILLE, GA, Thomasville Garden Club, Inc., **2/10-11/2018**, at Thomasville Garden Center, 1002 South Broad Street, Annelle Lauder and Carol Selph, (229) 226-7398, 2015quitmancamellia3000@gmail.com

ATLANTA, GA, North Georgia Camellia Society, **2/17-18/2018**, at Atlanta Botanical Garden, Piedmont Park at the Prado, John Newsome, (404) 355-4478, newsomecawthon@aol.com

FORT VALLEY, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, **2/24-25/2017**, at Fetterman Building, Masee Lane, Tommy Martin and Jo Creel, (478) 235-0096, 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 2, 2017, Ocala Police Department
December 7, 2017, Ocala Police Department
January 4, 2018, Ocala Police Department

January 27, 2018, Ocala Camellia Show, Paradise Ballroom, Silver Springs State Park, 5656 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs, FL

February 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department
March 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017-2018

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 Halloween!

OCTOBER 2017

NEXT MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

The next meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society will be on Thursday, October 5, 2017, 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. The guest speaker will be Tom Wood on "Gingers as companion plants for camellias." He has a nursery called "Gingers Galore" and will make a presentation and take questions. He will bring gingers to sell and to give as door prizes.

We will conclude the meeting with a raffle (the beautiful hybrid *Betty Ridley*) and auction (*Marie Crawford*, *Pilida*, *Ember Glow*, and *Early Autumn*).

SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK WORK DAY

There will be a work day in the camellia garden at Silver Springs State Park on Saturday, November 4, 2017, from 9 a.m. until about 11:30 a.m.

No heavy work is needed, but volunteers are needed to come help weed and tidy up the camellia garden area.

Susan Dunn is the chair of the Silver Springs State Park Camellia Garden project, so please let her know if you plan to volunteer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jill Reed

I am writing this on Sunday afternoon, a week after Hurricane Irma first arrived in our area. We were very fortunate and had no significant damage at our place. I hope all of you can say the same, for yourselves and for your loved ones.

I spent a pleasant morning clearing my camellias of fallen branches and Spanish moss, and replanting a few that were partially uprooted by the winds. I've been slowly returning the plants I brought into the house to the outdoors and righting others in pots I had laid over on the ground. Our power was restored on Saturday, so I felt comfortable in the full knowledge that a cool house and warm shower awaited me when my work was done, not the warm house and cool shower of the previous days!

Such times are always a reminder of how good things are for all of us most of the time. We lived for a few days with minor inconveniences - no telephone or internet, and limited power and well water, which we only had thanks to our generators. It was so odd to find shortages of the basics in grocery stores, such as bottled water, bread, milk, and even crackers, and to have to hunt for gas stations that had fuel! To think that normally we expect to have all of these things readily available at all times!

I've talked to a few "camellia friends" since the storm. Most had little damage, just debris on the plants. Others have trees down that fell on established plants or had flooding in their camellia gardens. I know one man in his eighties that dug up 25 camellias from his flooded yard and put them in pots to try to save them! Maybe we should have discussed storm preparation with camellias in mind at our last meeting, but perhaps a good topic of discussion for our upcoming meeting is post-hurricane care for storm-damaged camellias. I'll plan a "two-minute tip" session on this topic, and look forward to seeing you all and hearing your advice and suggestions.

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

Zlata Sabo, Secretary

Refreshments started at 6:30.

Meeting began at 7:00 pm with a welcome from Jill Reed, President of the Ocala Camellia Society. She asked each member of the Society to introduce themselves so we could get better acquainted.

Vice-President Susan Dunn introduced the speaker for the evening: Pat Hawk, President of the Ocala Daylily Society. Ms. Hawk gave an inspirational PowerPoint presentation on daylilies, stating that there are more than 84,000 varieties of plants with two major types depending on the number of chromosomes. She also, among other things, informed us that daylilies need to be fertilized 2-3 times a year and divided every 2-3 years.

Marge Hendon read the minutes from the last meeting, which were accepted by Patrick Andrews and seconded by Gwen Pealer.

Laura Perdomo presented the treasurer's report for the end of fiscal year 2016/2017.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jill expressed the need to become better acquainted with each other. A directory is to be sent to each member and the monthly "In the Spotlight" in the newsletter will feature a member who gets the door prize on the previous month.
- Jill shared her experience with growing camellias from cuttings. She also said that the ACS has extensive information on the subject on their website: How to grow camellia from cuttings.
- Plants sale during the show in January: Members can preorder plants they want to buy from the list that will be provided by Laura. All orders must be prepaid; in the case the plant is not available, money will be refunded. Orders must be in by the next meeting. Japonicas will be \$25.00 and reticulatas \$35.00.
- It was suggested to check the Atlantic coast Camellia Society.org for pictures of the plants
- Susan Dunn gave a report on the Silver Springs State Park Camellia Garden and asked members to get involved and come by to do some work in the garden. Next work day is to be in November.
- There was a discussion about the next show: whether to have it one day or two. Opinions were mixed. It was decided to wait and see what the Silver Springs suggests.
- Patrick informed the group that ACS is looking for a State Director to represent the State of Florida clubs at the ACS, and keep in touch with various state based clubs. There were no volunteers.

Jill recognized and greeted our newest member Cindy Whitman, and then Patrick made a motion to adjourn.

The plant auction concluded the evening.

Getting to Know Laura Perdomo!

I grew up in the forest in Marion County, surrounded by my maternal grandma's huge loving family that all live on the same country road. Growing up, my grandma always tended a garden and had camellias as well as other beautiful flowering plants such as ginger, fruit trees, daylilies, etc. and helped instill that love and observation of plants in me.

When I went off to college I was in a dorm on the 5th floor that was lacking access to the plants I was so used to back home. There were beautiful camellias in Tallahassee at FSU, including several large sasanqua hedges that burst into bloom every fall right outside my dorm. I purchased an African violet to "keep me plant company" in my stark dorm room, and it's history from there.



Graduating in 2005 with a degree in Social Science Education, as well as an engagement to my sweet husband Frank, I settled back here in the forest, building a house on the country road across the street from my parents, teaching American History at Marion Technical Institute in Ocala and getting more deeply involved in plants, both for fun and as a business.

African violets have been my main hobby; I enjoy both growing and selling them. I have served as president of the African Violet Club of Ocala as well as the African Violet Council of Florida. In 2015, violets became MORE than a hobby when I decided to "retire" from teaching after a decade of fun and learning with the kids, and instead focus on our plant business, The Peacock Cottage. We opened a shop in Ocala, and Frank and I still continue to go to about 15 plant and African violet shows around the state every year.

Frank and I have been lucky to extensively travel and enjoy the plants as we go, from the Ginkgo trees at the base of Mt. Fuji, to the glasshouses at Kew Gardens, the unbelievable roses of Portland, the sprawling grounds of Versailles, to the well manicured tulips at Keukenhof we have seen amazing sights and enjoy travel and each other.

In high school, my friend saw an article in the Star Banner about a camellia show and cut it out for me. He knew my mom and I liked plants and thought we would enjoy the outing. Mom and I attended our first OCS show in 1999 at the Pioneer Garden Club, and so it goes from there.

Formal doubles and really fancy blooms are the ones that catch my eye. My favorite camellias include: 'Pink Perfection' because it looks so perfect with its shape of the flower. 'Sparkling Burgundy' grew in my family's yard as a kid, growing easily and HUGE, its blooming always was beautiful and signified that the holidays were coming soon. 'Northern Lights' is a precious little sasanqua with a gorgeous white bloom with a light blush. 'Professor Sargent' is always covered in blooms and you can use it to make jelly. 'High Fragrance' is nice for a scent.

I currently only have 4 camellias in my yard, but I LOVE seeing all of the blooms at the show. One of my favorite parts is at the end of the show throwing all the blooms out (I know this is blasphemous to some!! haha) and enjoying the velvety texture on my hands as I pick them all up. It's such a guilty pleasure because as a child, grandma always said to not touch the blossoms.

I've been in the OCS for about 8-10 years and enjoy the friendships as well as the knowledgeable guest speakers that come in on so many varied topics. This is an interesting club that allows me to branch out into topics I did not even sometimes know existed. It's also a nice way to spend an evening with my sweet mom.

CAMELLIA CULTURE – LATE SUMMER AND EARLY 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 Pro Gibb.

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 Ultra 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: 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.

(continued in the next column)

CAMELLIAS AT THIS MONTH'S AUCTION



RAFFLE PLANT: Camellia Hybrid Betty Ridley



Marie Crawford



Emberglow



Pilida



Early Autumn

UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS IN 2017

OCTOBER

PERRY, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, 10/14-15/2017, at Georgia National Fair, Miller-Murphy-Howard Building, 401 Larry Walker Parkway, Sandra Williams and Warren Thompson, (478) 836-4249, dscm@pstel.net

NOVEMBER

BOSTON, GA, Wiregrass Camellia Society, 11/4-5/2017, at Boston Baptist Church, 143 South Main Street, Sandra Jones, (229) 263-8661, sandrayjones@windstream.net

BYRON, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, 11/11-12/2017, at Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Tommy Alden & Grady Stokes, (478) 825-1337, 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

DECEMBER

PENSACOLA, FL, Pensacola Camellia Club, 12/9/2017, at First Methodist Church, 80 East Wright Street, Skip Vogelsang, (850) 438-3790, lbv3rd@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
Don LaClair, 352-693-5047
Joan 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.

October 5, 2017, Ocala Police Department
November 2, 2017, Ocala Police Department
December 7, 2017, Ocala Police Department
January 4, 2018, Ocala Police Department
January 27, 2018, Ocala Camellia Show, Paradise Ballroom, Silver Springs State Park, 5656 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs, FL
February 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department
March 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017-2018

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

WELCOME BACK!

SEPTEMBER 2017

FIRST MEETING OF THE SEASON SET FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

The first meeting of the Ocala Camellia Society 2017-2018 season will be on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at the Community Room at the Ocala Police Station located at 402 S. Pine (Pine Plaza) in Ocala. Park in front of the police station and enter in the side door to the right before you get to the main front door.

Light refreshments will be served at 6:30, and the meeting will begin at 7:00. Vice-President and Program Chair Susan Dunn has arranged a program presented by Pat Hawk, president of the Ocala Daylily Society. She will have a slideshow presentation for us and bring daylilies to sell. "Ocala area daylilies" is their Facebook contact.

We will conclude the meeting with a raffle (*San Dimas*) and auction (*Early Autumn, Herme, and William Paulk Lavender*).

SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK

We had a couple of work days this summer at the camellia garden at Silver Springs State Park. One of the days all of the work was done by Susan and John Dunn, and they did a fantastic job weeding it. Bob and Patrick planted some more plants and further refined the shape of the beds. If you haven't visited for a while, I encourage you to visit. It's looking great!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jill Reed

Greetings, everyone! It will be so good to see you all and get together again to share our enjoyment of camellias and help each other grow them well. Even though I was born in the South where everyone had camellias in their yard, I discovered only recently, at my initial visit to the Ocala Camellia Society Show a few years ago, how little I knew about growing them and how many incredibly beautiful varieties there are! Thanks to this group, not only have I discovered more about camellias, but also have found wonderful new friends. I've been inspired by you and by your gardens. Now I'm hooked on camellias, and my camellia friends!

It is September, and the season begins again! The camellias are budding up, and the rain is plentiful. Our wonderful vice-president, Susan Dunn, already has lined up a terrific speaker program for the year. We can anticipate another great flower show at Silver Springs, and our adopted camellia garden at the Silver Springs State Park is benefitting from our sponsorship and the efforts of volunteers from the club. I look forward to the coming season and to renewing our friendships and shared interest in the beautiful camellias!

CAMELLIAS AT THIS MONTH'S AUCTION



San Dimas (raffle)



Early Autumn



Herme



William Paulk Lavender

UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS IN 2017

OCTOBER

PERRY, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, **10/14-15/2017**, at Georgia National Fair, Miller-Murphy-Howard Building, 401 Larry Walker Parkway, Sandra Williams and Warren Thompson, (478) 836-4249, dscm@pstel.net

NOVEMBER

BOSTON, GA, Wiregrass Camellia Society, **11/4-5/2017**, at Boston Baptist Church, 143 South Main Street, Sandra Jones, (229) 263-8661, sandrayjones@windstream.net

BYRON, GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, **11/11-12/2017**, at Byron Municipal Complex, 401 Main Street, Tommy Alden & Grady Stokes, (478) 825-1337, 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

DECEMBER

PENSACOLA, FL, Pensacola Camellia Club, **12/9/2017**, at First Methodist Church, 80 East Wright Street, Skip Vogelsang, (850) 438-3790, lbv3rd@gmail.com

UPCOMING ATLANTIC COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY CONVENTION

The 2017 Atlantic Coast Camellia Society Convention will be held on September 15 and 16 at the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort, US Route 17, 14276 Ocean Highway, Litchfield Beach, SC.

You can find out all the information about the meeting, including cost and room availability, by visiting the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society web site at www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org. I hope to see you there. You'll have a great time!

CAMELLIA CULTURE -- LATE SUMMER AND EARLY 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 Pro Gibb.

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 Ultra 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: 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.

(continued in the next column)

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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
Don LaClair, 352-693-5047
Joan 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.

September 7, 2017, Ocala Police Department
October 5, 2017, Ocala Police Department
November 2, 2017, Ocala Police Department
December 7, 2017, Ocala Police Department
January 4, 2018, Ocala Police Department
January 27, 2018, Ocala Camellia Show, **Paradise Ballroom, Silver Springs State Park, 5656 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs, FL**
February 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department
March 1, 2018, Ocala Police Department

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017-2018

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.