

# OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



---

Editor, Lisa Freeland

Welcome to Fall

November 2024

---

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING:** **Sunday, November 10, 2024**

**2 PM**

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

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

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

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

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

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, fellow camellia lovers!

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

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

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

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

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

*Belea T. Keeney, President*

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



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

16 members attended

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

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

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

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

Business meeting items:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Sickling, secretary



## CAMELLIA CULTURE –FALL/WINTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photo credit: Alba Plena, courtesy Jill Reed.

## **Ocala Camellia Society Meeting Schedule Mark your calendars!!**

December 1, 2024- holiday potluck meal

January 5, 2025- pre-show prep meeting

February 2, 2025

March 2, 2025- season potluck meal

**November Speaker: John Swanson from the Gainesville Camellia Society**

## American Camellia Society Convention Schedule January 2-5, 2025

(Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville, 1714 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street)

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

**Register Now to Not Miss Out on Early Bird Rates!**

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

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

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

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

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

**MONDAY, January 6-** Farewell Breakfast in the Convention Center



Camellia photo, courtesy of Jill Reed:

# UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

(Listings per ACS website)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The officers and Executive Committee of the Ocala Camellia Society for 2024-2025 are:

President: Belea Keeney, 919-623-5375  
Vice-Pres. Sally Laynedecker 352-877-8128  
Secretary: Kathryn Sickling, 352-625-2179  
Treasurer: Jill Reed, 352-591-4343

**Directors:**

Annie & Paul Aierstock, 352-270-9191  
Patrick Andrews, 352-895-8762  
Dick Greenwood, 352-347-9992  
Marge Hendon, 352-625-3510  
Laura Perdomo, 352-624-0116  
Zlata Sabo, 352-237-5537  
Justin Schneider, 352-843-6142  
Judy Vaughn, 352-502-3847  
Bob Weidman, 352-595-3365



## OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024-2025

The Ocala Camellia Society is a local society, affiliated with the American Camellia Society, whose members meet the first Sunday of the month, September through March, and presents an annual camellia show during January. Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples. Dues are collected in September for the camellia season. Please complete the application below for membership in the Ocala Camellia Society.

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY  
Single Membership     ( ) \$10.00  
Couple Membership     ( ) \$15.00  
Corporate Membership   ( ) \$50.00  
Total Enclosed         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: please write legibly!! \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have your permission to share your member info with other chapter members? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY and give to: Jill Reed, Treasurer. You can mail it to her at: 19800 N Highway 329, Micanopy FL 32667.**



# OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



---

Editor, Lisa Freeland

Welcome Back!

October 2024

---

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING:**

**Sunday, October 6, 2024**

Our next meeting is Oct 6 at 2PM.

**We meet at:**

**Marion County Sheriff's Office**

**South Multi-District Office**

**3260 SE 80<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Ocala, FL 34480**

We'll have a speaker presentation, snacks and the club meeting.

### **Refreshment Volunteer Reminder!**

**Laura Perdomo, Diane Flatz and Ann Greenwood.** Anyone is welcome bring drinks/finger food/snacks too.

~~~~~

Our speaker this month is Sanford Porter, and he will be speaking on camellias, camellia ants, and fire ants.

## **Welcome to Our New Members!**

A big Ocala Camellia Society

# WELCOME

to our

**NEW MEMBERS**

who signed up at our show.  
We look forward to meeting  
you and sharing our love of  
camellias!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, fellow camellia lovers,

First off, thank you to the entire club for my beautiful sympathy card. It was so sweet of y'all to think of me.

My mother and grandmother (Big Mom) moved to St. Petersburg in the early 50s, and according to my mom, they brought down over 40 camellias from their Macon home that Big Mom insisted on moving with them. They planted them on a property on 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue North in St. Pete, and some of them were still there, hanging on in the early 2000s, the last time I saw the original log cabin on that parcel. I also inherited Big Mom's 1950s era books on growing camellias, and I'll treasure them and the memory of my own mother enjoying these spectacular plants!

Lisa Freeland has volunteered to handle the newsletter tasks, and we are so grateful. Give her a big thanks next time you see her.

I've dropped off the contract for the church location for our January show so that's a step in the right direction. We'll get more granular on assignments and tasks in our upcoming meetings.

If you haven't done so already, **please fill out the membership on the back page of this newsletter, fill it in LEGIBLY and bring your 2024-25 dues to our next meeting.** That way Jill can update our database efficiently and we can keep everyone in the loop on our club activities. You can print just the one page from this PDF.

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

Let's have a great 2024-25 camellia season!

*Belea T. Keeney, President*

## Meeting Minutes, September 8, 2024

By Kathryn Sickling, Club Secretary



- **Ocala Camellia Society General Meeting agenda and notes September 8, 2024 2pm**

Apologies from Belea. She is sorry to miss the meeting due to her mother's death but will be able to return in October.

Welcome to all, let's have a great season! We have terrific speakers lined up and several field trips in the planning stages.

Thanks to the BOD for helping out this summer. Specifically, Sally, Kathryn, Bob, Patrick, Justin, Marge, Laura, Frank, Ann and Dick, Annie and Paul, Zlata and Judy

Intro speaker: Audrey Edwards, Master Gardener gave a presentation on container gardening and the importance of the type pots you choose, soil, location, water drainage holes, and compatibility of plants in one pot.

Snacks were provided by Sally, Gwen and Kathryn. Jill brought the paper items. Next month's snacks will be brought by Laura Perdomo, Diane Flatz and Ann Greenwood.

Business meeting items:

**1- Please pay your dues and give Jill your information for our records and mailings.**

a. Form is on the back page of the newsletter. We updated our info. We still get some bounce backs for emails that were input just in January.

**2- Treasurer's report- Jill said as of March 2024 we had \$14,536.86. Since then, we've earned \$4.86 in interest.**

\$1,085.00 in special orders

\$500 in donations

\$10 late from show

\$15,616.71 Balance at September 2024 meeting

a. The BOD decided to hold off on any additional donations until after the January 2025 show

**3- Need newsletter editor**

Belea and Sally cobbled together the September issue, but it really needs a separate volunteer to handle. It takes about three hours a month to gather the info via email, insert the copy into a template, add photos as needed,

proof it and send it out to members. You'll want to be familiar with Word to do this well. Any volunteers? If so, please email Belea, Sally or Laura.

- a. We have a contract for Fort King Presbyterian Church. Jill to get check for deposit and Belea to sign contract, Sally to deliver to church.
- b. We should be able to get this in place and done by September 10th. Belea will sign the contract for our show on January 25 and 26, 2025.
- c. We will use south and east side of bldg. for plant sales and use the front/right area inside for exhibitor set up and then re-set the area for the general public after judging commences.

**6- The Gainesville Camellia Society is hosting the national camellia convention and putting on their own show at Kanapaha during the first weekend of January.** Chair coordinator Charlie Simon would be tickled to have volunteer assistance with the days' activities. His email: cgsimon@gowebway.com (Convention is at Hilton University of Florida, 1714 SW 34th Street)

**7- County Line Nursery plant order, update from Jill that we have ordered 250 plants of those 40 will be Reticulatas.** The rest will be Japonicas and Hybrids. They cannot set aside plants for us so they will deliver at a future date to Jill's house.

**8- New items from club members?** Jill gave update from the ACS president to join ACS, buy a commemorative brick for \$250. Also, at the headquarters they have great instructional videos available for members. We talked about the club getting a brick. Jill updated our ACS website information.

It was brought up about getting a Square to use for our future shows. The board will discuss this and get back to members.

October 6th is our next meeting at 2:00. Business meeting adjourned and auction followed with 5 lovely Sasanquas available thanks to Marge Hendon getting them for our members to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Sickling, secretary

- a. Reminder: Next meeting will be October 6. Meeting dates; Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec 1 (potluck/holiday meal), Jan 5, Feb 2, March 2 (potluck/end of season party)



Rosalynn Carter

## CAMELLIA CULTURE – FALL/WINTER



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photo credit: Mike Whitman Variegated, courtesy Jill Reed.

## Ocala Camellia Society Meeting Schedule

### Mark your calendars!!

October 6, 2024  
November 10, 2024  
December 1, 2024- holiday potluck meal  
January 5, 2025- pre-show prep meeting  
February 2, 2025  
March 2, 2025- season potluck meal

### October Speaker: Sanford Porter

Our speaker this month is Sanford Porter, a retired Research Entomologist from the USDA, Agricultural Research Service in Gainesville, Florida where his specialty was the ecology and biological control of red imported fire ants. Mr. Porter is a member of the Gainesville Camellia Society and has more than 50 varieties of camellias in his yard, but proclaims he is definitely not a camellia expert.

---

### American Camellia Society Convention Schedule

#### January 2-5, 2025

(Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville, 1714 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street)

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

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

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

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

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

**MONDAY, January 6-** Farewell Breakfast in the Convention Center

**Camellia photos, courtesy of Jill Reed:**



Debutante



Frank Houser



Willard Scott



Early Autumn



**Mathotiana**

## UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

(Listings per ACS website)



**October 12-13, 2024:** Perry GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, at Georgian National Fairgrounds and Ag Center.

**October 18-19, 2024:** Columbia, SC, Mid-Carolina Camellia Society, at South Carolina State Fair Canteen Building.

**November 2-3, 2024:** Boston, GA, Wiregrass Camellia Society, at Boston Baptist Church.

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

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

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

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

**January 3-5, 2025** ACS ANNUAL CONVENTION, Gainesville, FL. Details to come.

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

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



The officers and Executive Committee of the Ocala Camellia Society for 2024-2025 are:

President: Belea Keeney, 919-623-5375  
Vice-Pres. Sally Laynedecker 352-877-8128  
Secretary: Kathryn Sickling, 352-625-2179  
Treasurer: Jill Reed, 352-591-4343

**Directors:**

Annie & Paul Aierstock, 352-270-9191  
Patrick Andrews, 352-895-8762  
Dick Greenwood, 352-347-9992  
Marge Hendon, 352-625-3510  
Laura Perdomo, 352-624-0116  
Zlata Sabo, 352-237-5537  
Justin Schneider, 352-843-6142  
Judy Vaughn, 352-502-3847  
Bob Weidman, 352-595-3365



**OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024-2025**

The Ocala Camellia Society is a local society, affiliated with the American Camellia Society, whose members meet the first Sunday of the month, September through March, and presents an annual camellia show during January. Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples. Dues are collected in September for the camellia season. Please complete the application below for membership in the Ocala Camellia Society.

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY  
Single Membership    ( ) \$10.00  
Couple Membership    ( ) \$15.00  
Corporate Membership ( ) \$50.00  
Total Enclosed        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: please write legibly!! \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have your permission to share your member info with other chapter members? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY and give to: Jill Reed, Treasurer. You can mail it to her at: 19800 N Highway 329, Micanopy FL 32667.**

# OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



---

Editor, TBD

Welcome Back!

September 2024

---

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING:**

**Sunday, September 8, 2024**

Our next meeting is Sept. 8 at 2PM.

**We meet at:**

**Marion County Sheriff's Office  
South Multi-District Office  
3260 SE 80<sup>th</sup> St.  
Ocala, FL 34480**

We'll have a speaker presentation, snacks and the club meeting.

### **Refreshment Volunteer Reminder!**

**Kathryn Sickling, Gwynn Pealer, and Sally Layendecker.** Anyone is welcome bring drinks/finger food/snacks too.

Our speaker this month is Audrey Edwards, a Master Gardener who will speak about container plants. Growing camellias in containers has some special considerations and Audrey will give us tips about that.

## **Welcome to Our New Members!**

A big Ocala Camellia Society

# **WELCOME**

to our

## **NEW MEMBERS**

who signed up at our show.  
We look forward to meeting  
you and sharing our love of  
camellias!



Sport at Bok Tower Gardens

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, fellow camellia lovers,

I'm tickled to be working with everyone in the club and with our executive board to put together another interesting and inspiring camellia season! We have speakers lined up for our meetings; several potential field trips in the works; a show to put on in January; and lots of camaraderie and fun in between. I hope you can join us at our meetings and show.

A couple of business items: **please fill out the membership on the back page of this newsletter, fill it in LEGIBLY and bring your 2024-25 dues to our September meeting.** That way Jill can update our database efficiently and we can keep everyone in the loop on our club activities. You can print just the one page from this PDF.

Secondly, this newsletter is in need of an official editor. Sally and I have cobbled together this issue, and in the past a non-officer club member handled this task. It takes about three hours a month to gather the info via email, insert the copy into a template, add photos as needed, proof it and send it out to members. You'll want to be familiar with Word to do this well. Any volunteers? If so, please email or text me or grab me at the meeting, and we'll get you set up!

The Gainesville camellia club is hosting the national ACS convention the first weekend of January, and they would be thrilled to have some help with that gargantuan task. Charles Simon is the convention coordinator, and on page 5, there's a general schedule for events where volunteers are needed. If you'd like to help out, his email is: [cgsimon@gowebway.com](mailto:cgsimon@gowebway.com) I'm sure he'll be happy to hear from any OCS volunteers!

A big thanks to the Executive Committee and board members who were willing to help out and meet over the summer. It's a great team with fresh ideas and suggestions for all things camellia club. I'm so honored to have their help, experience, and input for the Ocala Camellia Society.

Let's have a great 2024-25 camellia season!

*Belea T. Keeney, President*

## Meeting Minutes, March 3, 2024

By Kathryn Sickling, Club Secretary



Twenty-two people attended our potluck and meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. After a delicious lunch and interesting speaker on Zen Gardening by Lucy Tobias we had our business meeting.

The minutes were accepted from our January meeting, since there were no minutes from our February outing at the Pagan's gardens in February. Kathryn gave a brief talk about our outing to see the lovely flowers. Many expressed an interest in going again to do air layering. Kathryn will talk with them about arranging to go in April if possible.

Treasurer's report from Jill Reed:

Money in account as of January 2024 was \$9,576.28

March bank balance is \$15,025.98

Show expenses were \$9,251.21, we had a credit from 4 donations and after expenses had a credit of \$1,762.85 for the show. We accepted the treasurer's report.

Jill made a motion to make a donation of at least \$500 to ACS but preferably \$1,000 since we have so much in our account. Discussion followed as to what the money goes toward. Susan Dunn said toward the upkeep of their building, grounds, staff and keeping a good image for those who tour the gardens.

Laura made a motion to send \$500 now and in the summer have the board discuss it and consider sending more and/or do a scholarship fund instead. This was seconded by Belea and approved by our members.

Zlata made a request to have thicker, prettier table clothes for the show tables. She thought they didn't look good.

Jill got a request from ACS that they need candidates for Regional Director and told the many requirements and said if any member is interested to let her know in March.

Justin as head of the nominating committee gave the slate of officers for the 2024-25 season: Belea Keeney, President; Sally Layendecker, Vice-President; Jill Reed, Treasurer; and Kathryn Sickling Secretary.

Laura made a motion to accept the nominations and Judy Vaughn seconded it. The members approved it for 2 years.

Ann had Annie for her hostess and she never got reimbursed for all the supplies and food so at our upcoming board meeting we are going to talk about approving giving her money for back payment. If she can be reimbursed in the future then she is willing to continue for Belea as hostess for the meetings.

Jill gave a recap of gardens she and her husband toured and recommended. Middleton Place, Magnolia Plantation are out of state and Massie Lane Gardens when they are having their show.

A sign-up sheet went around for bringing refreshments next season. Annie took the sign-up sheet.

We gave Ann Greenwood a big thank you for her work as president and gave her a Mathoniana camellia plant.

3:30 the meeting was adjourned and we held the plant auction.

Respectfully submitted on March 14 by Kathryn Sickling, secretary

## CAMELLIA CULTURE – FALL/WINTER



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

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

**SPRAYING:** Spider mites and scale insects are still a problem at this time 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.

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

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

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

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

Photo credit: Mike Whitman Variegated, courtesy Jill Reed.

## Ocala Camellia Society Meeting Schedule

### Mark your calendars!!

September 8, 2024

October 6, 2024

November 10, 2024

December 1, 2024- holiday potluck meal

January 5, 2025- pre-show prep meeting

February 2, 2025

March 2, 2025- season potluck meal

### September Speaker: Audrey Edwards

Audrey grew up in the city of Baltimore where her horticulture experiences were greatly limited. In 1991, she moved to Florida for a career change and in 2013 joined the Master Gardener organization in Ocala. In the 11 years of being a Master Gardener, she's enjoyed all the various activities within the Master Gardener organization, and in 2023, was certified as a FNGLA horticulturist. Today, she loves working with her orchids, converting her gardens to native plants which support the bees and butterflies, and doing presentations to folks who want to learn about Florida's natural beauty.

---

### American Camellia Society Convention Schedule

#### January 2-5, 2025

(Hilton University of Florida, 1714 SW 34<sup>th</sup> Street )

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

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

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

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

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

**MONDAY, January 6-** Farewell Breakfast in the Convention Center

**Camellia photos, courtesy of Jill Reed:**



Debutante



Frank Houser



Willard Scott



Early Autumn



Mathotiana

## UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS

(Listings per ACS website)



**October 12-13, 2024:** Perry GA, Middle Georgia Camellia Society, at Georgian National Fairgrounds and Ag Center.

**October 18-19, 2024:** Columbia, SC, Mid-Carolina Camellia Society, at South Carolina State Fair Canteen Building.

**November 2-3, 2024:** Boston, GA, Wiregrass Camellia Society, at Boston Baptist Church.

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

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

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

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

**January 3-5, 2025** ACS ANNUAL CONVENTION, Gainesville, FL. Details to come.

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

**January 25-26, 2025:** Ocala, FL, Ocala Camellia Society, location TBD.



The officers and Executive Committee of the Ocala Camellia Society for 2024-2025 are:

President: Belea Keeney, 919-623-5375  
Vice-Pres. Sally Laynedecker 352-877-8128  
Secretary: Kathryn Sickling, 352-625-2179  
Treasurer: Jill Reed, 352-591-4343

**Directors:**

Annie & Paul Aierstock, 352-270-9191  
Patrick Andrews, 352-895-8762  
Dick Greenwood, 352-347-9992  
Marge Hendon, 352-625-3510  
Laura Perdomo, 352-624-0116  
Zlata Sabo, 352-237-5537  
Justin Schneider, 352-843-6142  
Judy Vaughn, 352-502-3847  
Bob Weidman, 352-595-3365



**OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024-2025**

The Ocala Camellia Society is a local society, affiliated with the American Camellia Society, whose members meet the first Sunday of the month, September through March, and presents an annual camellia show during January. Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples. Dues are collected in September for the camellia season. Please complete the application below for membership in the Ocala Camellia Society.

OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY  
Single Membership    ( ) \$10.00  
Couple Membership    ( ) \$15.00  
Corporate Membership ( ) \$50.00  
Total Enclosed        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: please write legibly!! \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have your permission to share your member info with other chapter members? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY and give to: Jill Reed, Treasurer**