

Wiregrass Camellia

Society



May 2018

Meeting Date: May 12, Saturday

Time: 11:00 a.m.

**Place: J.D. and Kay
Thomerson's**

111 East Alden Avenue

Valdosta, GA 31602

**Bring: A covered dish and a
friend**

President's Message

Carol Selph

Reflecting on this past camellia season I am very grateful for the best members and the most dedicated officers a President could ever have. Thank you for all of your hard work throughout our

two shows and for the help we gave to the Garden Club at the Quitman Show. So many of you went above and beyond the standard as we worked very hard and produced two excellent shows: Boston and Thomasville. Both shows were outstanding in Atlantic Coast Show Circuit. Our members showed hundreds of blooms and won many awards throughout the show season. Let's just say that the camellia world knows Wiregrass Camellia Society and respects the job we did this season. We had a lot of local exposure at a couple of festivals in Quitman and sold over two hundred camellia plants! The skillet festival was a great way for the community to learn more about the camellia plant. At the Christmas Festival we not only

sold plants but also sold waxed camellia blooms that the customer waxed on the spot. We celebrate with our five new novice camellia judges that they are in the middle of their two-year quest to become full-fledged judges, We had great educational programs this year thanks to Sandra Jones' decisions. Some of our grafts of doing fabulously, our airlayers are growing roots and our fertilizer program has been implemented. We learned more about the 'Marie Bracey' bloom and family, growing camellias in the sun, and the importance of heirloom camellias you have in your older gardens.

But best of all Randolph Maphis donated and named a beautiful Reticulata Camellia named in memory of our special friend, Charlotte Jones, who has left a big hole in our hearts and our club. Thank you for allowing me to be your president, and I wish the new officers the very best. Summer blessings to you all, and I will see you at the Thomerson's for the end of the year picnic on Saturday, the day before Mother's Day. You will enjoy.

Installation of Officers

President: Sandra Jones

Vice-president: Jerry Selph

Secretary: Patti Niewoehner

Treasurer: Terry Terlep

Social Chair people: Myra Jordan and Bob Gaines

Board Members: Sandra and Fred Jones, Carol and Jerry Selph, Terry and Marilyn Terlep, Nancibeth Shealy, Harley and Susan Bodine, Susannah Borg, Patti Niewoehner, Myra Jordan, and Bob Gaines, Andrea DeSantiago, Phil, and Susan Yonge.

A big thank you to the outgoing President: Carol Selph .

Scenes from April

Our Many thanks to Susan and Phil Yonge for hosting the April meeting. For the thirty members and friends who braved the weather and the short trip we were in for a huge treat. The ranch and home were so very inviting and the hospitality was phenonenal.





One of Susan and Phil's grafts



Jerry's Camellia Tips

Summer Camellia Activity

Well, summer is upon us! We have by now pruned, fertilized and done our first spray of the year. Now is the time of the year for our leaves to complete their expansion and harden off to a lovely green color. It is also the time of year for the crawler stage of scale and their cohorts in crime, the spider mite, to emerge. If you see small, light colored individuals crawling under your leaves it is probably scale crawlers. If you see vivid red individuals moving about on your leaves it is probably spider mites. Oil at 1% wetting under the leaf as well as all of the rest of the plant will control these pests.

A good fertilization and spray of micro-nutrients with 1% oil is a good summer spray to be applied in late June. Add Orthene or any other good general insecticide to help control Cranberry Weevils (they make holes in the freshly flushed leaves).

A repeat of the same (without the insecticide) in early August should have you in great shape for the fall and for blooming season.

Jerry Selph

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March 2018

Meeting Date: March 18, Sunday

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: Camzalea

4773 Dixie-Barwick Rd.

Boston, GA

Program: Airlayering (4:15 p.m.)

Speaker: Nancibeth Shealey

Bring: A covered dish and a friend

also be discussion on our shows for next year. Be sure to be at this meeting so that you can express any input that you wish to be heard.

Sandra and Fred are hosting our meeting at Camzalea and allowing members to airlayer from their beautiful camellia collection.

Sandra has arranged for Nancibeth Shealey to give an airlayering demonstration beginning promptly at 4:15. You do not want to be late for this. Then you will break into small groups and airlayer.

President's Message

Carol Selph

We are moving rapidly through our meeting year. This month we had our Spring Board Meeting. We formulated our slate of officers for the 2017-2018 meeting year. The nominated offices are located later in this Newsletter.

Nominations will be taken from the floor in our meeting this month with the election to take place in April. Officers will be installed in May at our annual PICNIC! There will



'Julius Nuccio'

Important Dates

- April 15th at the Yonge's Speaker: Jerry Selph
- May 12th Spring Picnic at JD and Kay Thomerson's on Alden in Valdosta

Board's Slate of Officers

The Wiregrass Board of Director's met recently and recommended the following slate of Officers for 2017-2018:

President – Sandra Jones

Vice-President in charge of Programs – Jerry Selph

Secretary – Patty Niewoehner

Treasurer – Terry Terlep

Social Committee – Bob Gaines and Myra Jordan

Membership: Susan and Harlie Bodine

2017-18 Board Members: Susan Bodine, Harlie Bodine, Susannah Borg, Myra Jordan, Bob Gaines, Sandra Jones, Fred Jones, Nancibeth Shealy, Jerry Selph, Carol Selph, Marilyn Terlep, Terry Terlep, Patti Niewoehner, Andrea DeSantiago, Susan Yonge and Phillip Yonge.

Scenes From the Last Meeting







Jerry's Camellia Tips

March Camellia Activity

March is when most of your camellias have finished blooming. This is when you are advised to do some pruning. Plants (especially camellias) will grow too large and too thick (too much foliage) if left un-attended. So now is the time to give them a good haircut! Pruning improves plant vigor by more closely matching a plants ability to gather water and mineral nutrients with it's needs. Pruning also maintains a state of juvenility (balanced growth). This deminishes the probability of decline and even untimely death.

The rules of pruning are really quite simple. Lower the shrubs height to a manageable height (this sometimes takes several years to be safe), remove all crossing branches, remove all branches that are within 1 ft of the ground (this helps with scale problems), and remove excess interior branches and twigs to obtain air movement, and in the case of intrepid exhibitors prune to get long exterior twigs to display buds and then blooms on. REMEMBER! A CAMELLIA IS NOT A BOXWOOD! DON' T TRIMIT IT AS SUCH!

This is also a great time to give your camellias their first fertilization of the year. Several handfuls of 6-6-6 or similar balanced blend will suffice. Just remember to spread it about as evenly as possible and water it in thoroughly. Jerry Selph

Wiregrass Camellia

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October 29, 2017

Meeting Date: October 29, Sunday

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: Brooks County Museum and Cultural Center

Program: Preparing and entering blooms at our local show

Bring: A covered dish and a friend

plants to sell at the Festival and at the Boston Show. A huge thank you to Keegan Meadows for driving the horse trailer to Byron and back fully loaded with plants.

Sandra Jones and her committee chair people have spent many hours planning the Boston Show. It is November 4th and 5th at Boston's First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. If you are willing to clerk please contact Susannah Schmoe. If you have experience in placing blooms and would be willing to help, contact Susan Yonge. You can send an email to this address if you wish to be included on a list, and I will pass it on to the correct person. We need to give Sandra all the support possible.

Come to the meeting on the 28th to learn more about placing your blooms in the show. Placement cards will be available so you can fill those out before the show. If you have sasanquas blooming, you are able to enter those into the main show. So show up at the museum with a covered dish, a friend, a smile, a few blooms if you happen to have some to spare, and the expectation of having an enjoyable evening.

President's Message

CAROL SELPH

It has actually felt like fall for the last couple of days. It may be just a tease, however, as the temperatures are expected to be a little higher for the next week.

Quitman's Skillet Festival is Saturday, October 21st, on the courthouse square. If you are willing to help sell plants, call Patti Niewoehner. We have 200 beautiful

Patti's Minutes

Minutes from the Camellia meeting on Sunday, October 1st 2017

The meeting was held at Camzalea at 4:00 PM with roughly 50 members and guests in attendance. Tommy Alden was the guest speaker. Tommy spoke about Sun Trails (Growing Camellias in Full Sun)

Marilyn and Terry Terlep were the hosts for the meeting.

Following a covered dish dinner the following was discussed.

The skillet festival – Susannah Borg will have the camellias picked up from County Line Nursery (200 plants or so and half will be for skillet festival and the remaining plants are for show in Boston) and delivered to Christines' Camellias. Patti, Harlie, and Phil will pick up plants at Christines' and deliver the camellias to the court house square on morning of the festival. Myra Jane and Bob will help sell plants and several other members agreed to help also. The plants will be sold for \$25.00 and \$30.00 each.

Terry Terlep gave a financial update.

The Wiregrass show to be held on November 4th at the Boston Baptist Church:

This show is dedicated in memory of Nancy Schmoe. Sandra Jones is Show Chairman. We have beautiful signs and brochure detailing sponsors, awards and show rules. Thanks to the many members and guests that sponsored awards. Please see brochure for details. Jerry Selph is chairman of the judges. Jerry has the judges lined up and all is finalized.

The Judges reception will be held at Ag Pro Corporate office on Friday the 3rd. The reception will be at 6:00 PM and dinner served at 7:00 PM. Patti and Susan Bodine have confirmed the details with Catering.

Sandra Jones, Susan Yonge, and Marian Jones have volunteered to put the judges' gift bags together.

Members will gather on the 3rd at the church fellowship hall 9:00 o'clock AM to start setting up for the show. We will have lunch at the Boston Café then put the final touches on the set up.

On show day all entries need to be and entered by 10:00 AM. The Boston Merchants Association is in charge of breakfast that is available for participants and judge. Bob Gaines and Mary McRae are in charge of the lunch from the Boston Café and is free to all judges and workers. Phil Yonge is in charge of something giving out placement cards to participants. Susan Yonge will head up the bloom placement and will need 10 placers. Susannah Borg is, again this year, in charge of clerking for the judges. We will need 16 clerks.

Myra and Emily Wall will be finalizing the tallying for sweepstakes. Andrea DeSantiago is in charge of the scoring of the judges ballots for each class with the computer. She is getting volunteers to assist. Annalle and Julie will be working ACS table. Brandon DeSantiago is in charge of the plant sales. Thanks to all the members for stepping up and making this show a success!\The next Wiregrass Camellia meeting will be hosted by Jerry and Carol at the Brooks County Museum and Cultural Center on October 29th.

The following meeting dates, host, location and topic:

January 21st Patti Niewoehner and Nancibeth Shealy at Museum ----- grafting

February 21st Andrea and Brandon DeSantiago at Museum ----

March 18th Susan and Phil Yonge at their home

April 15th Sandra and Fred Jones at Camzalea ----- air layering

May 12th Last meeting Picnic

Skillet Festival Scenes from Last Year





Photos from the September Meeting

A special thank you to Sandra and Fred Jones for having our large group at Camzalea at the last minute. It was the perfect location for our last meeting. Thank you to Marilyn and Terry Terlep for hosting the evening. The food was delicious, and there was so many great dishes for our crowd of 49 people. Tommy and Brenda Alden gave an informative presentation on growing camellias in the sun. Thank you to all involved with making our first meeting of the season so special.







Jerry's Camellia Tips

November Camellia Activity

The November time of year usually involves cool nights, lower than normal humidities, warm afternoons, and breezy afternoons and nights. All are exceptionally good growing conditions for spider mites. Be on the lookout for red-purple spider mites. Spider mites grow huge populations in very short order. Spray oil can still be safely used to control them.

We also usually have our first killing freeze around November 15th. Be prepared to cover any tender vegetation and prepare your camellias in advance with a good deep watering prior to the frost-freeze event. Speaking of watering, remember that a camellia flower is over 90% water. The more water available (within reason) the larger the flower will be. So water deeply at least twice weekly if you wish to present large beautiful flowers at the Quitman and Thomasville shows.

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September 2017

Meeting Date: October 1, Sunday

Time: 4 p.m.

Speaker: Tommy Alden

Topic: Sun Trials (Growing Camellias in Full Sun)

Place: Brooks County Museum and Cultural Center

121 N Culpepper St Quitman, GA 31643

Bring: A covered dish and a friend

edition of the newsletter is devoted to disbudding and gibbing so you will be knowledgeable and ready to win awards at our upcoming show in Boston. The time to start gibbing is now. So if you have not disbudded do that first, and then begin gibbing so you will have big and beautiful blooms for November 4th and 5th. There will be some special awards at our fall show including the best 'Marie Bracey', 'Pink Perfection', 'Rena Campbell', and 'Betty Sheffield'. These will all need to be gibbed to get them to open in time. So have fun disbudding and gibbing. Sandra Jones has been actively planning for an amazing Boston Show. We will be doing follow-up planning and hearing from committee chairman at our meeting. Job assignments will be made. Hope to see you at the September meeting which is to be on October 1st at the Brooks County Museum and Cultural Center. So make plans to come, bring a covered dish, and enjoy the fellowship of your fellow camellia enthusiasts.

President's Message

Carol Selph

It's been a long and hot summer. However, the days are a tad cooler. Hopefully this will make us feel like doing more gardening especially knowing even cooler days are ahead. It is time to disbud and to gib the early bloomers. If you aren't gibbing you are selling yourself short. This

Tentative Future Meeting Dates

October 29th

December 10th

January 21st

February 18th

March 18th

April 15th

May 12th

Disbudding: Why Bother

To disbud or not to disbud, that is the question. If one is to participate in showing blooms, not only do you want to gib but you also want to disbud. One will have bigger, showier blooms. But even if you don't wish to put your best blooms in a show, there are still reasons to disbud. One reason is you can control the number of blooms you have and where they bloom on your plant. You may have a beautiful bloom right smack in the middle of the plant amidst foliage and stems that has been destroyed and bruised. The number one reason to disbud is to control disease and the attractiveness of your garden. For every bud you eliminate is one less time you will be bending over to clean up the spent blooms after its glory.

Since many would agree it's a good procedure to disbud, how do you get started? First, you have pruned in the spring so you have less buds. You look at each stem. One should take off every bud on the stem except one on the very end of the stem. And which bud does one leave at the end? A round solid, healthy appearing bud pointing downward is the best. Not all varieties have rounded buds (ex.: 'Lady Vansittart'). Hulyn always wanted the varieties he registered to have rounded buds for he saw them as favorable traits.



Leave the bud that is pointed downward if possible. The rain or sun will do less damage to the bloom. Then remove the leaf below so the flower will not be touching the leaf to eliminate bruising.



The hardest to disbud are when there is a cluster of buds at the end of the stem and sometimes lower on the stem as well. Choose the best one and careful remove the others along leaving the smaller growth bud.



As you disbud you will notice the pattern of the displacement of the buds is the same for a variety and could be different with another variety. The similarities will speed up your task. Also, visualize your bloom fully open to see if it will fit in the space you have.



When does one disbud? Now is the perfect time. If the buds are not very large then wait to disbud until they get larger. Bring your questions about disbudding to the meeting. Disbudding now means prettier blooms and less clean-up later.

Jerry's Camellia Tips

October Camellia Activity

Be on the lookout for chewing insects attacking your developing buds as well as sucking insects such as leaf footed plant bugs. They will build rapidly and destroy many buds this fall! Control them with Orthene per label directions. You should have most if not all of your camellia seed collected and planted as per the wonderful program presented by J.D. Thomerson. You should finish up dis-budding your early and early to mid-blooming varieties. Get started early in the month dis-budding the mid-season blooming varieties. Continue gibbing buds on you mid-season varieties for early blooms to enjoy and share. Remember others who would love to enjoy these wonderful gifts of God.> Jerry Selph

Gibbing: As easy as one-two-three

1. Locate the growth bud next to the bud you wish to gib.



2. Remove the growth bud by twisting it out of nature's 'measuring' cup.



3. Fill the cup with gib. Do not get gib on the stem.

