



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

February 2024

President's Message



Tomorrow's Dawn

Greetings! Camellia blooming season is almost over. Now is a good time to prune and fertilize your plants. Now is also a good time to plant container plants. For those who graft, you have until the end of February for best results. Don't forget that the March meeting has been moved to March 10th to accommodate the Kanapaha Spring Festival on March 16th & 17th. In closing, don't forget to sign up for our booth at the Kanapaha Spring Festival. This year we will be inside in the air conditioning. This is an informational booth with 3 or 4 members at a time.

See you on Sunday.

Jay Ellis, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting January 21, 2023

Business Meeting

Jay Ellis, GCS President, opened the business meeting at 2:12. He reported that our recent show had 736 Blooms on display with excellent quality. The show was a big success thanks to the many helpers.

Jay asked all new members to stand and we all welcomed Frank, Wally, Cat and Peggy. Wally was the show raffle winner and he and the other new members each received a free plant!

Old Business

A motion was made and passed to accept the December minutes and Treasurer's report.



Prof. Charles S. Sargent



Sparkling Burgundy

New Business

The January Treasurer's Report was presented by Merry Reid.

Savings	\$14,655
Checking	<u>\$12,049</u>
Total	\$26,704

Charles Simon thanked the many volunteers that helped with the plant sale. He reported that there were 31 Camellia plants left over from our sale that started with 705 plants. That's just enough to give all new members who come to their first meeting a free plant and have a few left for auctions at our remaining meetings. The sale success will allow us to continue our philanthropic activities in support of botanical gardens and ornamental horticulture students.

Jay ended the meeting at 2:30 PM and proceeded to the educational portion of our meeting.

Educational Program

Two techniques for grafting Camellias were presented. The first demonstration and lecture was by Konrad Hooper. He showed us a conventional cleft graft technique where the small camellia scion was inserted upright into a split root stock trunk after carefully shaving two sides to expose the cambium layer. Alignment of the root stock and scion cambium layers is critical for a successful graft. Konrad reported ~80% success rate with this method. He does not use fungicide to treat the graft since he found no difference in success rate with and without it.



October Affair



Brooke

Jay Ellis presented the second technique called a 'sideways graft'. In this case the root stock is split and the scion is shaved as in the cleft technique, but the scion is inserted sideways into the split root stock trunk. In this way there is almost a guarantee that the two cambium layers will be aligned at one or more points. Jay said that the scion will grow upright. He reported 80-90% success rate with this method, and he does use fungicide to treat the graft.

Whatever method is used for the graft, the same level of care is required after the graft is set. It must be covered and kept moist for 6 weeks or more. Conrad uses white Styrofoam cups to cover his grafts and Jay use plastic milk jugs. The graft will start to callous after ~10 days. Once growth is apparent the covering must be removed slowly in stages over several days to allow the new growth to acclimate to the sunlight.

Charles Simon, Secretary

Photos of flowers are from the gardens of John Swanson and Jay and Debbie Ellis.

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>		<i>Refreshments</i>	
		<i>Food</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
February 18, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Jerry Hogsette	Rick Davis
March 10, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Charles & Diane Simon	John Swanson
April 21, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Victoria Watson	Mary Mac Watson
May 19, 2024	Kanapaha Botanical Gardens	Pot Luck Party	Amy & Phil Puccio

<i>Upcoming Camellia Shows</i>		
February 24-25, 2024	Middle Georgia Camellia Society – ACS National Show	Fort Valley, GA
March 2-3, 2024	Chattahoochee Valley Camellia Society	Columbus, GA

<i>Dues</i>
<p>The annual dues for Gainesville Camellia Society are due at this time. The amount is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please mail a check for your dues to the Treasurer:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Merry Reid 7631 Monongahela Avenue Keystone Heights FL 32656 reidm729@gmail.com</p>

***Gainesville Camellia Society
has joined social media!***

Search “Gainesville Camellia Society” to find our Facebook page. There you will find photos, tips on growing camellias, special activities, announcements of future meetings and guest speakers. “LIKE” us on Facebook to receive GSC updates, and tell your friends about our Facebook page.



Officers

President: Jay Ellis
 1st VP & Show Chair: Debbie Ellis
 2nd VP & Program Chair: Committee
 Treasurer: Merry Reid
 Secretary: Charles Simon

Board Members

Carter Brenneman
 Deborah Enquist
 Bill Hayes
 Larry Hice
 Jerry Hogsette
 Konrad Hooper
 Sanford Porter
 Diane Simon
 Ron Stevens
 Irma Velez

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024
Place: Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Program: “Pruning” by John Swanson

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. Any changes to meeting dates, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.