



# Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

*Editor: Anna Langford*

*May 2021*

## *President's Message*



*Nita McRae*

Hi GCS Members!

Happy May! Did April showers bring May flowers? Well, maybe, but we could use a few more showers now that the heat has been turned up a bit. The camellias DID produce loads of beautiful new growth, most of which has since hardened off. Despite my applications of Orthene, the beetles damage is more than I wanted, especially on the potted camellias I am growing to sell at our next show. There is a huge beetle population in my yard and one night several years ago I killed almost 90 beetles on just one large camellia plant! I see more and more species of native plants (weeds) being fed on by these beetles. They just move from one plant to the next when the new leaves are right for them. Unfortunately, I have not noticed any feeding on the poison ivy! Maybe John Swanson can give us an update on the results of the control method he is trying.

It is time to make a second application of fertilizer to help feed the next flush of growth. This application is usually half of the application amount made earlier in the year. Watering is very important right now and for the remainder of the summer unless we are blessed with monsoon quality rains like we have had during the past two summers. Newly planted camellias should be watered at least twice a week if there is no rain. Some of our really serious camellia growers water these new plants daily! A little much, maybe, but whatever works for you.



*Rose Bouquet*



*Marilyn Maphis*

So, what's happening in the camellia world? Still not a whole lot, unfortunately, no thanks still to Covid. As mentioned in our April Newsletter, John Swanson hosted the Second Annual Air Layering Extravaganza at his home on Friday, April 23. I was in attendance along with several other camellia enthusiasts. John had it all very well organized and a good time was had by all. Plus, there was a tasty lunch along with good conversation. Maybe John will give us a rundown of the event. For those familiar with air layering, there is still plenty of time to air layer. My last air layers are usually made in early August. Roots appear in about 6 months or so these rooted branches can then be cut from the mother plant and potted in February or March.

Our next meeting, at 2:00 PM on May 16<sup>th</sup>, will be the last GCS Zoom meeting before the 3-month summer break. Hope you all can join us. Even if you join us but do not say anything, that is ok. If you have flowers or other related things to show to the group, please do. Remember to sign in on Zoom a bit early using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82300009553?pwd=UGJBSSStGU3RZMCM9WMXNmc0dJdXV5QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0000 9553

Passcode: 216049

If you click on the link above that begins with https the meeting should load. I included the meeting ID and password just in case you cannot get on with the link, but you probably will not need them. It is ok to sign on 10 to 15 minutes early just to chat. As a reminder, this link never changes from meeting to meeting, so if you can find a Newsletter from September 2020 up until this one, you should have the correct link.

Harriet and I have been in Boston from May 6-11 to see Harriet's daughter graduate from Northeastern University. It has been cooler than I prefer, but we had the opportunity to see a second spring. The parks are full of tulips, daffodils, and other flowers. It was fun but I am ready to be back in the Florida heat! Guess I need to stop writing and get it to Anna so she can do her magic and turn it into part of another beautiful newsletter. So, take care, hope everyone is well, and I look forward to seeing you on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM!

Cheers,

***Jerry Hogsette, President***



*Veiled Beauty*

## ***Minutes for GCS Meeting – April 18, 2021***

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

The meeting via ZOOM was called to order at 2:07 p.m. by our President, Jerry Hogsette. There were 15 members digitally present.

The meeting started with the Educational Program. Hawser Pearce introduced a recorded talk by Randolph Maphis entitled “Best Reticulatas”. The video portion was broadcast well, but the audio portion was inaudible. Hawser had seen the recording so many times that he proceeded to narrate. Members were treated to spectacular images of recent and established Reticulata hybrids developed by some of the greatest camellia experts of our era, including the Gordys and John Wang, along with many blooms by Randolph. Some truly outstanding blooms included Lake Erhai Pearl, Redheart, which has red stamens, and Faultless Jade which has a green center. Hawser did a great job of recalling many details of the talk and engaging members in commentary and brief discussions.

The audio portion of recorded talks should be working for our final Zoom meeting in May.



*Florence Stratton*



*Kay Berridge*

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

Jerry started the business meeting at 2:26 p.m. with the Treasurer’ report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Treasurer’s Report**

Merry Reid sent this updated Treasurer’s report to Jerry Hogsette:

Checking total = \$3,629

Savings total = \$15,202

Overall total = \$18,831

We still have enough funding to cover two major shows. Bill Hayes moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. John Swanson seconded the motion and it passed.

Hawser Pearce moved that we accept the March 2021 minutes. Deborah Ellis seconded the motion and it passed.

Jerry reported that he attended the Wilmot Gardens plant sale along with Bill Hayes, Irma Velez and John Swanson. They sold 75 air-layered plants donated by John and Jerry, which will net the GCS \$750. The plants were in great shape and sold themselves!



*Professor Charles S. Sargent  
May 6, 2021*



*C. Edithae*

Jerry reminded everyone that it's beetle season. The leaf-eaters leave camellia plants with "lacey" leaves but otherwise don't hurt the plant. However, it makes them harder to sell. Jerry reviewed the use of the spray-on systemic pesticide "Biphenthrin", which is widely available. Bill Hayes said he gets the concentrate from Helena Chemicals locally. Jerry uses Orthene which will not hurt "good" bugs.

John Swanson reported that the systemic granules he uses are too costly for large plants at \$49/can. He's used 10 cans so far. However, the product may to be cost effective for small potted plants. He'll keep updating us.

Hawser asked if liquid Sevin (Carbaryl) would work on the beetles. Jerry replied that it would, but the beetles would need to eat part of the leaves.

NEW BUSINESS

Anna Langford has completed updating the membership list. If anyone would like a digital copy, just ask Anna via email at [anna@langfordmail.com](mailto:anna@langfordmail.com).

Diane Simon reported that there are still a few GCS positions open for next year. Seven members of the Board have agreed to stay on, which leaves three openings. The Board meets once in the summer to discuss ideas to present to GCS membership. Anyone who would like to be a Board member can email Diane at [dianecsimon@yahoo.com](mailto:dianecsimon@yahoo.com).



*Betty Sette*

The position for Program Director is also open. Charles Simon suggested that members with colleagues and friends that would be willing to present relevant talks could make contact and arrange for the Program Director to schedule a presentation. The Director could also present talks recorded via ZOOM by the American Camelia Society. These two changes would make the Directorship position more manageable. Members thought these were good ideas. Anyone interested in the position of Program Director should contact Diane before the May 16, 2021 meeting. We would like to have all positions filled by the end of the May meeting.



*Cherries Jubilee*

John Swanson reminded everyone that he's hosting a camelia air-layering event and pot-luck lunch at his place this Friday, April 23, 2021, starting at 9:00 a.m. He sent lists of available plants and items needed for air-layering to everyone and so far has 16 people that are planning to attend. He would like to air-layer an additional 125 plants for the GCS.

John told us that he's invited Ms. Amy Puccio from the Alachua County School District "Grow Hub" program to attend the air-layering event and will provide her with materials and support to air-layer 12 plants.

Mona Rippe informed the group that Grow Hub employs and trains people in the nurseries field. She said this was a very good program which supplies employment and skills to people who need them. They also sell plants in great condition for discounted prices.

John Swanson told us that Chuck Ritter also wants volunteers who know how to air-layer to come to his property and propagate his plants, including show plants! He will no longer travel to camelia shows and would like his prize plants to be out in the community.



*Georgia Fire*



*Henry Parrish, variegated*

### Final Comments

Richard Mohr reported from Maryland that they have beautiful camelia blossoms in their garden which are still blooming nicely, including Royal Velvet, Bev Piet's Smile, Dr. Clifford Park and Crimson Candles. He showed us some nice pictures of winter blossoms on plants with snow all around! This was a marvel for some the native Floridians in our group. All he does for cold protection is cover the base of the plants with pine needles. The low this recent winter was 15°F. The plants are very cold hardy.

There was some discussion of the large camelia tree in Dresden, Germany that has a greenhouse on railroad tracks that covers the tree in winter. This was the ultimate winter protection versus Richard's pine needles!

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm and A  
**GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!**

***Charles Simon, Secretary***



*Maroon and Gold*

Photos of flowers are from the garden of John Swanson.

***Air Layer Day 2021 at John Swanson's***



Patrick Andrews, Diane Simon, John Swanson, Charles Simon, Bob Weidman, and Jerry Hogsette

Amy Puccio of Gro Hub



Jerry Hogsette and Sandra Overstake

Ron Stevens and Deborah Engquist



Patrick Andrews and Bob Weidman



John Brunner



### ***Announcements***

We are in need of volunteers for the Board of Directors. At present, we have seven Directors, and we need ten. The Board usually meets once a year at the end of the summer. If you are interested, please contact either Diane Simon <dianecsimon@yahoo.com> or Jerry Hogsette <jhogsett@bellsouth.net>.

We have an updated membership list with contact information. If you would like a copy, please email Anna Langford <anna@langfordmail.com> and she will send it to you.

### ***Date and place of meeting***

May 16, 2021

Via ZOOM at 2pm

### ***Dues***

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:

Merry Reid  
7631 Monongahela Avenue  
Keystone Heights FL 32656

merryreid@outlook.com

If you have purchased any plants, please send a check for your purchases to Merry also.

### ***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: Jerry Hogsette  
1st VP & Show Chair: Debbie Ellis  
2nd VP & Program Chair: Hawser Pearce  
Treasurer: Merry Reid  
Secretary: Charles Simon

***Board Members***

Patrick Andrews  
Jay Ellis  
Cathy Martin  
Bev Ritter  
Chuck Ritter  
Diane Simon  
John Swanson  
Irma Velez  
Carter Wittman

***Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society***

***Date:*** Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 2pm

***Place:*** via ZOOM (See invitation in the President's Message.)

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