

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.