

# OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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Editor, Lisa Freeland

Welcome Back!

February 2025

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## **NEXT CLUB MEETING:** **Sunday, February 2nd 2025**

**We meet at 2pm:**  
**Marion County Sheriff's Office**  
**South Multi-District Office**  
**3260 SE 80<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Ocala, FL 34480**

**Welcome to Our New**  
**Members who joined at our**  
**recent show!**

**Guest Speaker:** ..... y is Dr. Charles Guy, an Emeritus and Courtesy Professor at the Department of Environmental Horticulture at the University of Florida. He has been doing research on understanding the effects of gardening and soil exposure on human health. This study is has demonstrated that contact with the soil may lead to modulation of immune system function. This study shows how gardening can lead to changes in a gardener's microbiome. He has also been working at the Wilmot Botanical Gardens to help solve problems with both the loss of mature trees in the garden and in the camellias.

Plus, we'll have plants for auction this month!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, fellow camellia lovers!

Our show was quite the success with a bounty of flowers presented; our official bloom count was 719! This was especially good news in light of the deeply unpleasant weather in south Georgia and far north Florida that happened the week before the show. Some of our exhibitors contended with actual SNOW in their yards—gasp!

I have so many volunteers to thank but let me start with our club officers, Sally Layendecker, Jill Reed and Kathryn Sickling. Committee chairs also did a great job in managing their tasks: Marge got our judges in place; Jill Reed handled placement; Martha Campbell-Thompson handled the clerks; Justin Schneider wrangled the plant sales; Kathryn provided our breakfast on Saturday; Laura picked up the extra plants at John's Nursery; and the whole team rotated among the tables, sales and clean-up. The phrase "Many hands make light work" certainly proved true for us. We were out of the church by 5:30 on Saturday and done by 3:30 on Sunday.

Our last meeting of the season will be Sunday, March 2, same bat time, same bat channel. We'll have our annual potluck, so I'll pass out sign-up sheets at our meeting this Sunday. And we can discuss the option of getting a different entrée provided by the club. The Lee's fried chicken at the show was a definite hit with our judges!

Hope to see you this Sunday!

*Belea T. Keeney, President*



## **Ocala Camellia Society General Meeting Minutes January 5, 2025**

Introduced visiting guests and new members.

Mark Crawford talk/presentation was on Four Season Camellias and his trip on behalf of ACS to China to tour the nurseries that are developing and growing the new C. Changii (azalea)

This new variety blooms all summer, red is the dominant color, most are grafted on Gaochowensis camellia root stock. The plant is petal blight free and it is fast growing.

The partnership is between the growers and ACS. After two years in quarantine what plants survived are in Lockslee, Alabama. Product should be available in some markets including Florida by 2026.

Business meeting items:

1- Minutes from previous meetings, approvals.

2- Show stuff

a. Announced committee leaders: Justin doing plant sales; Jill doing placement; Marge handles judges; Martha doing clerks; Ricardo did press, etc.

b. Show tasks/items for discussion:

- Decided to buy 150 more plants from John's Nursery which includes Sassanquas. Margie and Laura will pick them up and deliver them on Friday.
- Plant sales to start at 7AM for judges, if they want them they should set them aside and put their name on it till the show starts
- Marge still working on judges, Brian Dick will be head judge.
- Belea and Susan will do tag counts in the kitchen to determine prizes.
- 2pm presentations Sat will be done by Mike and Sun by Sally in the stage area.
- Walked thru Fri, Sat, Sun task sheets and filled in PRN
- Discuss re Square and using Laura's again this year. We will use Laura's this year and figure out how to set it up before the show next year. We will talk to Gainesville and Lakeland clubs to see how they set them up.
- Passed around show task sheets for additional sign ups.
- It was voted to have Sally order 25 2 piece meals from Lees Chicken and Kathryn will get the drinks when she buys the breakfast items.
- Kathryn will buy donuts and provide other foods for breakfast.
- We will meet at 10:00 to load the plants at Jill's. We will need people to meet at

the Ft King Church at 11:30 to unload the plants, fill water cups, put plastic on tables, etc.

- Laura to get the black plastic 2700 linear feet.
- Jill to provide the alphabetical signs and labels to use when we put the plants out. Sassanquas and Reticulatas will be in a separate section.
- Marge needs to have 100 programs printed up once Belea gets the program to her.
- Judges packets are done by Marge the week before so she needs the programs before then.
- Citrus Chronicle likes to put show promotional information in their paper so they should be contacted.
- Time for starting on Sunday needs confirming as we didn't know what time was given to the advertisers. It was said that starting at noon would be preferable due to church member parking issues.
- We voted to have the Peacock Cottage provide 25 \$10 plants to give as judges gifts. Laura will bring them on Saturday.
- Judges and those with large numbers of entries should park in the back and bring in plants thru the east door rather than the front door.
- Belea will bring the tape and Marge will recommend how far apart placing it.
- Pioneer garden club will not do arrangements this year.
- We will not have show donations this year the club will handle all prize costs.
- Belea will scan all the sign-up sheets and Lisa will email it out to our members.
- Buddy McKay passed away at the age of 92. We should do a sympathy card from the club.
- If weather calls for rain people volunteered to bring tents for the outside plant sellers.
- Everyone is encouraged to bring plants to enter. We have the forms available and if you have address stamps or stickers utilize them on your entry forms to save time writing.

3- Field trips. Sally working to organize Wilmot trip to UF. No update yet.

4- Aprons for shows. Justin provided in exchange for \$160 of County Line plants.

5. Reminder: Next meeting will be Feb 2, March 2 (potluck/end of season party)

Submitted by Kathryn Sickling, secretary

## **How to Wax Camellias**

### **Presentation by Sally Layendecker, OCS Vice-President**

Sally showed us in our December meeting how to wax and preserve our lovely camellias. Here's the process if you'd like to try it yourself:

Supplies needed:

- 5 pounds canning wax
- 1.5 pints of mineral oil
- Ice water, as needed
- Old crockpot (you won't be using this for food ever again!)
- Bowl for water and ice cubes
- Candy thermometer

Heat the wax and oil in the crockpot until it reaches 138 degrees. Remove the leaves and the buds on your camellias bloom and give yourself a fairly long stem (4-6 inches) to hold the bloom. Pull back any remaining leaves and dip the entire bloom into the heated wax mixture using a slanted approach, not straight up and down. Remember you're dipping with more of a sideways motion than just plonking it straight down. Immediately drop the waxed bloom carefully into the ice water basin. Try not to bump the flower; you want to retain that waxy seal. Leave it in the cold water for up to 30 minutes to let it set completely. If the wax seal isn't broken, blooms can last up to several months!

### **Ocala Camellia Society Meeting Schedule**

#### **Mark your calendars!!**

March 2, 2025- final season meeting and potluck meal

The Board of Directors will meet over the summer and determine next season's schedule; it's likely we will keep the same first Sunday afternoon general time frame, but we are looking for a more central location for the meetings. Anyone with concrete information or who wants to research some meeting space, please do so. ☺

# Ocala Camellia Society 2025 Show

**Best Bloom in show - Ray Gentry Var –  
exhibited by Louis and Joanne Raska**



**Best Species - Star Above Star - Susan Dunn**



**Runner Up, Species - C. handelii, Susan Dunn**



**Best Mutant - color sport of Joy Kendrick, Jill Reed**



**Best Local Pink - Rosalyn Carter, Belea Keeney**



**Best Local Variegated- C. M. Wilson V, Susan Dunn**



## **Best Local Formal Double- Buttermint, Martha Campbell-Thompson**



Show photos, courtesy of Jill Reed

The following plants will be auctioned at the Feb 2 meeting:

**Phyllis Hunt**



**Lady Van Sittart**





These plants will be raffled at the Feb 2 meeting:

Extra Point



Taylor's Perfection



Pleasant Memories



Tom Perkins



High Fragrance



Borom's Gem



Taylor's Perfection



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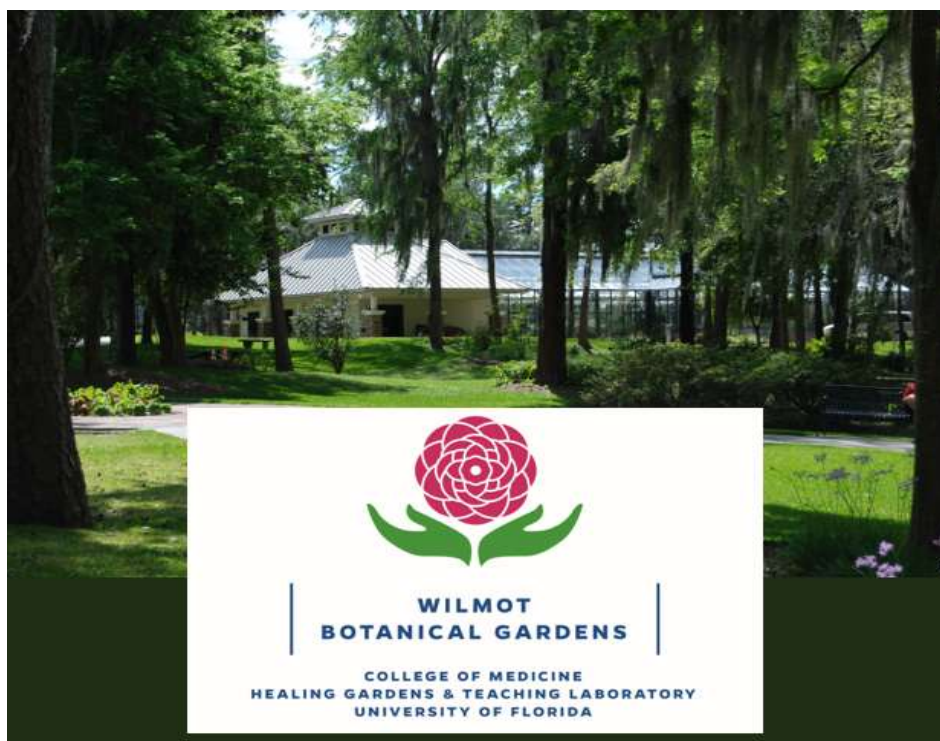
photos, courtesy of Jill Reed

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## **UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS**

**February 7, 2025: Field Trip to The Wilmot Botanical Garden, Gainesville, FL.**

Please join us on a field trip to the Wilmot Botanical Gardens on the University of Florida's campus in Gainesville, Florida. These gardens are on the American Camilla Trail and are the home to many of the over 300 camellias that were donated to UF from the private collection of Drs. Clarence and Lillian Gordy. We will be taking a tour with Dr. Craig Tisher, the director of the gardens. We have a guided tour set up on Friday, Feb. 7 at 1:00 PM. We may also, if time permits, visit some more of the camellia gardens on the UF campus. As parking in the gardens is limited, we will need to carpool. At our meeting In Feb., we will have signup sheets to travel together.



### **UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS**

(Listings per ACS website)

If you still have blooms and want to show them, several upcoming camellias shows are on the calendar. We've only listed the ones in the southeast.

**February 8-9, 2025:** Grand Strand Camellia Society, Murrells Inlet, SC, Murrells Inlet Community Center

**February 15-16, 2025:** Greenville Camellia Society, Greenville, AL, LBW Community College

**February 22, 2025:** Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Fort Valley, GA, Massee Lane Gardens.

**February 22, 2025:** Tidewater Camellia Club, Wilmington NC, New Hanover County Arboretum

**February 22, 2025:** Camellia Club of New Orleans, New Orleans LA, University of New Orleans

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.**



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January 2025

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**We meet at 2pm:  
Marion County Sheriff's Office  
South Multi-District Office  
3260 SE 80<sup>th</sup> St.  
Ocala, FL 34480**

**Guest Speaker:** Mark Crawford, from the Gainesville Camellia Society, will be sharing his expertise on camellias with us in between his duties at the ACS annual conference.

Welcome to Our New  
Members!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, fellow camellia lovers!

I'm pleased to report my little Rosalynn Carter has finally started blooming, and I may even have some of its flowers to bring to the show this year! Woo hoo!

Our meeting on January 5 will be our last get-together before the January 25 & 26 show at Fort King Presbyterian Church. We have lots of tasks to handle before then, including pre-show setup on Friday, January 24. It would be great if you can come help us out, help the club and promote the beauty of camellias to the public. We could use some muscle to load and unload the plants especially on that Friday.

For media coverage, we'll have a feature story in the local *352 Preview* magazine in January along with my garden column in *Ocala Style*. Other media outlets may carry our press release too as the time gets closer to our show.

Hope to see you this Sunday!

*Belea T. Keeney, President*



## **Ocala Camellia Society General Meeting Minutes December 1, 2024 2pm**

Agenda for today: potluck until 2:45pm; brief business meeting, demonstration/workshop on waxing camellias from Sally and Marge.

Intro any visiting guests and new members.

Business meeting items:

**1- Minutes from previous meetings, approvals.**

**2- Show stuff**

- a. Announce committee leaders: Justin doing plant sales; Jill doing placement; Marge handles judges; Martha doing clerks; Ricardo did press, etc. Report from Ricardo re media coverage.
- b. Plants from Jill's to church- who will help- pass around sign-up sheet
- c. Passed around task sheets for show to-dos.
- d. Suggestions/comments? None rec'd.

**3- Field trips:** Sally working to organize Wilmot trip to UF in February. Date TBD, Sally is researching to see if Sunday is an option.

**4- Aprons for shows, runway showing from Justin?** Justin not present.

**5- New items from club members? Q&A, general discussion**

**6- Wrap up, review any action items, remind folks re next meeting, close**

**7- Reminder:** Next meeting will be Jan 5, Feb 2, March 2 (potluck/end of season party)

**8- January Snack volunteers:** Judy Vaughn, Annie Aierstock, Ann Greenwood.

**9- Waxing demonstration and hands-on** with club members.

**10-**

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Freeland

## 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!!**

January 5, 2025- pre-show prep meeting

February 2, 2025

March 2, 2025- season potluck meal

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### **UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS**

(Listings per ACS website)



**January 11-12, 2025:** Tallahassee Camellia Society, Doyle Conner Ag Building.

**January 11, 2025:** Lakeland Camellia Society, First Presbyterian Church.

**January 18, 2025:** Aiken Camellia Society, St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church.

**January 18, 2025:** Camellia Society of Central Florida, Mead Botanical Gardens, Winter Park.

**January 18, 2025:** Aiken Camellia Society, St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church.

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

<https://www.americancamellias.com/camellia-shows/upcoming-camellia-shows-2024-2025-season>



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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.**

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Editor, Lisa Freeland

Happy Holidays!

December 2024

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

We will have the Holiday Potluck Dinner, a camellia waxing demonstration, and club meeting. Please join us for good food, fun with our flowers, and plans for the January show!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, fellow camellia lovers!

Many of you are reporting that some of your plants have started blooming. I'm jealous. So jealous. My Rosalynn Carter usually starts blooming in mid-December, and the Nuccio and Purity pictured above, \*sometimes\* give me flowers in time for our show. Sometimes. Some years, I've literally knocked on neighbors' doors and asked to cut flowers from their yards to display in our show! Is that devotion or insanity??

We are looking forward to our holiday potluck December 1. The club is providing fried chicken and Honey Baked ham, and club members are bringing their sides and desserts. The current list of selections/sign-ups is on page 5, and feel free to email me directly and let me know if you'd like to bring more goodies. We definitely could use drinks and ice if anyone is inclined.

This month, we'll have the always-fun camellia waxing demonstration. Bring the flowers you have ready!! Sally reports that lighter colored flowers do better with waxing, and they'll last up to three weeks once waxed.

We'll also talk a bit more about the show logistics, and I'll pass around the sign-up sheets for volunteers. Right now, we need a couple more folks on the membership table and a crew to load and unload the sales plants.

Hope to see you this Sunday!

*Belea T. Keeney, President*

# Ocala Camellia Society General Meeting Notes

November 10, 2024 2pm



We welcomed a new member at the meeting: Ricardo Garavito.

Our speaker John Swanson, who is president of the Gainesville ACS chapter, gave us some history and info about our favorite flowers. Some of his comments and recommendations are as follows:

Camellias were first introduced in China at 2700 BC. Camellia to the US first through England and raised in pots. There are about 280 species of camellia.

Sasanquas are more tolerant to heat and cold. Reticulatas and reds are more tolerant of sun, but whites need more shade. Don't prune Reticulatas except dead branches.

Variegated camellias can produce a Sport. If you see you have a Sport two years in a row you should air layer it and name it if there hasn't been recorded yet.

Hybridizers are crossing camellias and camellia azalea to make a new variety that blooms in the off season. It is in the camellia family. Many are being propagated at this time and will be available in about a year.

Horticulture oil spray can be put on one to two times a year. Good to do in spring when new buds come out.

Don't overwater plants, especially those in pots. Twice a week is plenty, let the pot dry off in between.

Air layering roots form at the top of the air layer. Squeeze moss so not too much water is in it. Seal the top and middle with plumbers tape but leave the bottom open to drain.

He buys soil from Blooming House Nursery but you can use pine bark, sand and fertilizer for your soil.

Peacock ginger is a nice complement when planted with camellias.

## **Business meeting items:**

### **1- Show stuff**

- a. Jill has our show info updated with ACS.
- b. Committee leaders are: Justin doing plant sales; Jill doing flower placement; Marge handles judges; Martha doing clerks; Lisa handles press, Kathryn and Annie will do hospitality. If Annie can't then Laura will help.



c. Plants from Jill's to church will be picked up by Kathryn on January 24th at 12 and we need 6 to 8 people to help load and unload the plants. Cash will check at the church to see if the Boy Scouts would help unload. We need a diagram of how we want them placed so they are only handled once.

d. Task sheets for volunteers were passed around. We need volunteers for all categories.

e. Press releases needed to various media. Ricardo offered to handle. Belea sent him templates of emails, the new press release and a list of media outlets.

g. Suggestions/comments?

2- Treasurer's report- Jill reported on October 1st we had \$15,969.29 and on November meeting we have \$10,314.08. Most of this was from the purchase of plants for the camellia show.

3- Discussed Dec potluck. Sally will buy the chicken and Belea will get the ham for the club to purchase and the sheet was passed around for what others will bring.

4- Plant pick up at Jill's will be at noon on January 24th. 6-8 volunteers are needed to load the horse trailer.

5- Field trips. Sally is working to organize Wilmot trip to UF in February after the ACS show. We will carpool there.

6- New items from club members? Laura wanted to know if we are getting a credit card reader for the show this year. Jill to research.

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

9- The plant auction was a big success with very lovely plants bought and picked up by Marge Hendon. Thank you, Marge!

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Sickling, secretary.



Photo from the McKay's garden from our 2021 field trip.

## Holiday Potluck items: Fried chicken and ham provided by club!



Here's who signed up at our last meeting. We could use someone to specifically bring ice and drinks. If you'd like to bring something, please email Belea directly at [belea\\_dot\\_keeney\\_AT\\_gmail.com](mailto:belea_dot_keeney_AT_gmail.com)

Judy V, potato casserole  
Gwynn P, corn casserole  
Ricardo G, chicken & rice  
Annie A, casserole  
Martha CM, side dish  
Diane F, fruit plate

Diane P, salad, dessert  
Ann G, appetizer  
Lisa F, dessert  
Patricia M, side dish  
Belea K, side dish

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## **Ocala Camellia Society Meeting Schedule**

### **Mark your calendars!!**

January 5, 2025- pre-show prep meeting and speaker

January 25-26, 2025 show dates!

February 2, 2025, regular meeting and speaker

March 2, 2025- end-of-season potluck meal

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## **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 December 2, 2024 (Last Call).

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

The Gainesville Camellia Society is hosting the national camellia convention and putting on its 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.

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



## **UPCOMING ACS COOPERATIVE SHOWS AND EVENTS**

(Listings per ACS website)



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**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, Lisa Freeland

Welcome to Fall

November 2024

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## **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**

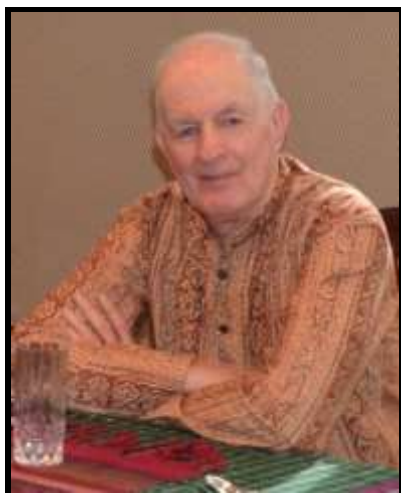
We'll have a speaker presentation, snacks the club meeting, and plants for auction!

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)**

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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.

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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\_\_\_\_

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# OCALA CAMELLIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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Editor, Lisa Freeland

Welcome Back!

October 2024

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## **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



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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.

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### **American Camellia Society Convention Schedule**

#### **January 2-5, 2025**

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

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**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.

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

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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



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Editor, TBD

Welcome Back!

September 2024

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## 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.

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## **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 Cantey Building.

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