



THE PENSACOLA CAMELLIA

APRIL 2011

Newsletter Editor

Sandra Sherman



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My how time flies. This is my second message to the newsletter. It seems like I was elected yesterday. Last week I traveled to Georgia and Alabama to visit Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain Georgia, and Masee Lane in Fort Valley, Alabama. The weather and the flowers were beautiful. This was my first visit to Masee Lane. What a place. Even at this late date, many Camellias were in bloom and what variety of plants to see. I encourage you to visit Masee Lane next winter when the Camellias are in bloom again. If you are a member of the American Camellia Society (you should be), entrance to the gardens is free.

I attended the Judges training session offered by our club recently. I learned a lot about judging Camellias. I have a great deal of respect for the judges. There is so much involved in selecting the winning blooms. With all the work the exhibitors spend on growing prize winning Camellias, experienced judges are a necessity. There are many rules that our club can help you with in being a winner. We have instituted the Camellia-pedia at the general meeting to help our members understand the culture of camellias and the ins and outs of a winning bloom. Any ideas on items you would like to discuss would be appreciated.

While we take a Camellia vacation for the summer, it is important to prune, fertilize, and spray your camellias so when blooming season comes around, you will have some winners. Our last general meeting before summer will be at the Garden Center, April 19th at 6:30. John Davy will talk about pruning. To wrap up the season, our annual camellia picnic will be at the Bayview Community Center, on Saturday, May 7th from 4-6 PM. It will be potluck. Final information will be available at the upcoming general meeting. And I need to mention, we always need volunteers for a variety of activities. Please consider giving some of your time to your Pensacola Camellia Club.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * April meeting on April 19, 2011. Social at 6:30
Meeting starts at 7:00
- * Flower Festival at Pensacola State College Milton Campus
April 8-10, 2011
- * Membership Picnic
May 7, 2011 Bayview
Community Center

PENSACOLA CAMELLIA CLUB (PCC) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- TO FOSTER AND MAINTAIN AN INTEREST IN CAMELLIAS AND THEIR CULTURE
- TO PROMOTE THE STUDY OF CAMELLIAS
- TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEIR EXHIBITION AND APPRECIATION, NOMENCLATURE AND TO RECOGNIZE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ENHANCED THE CAMELLIA IN OUR SOCIETY

2011 OFFICERS

President- Charles Fosha
 1st VP & Show Chair-Sandra Sherman
 2ndVP & Program Chair-Bruce Musselman
 3rd VP, Membership-Judy Kerr
 Secretary-Norman Vickers
 Treasurer- Thekla Morris
 Past-President Skip Vogelsang

2011 BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Angello
 Joan Blanchard
 LeAnna Brennan
 Carol Comber
 Dennis Kohli
 Gabriel "Ole" Olsen
 Roger Vinson-Foundation chair & ACS Past President

Membership minutes

TUESDAY MARCH 15, 2011

AT GARDEN CENTER

Social time began at 6:30 p.m. Meeting was called to order by President Charles Fosha at 7:00. A plaque was presented to **Carol Comber** in appreciation for her service as editor of our newsletter since 2008. A round of applause was also extended. Sandra Sherman, PCC 1st Vice President and Show Chair, will serve as new editor.

Membership chair Judy Kerr announced that current membership is 198. There were 60 persons attending tonight including 6 guests. Ten persons joined the club at our March 12 Community Camellia Show.

Treasurer Thekla Morris reported cash balance of \$6,228.71.

Program chair Bruce Musselman reported on previous field trips. Next month nurseryman and PCC member John Davy will present a program on pruning camellias.

Publicity Chair Norman Vickers reported that we have had excellent publicity from the print and broadcast media. He reminds members also to check the Saturday back section of the paper—auto and want ads—as there is frequently a “Things To Do” column where club activities are frequently listed.

Plant Sales chair Dick Hooton reported that plant sales in last two months have totaled \$830. This is a major income source for the club as our annual show costs several thousand dollars to produce. Shade House inventory is where it should be. There are only 25 plants for sale now. Let Hooton know your desires for plants as there is only one more meeting and the picnic before summer recess, when he will be searching and buying new plants for sale at the December

show. He urges you to participate in the air layering, as this is a great financial boost to the club.

Skip Vogelsang reported on the success of the **Community Camellia Show** held Sat. March 12. There were many blooms entered. Many received prizes for entries and ten persons joined the club at the show. As previously reported, plants sales were good. It was a great success and we will plan for a similar event next year. **Roger Vinson**, PCC Foundation chair and immediate American Camellia Society Immediate-Past President, reported on the **ACS national show in Macon, GA Feb 24-27**. Ten persons attended: Bill Bennett, Gabriel Olsen, Carol Comber, Judge Vinson, Bette and Dick Hooton, Judy Woerner and Bill Andrews and Betty and Norman Vickers. Carol Comber and Ole Osen had medical emergencies and were hospitalized. Both have recovered and are home now.

The Camellia show was held nearby at Masee Lane, ACS headquarters near Fort Valley. There were 2,000 gorgeous blooms and the Masee Lane gardens were in pristine condition. Vinson urged membership in ACS as it is great benefit to camellia culture, nationally and world-wide. Cost for membership \$30/year or online (without the ACS quarterly) is \$20/year. See www.americancamellias.org for details, but contact Judy Kerr for your membership as we are in competition with other clubs for membership prize.

Judy Kerr is in charge of **air-layering** sessions this year. She will organize some during the week and at least one on a Saturday to accommodate most people’s schedules. Hooton urged participation as this assists the club financially through plant sales.

And, he emphasizes, one may also air layer for personal use, good and

inexpensive way to get new plants for personal use.

Plant pot exchange: Norma English says bring your pots—any size—to meeting or picnic and she can exchange for the 3- gallon pots we need for shade house.

New member raffle: Suzon Wilson won a camellia plant.

Judging school: will be held Saturday March 26 at St. Christopher’s Church beginning at 9 a.m. Cost is \$25 and includes light lunch. This is for both new judges and those ACS judges needing re-certification.

Recertification class begins at 2:00 p.m. Carol Comber says contact her for registration and details 455-8496 or cjean2@bellsouth.net

Picnic: is set for Saturday May 7 at Bayview Community Center from 4-6 p.m. **Vickers** reported that this will be a “pot-luck” event. More details will be forthcoming. Mark your calendars for this annual fun event.

Camellia-pedia: (This is a new feature and new term invented by our president Charles Fosha). Dick Hooton gave a brief presentation about how one judges a camellia for a show. Photo of two blooms from recent Community Camellia Show was used as an illustration. This is expected to be a regular feature of future programs. Purpose is to increase member knowledge about camellias.

After a brief refreshment break, **Bruce Musselman** gave a demonstration of **air-layering** a camellia.

Raffle: Joe Light and LeAnna Brennan won plants.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Secretary’s note: It is with regret we note the **death** of our member **Carol Whitmer** on February 26.

F. Norman Vickers, Secretary

Our First Novice Show

By Skip Vogelsang

As many of you know the Pensacola show is held each year on the 2nd Saturday of December (so go ahead and put it on your calendar now). We hope it is considered to be one of the best on the gulf coast and we work hard to make it that way. But our show, along with the majority of gulf coast shows, targets a **very** small percentage of the camellia growing community. For example our club has 210 members but fewer than 10% actually enter blooms in the show. Why? Well the answer is simple --- over 90% are **not** raving obsessive compulsive camellia whackos (like me and many of you) who start gibbing buds months in advance of the show. It seems over 90% of our members are normal, well adjusted individuals and couples who just like camellias and will probably never have a jar of gib in the fridge.

It only took our club a few decades before we were struck by this “blinding glimpse of the obvious”. So the next obvious question was; what can we do to provide the largest majority of our members with the opportunity to enjoy participation in a camellia show? We determined three essential factors:

1) It would require a separate show later in the blooming season when most members and non members would have naturally blooming camellias.

2) It would need to be a more casual, low key, emphasis on fun and education kind of a show that would not be intimidating for novices.

3) To make #2 possible it had to be a local community show for novices only (90% of our club and the entire greater Pensacola area).

The Plan

1) We held the one day event on March 12th at a smaller venue (local garden club building) with bloom entry from 8-10 am, judging at 11am and open to the public when judging ended. Visitors were able to buy plants and look at a camellia display during the judging.

2) It was a little tricky telling some of our more seasoned members they could not enter blooms in the show, so instead we encouraged them to bring their best blooms and we set up four tables on the opposite end of the room for display only. There were some really great blooms on display.

3) We also got our seasoned members involved as judges and instructors at the bloom prep tables and entry card completion tables.

4) We encouraged the community to bring blooms even if they didn't know the variety name and set up a separate bloom identification table with our most knowledgeable members. We even gave them metal tags to take home and put on their plant once it was identified. We gave away over 50 tags.

5) There were 30 awards given with a cost of about \$200. Most awards were donated by Judy Kerr. Ribbons were also awarded as usual.

We even set up tables for the entry of unnamed blooms and gave awards based upon size alone in the Unnamed Division.

The Results

The entire set up took one hour with about 20 volunteers. Clean up took 30 minutes. We always have a great group of volunteers that make organizing events a pleasure. We counted about 450 blooms (200 display only). The casual low key tone of the show created a very comfortable experience for novices and it was great to see so many blooms brought in for identification during peak blooming season. Our more seasoned members really caught the spirit of the show and did a great job assisting and teaching novices. We should have tried to count how many people entered blooms for the first time ever, and how many won a ribbon for the first time ever and how many won an award for the first time ever but we did not. However there were a lot of happy people running around with ribbons and awards. A few days ago I was told a story about an 85 year old woman who won 2 ribbons at the show and then went home and attached them to a photo of her deceased husband who had encouraged her for years to participate in shows. **And we added 10 new members.**

I admit it is hard to be 100% objective about the results but in general we think the outcome met, or exceeded, our expectations for a first time event and we have no doubt that it will get better and better in the years ahead.

If you did not attend you missed a fun event and you need to be there next year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual picnic will be at Bayview Community Center on May 7, 2011, 4 pm to 6 pm There will be a sign up sheet at our April meeting.

It that time of year when we air-layer the Camellias for our club Judy Kerr, chairman phone 434-0326 or email:

judy.kerr@cox.net, will have a signup sheet at the April meeting . There are four gardens being offered for the air-layering this year

The following is a note from Dick Hooton

Since the club has lost one of its sources for grafting root stock, it is imperative that you order rootstock at the next (April) meeting or you may be in danger of not getting any.



Mrs. Katherine Geeker entered White Empress blooms for the first time and went to the head table. She was very excited when she found out she had won and she also joined our Club.



Judges Joe Light, Judy Kerr and Roger Vinson at community show



The panel of experts trying to decide the name of a bloom.



New President Chuck Fosha won 2 blue ribbons



Norma English selling Camellias on a beautiful spring day.

Photos By Norman Vickers

Thank you to everyone that sent me pictures of our Community flower show.

CAMELLIAS TIPS FOR APRIL

Rake or pick up all old blooms to prevent disease.

Prune your bushes after they finish blooming and spray if necessary.

Fertilizer and then mulch around the plants to help keep the moisture in on hot summer days.

If possible air-layer several plants to donate to the club in the fall.

Hi I'm the new editor of the Camellia newsletter. If you have something you would like to have printed in newsletter please email it to me at, shermanacs@aol.com Sandra Sherman

