September 2018 Newsletter



www.PensacolaCamelliaClub.com or like us on Face book.

President's Message

Hello Pensacola Camellia Club members!

The fall camellia season is coming soon to your plants or garden near you. In fact, it has started at the UWF Camellia Garden already because I found a



bloom on the Camellia Sinensis plant during our gibbing workday on September 8th. A picture of

this bloom can be found on our website and Face book page.

In Lauren and my garden, the efforts of pruning and fertilizing in March now show results in the plant growth and flower buds of our camellias. Some of them are young plants that we grafted or bought from the Club and have flower buds for the first time. And we spotted our first pink sasanqua bloom during our garden walk this afternoon.

The Pensacola Camellia Club will also have new things happening this year that I hope you will enjoy. The first new item is our improved website that is easier to use and looks great! I encourage all members to visit the website often to keep updated on club events and activities. Next, a new storage shed/club house will be built at the PCC Shade House property in the next two months. A third item is our October General Meeting will NOT be held at the Garden Center. Instead, our Club is hosting the Gulf Coast Camellia Society Conference on October 15th and 16th at the Palafox House in Pensacola. This two-day event will offer opportunities for our members to hear several speakers on camellia information, bid on very special camellia plants, meet members from clubs across several states, and enjoy dinner and socialize.

I think you can see the Pensacola Camellia Club is like our garden with many new things happening this year. Enjoy the season.

- John Mate

Upcoming Events September is all about gibbing!

Saturday Sept 15th Work Day - Gibbing at UWF 9:00 am to Noon.

This is an additional date added to our calendar for work at UWF's Camellia Garden. Gib is a method to enhance growth to have early blooms for our UWF Camellia Garden tours in October and December.

For our newer members, there is a map at the end of the newsletter to the UWF Camellia Garden or click on the link below to view the UWF garden information on our website. <u>https://pensacolacamelliaclub.com/uwf-camellia-garden/</u>

Tuesday Sept 18th - First meeting of the year at the Garden Center 6:30 pm for social, 7:00 pm program will cover 'BIGGER BLOOMS' and have a gibbing demonstration.

Saturday Sept 29th UWF Workday 9:00 – Noon. Practice your gibbing skills and help clean up the gardens for upcoming visitors. We have company coming and we would like to look our best for our guests.

The following article on Gibbing is from Fayetteville Camellia Club.

http://www.fayettevillecamelliaclub.org/Bigger-and-Better-Camellias.html

No matter how lovely a camellia is in its naturally occurring state, someone is always going to want a bloom to grow bigger and more beautiful. One way to force a specific blossom to be larger is to remove all other buds on that stem. This allows the plant to put all its energy into the one remaining bloom. With all that attention, how could it fail?

For those who want an even more dramatic result, there is gibberellic ("jibberELLic") acid, and the process known as gibbing ("jibbing"). Most plants produce small quantities of the growth-regulating chemicals known as gibberellins, and treatment with larger quantities does not seem to affect their blooming habits. With camellias, however, gibbing produces larger, sometimes more intensely colorful blooms, and can also influence when the blooms themselves appear.

The gibbing process is easy. There are two types of buds on a camellia plant: a growth bud (also called leaf bud or vegetative bud) and a flower bud. The growth buds are slim and pointy; the flower buds are rounded. Select a growth bud next to a nice, plump flower bud. Twist the growth bud until it comes away from the plant, leaving a little "cup" where it was attached. Put a drop of gibberellic acid into the cup, and that's it. Treat each bud just once.



Treat only up to about 20 per cent of the buds on a single plant. Treat different buds at different times so

that you'll have a continuous stream of treated flowers. Treat only a few buds on young

plants. Gibberellic acid breaks dormancy on a treated bud and encourages growth, but there is no way to accurately predict when the bud will bloom. This can differ from plant to plant. A little experimentation and basic



Apply one drop of gib to "cup" left after removing bud

record keeping will show you when to gib for the desired effect.

2018- 2019 Gibbing Schedule for Camellia Shows near Pensacola

This schedule is an approximation based upon an average time between the application of the gibberellic acid and blooming of about 6 weeks, bracketed with applications a week earlier or later. Thus, there are three application dates for each show. For example, if you gib 2 blooms on each plant at each application, you would have gibbed a total of 6 blooms on that plant --- and with luck maybe 1 of them will open in time for that show. The estimated time is for an average japonica plant in moderate shade and under normal Pensacola weather conditions.

| S | Show Date | 1 st Applicatic 7 weeks befo | ••• | 3 rd Application 5 weeks before |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Boston, GA | 11/3/18 | 9/16/18 | 9/23/18 | 9/30/18 |
| Gulfport, MS | 11/17/18 | 9/30/18 | 10/7/18 | 10/14/18 |
| Slidell, LA | 12/1/18 | 10/14/18 | 10/21/18 | 10/28/18 |
| Pensacola, FL | 12/8/18 | 10/21/18 | 10/28/18 | 11/4/18 |
| Covington, AL | 1/5/19 | 11/18/18 | 11/25/18 | 12/2/18 |
| Tallahassee, FL | 1/12/19 | 11/25/18 | 12/2/18 | 12/9/18 |
| Mobile, AL | 1/19/19 | 12/1/18 | 12/8/18 | 12/15/18 |
| Metairie, LA | 1/26/19 | 12/09/18 | 12/16/18 | 12/23/18 |
| Brookhaven, MS | 2/2/19 | 12/16/18 | 12/23/18 | 12/30/18 |
| Baton Rouge, LA | 2/9/19 | 12/23/18 | 12/30/18 | 1/06/19 |
| Mobile, AL* *ACS 2019 Natio | 2/15/19 onal Conventions Fe | 12/30/18 b. 15- 18, 2019 | 1/6/19 www.AlabamaCamelliaSociety.org | 1/13/19 |

There is no fixed time for the gib to take effect, and many factors will affect the time. Early blooming varieties usually bloom more quickly and late blooming varieties usually take longer; some take much longer. More mature buds will bloom sooner than less mature ones. Reticulatas normally average a longer time to bloom than do japonicas. Plants in full sun may also bloom sooner. Of course, abnormally warm weather will accelerate blooming, while heavy freezes and colder conditions will delay blooming. Go to the <u>American Camellia Society</u> website for a video demonstrating gibbing

Upcoming Events in October ...

Friday Oct 12th – Harvest air-layers that we did in the spring at various gardens. Greg Taylor will be at UWF gathering the air layers, if you were out there in April and can assist with the next step we would appreciate your help. Please show at 3:00pm for a quick collection of these future money makers.

Saturday Oct 13th – Work Day at Shade House 9:00am to Noon. We will be potting our harvested air layers, moving inventory, fertilizing and general clean up. Please bring your gloves and water bottles. This is when you will take home your 4th air layer so please don't miss out on your work you did in the spring.



Oct 15th - 16th PCC will host the Gulf Coast Camellia Society Conference in downtown Pensacola. Fellow camellia lovers from the southeastern US will come together to share camellia information and have a good time! PCC will be coordinating the many events; live and silent auctions, sightseeing tours, UWF Garden visit, camellia educational sessions, food, and fun with the help of PCC volunteers. *REMEMBER our Club meeting on Tuesday Oct 16th is replaced by this conference there will be <u>NO meeting at the Garden Center</u>. We hope you would plan on attending some or the entire event.*

Special guest speaker **Dr. Brie Arthur** <u>https://www.briegrows.com/brie-arthur</u>, will be featured at the Tuesday evening dinner.

Please click on the following link to print out the 3 paged document for all of the conference's daily activities along with the registration forms for this event. The registration **deadline is September 29**th so don't delay. <u>https://pensacolacamelliaclub.com/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2018/08/GCCS_Information_registration_2018.pdf</u>

Members Corner

The PCC Newsletter is adding a new feature. We would like to include brief camellia or club related articles from various members. The articles can be informative, nostalgic, or funny quips. I will be touching base with members to write these articles. Since I have volunteered to head this up, I have also agreed to turn this article out in less than 24 hours, so please no judging. Save that for the show.



As a member of our Camellia Club, I have had the opportunity to commune with people that I would never have encountered in my everyday life. I am so thankful for Club members who have invited me to their gardens for a visit or to discuss gardening ideas and the occasional opportunity to whack on someone else's camellias.

What is really great is when someone who is not a member shares what camellias mean to them or how camellias are linked to their family, and they tell me because I am in the Club. Last week, I learned a neat little trick from one such person. A neighbor showed me her large camellia which her father had planted when she was



a young child. The tree is 76 years old. Her father taught her to tie pieces of colorful netting around the seeds. This makes them easy to find on the tree and saves the seeds when they burst. There was so much warm sentiment in that moment, and I learned a great tip.

As this season gets going, remember that being in a club is so much more than showing up for meetings. Get involved. Volunteer for things that may not be in your wheel house. You too will have encounters that you would never have experienced if it were not for the Pensacola Camellia Club.

Christi Hankins

You can get involved with:

- Calling our 19 members without email of short notice events
- Taking photos at PCC events with your cell phone and sending them to our newsletter editor, Louise Seitz at pensacolacamellia@gmail.com
- Writing articles for the newsletter or for publicizing our PCC events
- Advertising to help spread the word about our events with everyone you meet with our new Club business card. Letting us know if you have a business, club, church that can advertise our events
- Speaking to a group at a school, assisted living location or library about camellias, our club, and upcoming events
- Making treat bags for the December Show judges
- Selling plants at the Palafox Market downtown on a Saturday in December and February
- Setting up prior to meeting or clean up after monthly meeting

These are just a few ways you can help out that would be greatly appreciated by your PCC Board. You can find the board members information on the website at <u>https://pensacolacamelliaclub.com/officers-and-board-of-directors/</u> if you have questions or suggestions to share.

The Pensacola Camellia Club Foundation provided financial support for the activities of the Pensacola Camellia Club. In years past, our club members had to solicit funds for the Show from local businesses and financial supporters. That was difficult, time consuming, and distasteful to most of our members. Now, thanks in large part to the Foundation's financial support, we no longer have to worry about financing our annual show and can devote our full attention to the show itself. Our Club greatly benefits from having our Foundation.

The Foundation always needs and welcomes your donations and memorial gifts. It is both exempt from federal income taxation, as a 501(c) (3) organization, and qualified to receive charitable contributions and bequests which are tax deductible for federal income, estate, and gift tax purposes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ONE OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS.

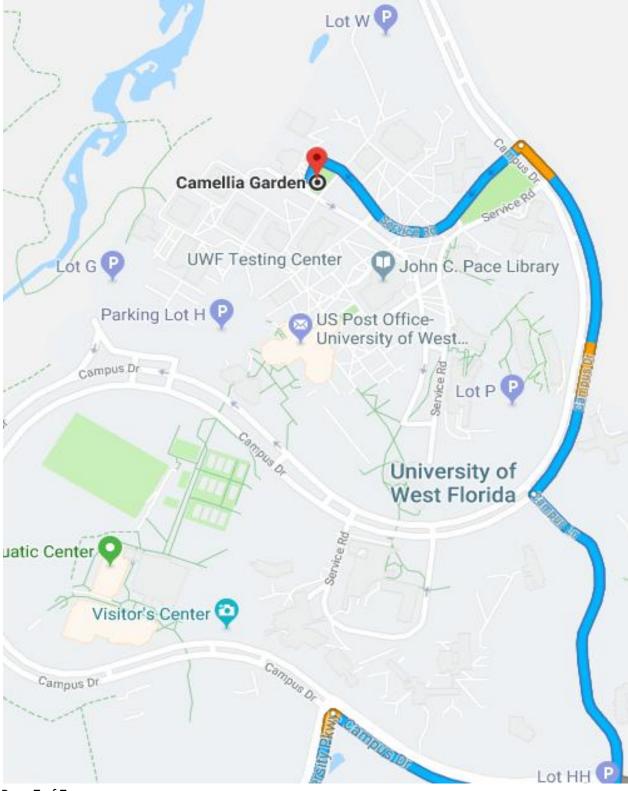
Chair: Roger Vinson Trustees: Trumin Brown, Richard Hooton, Alan McMillan, Skip Vogelsang, Mailing Address: PO Box 707, Pensacola, FL 32591 Email: <u>pensacolacamellia@gmail.com</u>





Map and directions to UWF Camellia Garden.

Directions to the garden; if heading east on 9 Mile Road you will turn North/left at University Pkwy. At the UWF entrance turn right at the light onto Campus Dr., at the next light turn left at Campus Lane than right back onto Campus Dr. your heading to Parking Lot W. Warning there is construction near the garden.



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