



President's Message

I like to talk about camellias and the Pensacola Camellia Club to whoever will listen. My audience over the holidays was some of our adult children and after a camellia garden tour at our home one of them asked, "How many members are in the club?" I answered "Around 270-285 members." The next question was what I thought the potential number of members could be. I replied quickly, "At least 10,000!"

When you finish laughing, I will make my case for that number. Walk any residential block in East Hill, North Hill, Warrington, and etc. and you'll see that every third house or so has a camellia in the yard and most of them could use some TLC (tender loving care). Despite neglect, these hardy plants still put out blooms, but they need some help to reach their full potential. The Pensacola Camellia Club teaches how to give them the proper care and many people come to our meetings and workshops to learn. The other 10,000 Pensacola residents are our possible members!

Starting in March this year, Christie Hankins, Paul Bruno and I will be doing some in-neighborhood demonstrations on pruning, fertilizing, mulching and watering to improve the health of camellias and the knowledge of plant owners. Thirty minutes of pruning, 50 cents' worth of fertilizer, a dollar's worth of pine straw and a little water here and there, will make the difference in the plant, the yard and will result in nicer blooms to cut and bring into the house next winter.

I know 10,000 people won't show up for a pruning and care demonstration, but we can make a difference in a few yards, talk camellias, and hopefully attract new members to our club. I'm OK with that!

John Mate

Thanks to all you hardworking Pensacola Camellia Club members who helped make the December Show at University of West Florida a great success.

We are looking forward to going back there next year. Experienced show leadership, backed by members that are willing to do any tasks needed, were responsible for results that our Club should all be proud of.



Special thanks to everyone who brought flowers for the competition. Our Club members, expert and novice, displayed many blooms. Other exhibitors traveled from surrounding states to attend. They spent many hours collecting flowers from their gardens and drove long distances. They then prepared those flowers for our show needing as much as three hours to get all of them ready.

More thanks to the judges who volunteered to spend three hours judging the blooms. That's a tough job when you have to pick the winners from so many beautiful flowers.

Thanks to all members who supported with donations for the Toys for Tots. The toys displayed made me smile looking at them and thinking about the joy they will bring children on Christmas.



Thanks again to all for the wonderful show. - John Mate

View show photos at <https://pensacolacamelliclub.com/photo-galleries/>



Upcoming Events

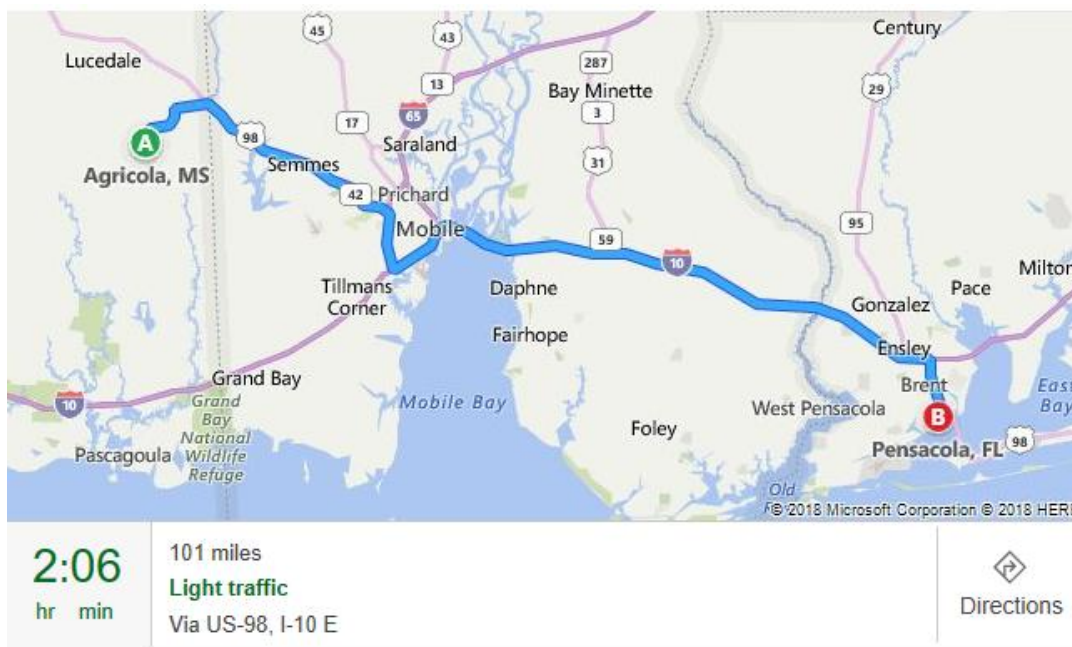
Tuesday Jan. 15th – General Club Meeting with a “Presentation of the Show Results” by Skip Vogelsang/ Show Chairman. Location: [Garden Center](#) 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program.

Please pay your 2019 membership dues with check or cash of \$10.00 at the meeting.

Debbie Brown, VP of Membership will gladly accept your money at the meeting or by mail. Help make her job of record keeping easier by paying and verifying your contact information.

Saturday Jan. 26th – PCC will be at YMCA located at 3215 Langley for a *grafting demonstration* by John Davy of Panhandle Growers starting at 9:00 am until Noon. There will be *camellia plants for sale* and members available to answer your questions about camellias. This is a **FREE event** open to the public.

Wednesday Jan. 30th – PCC members and friends will gather at 8:30 am at the Club’s T. Morris Shade House located at 3279 Pine Forest Rd, Cantonment to carpool to Jim Smelley’s greenhouses near Agricola, MS. Jim has hundreds of camellias in three greenhouses that are a “must see”. Once we arrive, you will have to select which camellia you desire to graft onto Jim’s under stock of Taylor’s Perfection. Price of \$30 includes one graft and your lunch. More information will be shared by Dick Hooton at the January 15th meeting or call him directly at 850.969.0001.



February 2019

Saturday Feb. 16th – PCC at Palafox Market selling camellias and upcoming events. If you can help between 8:30 – 2:30 please contact Louise 850-780-0410. Please bring a chair, dress for the weather and we will greet the shoppers with camellias and smiles!

Sunday Feb. 17th – *Alabama Camellia Society will host their 60th Camellia Show & ACS National Camellia Show* at Mobile Convention Center, 1 South Water Street. This is an hour drive from Pensacola where you can enter blooms from 6:30am to 9:30am. The attach link contains the Show Regulations;

<https://camellia5.azureedge.net/assets/ACS%20Conv%20Show%20Sch%20Mobile%20Feb%20172019%20corrected.pdf>

While judging is going on visit the Mobile Botanical Gardens located at 5151 Museum Drive which has over 700 camellias. Please read their website for more information about admission of \$5.00 and hours. <http://www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org/>

Tuesday Feb. 19th – General Club Meeting, Guest speaker to cover “Amaryllis as Companion Plants” and Christi Hankins will cover “History of the Club part 2”. Location: [Garden Center](#) 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program.

Thursday Feb 21st – Work Day at UWF Camellia Garden 9:00 am to 11:00 as we prepare for the upcoming tour. Please bring your gloves, rakes, and yard waste containers to pick up branches and weeds. If you need directions please click on the following link

<https://pensacolacamelliaclub.com/uwf-camellia-garden>.

Sunday Feb. 24th – University of West Florida (UWF) Camellia Garden Tour and Plant Sales



starting at Noon to 4:00pm. February is the height of our Pensacola camellia blooming season, so the gardens should be magnificently beautiful at this time. The UWF Camellia Garden is a collaboration of UWF, the Pensacola Camellia Club and the UWF Retired Employee Association designed to showcase Pensacola registered camellia plants, along with other camellias from around the world. Club members will be on hand to demonstrate air layering and answer your questions. A wide variety of desirable

camellia plants will be available for purchase at this time. This is a **FREE event** open to the public.

ATTENTION DATE CHANGE - PCC ANNUAL BANQUET - WEDNESDAY MARCH 20TH

Please make your reservation with T. Morris at 850-746-4080 for PCC Annual Banquet at V. Paul's Italian Ristorante. Cash bar opens at 5:30 pm, with dinner at 6:30pm. Evening will include a Camellia Plant Auction, installation of the next season's board members and the Person of the Year Award. Price has remained the same at \$30.00 per person, which includes tax & tip.

Members Corner – Alan McMillan

Gloria and I moved into our “new” home on Star Lake in December of 2006. The property was well established and had recovered well from Hurricane Ivan’s 2004 damage. We had a majority of Live Oaks that provided cover to a large part of our 1.25 acres. Previous owners had established many azaleas and hydrangeas with a couple of large gardenias. One large Mathotiana (Purple Dawn) stood proudly at about 8 feet in an overgrown area near the property line.

My cousin, Paul Bruno, brought us a small camellia in a three-gallon pot as a house warming gift. I planted that Morning Glow near the Mathotiana, and I noted that this area of the yard needed substantial clearing and put that project in the back of my mind. Paul also advised that he was the President of the Pensacola Camellia Club, gave me a primer on its great history and without waiting for an answer, announced that I would become a member, attend the next meeting and soon get on the Board of Directors.



Fast forward 12 years, and I have completely redesigned the property and now enjoy the beauty of approximately 200 camellias. I have 122 Japonica’s, 53 Reticulata’s, 14 Hybrid’s and a mixture of Sasanqua’s, Hiemalis, Vernalis and Species.

I greatly benefited from being tutored by the best in the Camellia world. And I seriously mean “the best”. Dick Hooton took me under his wing and in his best Marine Corps manner “the Colonel” would advise me with no room for misunderstanding. He, Roger Vinson, Paul Bruno, John Davys and Skip Vogelsang were gracious with their time and advice. Later as I became more involved in the Club, I met more who helped. I must add that my early trips to Vernon Howell’s, Jim Smelley’s, Randolph Maphis’, Chuck Ritter’s, Jerry Selph’s and the Gordy property with Dick Hooton were fantastic, not just for what I learned but in meeting these giants in the Camellia world. As with everyone I met in the camellia world, they were generous with their time and knowledge and very receptive to assisting anyone new to our passion for camellias.

I went from one camellia to about 200 in a period of about seven or eight years. My camellias are from a variety of sources. About 10% are my grafts and 10% my air layering’s . Another 20% or so are from the PCC as our club members grafted and air layered plants for sale. The majority are from growers like Mark Crawford’s Loch

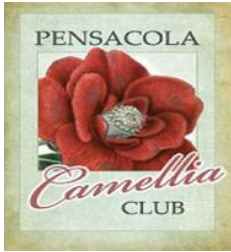
Laurel Nursery in Valdosta, GA., Tommy Alden's County Line Nursery in Byron, GA., and Randolph Maphis, in Tallahassee, FL. A large number of my grafts came from my trips with the PCC to Florida and Georgia camellia growers as well as Jim Smelley's, wonderful property in Agricola, MS.



I entered our PCC Show and, in the Novice, division began collecting ribbons. Being a Novice was fun and winning a few ribbons not too difficult as the Novice category was smaller. Unfortunately, hard work and good luck produced blooms that got me "kicked out" of the Novice category and up to having to compete with all the great growers in our club and throughout the Gulf Coast region. I haven't won any BEST IN SHOW but winning BLUE ribbons and even going to the Contention Table has been very satisfying.

Shows are great but my real thrill is to see a new first-time bloom in my yard. Having neighbors and friends want to see great blooms and taking baskets of blooms to every party or social event I attend during the blooming season. New Year's Eve dinner at V Paul's Restaurant saw about 30 to 40 McMillan blooms on Paul's tables that were hopefully enjoyed by many dinner guests. There are many joys and benefits to growing flowers and camellias in particular. So, if you are a first timer, get started and ask for help. If you are already growing blooms get more involved and share your joy and passion for camellias. Join the Pensacola Camellia Club and be part of a great group of like-minded flower lovers.





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: pensacolacamellia@gmail.com

Club Promotional Information.

Some of you have mentioned that you are sharing information about the club and our upcoming show with friends and co-workers. If you were at the August picnic or September's meeting we distributed 'business cards' to hand out with our upcoming event dates. Others are speaking at clubs and requested a brochure to hand out, please click on the link below to download our brochure to print at home to share at your events. Thank you for supporting the club in this method and please continue to let the board know your ideas for advertising our events.

https://pensacolacamellioclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/PCC_Info_Brochure_10_5_18.pdf