



President's Message

What is the biggest problem camellia gardener's face and what are they willing to do to solve the problem? For many the problem is simply the need for more space to plant all the camellias they want. Please read the article in this newsletter on our Club's recent trip to Jim Smelley's greenhouses to see how this problem can occur. The solution is the hard part and you may have to get creative!

Here are some PCC member's solutions to space problems. (Their names will not be mentioned in order to protect them from questions about their mental state.) D.H. installed 74 steps down the side of a pretty steep cliff to reach new planting ground. R.V. removed a perfectly good tennis court in his backyard. C.H. bought a lot across the street from her home for more camellias. S.V. asked a neighbor, who lived several doors down, for permission to plant camellias in the woods behind their house.

Then there is J.M., who had plenty of land for camellias but needed filtered light to provide good growing conditions and lessen the number of falling limbs from the trees in the space he chose. J.M. rented a 60ft bucket truck and hung out the sides with a chainsaw to trim trees for 40 hours last week. Every part of his body aches and he still has to clean the mess up!



I hope you are enjoying the camellia blooms in your own garden and if you'd like to share how you overcame your camellia space problem, come talk to me. John Mate

Here are a few photos from our past events in January 2019.



John awarded Lee Vanderpool for his outstanding support and devoted commitment to the Club and all its activities from October - December 2018. You will find Lee selling raffle tickets at the monthly meeting with T. Morris.

January 12th members went to the Tallahassee camellia show to enter blooms and tour Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park and the Dorothy B. Owen Park.



Jan 26th was our annual grafting demonstration at the YMCS on Langley Ave. Our experts, Mr. John Davy and Dr. Mack Thetford, showed us all the proper techniques for grafting and for pruning. Not only was the demonstration on grafting great, but the food and beverage was outstanding! Many thanks to our experts and to the hospitality members for putting on such a great spread. We had great weather and good attendance from our club members. We had approximately 14 interested individuals from the community show up and they all seemed very happy with the demonstration. – Paul Bruno



Grafting Trip to Jim Smelley's - by John Mate



Photo by Christi Hankins and more of her photos are on our website for you to enjoy.
<https://pensacolacamellioclub.com/photo-galleries/>

I'm still smiling from the Club trip to Jim Smelley's camellia greenhouses. Thank you Jim for allowing our Club to tour your greenhouses then cut and graft scions from your gorgeous plants. You are kind and generous beyond words. You are also a great inspiration to our Club members on what is possible with camellias by showing and sharing yours.

If you have toured Jim's greenhouses in the past, you will know why I'm still smiling from the trip. They are beautiful! You don't just see three plants you want to have in your own garden, but rather 30 plants and that's just in one greenhouse. There are four greenhouses in all!

One of the perks of being President of our Club was walking with members through the greenhouses teaching them what to look for in a scion and where to remove it from the plant. My favorite part was watching the smiles on their faces and sometimes the anguish of having to choose what flower to graft from all the choices. I often heard comments on needing more space to plant camellias at their own homes. (Read my President's Message on ways to solve that problem). Meanwhile, the minions (Dick, Alan and Skip) were busily down on their knees grafting scions. It was great to be Club President that day!

For lunch, Todd and Christi served a wonderful gumbo. I had two full bowls and still wonder how they got that smoky flavor in the gumbo. I also need to mention the opportunity for building new friendships with other Club members made the visit a lot of fun.

If you ever get the opportunity to do this trip to Jim Smelley's, don't miss out. It is an experience you will remember the rest of your life.

Camellia Show Results

We have members who are dedicated growers who spend many hours caring for and exhibiting their flowers. Because of their work our club is well represented at shows throughout Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. Many of our members blooms have been placing on head tables and have blooms taking first place. The results of the shows are recorded by individual exhibitors, bloom class and categories, can found at the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society website. The website provides a wealth of knowledge and is a great educational resource with a wide range of camellia information.

Please view our PCC leading exhibitors for shows through January 26th, 2019 at the following link, <http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/2018-2019/GCCS%20Exhibitor%20Rankings%20-%202018-2019.html>

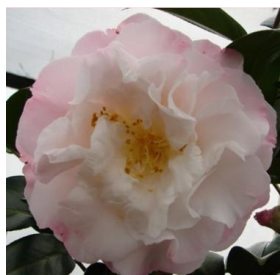
Roger Vinson is leading in 1st place
Dick & Bette Hooton ranking 5th
Skip Vogelsang ranking 6th
Al & Vickie Baugh ranking 8th
John Davy ranking 14th
Paul Bruno ranked 22nd

Top camellia bloom ranking from all of the shows can be found on the following link.
<http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/2018-2019/ACCS%20Bloom%20Rankings%20-%202018-2019.html>

Here are a few of the top ranking japonicas to peek your interest.



Lauren Tudor



Mary Fischer



Black Magic



Les Marbury

Our club has some of these bloom winners available for sale at the T. Morris Shade House. Our inventory list is available at <https://pensacolacamellioclub.com/camellias-for-sale> for you to select your winner. Plants can be purchase at any of our events or by contacting Dick Hooton at 969-9001.

It is time to VOTE for MACK again!



Our own **Dr. Mack Thetford** was elected as ACS Club Director for the Gulf Coast Region and currently serves on the ACS Preservation and Research Committees. He has graciously agreed to serve again if re-elected.

The Gulf Coast Region consists of the coastal states of Alabama, Florida west of Apalachicola River, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, along with the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee. This is a very large region with many clubs and lots of competition for this position.

ACS CLUB DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

All ACS Clubs & Societies are eligible to nominate a Club Director to represent their regions on the Board of Directors.



- Nominations Due from Clubs: March 15, 2019
- Club Director Voting Open to all members from April 1 - 30, 2019
- Learn more: Visit the Governance Page located under the "About" Tab

Call (877) 422-6355 with questions or for more information!

What you need to do to get Mack re-elected:

If you have never been a member click the following link

<https://www.americancamellias.com/news-events/introductory-ac-s-e-membership>

for ACS's **New Introductory One-Year Electronic Membership Rate of \$10** or call **Lorie Huff at 877.422.6355 for membership.**

You must join by March 1st so you will be in ACS system to qualify to vote.

An electronic ballot from ask@americancamellias.org will be sent to **all current ACS members** and voting will take place April 1st – 30th, 2019. Please ensure that ACS has a valid email address and that you add this address ask@americancamellias.org to your contact list to prevent it from going to spam and missing your ballot. If you are a member without email you will receive a mailed ballot from ACS to complete.

Upcoming Events

February 2019

Tuesday Feb. 12th – ALL HANDS NEEDED! This is a very Big and Important Work Day at the Shade House starting at 9:00am. We'll be grafting (come and learn with hands on opportunity) weeding, spraying, and moving plants from the right side to the left side. We may even do a little paint priming on the new shed. Bring your gloves and water bottles.

Saturday Feb. 16th – PCC at Palafox Market selling camellias and our 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, program “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. **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.

The Nominating Committee has prepared and submitted the following slate of members to be our 2019-2020 Officers for next season. Election of officers and directors will be conducted at the February meeting.

President - Lauren Mate,

1st Vice President – Show Chairman Skip Vogelsang,

2nd Vice President – Programs Trumin Brown,

3rd Vice President – Membership, Debbie Brown,

Treasurer - Thekla Morris,

Secretary - Carolyn Pulford

Past President – John Mate

The following will serve on the Board of Directors: Paul Bruno, Dick Hooton, Bill Lyford, Alan McMillan, Louise Seitz, Greg Taylor & Mack Thetford.

Thursday Feb 21st – Work Day at UWF Camellia Garden 9:00 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://pensacolacamelliclub.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. We will have camellia signs out to assist you to parking lot 'W, where UWF Student Ambassadors will be driving golf carts to the garden if you need assistance. Club members will be on hand to demonstrate air layering, pruning and to 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 to enjoy, and relax with camellia friends.

March 2019

Saturday March 2nd - Community Camellia Show for Novice Gardeners & Plant Sales. *Located at West Florida Main Public Library 239 N. Spring St, Pensacola, FL.*

Learn how to show blooms, complete entry forms, and discover what judges look for in a bloom. Prizes awarded in various categories. Bloom entry: 9:30 -10:30am, View winning Blooms: 11-3pm
Plant Sales: 10- 3:00pm



Wednesday March 20th **PCC Annual Banquet**



We will have Happy Hour prices all night on alcohol, wine, and beer. Cash Bar opens at 5:30 pm, with Dinner at 6:30 pm. You do not have to be a member to attend; all family and friends are welcome to this social celebration. We will have special camellias for auction. There will be a display table for all members to bring blooms. Please include identification with your name and the name of the bloom that you are sharing. Price has remained the same at \$30.00 per person, which includes tax & tip. Make check payable to: Pensacola Camellia Club, \$30/per person and mail it to T. Morris at 579 Man O' War Circle, Cantonment, FL 32533. Include your guests' name for their name tags. Reservations should be in by 3-16-19.

Thank you for your support, time & talent given to the Pensacola Camellia Club.

Members Corner – by Amie a Camellia Lover

What a joy to see the Camellia Garden at the University of West Florida! I am so grateful that the club has provided approximately 140 camellias for public viewing. Each tall shrub or tree has its own vibrant, distinctive colors and forms of blooms "dancing" across its evergreen leaves, creating its own musical buzz. This large collection of trees and shrubs stands like a full-sized symphony producing a special "opus" each day of the blooming seasons; fall and winter and early spring.

At the garden, for the first time, I was able to see species camellias very close in appearance to how they would appear in the wild, not altered by cultivation. All my life, in Pensacola and neighboring areas, I have been around camellia cultivars...and I love them. But I have to say, I think the species camellias have a different drama and power that seems like a strong drum roll from a time-tested ancient mathematical formula. Boom. Wow. Beautiful. Strong. Simple. How lucky I am to get to see them.

Pensacola is so fortunate to have the legacy of this collection of camellias available to the general public, to UWF students studying horticulture, and to new home owners caring for camellias for the first time.

I am the steward of my family's old camellias. So the UWF Camellia Garden is providing an opportunity for me to discover the names of these old varieties about which I am so curious. Listed below are the steps I have begun to take so that I may discover the names of the particular cultivars or hybrids that I have. For you newcomers, such as I am, to camellia curiosity, perhaps these steps can be helpful to you. I learned these steps from fellow members of the Pensacola Camellia Club.

Step 1. I took the nine different blooms of mine, each inserted into its own water phial (a plastic tube with a rubber cap) and placed them in a deep, but wide basket so that I could see each one easily without having to shift them around much once I arrived at the garden to make my comparisons with the blooms "performing" there. To get to the garden, I suggest studying the map provided on the PCC web site. Enlarge that map ahead of going to the campus to see exactly where parking Lot W is located. The map to parking lot W (as well as the verbal description of how to get there) can be found by first going to the club's web site: <https://pensacolacamellioclub.com/uwf-camellia-garden/>



Step 2. I walked through the garden to look at each shrub's blooms and noted each plant that had blooms similar to mine. There is a kiosk on the eastern most path at the edge of the garden. It houses a large diagram of the plants with names and numbers plotted on the map to assist in returning to a plant later.

Step 3. I now have 23 names of blooms which look similar to one or more of my nine. I can research in more detail on two web site links (provided on the PCC web site on the club's page called "Camellias for Sales." On the bottom of that page you will see the links to a camellia library and to an encyclopedia for camellias. For the basic flower forms (the distinctive categories of petal patterns and stamen designs of different varieties which is necessary to determine in order to find the name of a particular variety), I like to refer to the pictures of the forms provided on this web page:

www.fayettevillecamellioclub.org/Camellia-Flower-Forms.html

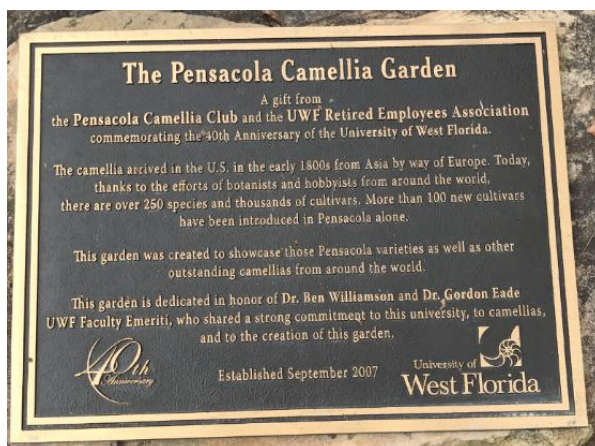
Step 4. Now I have enough knowledge to take a basket of blooms to the next club meeting on the evening of Feb.19th and have discussions with club members about my camellias' basic flower forms during the social time before the actual meeting starts. You can keep track of meetings in the Events Calendar section of the PCC web site:

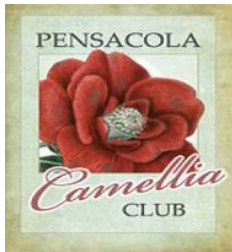
<https://pensacolacamellioclub.com/events-calendar>

Step 5. *The UWF Camellia Garden Tour on Sunday, Feb. 24* is the next place I will take a basket of my beloved little bloom gems to do another round of hunting for comparisons again between my blooms and the blooms of the camellia garden.

Step 6. Next step in my time line: *March 2nd. The Community Camellia Show for novices.* I really have not thought before about insisting to my "beauties" that they be contestants, but how else will I get to meet the expert judges at work? I hear they use a nomenclature yearbook which gives explicit written descriptions of blooms. I look forward to seeing that process. I won't worry for a moment about winning a ribbon. I'll get a chance to learn more about what flowers I have, though, and meet fellow camellia lovers. I will have to press the petals, so to speak, into my schedule because now is the time they are blooming, and pictures aren't quite enough for me to see subtle differences between blooms.

Thank you Pensacola Camellia Club members for this herculean, generous, and forward thinking effort to provide myself and others a way to accelerate our learning about camellias and to preserve plants for future gardeners to study and enjoy.





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