



President's Message – Lauren Mate

I would like to begin by message by thanking the PCC Board for nominating me as your President and to the membership for electing me. I am honored and humbled to take on these duties and look forward to working with you and getting to know everyone all the much better.

As we close out the Camellia Season I know you'll agree what a terrific year it was! In October, we hosted the Gulf Coast Camellia Society Conference that was absolutely enjoyed by all attendees. In December, we had a very successful show at our new location, the University of West Florida (UWF) Conference Center. The community turned out to support this wonderful event, despite the rainy weather. Much of participation was due to the tremendous efforts of our Publicity Chair, Louise Seitz, who got our show information, advertised in many outlets and to the interest the Club generated at the Palafox Market on the Saturday before the show. In 2019 the momentum kept going. Our Club sponsored road trips to Jim Smelley's greenhouses (a "not to miss" event) and to the Tallahassee Camellia Show with two camellia garden visits, a grafting event at the Langley YMCA, then we hosted the UWF Garden Tour and Community Show for Novices, participated in a second Palafox Market plant sale, and had numerous workdays (pruning, air layering, and priming our new storage shed). I am exhausted just listing everything!

All that PCC does tells me that we have an active and thriving Club whose membership really enjoys being with each, and wants to give back to the betterment of the Club and community through volunteering their time. Most of all, our members are passionate about their love of the camellia! If you have not had an opportunity to volunteer at one of our events or participate in a road trip, I encourage you to do so! And if you have any ideas for Club programs or events, please come see me or any of the Board Members or Officers at the General Meeting. We would enjoy hearing from you.

Happy spring planting.

To everyone who came to V. Paul's for our banquet, it was a special night of fellowship, delicious food and cake with a very exciting auction that greatly benefited the club. More photos can be found on the website under about us, photo galleries <https://pensacolacamellioclub.com/photo-galleries/> .

Bill Lyford and Norman Vickers



Cake from Publix



T. Morris & Katherine Geeker



Debbie & Trumin Brown



Centerpieces from John Mate & Mack Thetford.



In coming President Lauren Mate with
Past President John Mate



Below, Jim & Jerri Smith



PCC 2019-2020 Officers and Board of Directors



Sharon Henderson



Dick Hooton & Skip Vogelsang



Upcoming Events

Voting has begun, please cast your vote to Re-Elect Mack Thetford as ACS Club Director for the Gulf Coast Region.



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 **NOT** receive a mailed ballot from ACS. *Voting is electronic only.*

Tuesday April 16th General Meeting 7:00pm at the Garden Center club member Pierre Kaufke to present 'Camellias in Bonsai'. Pierre provides the newsletter for the Pensacola Gulf Coast Bonsai Society and has a passion for the art of bonsai. Come learn about PCC's partnership with Chanoyu Center and Japanese Society of Pensacola.



Thursday April 18th John Mate and helpers will demonstrate camellia pruning at the Garden Center from 5:30 -7:00pm. On the southwest corner of the Garden Center property there are camellias that will be used for this learning session. Bring a friend and come learn a few tips.

Air Layering is the root to our sales success.

With over **256 plants sold** this season we need your help to replenish our inventory by air layering at the following gardens or in your own yard. We will have signup sheets at the April 16th meeting or contact Greg Taylor at irrigatorpcc@hotmail.com or 850-380-6364 for additional information.



Thursday April 18th, Time 9:00 - Noon at Leland Leonard's located at 537 Brent Lane.

Saturday April 20th, Time 9:00 - Noon at UWF Camellia Garden lead by Greg Taylor.

Saturday April 27th, Time Noon - 3:00pm at University of Florida Campus 5988 Highway 90 , Milton Fl.

If you have a large selections of camellias and would like to invite members to your yard please connect Greg Taylor, 850-380-6364 to arrange date and time.

The 2018-2019 Camellia Show season has come to an end and our PCC members should be applauded for not only attending various shows but for exhibiting winning blooms. There were 11 Gulf Coast Camellia Society Cooperative Shows held in which our members ranked as the top 8 exhibitors. We proudly wish to congratulate these exhibitors; **Roger Vinson ranks #1** for the 3rd year in a row, **Dick & Bette Hooton rank**



#5 following by **Skip Vogelsang at #6** and **Al & Vickie Baugh at #8**.

These are our mentors ask them for help with your camellias. As a novice at exhibiting, I have that most important question that needs to be answer, "How do you train your blooms to open for show dates"?

Show ranking information was taken from the following website.

<http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/2018-2019/GCCS%20Exhibitor%20Rankings%20-%202018-2019.html>

Camellia Care by Month

April - Continue pruning plants. Spray plants for scale and insect control before the temperature gets too high. Do not spray dormant oil if temperatures are above 80°F. Propagate new plants by air-layering.

May - Camellias are growing rapidly at this point and need moisture. Water your plants if it does not rain for 10 days.

June - Apply second dose of fertilizer to encourage flower bud set. Continue to water. Reapply mulch as necessary to conserve water and keep roots cool.

July - Care during the summer is often reflected in quality and quantity of blooms. Consistent watering is important to develop good root systems. Cuttings may be taken for rooting.

August - Remember to water during dry periods. Disbudding may begin this month. Late in the month you may want to begin gibbing.

Save the date of Tuesday August 20th for our annual picnic.

In the February 2019 newsletter, John introduced you to the major camellia garden project he is undertaking at our home in Cantonment. As you may recall, John rented a 60ft power lift for an entire week and spent every day hanging precariously over the bucket's edge with either of two chainsaws, mini or regular size, trimming branches on our property. He did all of this hard work with the goal of getting more sunlight into an area he plans to plant camellias. (We have nearly 100 camellias in pots just waiting to be planted.) Seven days and much soreness later (800mg Motrin is a wonderful thing), the trimming was done!



What immediately followed was another laborious week of picking up branches, chain sawing felled limbs to a manageable size, and then transporting them by trailer and front end loader to our wood pile wall or a pile for burning later. John does enjoy industrial power equipment. He especially likes sharing Papa's equipment action videos with our 2 1/2 year old grandson. John tells me they

save him a lot of time and that's why we need to rent them, but I know he really has fun running the equipment!

Now we are in April. It is time for next project phase-- installing a new water line to our home and separate irrigation lines to the new camellia garden. (By the way, as part of the project, our home's water meter also had to be relocated to accommodate the new household line and irrigation line. Did I mention our home sets back at least a ¼ mile from the road? That's potentially a lot of trenching and PVC pipe.) And now it is time again to rent another "fun" piece of power equipment, an industrial trencher. A new power toy-yeah!



I quickly found out from John that using a trencher was not the "cure all" to make the job an easy one. Many times he had to kneel on the ground with a saws-all or hand clippers, or stand above the trench wielding a pick-axe, to cut through the tree roots to get to a trench depth of 12-24 inches for both the main water line and separate irrigation line to fit.

The weather cooperated enough this week for John to finish installing the main water line to the house (thank goodness we have running water) and part of the irrigation line. The rest of the irrigation installation job will have to wait until the next good weather window. And I'll say this, as much strenuous manual labor that my 60+ year-old husband performed, there was never a complaint, for all of this was done for the love of camellias.