



President's Message – Lauren Mate

Welcome all members to the 2019-2020 Pensacola Camellia Club season! I missed seeing everyone and for those who attended the August picnic, I believe you'll agree it was a fun time and a chance to renew the friendships our Club has to offer.

Speaking of the August picnic, I would like to give a shout out to Christi Hankins and Ms. T for organizing the get together. The table settings were beautiful and the food wonderful. Another shout out is certainly earned by the kitchen crew, who made sure refreshments were out on time and also took care of its cleanup. Lastly, I want to thank Alan McMillan for planning the special recognition of Dr. Thomas Birdwell, and Louise Seitz for her support in printing and framing the tribute as a gift for Dr. Birdwell.

I hope everyone is looking forward as much as I am to the upcoming camellia season. John and I have been enjoying walking our camellia garden and seeing the many buds already starting to appear on our plants. As the weather cools, something I know we all can't wait for, the sasanquas will begin to display their fall splendor, followed shortly by all other camellias.

To both new and current members, please volunteer to help at our Club activities when and where you can. Getting involved is rewarding, good exercise, provides hands-on learning, and best of all, is an opportunity to get to know other Club members better. Our Club is strong and successful because of its members and I thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

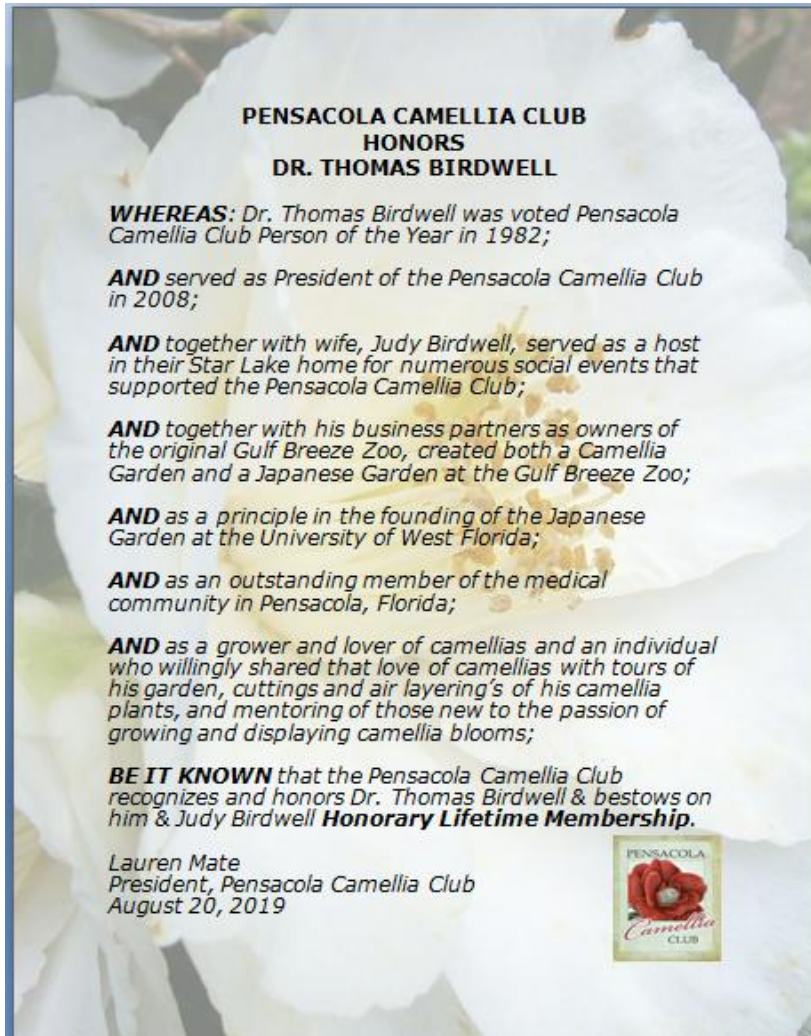
Lauren Mate



The above photo is from the Aug 20th, 2019 picnic presentation by Alan McMillan to Dr. Tomas Birdwell and his wife Judy Birdwell with Lauren Mate.

To the left is a copy of the acknowledgement written by Alan McMillan that was framed and presented.

Picnic photos by Christi Hankins



Thank you T. Morris for providing the raffle prizes of camellia books. Right photo Debbie Brown /VP membership, John Mate past president, T. Morris/ Treasurer and Lee Vanderpool assisting with raffles.



Above George & Pat Stephenson, James Garrett (new member), Dick Hooton, Ron Palmer, Jackson Wood (new member).



Christi's neighbor Lisa, Carol Comber, Lynn Manthei, Tod Bancells & Rita Perling in the kitchen.

Remember to Disbud Your Camellias by Roger Vinson

As soon as you can differentiate between growth leaf buds and flower buds on your camellias, you should begin to disbud your camellias - if you want to get quality blooms. Usually, this is in August. Keep disbudding throughout the blooming season, because most plants will continue to set new flower buds.



Disbudding is necessary because almost all camellia cultivars will set for more flower buds than the plant can fully support. Removing about half (or more) of the flower buds will allow the plant to concentrate its energy on fewer blooms, and that will mean larger (and prettier) flowers.



Begin disbudding at the branch tips. Typically, there will be two or three flower buds there. Keep the largest bud, and remove the others. If the buds are equal in size and condition, keep the one that you believe will grow best. Usually, this will be the bud that's pointing down (blooms facing downward gets less weather damage and develop better form), or the bud away from the leaf or stem that might impair it as it opens.

Then remove one of any other "doubles" on the branch. Most growers like to leave no more than three buds on a branch, separated by a few leaves to provide energy. (Serious show growers often remove all but one bud on each branch, but that's up to you.)

Some camellia varieties set lots of bud "clusters," so disbudding can require removing all but one bud in each "cluster." If a plant has set only a few buds, then be cautious and leave the flower buds most likely to bloom well.

Good luck!

Grafting Update by Roger Vinson

On Friday, August 16th, Trumin Brown driver, Dick Hooton, Alan McMillan, and Roger Vinson, four club members, traveled over to Agricola, Mississippi, to check our club's camellia grafts. Jim Smelley owns a place there where he has his camellia greenhouses and lots of horticultural plots. For the past few years, Jim has given our club some sasanquas that are growing in the ground to use as grafting root stock.



Photo by Ellen Vinson

This year, we grafted on 68 plants and 55 were "takes." That's a success rate of about 81% - - - quite good! Later this Fall, we will dig them up, put them into pots, and bring them back to our shade house in Pensacola. After the plants that belong to the members from the January trip to Smelley, (*Yes, Dick has a list of who you are and which graft belongs to you that he will bring to the September meeting*) for grafting are gone, the remainder of the camellias will go into the "for sale" inventory. These are quality grafts, and we'll sell them to help provide funds for our club's many activities.

Upcoming Events

September 2019

Tuesday Sept. 17th - First meeting of the year, program presenter is Vickie Baugh with “**Looking at the Camellias from Different Artistic Views.**” Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program begins.

For members attending the September meeting:

- We will have small bottles of **gibberellic acid** to distribute to members for their camellia plants. One bottle could possibly gib 100 plants and will last for years if refrigerated.
- At the picnic we provided **PCC business cards** for you to distribute to your friends and family that include the dates of our events. This is an easy way to share your camellia love with everyone you meet. Pick some up if you missed out at the picnic.
- There will be a sign up sheet for **Camellia Judging School**.
The Club will hold a training program to qualify some of our members to become Camellia judges this fall, if there is sufficient interest. It's anticipated that it will be held on two successive Monday evenings, probably in November, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. While successful completion will qualify you to become a Novice Judge (after meeting certain other requirements), it's an excellent way to learn about Camellias and getting better blossoms—even if you have no desire to become a judge.
*Please sign up if you are interested. **We need a minimum of about 12 participants** in order to do the judging school.*
- For newer members attending the meeting your name will be included in a ‘**New Members Raffle**’ for a camellia plant. Plus there are additional camellia plants to raffle for everyone who purchases a raffle ticket from T. Morris.

October 2019

Tuesday Oct. 15th General meeting program “**Harvest and Care for Your Air-layered Camellia,**” along with a review of gibbing. You will need to gib to have your camellias producing blooms to enter at our annual December show. Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program.

Friday Oct. 18th - [UWF Camellia Garden](#) **Work Day** starting at 9:00 to Noon. We will be harvesting the air layers, cleaning up the garden and gibbing the plants to have blooms for our December tour of the garden. Please bring your gloves and water bottles.

Saturday Oct 19th - **ALL HANDS NEEDED! This is a very BIG and Important Work Day** at [Shade House](#) starting at 9:00am. We will be potting our harvested air layers, spraying camellias, transferring plants from right side to the left side of the shade house, 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.

Friday Oct. 25th - [UWF Camellia Garden](#) **Work Day** starting at 9:00 to Noon. We will be gibbing the plants to have blooms for our December tour of the garden and any necessary clean up. Please bring your gloves and water bottles.

Lee Vanderpool has provided us with the University of Florida Extension office magazine, ***The Compost Pile***, Fall issue for your enjoyment. Please enjoy the Camellia article by Lee on page 15 along with all of their other information and garden events.

2019- 2020 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.

	Show Date	1 st Application 7 weeks before	2 nd Application 6 weeks before	3 rd Application 5 weeks before
Boston, GA	11/02/19	9/15/19	9/22/19	9/29/19
Gulfport, MS	11/16/19	9/29/19	10/06/19	10/13/19
Slidell, LA (Ozone Club)	11/30/19	10/13/19	10/20/19	10/27/19
Pensacola, FL	12/14/19	10/20/19	10/27/19	11/03/19
Covington,LA (Northshore)/	1/04/20	11/17/19	11/24/19	12/01/19
Tallahassee, FL	1/11/20	11/24/19	12/01/19	12/08/19
Mobile, AL	1/18/20	12/01/19	12/08/19	12/15/19
Metairie,LA (New Orleans)	1/25/20	12/08/19	12/15/19	12/22/19
Brookhaven, LA	2/01/20	12/15/19	12/22/19	12/29/19
Baton Rouge,LA	2/08/20	12/22/19	12/29/19	1/05/20
Dothan, AL	2/08/20	12/15/19	12/22/19	12/29/19
Mobile, AL	2/15/20	12/29/19	1/05/20	1/12/20

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 [American Camellia Society](#) website for a video demonstrating gibbing.