



President's Message

This past week, I was leafing through the 1953 edition of *The American Camellia Yearbook*, one of many American Camellia Society yearbooks donated to our Club from the estate of a past member, and became intrigued by what I could learn about camellias.

For instance, did you know that Greenville, Alabama, just two hours north of Pensacola on I-65, has the official designation as "Camellia City"? In addition, though there are several cities in the South to which the name has been applied, the Greenville citizens are convinced that theirs is the only city that should be known by that name.

According to the article "Greenville - The Camellia City" by J. Glen Stanley, it all began in 1937 when the Garden Editor of *Holland: The Magazine of the South*, on a visit to the city, made a remark that he had never seen so many large camellia plants in any one city. This comment was overheard by the editor of the local newspaper who afterwards took every opportunity to use the moniker when referring to Greenville, even adding it besides the newspaper's name on the front page along with a sketch of a camellia.

The nickname "Camellia City" quickly caught on and was adopted by Greenville city officials, civic organizations, and local businesses. At that time, Greenville was the home of the three well-known camellias Alba Plena, Pride of Greenville and Beauty of Greenville and its citizens were proud of their beautiful camellias.

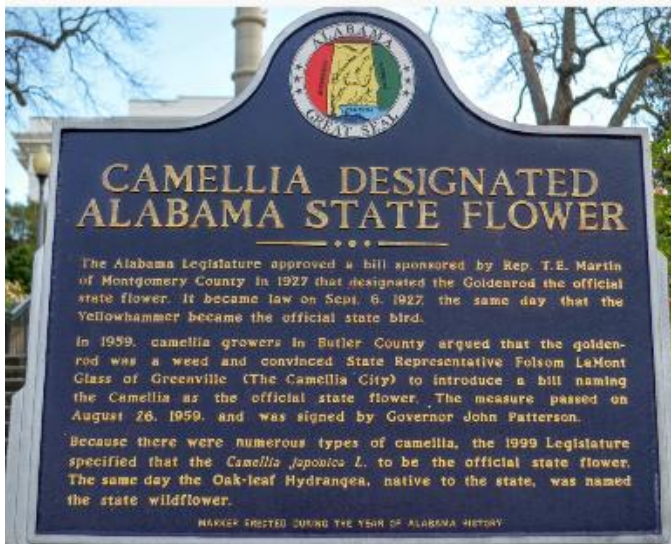


*Alba Plena imported to
USA 1800 to New Jersey*



'Pride of Greenville' is named for the
Camellia City where the inspiration
originated for Alabama's State Flower.

What also amazed me from Mr. Stanley's article is that Greenville's 1950 Camellia Show was attended by 5000 visitors from all but eight of the 67 counties in the state, even though four other Camellia Shows were held in Alabama on the same date. Additionally, their 1952 Show had "only" 3500 visitors (due to an unfavorable Camellia season); however, those visitors represented 97 cities, 21 states, and two foreign countries!



Fun fact: Did you know that over the years the camellia plant became so admired in the South, that in 1959, the state representative from Butler County (Greenville) proposed the camellia as the State Flower of Alabama (replacing goldenrod) and it was made so?

If you are interested, Greenville will host its Annual Camellia City Festival on Saturday, March 28. Would it not be fun to drive around the town to see how many camellias are still in

resident's gardens?

Quick quiz: Can you name two other Gulf Coast towns that also enjoy that designation "Camellia City"?

Although such largely attended Camellia Shows, as mentioned above, are now in the past, one truth remains the same- the immense enjoyment that the camellia brings to its devoted growers and hobbyists. A heartfelt thank you for all members who assisted in making our Pensacola Camellia Club's December show a successful one.

Happy New Year!

Lauren



The photo to the left shows the Pensacola Camellia Club's Annual Show Award with Peggy's Blush one beautiful bloom to represent all of the work our PCC members did to make the show a success. **Thank you all for your time and dedication.**

We asked for your help outside with plant sales and reached a record \$3000 in sales. Garden tours on foot or by golf cart were a success with over 100 visitors thanks to the beautiful weather. Inside members greeted visitor with handouts, raffle chances and membership information.

Upstairs visitors enjoyed viewing rows of camellia blooms on display by 32 exhibitors. The award tables show the first place with gold medallions followed by runner ups with silver medallions for the winners. The NAS Marine Corps representatives looked their finest as they accepted our member's extensive donation for their 'Toys for Tots' campaign. All of this work would not have been possible without our Friday night show setup including: directional road signage, plants moved from the shade house, tables setup for bloom preparation, toys displayed, and a dinner of fellowship for members and out of town judges. Early Saturday morning, coffee and refreshments were ready for exhibitors as they prepared their blooms, and members correctly placed blooms in time for judging. Blooms were judged once and the better ones moved to the contention table for a second judgment to determine which blooms were the best of show. Our Pensacola Camellia Club members provided the support to make our club's 81st annual show at University of West Florida a great success. – Thank YOU!

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



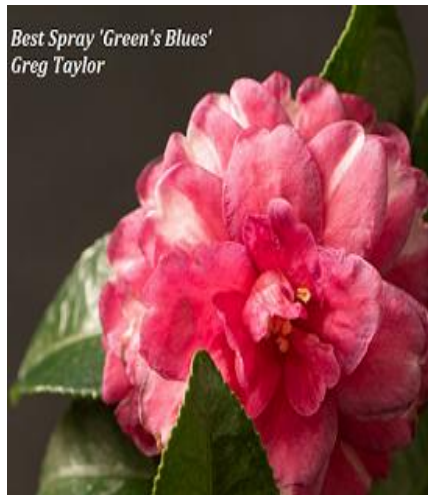
Following photos by Michael Spooneybarger
Exhibitors preparing blooms



Bloom placement by PCC members.



Photos by Michael Spooneybarger , Judges making selections, followed by contention table judging of beautiful blooms. Plant sales and toys to go.



Best Spray 'Green's Blues'
Greg Taylor



My First Flower Show by Jim Garrett

Six months ago I wouldn't have known Japonica from a harmonica, Reticulata was not a part of my vocabulary, and if someone said they had gibberellic acid, I would have recommended Roloids. Needless to say, my Camellia knowledge was at a very low pedestrian level. With this as my flower background, I attended my first Camellia show and worked as a clerk and runner. As I topped the stairs at the UWF conference center, I saw Judge and Mrs. Vinson preparing their Camellia blooms for the show. Mrs. Vinson kindly directed me to the lounge where coffee and a large variety of pastry treats awaited me. I now felt that I was prepared for the big show! As I entered the show room, I was greeted by the melodious voice of Col. Dick Hooton as he barked instructions to all the workers. I soon discovered that a Camellia show is similar to other shows in that tables and chairs have to be moved, and moved, and moved until there is a consensus as to their proper location. After the tables were properly placed, the blooms began to arrive for show. Very quickly the room was filled with beautiful Camellias, many the likes of which I had never seen. I had not seen so many flower blooms since the flower market scene in *My Fair Lady*. When all blooms had been properly placed, the judges were brought into the room, teamed up into teams of three and the clerks and runners into pairs. The judging started and moved very quickly and I stayed very busy transporting blue ribbon blooms to the judges table. After receiving instructions as to the proper manner of presentation of the tray of blooms to the judges, everything went very smoothly. I was impressed as to how the show proceeded as a lot happened in a short period of time before the public arrived to view the winning blooms. I certainly did not envy the judges because they had a difficult job picking winners



from that many beautiful Camellia blooms; their experience was evident. I look forward to my next Camellia show, and I don't know if I will present blooms for judging, but I will be there. My final observation from my first Camellia show is that it is much easier to judge people than it is to judge Camellia blooms for blue ribbons.

Above Standing is Jim looking amazed! Photo by Michael Spooneybarger

Impressive Show from Beginning to End by Dave Sundstrom

We had been to the show once before, I believe at the Methodist church, and I was very impressed with the beauty and variety of the blooms. We started acquiring camellias from various places, including the Camellia Club and now have about 35. I not only enjoy the beauty and the long blooming season of the flowers, but also the year round greenery of the leaves and the configuration of the shrubs.

It was obvious that much planning and preparation were required to prepare for the show. I was impressed with the number of members who volunteered for the set up and how efficiently the set up was completed. I was also impressed with the efficient processing of the contestants and the blooms that were entered. The judging and the movement of winning blooms from one area to another was very well organized and coordinated. When the show was over there were many volunteers remaining to help close down and pack up. It was a shame, however, to dispose of all those beautiful blooms.

In summary, I was very impressed with the club members who put on such a well organized and efficient show of amazing beauty.

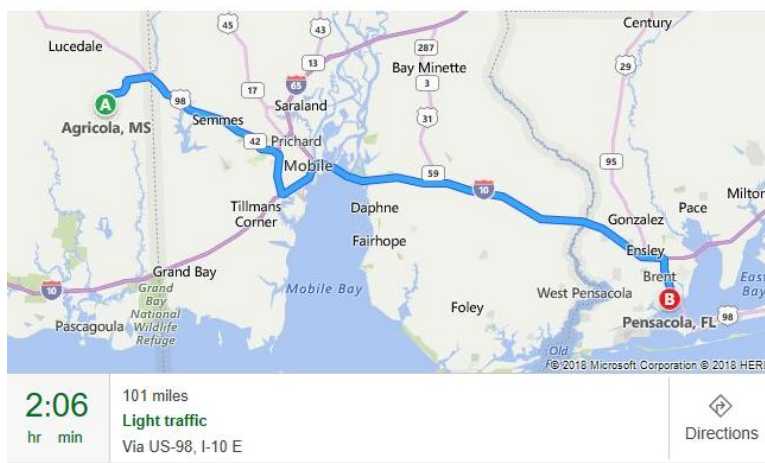


Upcoming Events

Saturday Jan. 11th – Pensacola Camellia Club will be selling camellias at the **Japanese America Society of NW Florida New Year Celebration** located at Wright Place. The Wright Place is located at 80 E. Wright St. and is part of First United Methodist Church complex. Time: Noon to 4:00pm.

Saturday Jan. 18th – Pensacola Camellia members are encouraged to enter their blooms at the Mobile Camellia Show which is held at the Shoppes at Bell Air Mall. The address is 3299 Bel Air Mall for your GPS. Bloom entry times are 7am till 11 am. After setting up your blooms we will drive to the [Mobile Botanical Garden](#), located at 5151 Museum Drive, hours are 9-4pm on Saturday with a \$5 admission if you are not an ACS member. If you like to gather for a group lunch we will be going to Half Shell Oyster House located at 3654 Airport Blvd, Mobile, AL 36608. The restaurant, Botanical Gardens and camellia show are very close to each other so come out and have some fun with us. Call John Mate if you plant to attend 850-255-6912.

Tuesday Jan. 21st – 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 understock. Price of \$30 includes one graft and your lunch. Make reservations with Dick Hooton at 850.969.0001.



Tuesday Evening Jan. 21st - General Meeting Show Chairman Skip Vogelsang will “Review Annual Show Winning Blooms” and give thanks to our volunteers. Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program. This is the evening after our visit to Jim Smelley’s for Camellia Grafting.

Please pay your 2020 membership dues of \$10 by check or cash tonight.

Debbie Brown, VP of Membership will accept your money and review your contact information to keep you informed of club events. If you have questions for Debbie about your membership you can reach her at 850-932-0370. If you’re not attending the Jan. 21st meeting please mail your payment to Pensacola Camellia Club P.O. Box 707 Pensacola, FL, 32529. Lifetime membership is \$100.

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.

Sunday Jan. 26th – Learn how to Graft Camellias from John Davy.

**Learn to Graft Camellias Jan 26th
1 - 4 pm at the Garden Center.**



Past President and club member John Davy, who has over five camellias registered with the American Camellia Society, will share his expert knowledge of camellia grafting. Come learn techniques for creating your own camellia for your yard. You can watch and learn or for a small fee, graft your

own to take home. Location: [Garden Center](#), 1:00pm - 4:00 pm program.

February 2020

Saturday Feb 1st – Pensacola Camellia Club will provide a workshop demonstration on Grafting Camellias at the Molino Public Library starting at 10:00am.

Thursday Feb 13th – **Work Day** at UWF Camellia Garden 9:00 to 10:00am as we prepare for the upcoming Coffee and Garden Tour. Please bring your gloves, rakes, and yard waste containers to pick up branches and weeds. If you need directions please click on the link <https://pensacolacamellioclub.com/uwf-camellia-garden>

Friday Feb 14th – Pensacola Camellia Club is invited by President Martha Saunders to the Coffee at the UWF Camellia Garden at 10:00am. All members are welcome by the university in appreciation of the beautiful camellia garden. You will be getting their official invitation in another email soon.

Saturday Feb 15th - Pensacola Camellia Club at [Palafox Market](#) selling camellias and promoting upcoming events. If you can help between 8:30am -2:30pm please contact Louise at 850-780-0410. Please bring a chair, dress for the weather and we will greet the shoppers with camellias and smiles.

Tuesday Feb. 18th – General Meeting program on Bloom Harvesting for the upcoming Community Novice Show with plant sales.. Location: [Garden Center](#) 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program.

Sunday Feb 23rd – **University of West Florida Camellia Garden Tour and Plant Sales**
Pensacola Camellia Club will welcome the public to UWF Camellia Garden 12- 4pm. Club members will be on hand to demonstrate air layering, pruning and answer camellia questions. A wide variety of camellia plants will be available for purchase at this time. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come see the garden.

Friday Feb 28th – **Set up for Community Novice Show** at Pensacola Main Library on 239 N. Spring St. starting at 2:00 pm. – 4:00pm.

Saturday Feb 29th – Pensacola Camellia Club to host **Community Novice Show and Plant Sale** at Pensacola Main Library located at 239 N. Spring Street. Everyone is invited to bring their camellia blooms to compete for prizes in various categories starting at 9:00am

ATTENTION DATE CHANGE - PCC ANNUAL BANQUET moved to TUESDAY MARCH 24TH

Please make your reservation with T. Morris at 850-476-4080 for PCC Annual Banquet at V. Paul's Italian Ristorante. Cash bar opens at 5:30 pm, with dinner at 6:30pm. Price has remained the same at \$30.00 per person, which includes tax & tip.

A few iPhone photos pointers...

1. Clean the lens on the back of you iPhone before taking photos.
2. Be ready for photo with shortcut. *Swipe up from the lock screen to access the camera or simply swipe to the left without worrying about a pass code.*
3. Tap to Focus and Hold to Lock Focus. *When you tap the photo to begin the process instead of releasing it simply hold it for a couple seconds and the text will appear at the top "AE/AF LOCK". When you are done, simply tap the screen again to unlock.. When in doubt go slightly darker you can lighten it in editing apps.*
4. Use the on-screen Grid. This applies The Rule of Thirds. It can help you frame the perfect shot. *Go to Settings > Photos & Camera and toggle the Grid switch on.*
5. Adjust the Brightness with the Exposure Slider. *Simply Tap the screen to focus and bring up the Exposure Slider and then slide up and down to adjust as needed.*
6. Zoom with your Feet. *Your iPhone doesn't have an optical zoom, so when you use the digital zoom function you create a lower resolution image that blurs your images. Instead, try and get closer to your subject to get a full resolution photo with crisp details. You are better off cropping your photo using an editing app.*
7. Snap the shot with your Volume button. *This tip seems simple but the tactile feedback of the volume + button on your iPhone can help you keep the phone steady as you shoot for clearer pictures*
8. Turn on the auto HDR feature. *This stands for High Dynamic Range, and it helps bring out details in photos that would be missed when shooting in auto mode.*



GO TAKE SOME PHOTOS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

The day of the show I worked Garden Tour and took this photo of 'Little Babe Variegated' with my iPhone - Louise Seitz/Newsletter Editor