



I hope everyone is staying healthy and enjoying the cooler weather. I also hope the recent freezes did not cause a lot of damage to your camellia flowers, as we need as many blooms as possible entered in our show.

As you probably know, this year's Pensacola Camellia Club (PCC) show will be different from those in the past due to COVID. It will be held at the Garden Center and will be smaller in scope. We don't expect our typical out of town participants to be there, so we really need everyone to bring in blooms from your gardens. The show is our premier opportunity to not only share with the local community just how wonderful camellias are, but also generate interest in our Club. The variety and uniqueness of the blooms are our best advertisement.

In addition to bringing in blooms, we need as many members as possible to set up on Friday and participate in different roles during the show. The Tuesday general meeting will be your chance to sign up for show duties.

Lastly, please bring in your Toys for Tots donations Tuesday. We can also accept monetary donations which will be used to purchase additional gifts for children in need. 2020 continues to be a financially challenging year for many families, so your generosity is appreciated.

Thank you for all you do in support of the PCC.

Lauren Mate President

(Below, Flora Blanco turned to Flora Brown)



My Camellia Journey by Carolyn Helms Pulford

On a chilly November day in 1954, my parents and I climbed in our Studebaker and began a very bumpy trip from Andalusia to Theodore, AL. Little did I know that this would be my earliest memory of camellias. Only eight, I was a bit bored as I wandered among the many rows of plants while Mama made her choices, and soon Daddy had our first camellias planted at home. This was the first of several trips to Overlook Nursery. Looking back, I realized this was destiny, for Mama had grown up “a stone’s throw” from Fort Valley, camellia country even then, and Daddy’s mentor in Dothan propagated camellias. Time passed, and Mama sometimes made a pretty corsage of Pink Perfection or Alba Plena for my suit on Sunday. She also made sure I could identify each camellia plant and bloom. Years later, after Daddy passed, when I went home for a visit, we’d often walk about the yard and enjoy her camellias.

In 1982 I moved from Jacksonville to Pensacola to be closer to Mama. It was here that I attended my first camellia show, but the somber-faced men showed little interest in my questions. (Sorry, guys). In 1988 Staff and I bought a modest 1940’s house on Bayou Grande. Of the three enormous camellias, one was a Purple Dawn (also Mathotiana), a favorite of mine. By 1991 Mama had passed, and her camellias belonged to another family.

When a neighbor encouraged me to plant more camellias, I found good advice especially from Mrs. Stultz at Stultz Nursery whose source provided field grown camellias that thrived in my sandy soil and filtered shade. My Debutante and Pink Perfection eased my longing for home. I attended more camellia shows, and by the mid 90’s I discovered Bobby Green’s Nursery in Fairhope; it was camellia heaven for me, and I slowly planted several newer varieties.



After retiring and joining Pensacola Camellia Club, I discovered even more to learn about camellias. Our meetings, our work days, the UWF Garden, our Shows and the camaraderie of our members have become a part of my journey. When I was unable to participate last winter, I was amazed at my disappointment each time I missed activities and sharing our camellia experiences over great food at meetings. Thank you for being such a special part of my continuing camellia journey.

Over the River and Through the Greenhouses We Go...

You are once again invited to the greenhouses of Jim Smelley, lead by Dick Hooton for the purpose of grafting camellias. Notice the “s” on greenhouses; he has several greenhouses that are FILLED with beautiful camellias! The size of the plants in the greenhouses and continuous rows of camellias will surprise you. There will be blooms of various colors, forms and sizes that you can “Ooh” and “Ahh” over. Take photos of the ones you want for your yard now so you can select your favorites to propagate at Jim Smelley’s greenhouses.



Dick’s team of helpers will assist you on how they take a scion of your choice, and prepare it for grafting. We will graft to the understock of which Jim Smelley generously donates to PCC for this propagating method. Dick and his helpers will be on their knees doing the grafting, so don’t think that you have to do this and mess it up. Your job is simply to complete the tag with the camellia name and you the owner’s name. As these grafts grow for the next 9 months they are visited by Dick as he checks on their progress. He is the Godfather of your newly grafted camellia.

Join us over the river and through the woods to Agricola Mississippi on Monday **January 25th** to walk through Jim’s greenhouses of camellias. PCC members and friends will depart at 8:30am from the Club’s T. Morris Shade House located at 3279 Pine Forest Rd, Cantonment to carpool to Jim’s.

Price is \$30; includes 1 graft and lunch. RSVP with Dick at 850-969-0001.



The above blooms are from a previous outing at Smelley’s.

Upcoming Events

We appreciate all of our members and ask that you kindly wear your mask out of respect for each other; anyone of us could unknowingly be a carrier of this virus.

Saturday Dec. 5th – Pensacola Camellia Club at [Palafox Market](#) selling camellias and promoting upcoming events. If you can help between 8:30am -2:00pm 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!

Below is Debbie chatting with visitors while Paul and Trumin close on a sale.



Tuesday Dec. 8th - at 9am listen to Skip Vogelsang sell our upcoming show on Cat Country and call in to the radio 850-494-6000 with your questions about camellias.



Mike Wiggins | Host of The GardenLine

Former Mayor Mike Wiggins is host 'Garden Line', fielding gardening and landscaping questions every Tuesday morning between 9-10am. Mike hosted 'The Garden Spot' on BLAB TV for 28 years. His gardening experience began while working in his family's business, Escambia Farmer's Supply, which served the agriculture industry but was also a full-service nursery.

Tuesday Dec. 8th – at 7pm

General Meeting presenter Skip Vogelsang/ Show Chairman to review "Camellia Show Preparation," we will finalize all jobs for setup and ask that you sign up to help. *Please bring in your toy donation for "Toys for Tots" that we will use in place of show prizes.* Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program.

Dues: There are many opportunities when you will see Debbie this month and you should bring her your check or cash for your \$10.00 yearly fee. You will see her at the general meeting, show set-up, and the show so pay now to make her work easier.

Debbie and Trumin Brown are the 2019 “Person of the Year” and they are both always working hard for the club.



Remember Meetings under Corona virus: if you plan to **attend in person** please register by clicking on, [Eventbrite](#) select the date; add the number in your party attending, and your name. You will get a confirmation email about your registration to attend. If you have problems call Louise at 850-780-0410 for help.

Friday Dec. 11th – Join us at **Noon** to assist with the show preparation at The Garden Center. There will tables to move and material needed for the show to be organized at this new show location.

Get in the spirit of the show with our out of town Judges at V. Paul’s. Cocktails at 5pm, dinner ordered by 5:30pm, your choice off the menu, we all pay our own bill. Come enjoy dinner with a discussion and photos of camellias with our friends. Sign up at the Dec.8th meeting or call Louise at 850.780.0410 to RSVP.

Saturday Dec. 12th –

Pensacola Camellia Club 82nd Annual Camellia Show and Plant Sales

Location: The Garden Center.

Bloom Prep time: 7:00am – 10:00am,

Judging: 10:30am – 1:00pm,

Open to the Public for viewing 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

Outdoor we will have our Plant Sales 9:00am – 4:00pm.

How you can help with the Dec 12th Camellia Show & Plant Sales

First, Advertising.

You can help by sending the attachment (pictured below) to everyone in your contact list. Invite your friends and family to the show and direct them to our website www.pensacolacamellioclub.com or [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) for information on the show.



82nd Annual Camellia Flower Show & Plant Sales - December 12th, 2020

Location:
The Garden Center,
1850 N. 9th Avenue,
Pensacola FL 32503.

Times:
Bloom Prep 7-10am,
Judging 10:30 -1pm,
Public Viewing 1- 4pm,
Plant Sales 9-4pm

Free Admission

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS
**MASKS
REQUIRED**
WHILE ON THE PREMISES



Come see the beautiful camellia flowers that bloom in various color, forms & sizes.

Second, Bring your Blooms

We want a good show with lots of local blooms from our members. For new members, there is a Novice category where your blooms can compete for prizes. Seasoned members will be around to assist you if you need help with bloom prep.

Third, Help at the Show

Below is a list of where your help is needed on the day of the show. Please read through our needs, and plan to sign up at the December meeting or by replying to the newsletter.

Camellia Bloom Prep, Show & Awards - Skip Vogelsang is our Show Chairman and is looking forward to everyone's help and patience on Dec.12th

The day of the show, exhibitors will arrive at 7:00am to prepare their blooms in the prep area, in the café room at the Garden Center. When the exhibitors have their blooms & entry cards ready Dick Hooton will review them before the trays of blooms are carried to the large auditorium room (where we have our meetings). This work starts at 7:00am and must be completed by 10:00am.

Judges- Roger Vinson is the lead person for ACS certified judges and Allan McMillan is assisting with the novice judges. Roger will recruit most of the judges from out of town along with some novice judges. They are grouped in teams of three and will need a clerk and runner for each team starting at 10:30am.

Clerks and runners- Bill Lyford will organize the clerk and a runner for each team of judges. Your job is to remain silent while the judges make the decisions. Clerks place color stickers on entry cards based on their award level or place 'head table' cards for blooms that move on in the competition. The runner will use a tray to carry the bloom with its entry card to the 'head table' where two members will review the entry information against the Camellia Nomenclature book. Note that 'head table' and 'contention table' mean the same thing and you will hear both words used throughout the judging.

All of the head table blooms will be reexamined by the judges in order to move on to the next stage. Clerks and runners will be needed at this stage to add up scores for each bloom to determine our winners for the various prizes. Once the winners are finalized, they will need to be placed on the award table. Dick Hooton and Christi Hankins will be directing you to place the winner of each category in its designated spot on the award table.

Membership –Debbie Brown will be the lead person for Membership to Pensacola Camellia Club and American Camellia Society during the public viewing hours 1-4pm. She might need someone to assist her in those hours.

Plant sales - Trumin Brown will be the lead person for plant sales. All plants will be labeled with bloom photos, descriptions and price to make work easy. Sales will be outdoors, from 9-4pm and he would like 2 shifts of 3-4 helpers.

Clean Up – The show ends at 4:00pm, then you may take blooms to enjoy and share with friends, otherwise they will all go in the trash. Every bloom cup will be emptied, stacked and boxed, toys for tots loaded for the marines, and plants that did not sell back in the van. Cleaning and packing up at the end of the day is easy with many hands.

If you read through all of this you know we will need many hands and smiling faces for a day filled with camellias. PLEASE Help throughout the day where you can and have your family and friends come to the show and see all of the beautiful blooms. We ask that everyone wear a mask inside during the day.

PS: The Show has us going in circles so if we forget to mention it,
MERRY CHRISTMAS & Happy Healthy New Year PCC members.
Rest up and stay well.



At our November meeting Pierre brought in his bonsai camellia a sasanqua which John Davy identify as 'Hot Flash'. Pierre mentioned that he has been growing and caring for this 3 year old sasanqua at his home.