



January proved to be a very sad month for our Club as we lost our dear Ms. T. Morris to the COVID-19 virus. She lived a long and wonderful life and we are all blessed to have known her. Since her passing, I have received numerous emails from Club members and friends:

“Such a loss to us all. Florida Okinawa Kenjinkai sends its condolences.”

“She was delightful and always friendly and always there. I have never seen such dedication from anyone...What a woman, an example for all.”

“She was a wonderful friend and will be greatly missed. “

“She was a super lady!!!”

“What a blessing that Ms. T was spared a lengthy ordeal and that she chose to share her dedication, her selfless generosity, and her mentoring spirit for so long. PCC will surely miss her powerful presence.”

“We will miss her smiling face and bubbling personality.”

Our Board of Directors has decided that due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not hold any further indoor events until it is safe to gather again. The Club will still host outdoor events where we can social distance; however masks will still be required in most cases.

On a happier note, I hope you all are enjoying this peak time for camellias. John and I walk our garden almost every day to see what new bloom has opened to its full beauty. The UWF Camellia Garden is also very pretty, so I encourage you to visit now (and often)!

Lauren Mate - President



Photo is from 2020 Japanese New Year celebration, T. Morris with Consul General Hirata.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday Feb. 16th – General Meeting will not be at the Garden Center due to the increased number of cases of Covid-19. We will conduct a **zoom meeting only that tonight.**

More information on how to log in will be emailed to you from Mack Thetford. Please check your email or spam folder for his message. He will assist you with logging in at 6:40pm so the meeting can start at 7pm.

Program:

- Update from President Lauren.
- The Nominating Committee prepared and presented at the January 19th meeting a slate of officers and board members. Tonight we will vote on the election of these officers and board to serve for the 2021-2022 season.

2021-2022 Officers.

President - Trumin Brown,
1st Vice President – Show Chairman Skip Vogelsang,
2nd Vice President – Programs, Paul Bruno
3rd Vice President – Membership, Debbie Brown,
Treasurer – Bill Lyford,
Secretary - Carolyn Pulford
Past President – Lauren Mate

The following will serve on the **Board of Directors:** John Davy, Christi Hawkins, Dick Hooton, Alan McMillan, Louise Seitz, Greg Taylor & Mack Thetford.

- Memorial information on T. Morris.
- Final reminder to please pay your 2021 membership dues of \$10 by mailing it to Pensacola Camellia Club P.O. Box 707, Pensacola, FL, 32591.
Lifetime membership is \$100
If you have questions about your dues or need to change contact information contact Debbie Brown, VP of Membership at 850-932-0370.

Thursday Feb. 18th – [UWF Camellia Garden](#) Work Day starting at 9:00am to 11:00am. We will be doing any necessary clean up before the garden tours. Please bring your gloves, pick up tools to collect dropped blooms, (or small children to assist) and yard waste containers to pick up branches and weeds.

Sunday Feb 21st – 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, general 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 throughout the bloom season but especially this day.

Saturday Mar 27th - [UWF Camellia Garden](#) Work Day starting at 9:00am to 12:00pm. If you have wondered how to reduce large camellias plants, John Davy will lead plant reduction. We will have members available to explain air layers and pruning of plants before we all get to work at the garden. Come watch and learn so you can improve your own yard with these methods.

Below; Feb 2020 before pruning



after pruning



Jan 17th 2021



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.

The Show is about the blooms, not just the awards
– by Jane Benson

Before our recent Show, I thought the Show was really just a contest, and that blooms needed to be perfect to be entered in the Show.

Now I know better. Now I realize that enjoying all of the blooms is the reason to go to a Show and enter blooms in a Show. It's not just about the contest. It's an opportunity to see varieties you've never seen before, and an opportunity to show others what you have in your garden. It's a chance to see something that you might want to add to your garden, or just admire for one day. It's a chance to see that the unnamed bloom in your garden is not the one you thought it might be - yes, that picture in a book is worth a thousand words, but seeing the actual bloom is another story!



It's a change to see that your blooms are pretty good, too, and are worthy of being admired. From the smallest, perfect miniature to the largest, showiest very large bloom, none of the blooms should have been left home - they all needed to be honored by being shared. Every one of the blooms on display deserved our attention, no matter the color of the sticker on the entry card at the end of the day.

Our Show, like every good Show, needs a Director, a Producer, cast, and crew. Our Director and Producers (the leaders in our Club) were patient in guiding the rest of us (the crew) through our tasks for the day. We all worked together so the stars of the Show (the blooms) could take center stage. The guest stars from out of town made a good Show even better. Yes, the Show is about the blooms, not just the awards. I plan to enter again next year, and will bring more blooms!

Bloom placement



Clerking teams for judges



My First Camellia Show Experience by Jim DeReuil

My introduction to Camellias began in February 1994 as an intern on the golf course maintenance crew at Augusta National. Being from Fort Lauderdale, I did not understand what this beautiful red “rose tree” was that I had stumbled on. A rush of dopamine hit me. *What is this? Wait a second, there aren’t rose trees. Wait, are there?* Being the second sharpest knife in the drawer at best, it finally dawned that this was Hole #10, named Camellia. *Oh, this is a camellia. I love it.* Another dopamine rush when I put 2 and 2 together!

I kind of forgot about them for a while. Moving back to my ancestral Pensacola in 2010, I was lucky to have what I later learned was a Pink Perfection right outside my back patio. *This flower is unbelievably perfect! I can feel its beauty.* I also have what I now know are Mathotiana and Professor Sargent. A third still unknown camellia nearby has given us the fun task of identification. My neighbors all have old camellias, and I started noticing them all over town.



In 2018 I attended my first Pensacola Camellia Club Camellia Show. I was blown away by the variety. I must have looked like I was insane. A smile on my face the whole time. Asking strangers looking at the tables nearby *can you believe this?* I was hooked. Dopamine City. I decided it was time to start collecting. I started mapping a garden, perusing the pages of the ACS, and visiting nurseries. My job takes me to a variety of locations and I always try to sneak in a camellia visit. I’ve been lucky enough to visit Masee Lane, Nuccio’s Nursery, Countyline Nursery, Larry Bates Nursery and Randolph Maphis’ backyard. Kristin and I began visiting the Camellia Gardens at UWF and walking in East Hill and North Hill with me purloining cuttings and seeds and her tsk tsking.



Fast forward to December 2020 when my young plants had started to produce. We decided to see if any of our blooms were worthy. The morning of the PCC show, we collected a number of what we thought were the most beautiful blooms in the garden. We arrived at the Garden Center clueless. We were so fortunate to have met so many friendly, helpful people. Rita Perling started directing us on how to set up and label the blooms. Judge Vinson took time away from his myriad of entries to help us. So did many others. Despite the help,

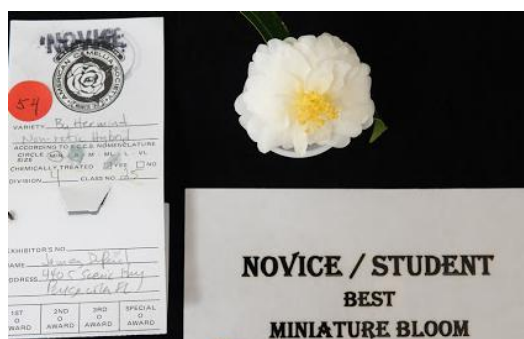
our “tray of three” was roundly rejected as it hit the floor since it was really a “spray of two, plus a loose one”.

Our experience could not have been more enjoyable. We intended to drop the blooms and return at the end of the show but were drawn to the cause and ended up staying all day helping out however we could. I was able to go to the Shade House with Louise to pick

up additional plants for the plant sale while Kristin helped Rita set up lunch tables. We stuck around and walked the tables soaking in the beauty. Every single person we met was so friendly. We learned what judges look for, how to display blooms and how many more varieties of camellias there are that we must have! Kristin is particularly interested in Strawberry Limeade (hint).

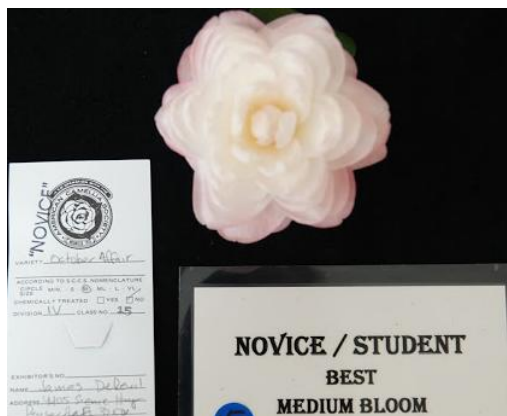


Starting on left John Dave, Jane Benson, Jim DeReuil & Kristin Bennett



Turns out we placed first in three novice categories! Best miniature (Buttermint); Best medium bloom (October Affair); and (3) Tray of Three (separate blooms) (Autumn Moon). Our experience was so cool. We look forward to participating, contributing to workdays, and encouraging others to join or go to a show to get their share of dopamine.

(PS: Skip strongly recommends that you bring address labels next year since he misspelled your name.)



Winter Brightened by Camellias - Eleanor Godwin

Garlan Sisco and I both live at Scenic Terrace, and have always felt that our landscaping was pretty but lacking in off season color. She lived in North Hill prior to moving here, and I lived in East Hill. Both of our yards were full of camellias, some we planted and some many years old from prior camellia lovers. We are both on the Grounds Committee here and when the opportunity arose to redo our long service drive area, we jumped at the chance to add camellias. Not only are the dark glossy leaves beautiful all year long, but the burst of color in the early winter adds so much to a landscape. January and February in north Florida is pretty dismal otherwise, with grass browning up, and even our live oaks beginning to lose leaves. We also felt that the addition of camellias was a bit of a long term investment, as they should last a long, long time with minimal care.

Thanks so much to the Pensacola Camellia Club for helping us out, selecting a beautiful variety of whites, pink, red, and variegated blooms, and even taking



the time to place them so that there is a sequence in their blooms up and down the drive. Planting

was a group effort with your members doing the hard work, and Garlan manning the hose as each one was ready for watering.

Black Tie was our first bloom this year, but the frost around Christmas prevented them from fully opening. The second week of January brought out this beautiful La Peppermint bloom. The bush is full of buds and we look forward to enjoying them in the

coming weeks.

Hurricane Sally brought damage to the ATT equipment in that area of the yard, and repair efforts damaged one of our bushes. It very quickly died, and Dick Hooton found us a beautiful Royal Velvet replacement. Thanks again for your help and advice. These lovely plants should bring our residents and visitors years of enjoyment.



Tablet of Honor Certificate to Judge Roger Vinson

Presented by Patrick Andrews Vice-President, ACS on Jan. 14, 2021.

Members, the Tablet of Honor is the highest award given out to an individual who contributed many years to the advancement of camellia culture.

Judge Roger Vinson was president of the American Camellia Society from 2008 until 2010. During this time, he proved to be an exemplary leader in reuniting the board and making sure the ACS was in fine shape to forge ahead into the future. To quote Brad King, current ACS president, Roger accomplished his mission as president with patience, persistence, humility, and a fun-loving spirit.



Roger excels at setting goals and making sure they are fulfilled, by his own hard work and by demanding the active involvement of board members. He set a high priority on increasing ACS membership and making sure that deferred maintenance on the existing structures was attended to.



Roger was instrumental in making sure we delivered on Leon Silver's wish that we build a building to honor his generous donation made to the ACS in honor of his wife, Lois.

Roger contributed immensely in formulating and correcting the current by-laws, and keeping them up to date.

During his many years on the board, Roger has participated on many committees, and most recently the ACS Trust.

Roger, we thank you for your service. It is my great honor and privilege, and that of ACS President Brad King, the entire ACS Board, and ACS Executive Director Matthew Israel, to present this certificate to you. Your name, along with your ever supportive wife, Ellen's, will be inscribed on the Tablet of Honor that stands between the Annabelle Lundy Fetterman Building and the Lois and Leon Silver Camellia Center, at ACS Headquarters in Massee Lane Gardens. Again, thank you!

The following are a few of Roger's camellias .



HURRICANE SALLY HITS THE PENSACOLA - by Alan C. McMillan

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, September 16, 2020, Hurricane Sally's eye wall crossed over the Pensacola area, bringing 90+ MPH winds, lots of rain and storm surge. Sally was expected to make landfall somewhere along the Louisiana coast, but its last-minute turn to the northeast caught us by surprise and unprepared. Having said that, I really don't know how you prepare your 200+ planted camellias for a storm.

By about 8 AM the heavy winds had passed through the area and I got to see the damage to my home, dock, yard and camellias. I was lucky that more damage was not done. My home has approximately 260 feet of waterfront on Star Lake, which really is a small bayou, and it is only 200 yards from the open waters of Pensacola Bay. I lost a couple of trees, my boat lift, lots of large oak tree limbs, fencing and substantial damage to my camellias. I also lost lots of shingles and a new roof has now been installed. Months of debris cleanup lay ahead for everyone in the area.



My camellias were damaged mostly by rising water, wind and falling tree limbs. About 45 of my camellias are planted in areas near the waters front of Star Lake and with approximately 7+ feet of storm surge; all of those went under water to some extent. Interestingly, the brackish water affected different plants very

differently. Some, like Star above Star, a Vernalis, and Royal Velvet Var., a Japonica, started dying immediately. Others, like Amy Connors, a Japonica, and several Reticulata's, including MacKenzie Green and Victoria Widden, struggled for several weeks before slowly dying. An unexpected new workload was the washing away of probably a truckload of pine bark mulch.

I am guessing that another three dozen camellias, from small plants to six footers, got blown or bent over by the strong winds. This required careful digging around the roots and bracing back in the upright position. I plan to leave the bracing in place until at least summertime.

With all this damage, I was surprised that so many, though looking tattered, still bloomed this season. With Covid-19, most shows are cancelled but I and my neighbors have still enjoyed the many hundred blooms that our beloved camellias put forth.