



I am so looking forward to the coming year!

This year will have its challenges ahead as we have many transitions coming up. Our first transition is as we move from outdoor events to indoor events. When we begin meeting indoors, we will still follow the procedures for social distancing and wear masks for a while longer. For members who need more protection than others, we will continue to provide zoom connections in order to include you.

Our club may also have some financial challenges to face, since the passing of T. Morris. She was extremely generous and paid for expenses that now become the club's responsibility. The PCC Officers and Board members will spend the morning of June 5th planning our 2021-2022 activities along with projecting our budget for expenses and income possibilities from plant sales. I am however; extremely pleased with the experienced Board members we have to traverse the transition period ahead.

Along with some challenges, we have still had a busy and successful season. The progress on the Shade House Property has continued. Please read more about the hard work done in the following pages of the newsletter complete with photos.

Our last workday at UWF was a huge success. Thanks to everyone for the workday at UWF. All of us in leadership positions are always grateful and amazed at the turnout. You all worked so hard for the club, thank you.

I am looking forward to our monthly meeting where Alan McMillan will discuss how he approaches and plans his yard and garden around the arrangement and placement of plants.

I also want to thank Lauren Mate for all her efforts as our outgoing President. Under her leadership we made it through the past year. It was not easy making the decisions she had to make. Thank you, Lauren.

Trumin Brown - President

Part 2 - Update on the Shade House property.

On your next trip to the Shade House, you will find our gate to the property has been moved. This photo below shows that you can now pull onto the property away from the road. Our gate is on the south side and is our new entrance to the



property. Our gates open inward and can completely fold to the fence. Here are two views; on the left from opening the gate and on the right from inside the gate. Notice the jeep on the road ready to turn into our driveway.



Many of you may not realize that Trumin drives from Gulf Breeze to the Shade House every Monday, and sometimes more often, to meet with customers who have visited our website, reviewed our inventory and are ready to purchase our camellias. Since there was no address marking, it was difficult for them and some members to find our location so we added this sign to the fence. Another job for the shade house work day will be to remove the weeds below the sign.



Our workforce on the green shed has continued under the direction of John Mate and assisted by, Bill Lyford and Trumin Brown along with the interior selections of Debbie Brown and Lauren Mate. Some of the projects nearing completion are; adding linoleum to protect the panel flooring. Surprisingly, the flooring matches the kitchenette counter top that was purchased. The septic system is now also connected. Once the water is connected installation of the toilet and both sinks will be completed.



Upcoming Events

Saturday April 17th – Work Day at Shade House, Time: 9am to noon.

Please come and help as we weed the raised garden before adding potting soil to plant 'root stock' and cover with mulch. This root stock will be used for future grafting of camellias. Bring your knee pad, hand shovel, rake, gloves and water bottle. This is a great time to see the improvements to our property.

Tuesday April 20th – General Meeting will be at the Garden Center, 1850 N. 9th Avenue, Pensacola. Sign in and casual camellia conversations start at 6:30pm followed by 7:00 pm meeting and program. Many of us have seen Alan McMillan's beautiful yard, now come hear his program on 'Landscape Planning & Pruning for Uniformity.'

For those that cannot attend we will be emailing the zoom meeting link in the Monday reminder on April 19th.

Debbie Brown/ VP of Membership reported that we have **49 new members** that we look forward to meeting that night. We ask that you fill your name out on a **Red outlined name tag** so our members know to greet you and introduce themselves. A new member is anyone who joined in December 2020 till November 2021. New members, by attending the meeting your name will be included in a '**New Members Raffle**' for a camellia plant that night. Only those in attendance are eligible for this raffle.

We also have a camellia plants raffle for everyone, raffle tickets are sold at \$1.00 for 5 chances. Lee Vanderpool will be at a table for you to purchase raffle tickets, the proceeds support our club meetings.



April – Air Layering dates:

Greg Taylor will be out at UWF Camellia Garden on Sundays in **April (11th, 18th and 25th) from 11am – 1pm**. He has camellia plants tagged for where he wants you to air layer and will provide the supplies needed for the work. All new members are encouraged to come and learn this propagation method. This is how the club produces plants to sell in future years which pays for our expenses.

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.

Members Corner

As new members join our club via our website I always reply to them with a 'Welcome Message' and a 'Thank You' for joining. I also ask if they would like to share with the club about why they joined or what they love about camellias.

Kathryn Cowles joined as a Lifetime Member on 3-25-2021.

Gardening has not been a pastime I have spent time learning, mainly because I have not had the time to devote or develop. For forty plus years I have been designing and making over the homes of my clients, however, due to the pandemic we closed our showroom on Davis Hwy. In March 2020 and in December we sold the building that housed our showroom. We downsized and restructured the company to a virtual format and have greatly limited hands on to a few local clients.

It is with great sadness that I experienced the death of my dear husband, Paul Cowles on March 8th, 2021. Paul was the gardener in the family and I have now become the sole keeper of our 5 acres in rural Santa Rosa.

As a girl growing up in south Florida, I don't remember Camellias in the gardens; my first memorable encounter was in Portland, Oregon while on a cross country road trip. I recall being fascinated with these huge trees like bushes with saucer size flowers that resembled roses. During the thirty years I lived in Virginia, I did have the pleasure of having camellias in my rural Charles City garden. Now with the time to devote, I look forward to learning and incorporating the lovely camellia into my current garden.

We are glad you have joined Pensacola Camellia Club and look forward to helping your Camellia Garden Grow.

Congratulations are extended to **Paul Bruno and Alan McMillan** for completing their American Camellia Society (ACS) Judges Certification. I have attached ACS requirements for becoming an accredited judge so you can appreciate the time and dedication to complete the many steps of this program. With only 3 camellia shows this season their determination came through to complete the task. We will look forward to having them both available to judge at our December 11th, 2021 Annual Camellia Show.

Accredited Judge Application

Novice judges who are ready to advance to an accredited judge status should use this application form. I do hereby make application to the American Camellia Society for appointment as an Accredited American Camellia Society (ACS) Judge.

Requirements for becoming an accredited judge:

- Must be a member of the American Camellia Society in good standing;
- Must be a member of a local Camellia Club/Society;
- Must have attended and successfully completed an ACS Certified Judging School and passed the written exam, with the results submitted to the American Camellia Society's Headquarters;
- Must have been appointed as a Novice Judge;
- Must serve as a Clerk for at least two ACS Cooperative Camellia Shows;
- Must own and grow at least 20 camellia varieties;
- Must have exhibited a minimum of 25 blooms at ACS Cooperative Camellia Shows
- Must be familiar with the characteristics of at least 50 different camellia varieties;
- Must serve as a Novice Judge in at least six (6) ACS Cooperative Shows within five (5) years since my appointment as a Novice Judge; and
- Must be recommended as qualified to be an Accredited Judge by at least two Accredited Judges.

Alan McMillan has registered his first camellia plant with ACS named 'Gloria Ann', after his lovely wife. Here are the details....



Species:	Japonica
Color:	Rich deep rose red
Form:	Formal double with pointed petals
Size:	Small to medium
Bloom Season:	M-L
Growth Rate:	Average
Growth Characteristics:	Upright, medium density growth
Leaf Characteristics:	Medium green
Originator:	Clarence & Lillian Gordy
Place of Origination:	U.S. - Ocala, Florida
Year of Origination / Registration:	2021 - ACS Registration #3251 - first bloomed in
Heritage:	Chance seedling
Photographer:	Alan McMilan

Pruning is like cutting hair, it grows back!

We had overcast weather on Saturday March 27th as members arrived one by one to learn how to prune our UWF Garden of 140 different camellias. Our professional commercial grower, John Davy, patiently demonstrated to each individual as they arrived on how to prune inside branches, reduce height and shape the plant to control the outward expanding growth. As John would say, 'we give it a haircut and in a few weeks it will look great' in his humorist manner. The real goal of pruning is to open up the plant by removing the inward branches which will provide room for the plant to produce larger blooms next season in a less dense space.



Camellia Ruth McNair before and after pruning by John Davy with Lee Vanderpool cleaning up.

Beside John, Master Gardener, Lee Vanderpool was helpful with my lack of confidence as I asked for guidance as I removed those beautiful branches. Lee made sure I was on the right course, as I repeatedly asked, 'Would you remove this one and that one?' Again, utilizing our more knowledgeable gardeners who have completed this task, helped build confidence for each of us novice growers. Greg Taylor, professional landscaper for Pensacola Christian College, was asked for opinions as we worked and discussed which branches to remove. Greg always has his tool belt on with everything he needs, even a neat sharpener. Now we extended our pruning lesson to, 'how to sharpen your pruners'. Of course we all want one of these small tools to add to our collection.



Skip Vogelsang was working on the other project of planting some replacement camellias with the help of Buzz Richie. Skip had the PCC van loaded with potting soil, shovels, and 10 replacement camellias that he has been determined to get in the ground since last October.



Thanks to the patience and assistance of our expert camellia growers, they educated and encouraged some newer members and some novice pruners to cut away those low and inside branches. With all of the cutting, there

were continuous movements of another team of members picking up the branches and discarding them in the pile by the trash bin. This was a big part of the morning chore to have a cleanup crew dragging away all of the debris. In total there were 17 members who worked for 3 hours and reduced 75% of the plants in the garden.

Pictured to the left is Joshua Edwards pruning, followed by Judy Woerner with Carolyn Pulford armed with pruning shears, followed by Jim DeReuil and Kristin Bennett and Debbie Brown cleaning up and making a large trash pile. (Comments and photos by Louise Seitz)

