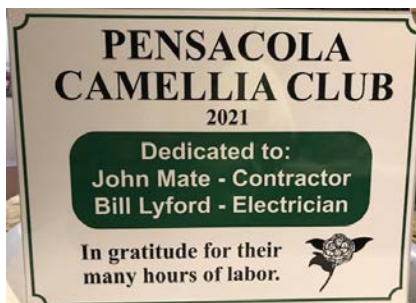




We had a very special presentation at our October meeting. A cake cutting was done in lieu of ribbon cutting as we presented John Mate and Bill Lyford with a dedication sign for their extensive time to complete the interior construction of the Club's storage building. Now John can determine the location for the sign.



Singling out these two was difficult as many were involved from the beginning to end. We are gratefully to all; it is exactly what we needed.



This issue of the newsletter has photos and summary of our successful work days. Thank you to all who made the harvesting and potting of the 288 air layers a successful team effort. And again, thanks to our members who gave the following Saturday to clean and gib the UWF Camellia Garden. Our timing was perfect for cleaning up since Wednesday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> the UWF Military & Veterans Center has something planned at 10am for observance of Veterans Day at the Camellia Garden that you can attend.



Our next meeting topic is, 'How to Compete at the Show.' This will be helpful to all but most especially to our newer members. Many are intimidated when thinking of showing their flowers. No one can predict the weather to have great blooms or if your buds open in time for the show. In this newsletter we included an article Greg Taylor found from California camellia grower Don Lesmeister called, *Show Tips from the Top*. The first line is key, 'DON'T judge your blooms in your yard...take them to the show'. Get out there and gib as the show is 5 weeks away.

I am looking forward to seeing you at any of our upcoming events. -Trumin

What a beautiful day for a fun time of working together to benefit of the Club.

We are very grateful to John Davy. Not only did he donate his potting mix to the Club, but he delivered it and parked the trailer under the carport for us to work in the shade. THANK YOU JOHN DAVY!

We had various members removing the two layers of wrapping from the air-layers, pruning the leaves and adjusting plant tags before they were passed to the potting members. (Below is Debbie Brown & Melinda Taylor, Greg Taylor, Brenda Elebash)



Three gallon size containers were partially filled with potting mix before air-layers were placed in the containers with more mixture. (Below, Christi Hankins, James Frazier, Jim DeReuil, Gene Elebash)



It was great to have multiple tables to spread work teams under the carport. To the left are; Judy Woerner, Skip Vogelsang & Paul Bruno





At another table you see Christine Frazier working with Ted Hassebrock and David Purdon potting. In total we did pot 288 air layers that we completed in 2 ½ hours.

The plants were transported by wagons and wheel barrow by Trumin Brown and Ted Hassebrock to the door of the Shade House for inventory. Carolyn Pulford checked pots, removed all buds and provided Lee Vanderpool with plant names for inventory.



Plants were placed in the alphabetical row and group with those of the same name by Jim DeReuil, Kristin Bennett and Rita Perling. Final steps were to fertilize and water these future money makers for the Club.



Inside the storage building Patty Moran was taking inventory of our show entry cards while Christi Hankins checked on show cups, prizes and more. Somehow I did not get a photo of Richard Freeman and myself as we rotated jobs among members who needed a donut or coffee break. There are more photos on the website from the day, click [here](#) to view. Great job done by 22 members that came out at 9am to work.

If you are interested in helping with the work at the Shade House you can find Trumin Brown there every **Monday at 10am**. Call him, 850-375-4541 the day before to know what work you will be doing to plan a productive hour or two with him.

Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> was another perfect day to come together at UWF for general cleaning of the garden. John Davy, the early bird, was there at 8am whacking the weeds. This really saved our backs and time. John plans to return with fertilizer for the camellias and spray for the weeds. Skip Vogelsang planted another camellia to enhance the garden and took inventory. Other members picked up



sticks, removed suckers around the base of plants, removed multiple buds and gibbed. Yes, we had Halloween candy for breakfast thanks to Debbie Brown.

(Left to right; James and Christian Frazier, Richard Freeman, Carolyn Pulford, John Tinsley, Jane Benson, Lee Vanderpool, in mask is Paul's sister, Skip Vogelsang,

Debbie & Trumin Brown, Pat Stephenson, David Purdon, Paul Bruno and Louise Seitz on the camera.)

While we were potting the air layers Roger Vinson, Dick Hooton, Alan McMillan and Greg Taylor with their spouses attended the dinner at the Gulf Coast Camellia Society conferences. There Roger was presented with the 'Judge Roger Vinson' camellia. Roger has served extensively as ACS President 2009-2010, Board of Trustees Directors, and much more.



### **Judge Roger Vinson**

**Species:** Japonica  
**Color:** Red Outer Petals Shading To Mauve Shading Back To Red In Center  
**Form:** Formal Double  
**Size:** Medium To Large



## Upcoming Events

**Friday Nov. 12th & Saturday Nov. 13th**— **Camellia plants for sale** and promoting our show outside at the [Garden Center](#) during the **Federation of Garden Clubs Holiday Bazaar**. Come browse hand-crafted creations, homemade baked goods by talented Garden Club members. Lunch will be available for purchase too.

If you can help between 9am – 3pm 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 to promote our Club!

**Tuesday Nov 16<sup>th</sup>** - General meeting at The Garden Center, 6:30pm social, 7pm Program: **'How to Compete at the Show'**. Come and learn the four Characteristics the Judges look for in your blooms. Now you will know why the Nomenclature book is needed for the show.

*Our show will include toy donations for the Marines "Toys for Tots" program. You can bring in unwrapped toys that you have purchased tonight. If you prefer you can make a monetary donation tonight or mail in your donation to; PCC, PO Box 707, Pensacola FL 32591 and we will do the shopping for you. We greatly appreciate your help here too.*

**Saturday Dec 4<sup>th</sup>** – 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!

**Tuesday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** - General meeting at The Garden Center, 6:30pm social, 7pm. Program: Skip Vogelsang/ Show Chairman will finalize all jobs for setup and the show. *Please bring in your toy donation for "Toys for Tots" that we will use in place of show prizes for our December Camellia Show winners.*

**Friday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**- Will meet at the Shade House to load trucks with supplies and plants to move to the Garden Center. If you do not have a truck to move will see you at the Garden Center to unload at 1pm.

We appreciate all of our members and leave it to your discretion to wear a mask at our meetings. Seating will be spread out for you to select where you prefer to sit. Stay well and safe.

## **Show Tips from the Top** By Don Lesmeister

(Important tips from expert camellia grower and shower, Don Lesmeister.  
Everything you wanted to know to win trophies at the camellia shows.)

### **DON'T judge your blooms in your yard...take them to the show.**

#### **1. GET READY**

1. Start your bloom entry plan the week before the show.
2. Pin back leaves with clothes pins, disbud and prune if necessary.
3. Move container plants to protected areas.
4. Read show schedule.
5. Clean boxes and get tools (brushes, tweezers, cotton etc.) ready.

#### **2. CUTTING/HANDLING BLOOMS**

1. Remove leaves next to bloom from plant.
2. Get cup/Perlite/sand and preservative ready-use correct cup size.
3. Put bloom in preservative within 8 seconds of cutting.
4. Put bloom in container surrounded by cotton, batting, etc. (Do not use newspaper or Easter grass.)
5. Do not clean blooms until you get to the show.
6. Clean leaves with milk or cream or mayonnaise (don't leave TOO shiny). Put leaves in separate baggies by size of leaf.

#### **3. EXHIBITING TIPS**

1. Walk the show...See what the competition is. Decide to enter single or trays etc.
2. Gather up necessary trays,
3. Clean bloom
4. Put out entry card, place bloom & cup on table so only bloom names shows.
5. Slice leaf under damaged petal if flower is red. (does not apply to white or pink blooms)
6. Put damaged blooms in rear of class.
7. If your bloom is BEST, put next to next best bloom.
8. If your bloom is NEXT best, put far away from best bloom.
9. Tilt the bloom slightly so it "smiles" at the judges.
10. If bloom is not fully open, push gently with cotton Q-tip, blow on the petals to fully open.
11. Use cotton, tissue etc, to stage bloom.
12. Place bloom in middle of table if there are few entries.
13. Stage every bloom as if it were the ONLY one you have.
14. When finished, go over show again to review competition/single or tray entries & collections.

#### **4. OUT OF TOWN TRIPS**

1. Gas up the car/check oil/clean windows etc, a couple of days before the show.
2. Get directions to the show location.
3. Don't drive in the slow, bumpy, truck lane of the highway.
4. Bring heavy coat or blanket in winter as you do not want to turn the heater on. Good Luck!

## Getting to Know Your Fellow Camellia Member

An Interview with Katherine Geeker By Debbie Brown/ VP Membership



Katherine Geeker, 99, was born in Greenwood Mississippi, the heart of the Delta. The soil there is black, fertile, alluvial soil, which is why she could grow anything. Katherine's interest in flowers started as child. Her neighbor Mrs. Kidd grew beautiful roses, hyacinths, daffodils and jonquils, which all contributed to her love for flowers. She has been able to pass along her love of gardening to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren over the years.

She moved to Pensacola in 1941 when she married her husband Pete, a native of Pensacola. That was when her love of camellias started. She was given her first camellia plant, Mathotiana Supreme, by Dr. Rudolph P. Stritzinger in December of 1944.

Her favorite camellias are Alba Plena, Pink Perfection, Herme, Debutante, Mathotiana Supreme. Her pride and joy is what she calls the 'Empress Pagoda', a



seedling grown by Mr. Kosaka Sawada that she nurtured and grew into a beautiful plant. This seedling was purchased at Taylor's Hardware where Katherine subsequently met Mr. Sawada who had come from Mobile to collect his order from the store. They discussed their love of camellias.

For the first time, she entered her blooms, including the Empress Pagoda into the Community Novice Show which was approximately 2009. She put her beautiful blooms in her cake pan to carry to the show. She won five different prizes and 'Best in Show'. (Photo on the right by Norman Vickers)

Katherine wanted to express her appreciation for all the cards and well wishes she received in October for her 99th birthday from the Pensacola Camellia Club members.



## **All members are needed before, during and after the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Camellia Show on December 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Below is a list of where your help is needed on the day of our Annual Camellia Show Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please read through our needs, and plan to sign up at the November meeting or by replying to the newsletter. Plan to spend the whole day, and try various jobs to learn what it takes to put on a great show.

**Camellia Bloom Prep, Show & Awards** - Skip Vogelsang [lbv3rd@gmail.com](mailto:lbv3rd@gmail.com) is the Show Chairman in charge and taking all questions prior to the show.

At our December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting Skip will demonstrate the job of **Bloom Placement** based on division for unprotected and protected with sub categories for the various classes that he will explain in detail at the meeting. The day of the show, exhibitors will arrive at 7:00am to prepare their blooms in the prep area, café room and in the large tent that will be in the parking lot at the Garden Center. When the exhibitors have their blooms & entry card ready you will carry trays of blooms to the large room where Dick Hooton, aka 'the gate keeper' will review every entry card for correct information. We would like 4 helpers for 7:00am, additional 4 helpers will be needed at 8:00am and 4 more at 8:30am. Dick will tell you to proceed in placing the bloom at the correct division, class table or if there is an error to return the bloom to the exhibitor. All blooms placement must be completed by 10:00am.

*As of now volunteers are: Melinda Taylor, John & Lauren Mate, Christine & Jim Frazier, Jane Benson, Pierre Kaufke*

**Judges-** Alan McMillan is the lead person for ACS certified judges and novice judges. Alan will recruit most of the judges from out of town along with some novice judges, but this year we will use local judges too due to the virus. They are grouped in teams of three and will need a clerk and runner for each team starting at 10:00am.

**Clerks and runners-** Bill Lyford will be the lead person for clerks and runners. He will need a clerk and a runner for each team of judges starting at 10:00am. Some of the placement helpers can transition to this task with other more members that have arrived. Clerks will be responsible to place color stickers on entry cards based on the 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' aka 'contention table' where two members will review the entry information against the Camellia Nomenclature book.

*As of now volunteers are: Melinda Taylor, Christine & Jim Frazier, Jane Benson, Pierre Kaufke, Kristin Bennett*



All of the head table blooms will be reexamined by the judges in order to move on to the next stage. These 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. (Need 20 helpers.)

**Plant sales** - Trumin Brown will be the lead person for plant sales. We plan to bring 200 plants to the show to sell. Your help is needed to load and unload the plants with care the day before. All plants will be labeled with bloom photos, descriptions and prices to make work easy. This is also a great time to encourage membership on the spot for \$10. Sales will be outdoors, from 9-4pm and he would like 2 shifts of 3-4 helpers.

*As of now volunteers are: Lee Vanderpool, Pat Stephanson*

Our goal is to keep the public occupied while judging is taking place and NOT in the building until the show opens at 1:00pm.

**Greeters**- Louise Seitz will be the lead person in need of 4 greeters to cover 2 hour shifts to welcome our guest starting at 1:00pm to handout show brochures and provide directional information. *As of now volunteers are: Susan Ulloa*

Will need someone stationed at the door with a clicker to take count of attendance for recording to ACS.

**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 would like 1 person to assist her with membership.

*As of now volunteers are: Kristin Bennett & Melinda Taylor*

**Photographer** if you enjoy taking photos we have an opening for you to capture the fun of our members in action and all of the beautiful winning blooms for our website. Please contact Louise Seitz if you can help to plan times.

**Lunch time** – Please assist our guest with directions to the food truck and dining area of the small room of the garden center. Arlene Williams BBQ truck will be onsite for you to purchase your lunch, 11 -3pm.

**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.

*As of now volunteers are: Christi Hankins, John Mate, Cristin Bennett, Susan Ulloa, Jane Benson*

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.



Our show falls on the second Saturday in December every year which is why we collect **Toys for Tots** in place of prizes for our winners. It is rewarding for our members who generously purchase new toys for the Marines to give to the needy children of Escambia County. These toys can be costly, which exceeds the cash or prizes we have given in previous years. A new bike cost around \$100.00 and board games, dolls and other toys start at \$20-\$25. Please bring your unwrapped toy donation or if you prefer to donate cash we will shop for you. Christi Hankins has the energy to collect your toy donations, stores them in plastic bins, and delivers them to the show to arrange these donations for display on the eve of the show.