



The Pensacola Camellia Club Members attended the Gulf Coast Camellia Society's Conference on Oct. 13-14th in Covington, Louisiana. This year, our friend Jim Smelley, of the Mobile Camellia Club was honored for his contributions and support to all of the Gulf Coast Clubs at the banquet.

The conference is a 'kick-off' for the Camellia Show Season. Various Clubs members from the five Gulf Coast States come to renew friendships which support each other's Club with Exhibitors, Judges and those beautiful camellia blooms. The tradition of shows for competition continues through the efforts of all Clubs and their members with the support of the American Camellia Society.

Below; Carolyn & Staff Pulford, Jim Smelley, Trumin & Debbie Brown, Melinda & Greg Taylor, Alan McMillian and Jane Benson.



By the way, next October the Gulf Coast Camellia Society conference will be held in Pensacola.

Remembering Dr. Norman Vickers by Louise Seitz

By now you may have read **Dr. Norman Vickers** obituary which mentioned he was a veteran, husband, father, medical doctor and an enthusiast of jazz. For the Pensacola Camellia Club, Norman was the Club's historian, musician, photographer, publicist, and secretary for many years. Dr. Vickers had mentioned that while in medical school he would collect his classmate's notes and type them up for a study guide for himself and classmates. The typing skills were similar to his piano lessons which build on memorization and applied to his studies. Norman was editor for the Florida Medical Association which explains his ability to provide summaries of PCC's activities for media release, website, and articles for the newsletter.

I met Dr. Vickers for the first time at the UWF Garden Tour of February 2015 which was due to the information that he shared with the media, PNJ. Like most Northern transplants to this area I was astonished to see flowers in the winter and wanted Camellias, for my yard. Norman convinced my husband that you could make a privacy fence with them; he purchased 3 Sea Foams and membership for me. Norman's knowledge of camellias and club members was extensive and shared with those he met at our events.



Norman Vickers with Paul Bruno 2-24-2018 at UWF Camellia Garden

Norman loved his church family at St. Christopher Episcopal Church and the memorial service included a special jazz performance before hand and continued throughout the service and concluded with, 'When the Saints Go Marching In,' as a send off. Norman's ashes are buried at St. Christopher's memorial section where you will also find Camellias.



2002 Club officers; left to right Jim McNabb, Norman Vickers, Roger Vinson, 'T' Morris, Bill Bennett, Carl Brady, Jack O'Donnell

What perfect weather we had on Saturday October 21, 2023 for potting our air-layers. Many THANKS to the 28 members who helped with this money maker for the Club. There were 524 air layers potted, 12 left unpotted. We have never experienced running out of potting soil before! Below are photos from the morning workers in action.



Michelle Duval & Pat Stephenson unwrapping while LeAnna Sanders prunes.



Morning face of Cindi McDonald. Lori Shipman watching Melinda Taylor and William Paden cut carefully into zip tie. Background is new member Brughid Kugleman. Looks like Louise is deep into dirt containers, with Lauren Mate passing empty pots to Louise. Special thanks to Lauren for bringing her son, Kevin and Daughter-In-Law, Jessica, to help us while they were in town.



Debbie Brown unwrapping **Greg Taylor the reason we have 524 air layers!**



John Mate getting pots,



Lee Vanderpool potting



William Paden, Lori Shipman explaining to new member Rocco Kugleman .
The next photo shows, a full 'Not For Sale' side of the Shade House stuffed with all 524 freshly potted plants.



As I stand in the wagon of containers with dirt you can see the table over flows of root balls waiting for pruning and potting by our great volunteers.



Here are some of our hard workers that came out today and did a wonderful job in 3 hours. BIG THANKS TO: Left to right Cindy Dyrda, John Mate, Greg Taylor, Rita Perling, Melinda Taylor, Susan Ulloa, Debbie Brown, Trumin Brown, Wanda Smith, Michelle Duval, Brenda Elebash, Skip Vogelsang, Elizabeth Fleischhauer, Pat Stephenson, William Paden, Cindy McDonald, Carolyn Pulford, Lori Shipman, Paul Bruno, Clayton McDonald, Lee Vanderpool. Helped but missed the group photo; Richard Freedom, Rocco and Brughid Kugleman, Lauren Mate (son Kevin and D-I-L, Jessica), Patty Moran, and taking the photos, Louise Seitz

We love to hear your camellia stories and / or photos about what you enjoy about camellias or PCC's events. Please submit to Louise Seitz at pensacolacamellia@gmail.com by the 1st of the month for it to be included in the newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Saturday Nov. 18th – Pensacola Camellia Club at [Palafox Market](#) **selling camellias and promoting upcoming events.** If you can help between 8:00am -2:00pm please contact Louise at 850-780-0410. Please dress for the weather to greet shoppers with smiles!

Tuesday Nov. 21st – General Meeting – Program: ‘Getting Your Camellias Blooms Ready for Show.’ Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program. *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.*

At the meeting, we like to **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** by asking them to wear the **Red** outlined name tag so our members know to greet you and introduce themselves. A new member is anyone that joined in Dec. 2022 – Nov. of 2023. New members, by attending the meeting your name will be included in a **‘New Members ONLY Raffle’** for a camellia plant. We also have a camellia plants raffle for everyone to participate, raffle tickets are a \$1.00 per chance or \$5.00 for 6 chances. See Lee Vanderpool to purchase your raffle tickets, the proceeds support our club meetings.



Friday Dec. 1st & Saturday Dec. 2nd – Pensacola Camellia Club at ‘St. Christopher’s Caravan,’ 3200 North 12th Avenue, Pensacola **selling camellias and promoting upcoming events.** If you can help between 9am-4pm 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. 5th – General Meeting – Christi Hankins/ Show Chairperson presenting “Where Your Help Is Needed For Our Camellia Show.” We will finalize all jobs for setup and the show. Location: [Garden Center](#), 1850 N. 9th Ave, Pensacola, 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program. *Please remember to bring in your toy donation for “Toys for Tots.”*

Friday Dec. 8th – Show set up at Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio located at 1000 College Boulevard. Volunteers will meet at the Shade House at noon to load show supplies, toy donations and plants into the van. The parade of vehicles will proceed to the Amos Performance Center, with an estimated arrival time of 1:30- 2pm to unload and set up.

Saturday Dec. 9th – Pensacola **Camellia Club 85th Annual Camellia Show & Plant Sales** Location: Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio. Exhibitors start time is 7:00am – 10:00am; Judging begins at 10:30am – 1:00pm, Open to the Public to enjoy all of the blooms 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Plant sales 9-4.

Fall Blessings Small and Large – Louise Seitz

Some of you knew that my daughter, Sarah was expecting our first grandchild in the coming New Year. This was going to be a nerve racking time since Sarah would be a high risk pregnancy and they are stationed in Goldsboro, North Carolina a 900 mile drive from us. On Monday, Oct 23rd, Sarah texted that they were heading to Duke University Hospital again due to her blood pressure. Tuesday morning's text read, 'baby coming today due to HELLP Syndrome.' In 15 minutes I packed a bag and took the next flight to Raleigh, North Carolina to spend a long night into the next morning waiting for the arrival of a 2 pound baby boy. We are thankful for the medical teams that saved mother and baby. What a rush of emotions!



Duke University Hospital located in Durham is described as 'a city within a city.' As mother recovered and baby was well taken care of by the NICU staff I was researching what services were available for their 10 week stay. Each day I would walk a different path through the hospital corridors to discover restaurants, three gift shops plus the University bookstore, as I searched for a preemie outfit, had to settle for 0 -3 month size. Oh, you have discounted parking passes - where can I purchase them? Once the minor necessities were completed my walks turned to the fall colors and landscaping of this beautiful campus of 210 acres.



By day 6, Mom, Dad and Grandma were moved to the Ronald McDonald House, which I discovered was 1 block away from the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. The bookstore had a hard covered book on the garden and the clerk mentioned to come back in the springtime for the lilies. The book mentioned there was a Camellias section, so now I was on the hunt. Saturday morning, Cody, my son-in-law, and I did a quick hour walk to the garden following the signs 'come see the mums.' The next evening, fighting daylight savings time, I tracked down the camellias and found a hedge of 'Maiden's Blush' sasanquas in bloom as shown in the photo.

The following day after visiting the baby I went walking the grounds again and found the 'Haines Gate' to the garden which is next to one of the hospital parking lots. What a perfect setting for medical staff, university students, patients and visitors to decompress all of their worries and stress. I could never image working somewhere where your lunch time could include a 55 acre landscaped garden that offers peace and quiet with God's nature. Many blessing and prayers my family received on this unplanned trip as we continue to thank God for all of his wonders small and large.

