



President's Message

What busy months our Club has had! Thank you to everyone who volunteered for our events. The Pensacola Camellia Club has an awesome reputation for having an active and committed membership and each of you make it happen. There are still some fun and educational events in the next couple of months including our Annual Banquet on March 24 and many air layering opportunities throughout April.

During this season, John and I had the pleasure of entering our blooms in both the Camellia Club of Mobile show in January and the North Georgia Camellia Society show at the Atlanta Botanical Garden last month. It was interesting observing how other Clubs run their shows; in addition, we had a wonderful time talking with their members and sharing our experiences about what we do as a Club and in our community to help promote our love for camellias. At both shows, the Chairpersons were also very appreciative of us bringing blooms and travelling the distance to help them have a successful show. It was pleasant walking around and admiring the beautiful blooms that others, like us, took the care to raise, pick, and transport many miles for others to enjoy. An added bonus at the Atlanta Botanical Garden was it was their "Orchid Daze", which we toured during the bloom judging. (For your awareness, if you join the American Camellia Society, admission to the Atlanta Botanical Garden is free, a savings of over \$40 for the two of us).

As we approach the end of our camellia season, I encourage you to think about planning a trip to at least one of the Gulf Coast Shows during the next Camellia Show Season. I guarantee you will find it fun and worthwhile. I hope to see you at our Annual Banquet on March 24! - Lauren Mate



Skip Vogelsang won Best in Show with Julius Nuccio bloom on Feb 29th

Our February events in review: Coffee at the UWF Camellia Garden, where President, Martha Saunders, announced a \$25,000 donation to the Camellia Garden Endowment. Pictured below, Roger Vinson, Martha Saunders and Skip Vogelsang.



Camellia Garden Endowment

at the University of West Florida



The UWF Camellia Garden has been a labor of love shared by the UWF Retired Employees Association, the Pensacola Camellia Club and the University of West Florida. Originally established in commemoration of UWF's 40th anniversary, the garden underwent significant enhancements in 2017 as part of UWF's 50th anniversary celebration. Since its inception, the garden has served as a quiet respite for staff and students while preserving diverse camellia varieties including local varieties which celebrate a unique aspect of Pensacola's history.

An anonymous UWF retired employee has generously donated \$25,000 to establish the Camellia Garden Endowment. This endowment will go to fund future maintenance and updates to the garden in perpetuity. The donor is challenging members of the Pensacola Camellia Club and Retired Employees Association to match the gift, bringing the total endowment to \$50,000.

Give online at crowdfunding.uwf.edu or write a check payable to the UWF Foundation. Please denote the Camellia Garden Endowment in the memo line.

The **UWF Garden Tour on Sunday Feb 23rd** had sunny skies and many visitors. Visitors were transported via golf carts driven by the UWF Student Ambassadors from the parking lots to the garden and back. Members were on hand to welcome visitors and distributed brochures about the garden and PCC club events.

John Mate pulled out his cutters and explained to the visitors how he prefers to prune the tree to allow air flow through the branches. He recommended trimming the lower branches to help reduce insect problems. Greg Taylor provided an air layering demonstration on the Don-Mac camellia and many more throughout the day as guests watched and asked questions.



John Davy had sprayed the weeds at the garden the previous weekend and had selected his camellia of choice, John Ingles, for plant reduction. I had to take a before and after photo to share with everyone since I knew he would be giving a major change to that camellia plants, those were not pruning shears in his hand. It was difficult to watch, but our professional grower is the best and knows what he is doing.





One of the original 1937 member and past president of the club was the late John Edwards. He and his wife, Mary Ellen Edwards left their mark on the club and its members. Pictured here are their daughters; Ellen and Mary Kaye who came to the garden tour. The red camellia behind them, the bench and bricks are in memory of their parents. Their father propagated and registered the 'John Edwards' a Japonica, dark red color, very large bloom in 1975.

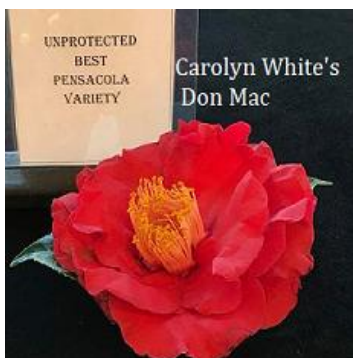
Community Novice Show Saturday Feb 29th



Thanks to all of you who participated in making this such a great event for everyone from our members to the first time visitors. I saw our visitors spending a great deal of time with our membership (17 visitors joined) and information tables and talking with our members. We may do things a little different from a traditional American Camellia Society show to encourage the participation of our members, novices and the community but it is clearly working as we

see numerous new members, participation of members who we may not see very often, and we put plants in the hands and yards of many show visitors!

Congratulations Pensacola Camellia Club! Everyone contributes in a special way and your support and the atmosphere of friendship and mentorship you provide are what make the Novice Camellia Show a successful event.



All of our photos can be viewed on our website for you to enjoy, copy and share to encourage your friends to join us.

<https://pensacolacamellioclub.com/photo-galleries/>

Legend of the Pork Pie Hat by Norman Vickers

My first encounters with Dr. Reid Leonard were not camellia related. I had come to Pensacola in 1965 to begin my private practice of gastroenterology, primarily at Baptist Hospital. When a blood test couldn't be performed in the hospital laboratory, the usual response was, "We'll send this out to Dr. Leonard's reference laboratory." It was only later that I learned of his interest in camellia culture. By this time, his interests and activities had turned to custom-making and selling fine furniture in various cities around the U. S.



One cold winter day, at a camellia event, I encountered Dr. Leonard wearing an elegant custom-made black pork-pie hat. Background: one of my interests is in music, especially jazz. And, one of my saxophone heroes was saxophonist Lester Young, also a native Mississippian. Lester's "trade-mark" hat was a pork pie. So, with this background, I said to Reid, "Will me that hat!" And on subsequent occasions, I'd also remind him of his promise to do so.

Fast forward to Reid's death several years ago at age 95. Perhaps it was fortuitous that his death was in winter, so at his funeral there was a large camellia wreath on the podium. At the reception following the funeral, I was approached by his son Leland, pork pie hat in hand, who said, "Dad wanted you to have this hat!"



So, on appropriately cool days, you may find me wearing Reid's pork pie hat! This Valentine's day at the UWF Camellia Garden reception, Roger Vinson took the picture of me wearing Reid's legacy hat!



A **pork pie** is a traditional British meat pie, usually served at room temperature. It consists of a filling of roughly chopped pork and pork fat, surrounded by a layer of jellied pork stock in a hot water crust pastry. It is normally eaten as a snack or with a salad.



A classic brown felt men's pork pie hat from the 1940s. Note that the "bow" in the back of the hat conceals a small button on a string which winds around the hat: in windy weather the button would be attached to the lapel of a jacket to keep the hat from blowing away.

Upcoming Events

Thursday Mar 19th – Pensacola Camellia Club will be providing a tour of UWF Camellia Garden for the members of Gulf Breeze Garden Club at 9:30am. We will share information about the garden, the special Pensacola varieties and have air layering demonstrations. If you would like to help, please contact Louise 850-780-0410.

Tuesday Mar 24th Annual Banquet



We will have Happy Hour prices all night on alcohol, wine, and beer. Cash Bar opens at 5:30 pm, with Dinner at 6:30 pm. You do not have to be a member to attend; all family and friends are welcome to this social celebration. We will have special

camellias for auction; the proceeds will benefit projects at the Club's shade house. There will be a display table for all members to bring blooms. Please include identification with your name and the name of the bloom that you are sharing. Price has remained the same at \$30.00 per person, which includes tax & tip. Make check payable to: Pensacola Camellia Club, \$30/per person and mail it to T. Morris at 579 Man O' War Circle, Cantonment, FL 32533 or call her at 850-476-4080. Include your guests' name for their name tags. Reservations should be in by March 20th.



Saturday March 28th – ALL HANDS NEEDED for our Work Day at the Shade House!



We will start at 9am – Noon, could be shorter with many helping hands to complete Dick's to-do-list. Your help is needed to fill raise beds with amend soil, plant 120 root stocks for future grafting, weed, spray and select plants for next year's sales.

The Shade House is located at
3279 Pine Forest Rd, Cantonment, FL 32533

Air Layering is the root to our *Sales Success*.

Greg Taylor will lead our members with the task to replenish our plant inventory with the propagation method of air layering at various gardens. Please attend one or more of the following dates where Greg will have all of the needed materials for you to learn how to air-layer from him. New members, this is a great time to interact with members who freely share their knowledge. Bring your water bottle your time will be well spent. These air layers will support our 2021 plant sales which finance the club's many events.

April 4th Saturday University of Florida Milton Campus at 5988 Highway 90, during their Spring Flower Festival air layering 2pm – 4pm,

April 7th Tuesday Godwin's property in Gulf Breeze at 1pm,

April 13th Monday Jack and Cinny O'Donnell's, 411 Bunker Hill Dr. Pensacola, 1 - 3pm,

April 18th Saturday morning UWF Camellia Garden 9am –Noon,

April 18th Saturday afternoon Skip Vogelsang, 4706 Shannon Place, Pens 2-4pm,

April 25th Saturday Leland Leonards located at 537 Brent Lane 9am –Noon.

Any additional or changes of gardens and dates will be in the April newsletter.

Tuesday April 21st – This is our last General Meeting for the season

Our program will start outside to provide you with a pruning demonstration followed by air layering demonstration for our newer members and a review for all.

Location: [Garden Center](#) 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program.

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 who joined in December 2019 till November 2020. This season we have **51 new members to welcome**. We were all new at one time or another so please look for the red outlined name tag persons and include them in your camellia conversations.

New members, if you did not know, by attending the meeting your name will be included in a '**New Members Raffle**' for a camellia plant. We also have a camellia plants raffle for everyone, raffle tickets are sold at \$1.00 for 5 chances. See T. Morris or Lee Vanderpool for your raffle tickets, the proceeds support our club meetings.

Please pay your 2020 membership dues of \$10 by check or cash at the meeting.

Debbie Brown, VP of Membership will accept your money and review your contact information to keep you informed of club events. If you have questions for Debbie about your membership you can reach her at 850-932-0370.

Blooms that draw “Ooohs and Ahhs” by Roger Vinson

When we grow camellias, most of us are always striving to get our plants (no matter how many we have) to produce better blooms. Then, when we do get better (or interesting) blooms, there’s a need to compare our bloom (or blooms) to those of others to see if our bloom (or blooms) are pretty good, average, or maybe not so good. This inherent process of comparing and evaluating blooms is why we have camellia shows. Of course, there is a competitive element in camellia showing, but frankly the reason most of us enjoy participating in the shows is that it not only allows us to measure how we ourselves are doing as growers, but also to see and appreciate the best varieties and blooms grown by others. It’s a never-ending good experience to see a bloom that draws “Ooos and ahs”, or maybe even a “Wow!” (and it’s even a better experience if it happens to be your bloom). So, camellia shows are a natural extension of growing camellias, and putting on an annual camellia show is one of the primary purposes of our camellia club.

I try to go to camellia shows that are within a relatively easy drive from Pensacola. Although the shows are all on weekends, time constraints and conflicts always limit the number of shows that I can attend. In our area of the country, the shows usually begin in November and run through early March. This year, I have been able to make seven shows, including our own, which is more than usual. All of them have been within our Gulf Coast Region: Gulfport, Slidell, Pensacola, Covington, Mobile, New Orleans, and Brookhaven. Excluding the local club awards, I’ve probably had over 50 winning entries in just about every unprotected category. My guess is that “Edna Bass” and “Edna Bass Variegated” have been my most consistent winners this year, but that always varies from year to year. If you have never considered showing your blooms, you should try it. Be warned, however, that’s its habit forming!



Edna Bass



Edna Bass Variegated

Congratulations to all our members that traveled to various shows this camellia season! Here are photos of some winning blooms that our proud members wished to share.



Alan McMillan won 'Best Seedling' at the Mobile Show with Gordy #1125. He plans to register and name the bloom Gloria Ann, in honor of his wife.



On the left, Richard Freeman won 'Best Heritage' at the Mobile Show with Herme. This was his first time at the head table.

Below, Pat Moran's Pink Perfection that won Best Small follow by Al & Vickie Baugh's Grand Prix that won Best Very Large Bloom at the Baton Rouge show. The Grand Prix is a brilliant red, introduced in 1968. Notice the prizes at the Baton Rouge show are individualized hand painted porcelain plates created by a club member.

