



We had a cold, but sunny day on January 26<sup>th</sup>, when 17 of our members traveled to Mr. Jim Smelley's property in Argicola, MS to graft and view many camellias in his many greenhouses. Debbie and I attended, and there was a good mix of very experienced grafters and those who were willing to learn. An experienced grafter by definition means they have been doing it for awhile, which also means they have some age on them. The team completed 55 grafts, many of which are of the show winning varieties.



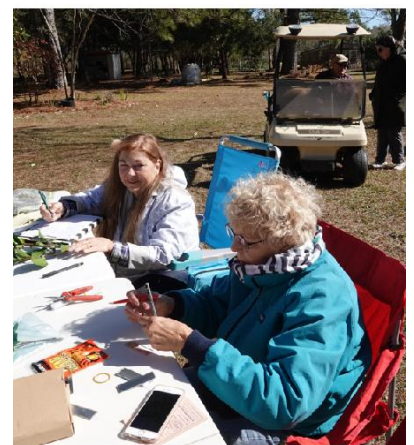
John Davy generously provided his prize winning Daddy Mac scions. The club is attempting to get the Daddy Mac camellia in every member's yard that wants one. Grafting at Mr. Smelley's or at the Shade House is a money saving event for the club to reduce the number of plants we purchase. This is a worthy goal and one we will be improving on for years to come. Grafting is only done in January and February, so don't miss the next opportunity to learn and help. August through December we sold around 450 plants and we still have several large sales events left.



I am looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming events. Thanks to all of you who have participated and made the recent events so successful. What a wonderful group of club members we have. I am very proud to be your President. - Trumin



Photos from Smelly's trip were contributed by Bette Hooton, Debbie Brown, and Christi Hankins. Below on the top left is John Mate & Skip Vogelsang, right Jim DeReuil & Christi Hankins. On his knees is Paul Bruno, lunchtime is John Davy and Trumin . Followed by Mr. Smelley and Bette Hooton, our personal chef, Tod Bancells, and Cindi McDonald and Debbie Brown.







On Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> we had 24 in attendance at the Garden Center for a personalized demonstration of grafting lead by John Davy with a team of grafters; Paul Bruno, Skip Vogelsang and Greg Taylor. They also provided blooms with scions and Greg out did himself with ziplog bags that included photos of blooms with their scion for our guests to make their selection. Louise Seitz and Carolyn Pulford welcomed guest, with information on PCC upcoming events, collected payment and provided handouts for 'aftercare of camellia grafts,' while Lee Vanderpool was outside to handle plant sales.

This 3 hour event encouraged Nancy DeBrun of Gulf Breeze, Rebecca Hinkle of Molino, and James Martin from Foley AL, to become members. Please introduce yourself when you meet them at any of our upcoming events.



Pictured left, Paul Bruno guiding Cindy Dyrda after he completed her grandson Fletcher's graft. Sorry we missed granddaughter Stella, in the photo.

Below, Paul answering James Martin's questions, Greg Taylor is in the background with his guest.

Skip has Rebecca Hinkle and Richard Freeman watching carefully..



Yes, John was styling a new camellia shirt.

We are saddened to inform our members of the passing of **Carol Comber** on January 22nd, 2022. For those of you who did not have the pleasure of knowing Carol or her parents, she is one of our multi – generational members of the Pensacola Camellia Club. Carol upheld the family's love of camellias and service. She served as the Florida representative for the Gulf Coast Camellia Society from 2012 – 2018. Her late mother, Jean Comber, had served as ACS Secretary and Publication Chairman for the Gulf Coast Camellia Society and International Camellia Society Journal.



I would often find Carol working quietly behind the scenes assisting in food prep at our meetings and events. Carol would always stay for clean up and would work quietly in the background at our events assisting wherever she saw the need. This might explain why it was hard to find Carol in our website's photo gallery. Carol served as a silent servant with a smile. When we find out more about her memorial services we will share more information with you or you can check on Oak Lawn Funeral Home website. - Louise

**The Pensacola Camellia Club Foundation** provides financial support for the activities of the Pensacola Camellia Club. In years past, our club members had to solicit funds for the Show from local businesses and financial supporters. That was difficult, time consuming, and distasteful to most of our members. Now, thanks in large part to the Foundation's financial support, we no longer have to worry about financing our annual show and can devote our full attention to the show itself. Our Club greatly benefits from having our Foundation.

***The Foundation always needs and welcomes your donations and memorial gifts. It is both exempt from federal income taxation, as a 501(c) (3) organization, and qualified to receive charitable contributions and bequests which are tax deductible for federal income, estate, and gift tax purposes.***

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ONE OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS.

Chair: Paul Bruno

Trustees: Trumin Brown, John Davy, Alan McMillan, Skip Vogelsang,

Mailing Address: PO Box 707, Pensacola, FL 32591

Email: [pensacolacamellia@gmail.com](mailto:pensacolacamellia@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events

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.

**Saturday Feb. 12th** – 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 Feb. 15th** – **General Meeting** Skip Vogelsang /Show Chairman presents 'Photos of the Winning Blooms'. Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program.

The Nominating Committee prepared and presented at the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting a slate of officers and board members. Tonight we will vote on the election of these officers and board to serve for the 2022-2023 season.

Officers President –Trumin Brown,

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Show Chairperson, Christi Hankins,

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Programs, Paul Bruno,

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - Membership, Debbie Brown,

Treasurer - Bill Lyford, Secretary - Carolyn Pulford, Past Pres - Lauren Mate

The following will serve on the Board of Directors: John Davy, Mike Johnston, Louise Seitz, Greg Taylor, Mack Thetford, & Skip Vogelsang

**Saturday Feb. 19th** – [UWF Camellia Garden](#) **Work Day** starting at 10am. We will be doing any necessary clean up before the garden tours. Please bring your gloves, tools for picking up dropped blooms, and yard waste containers.

**Sunday Feb. 20th** – **Pensacola Camellia Club will welcome the public to our [UWF Camellia Garden](#) Tour.** Members will provide air layering and pruning demonstrations, along with handouts of the clubs information. Plants will be available for sale starting at Noon to 4:00 pm. For more information about the UWF Camellia Garden go to Activities, [UWF Camellia Garden & Tours](#) on our website.

**Wednesday Feb. 23rd** – **“Salute to the Winter Rose, Camellias”** at V. Paul’s. All gardeners & camellia lovers, join us from 4:30– 6:30pm for a conversation with demonstrations about the growth and care of camellias. Happy Hour prices on wine to salute the winter rose, the Camellia. Camellia plants will be raffled off to attendees.

**Friday Mar. 4th** – **Set up** for Community Novice Show at the downtown Public Library on Spring Street starting at 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

**Saturday Mar. 5th** – Pensacola Camellia Club to host **Community Novice Show and Plant Sale** at the downtown [Public Library](#) on Spring St. Everyone is invited to bring their camellia blooms to compete for prizes in various categories starting at 9:00am. For more information about the Community Novice Show, go to Activities, [Community Camellia Show](#) on our website.

**Tuesday Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Banquet at V. Paul's, starts at 5:30pm for Happy Hour, Dinner served at 6:30pm. You do not have to be a member to attend; all family and friends are welcome to this celebration. Price is \$38/per person that includes tax and tip. Please Payment to: Pensacola Camellia Club and mailed to our P.O. Box 707, Pensacola , FL 32591. Reservations should be in by March 10th.



## Membership

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 2021 till November 2022. We are starting the year off with 24 new members.

New members, by attending the meeting your name will be included in a '**New Members ONLY Raffle**' for a camellia plant. This is for only new members, be sure to attend to increase your collection of camellias for your yard.

We also have a camellia plants raffle for everyone to participate, raffle tickets are sold at \$1.00 for 5 chances. See Lee Vanderpool to purchase your raffle tickets, the proceeds support our club meetings. Buy now as prices will increase next season.

Please pay your 2022 membership dues of \$10 by check or cash tonight.

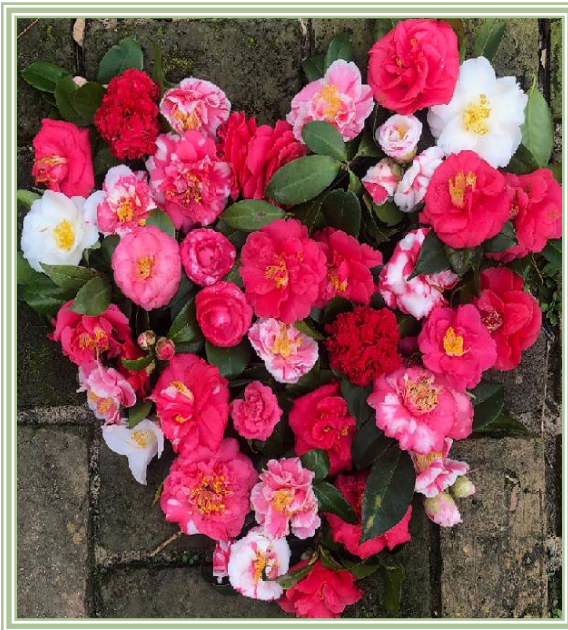
Debbie Brown, VP of Membership will accept your money and review your contact information to keep you informed of club events. If you have questions for Debbie about your membership you can reach her at 850-932-0370. If you're not attending the Jan. 18th meeting please mail your payment to Pensacola Camellia Club P.O. Box 707 Pensacola, FL, 32591. Lifetime membership is \$100.



## Salute to Camellias, the Winter Rose Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at V. Paul's

Last March, Paul Bruno gave a detailed presentation about camellia care to the Lady Bug Garden Club at V. Paul's Italian Restaurant. It seems that members of the club had dined when the tables were decorated with camellias, and discovered that Paul Bruno was an avid camellia lover, which sparked the idea of a guest speaker for their meetings. That idea developed into V. Paul's hosting their club's meeting at the restaurant followed by a night off from cooking for the ladies.

Paul asked me to assist him with this event since he was not sure how large the group would be and to bring PCC information for their members. We had 15 of the ladies attend and Paul had the room set up with examples; from potting soil mixture, to fertilizer, how to treat camellia diseases, and more. He also had tables filled with various camellias from his yard which impressed the ladies. What was scheduled for half an hour turned into an hour and half as the ladies requested more and more information. Was it due to Paul's charm or the wait staff filling their drink orders I'm not sure, but it was a Fun Time had by all. Ellen Edwards Milo (PCC member) was there and insisted that I join her for dinner afterwards. We sat with a table of 8 club ladies and I had to find out if all of their meetings were this much fun. The answer was "No," but they assured me that this was one of the best.



The point of that background story is why I suggest we try something new this year. We were going to do this last year but Covid forced us to cancel. Let's try again, and we invite everyone to come together to 'Salute, the Camellia!' That's salute as in the Italian style of 'raise a glass'. There is another connection, wines are red, pink, or white, should be simple to match your camellia to your glass.

Spread the word, Wednesday February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
from 4:30-6:30pm Happy Hour prices on wine.  
If you like bring your blooms to show from your yard as Paul shares his knowledge of camellia care.

Come have fun and enjoy. – Louise

## Getting to Know Your Fellow Camellia Member – Ellen Milo (Edwards)

Here are a couple Oldies but goodies...

**Ribbon Cutting for Camellia Show Opening 1963!** One of My Sister (Mary Kaye Edwards Bell – age 8) and Me (Ellen Edwards Milo – age 12) at the Municipal Auditorium where the Camellia Club was held for so many years. I remember doing this. Notice how dress



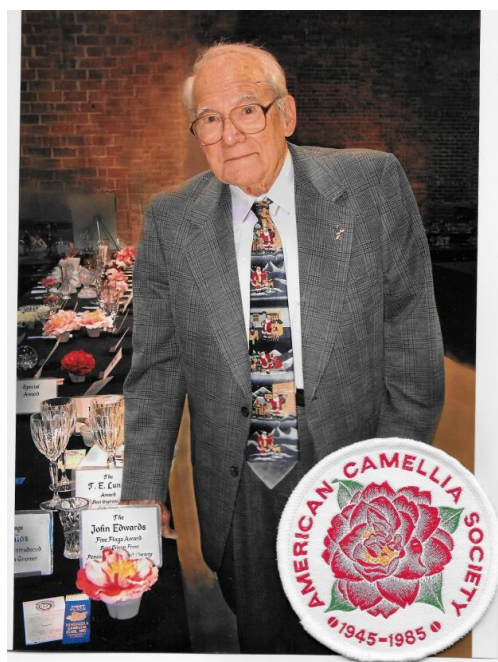
up we were for a camellia show. Just look at how the camellias were place for the show in tiers with thousands of blooms. Each is in a glass vase near similar blooms



The Municipal Auditorium was at the end of Palafox on the waterfront which is now Plaza de Luna.

One of Dad with The John Edwards Five Flags Award – I'm not sure of the year. Mom always marked the back of the photos but this is a copy of photo not original. By the ACS sign I would guess 1985. Love the tie!

My sister and I traveled all over the South with mom and dad when he was invited to judge shows. We met the nicest people in LA, MS, FL, AL! Nothing like camellia loving people!!!





Recognize a younger Jim Smelley, next to my parents, Mary Ellen and John Edwards at the Mobile show in 2001.



Here is our family photo, Dad, me, Mom and Mary Kaye Edwards Bell at the Mobile show in 2001.



As a kid when PCC hosted the annual show mom would cook all day and us girls would serve and clean up as the many out of town camellia friends had dinner at our house while the men visited. There was no V. Paul's to take the guest out, many throughout the years would gather at our kitchen table for camellia conversations.

*Please consider sharing your camellia story and / or photos about what you enjoy about camellias or PCC's events. Submit by emailing to Louise Seitz by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.*

**If you had missed it , we were in the January 2022 issues of VIP Magazine....**

VIP Pensacola at Pensacola Garden Center



Carolyn Pulford & Debbie Brown



Kathryn Willis & Pat Mays



Denia & Grace Cerrato

## The 83rd Annual Pensacola Camellia Club Show

photos & story by Kristina Wright

The Pensacola Camellia Club has a show and plant sale every year on the second weekend in December. This year is their 83rd annual, and the show was held on December 11 at the Pensacola Garden Center. Hobbyists from at least five states enter over 1,000 blooms in what is considered to be one of the top shows in the southeast. The blooms are placed into two categories: those that are grown in a protected greenhouse environment, and those that are grown outdoors; as most home owners would landscape their home garden. Camellia blooms vary greatly in color, form and size.

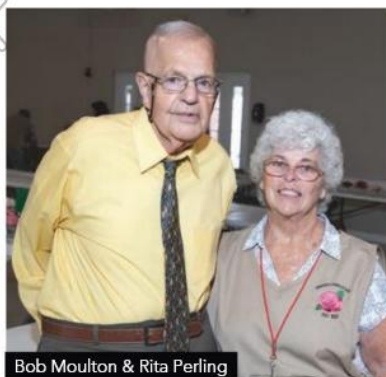
The show is open to entries from any camellia grower whether you have only one bush or hundreds. Everyone is encouraged to participate. There is a classification of "Novice" for new camellia growers to compete for prizes with their blooms. If your plant does not normally bloom in the month of December, club members are available with easy-to-follow instructions to force your plants to bloom early. Membership is not a requirement for attending meetings or placing blooms in the show. The club was also collecting donations for the local Toys for Tots toy drive.



LeAnna Sanders & Michele Kobielnik



Lee Vanderpool & Louise Seitz



Bob Moulton & Rita Perling



Pierre Kaufke, Billie Jo Bernal, JoAnn & Ken Roberts