



Looking ahead to this New Year, there are lots of exciting Camellia events and shows on our calendar. These events offer opportunities for each of us to be involved and join in the camaraderie of our Club members as we share our common interest, Camellias.

The longevity of this Club is based on member's participation and sharing of their skills that they bring to the club. We all come from different backgrounds and have ideas that can improve the way we do things as a club. You just had the opportunity to attend our annual show; if you missed it we will be hosting a Novice Show on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> at the West Florida Library downtown. This is not an ACS sanction show, instead a fun learning experience for the club to educate the public on how to exhibit their blooms for prizes. Start telling your neighbors that have camellias to come and learn. This show is for the 'Novice;' define as anyone who has not won at the head table of a show. There will be signup sheets at the January meeting, so ask questions if the tasks are not clear, but plan to attend.

Another event for our newer members is on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> when Paul Bruno presents Camellia Care and Culture at V. Paul's. At this free event, he gives a detailed presentation covering all of the bases of camellia care from soil, to fertilizer and so much more.

These events are intended to help with the education and understanding of Camellia Culture. Please let us know if you have specific questions so we can clarify to help you produce beautiful camellias. If you have a suggestion for a topic that we have not covered please bring it to my attention. If you know of a local garden that would benefit from air layering, we will assist you with supplies and help to make light of this work for the benefit of the Club.

Greg Taylor/ President

January Camellia Show Calendar includes the following for you to attend.

North Shore Camellia Club (Covington) January 7

Tallahassee Camellia Club January 13

Mobile Camellia Club January 20

Greenville Camellia Club January 27 and New Orleans Camellia Club January 27

**Blooms, blooms and more blooms.** Camellia season is here, colorful blooms will be opening for the next 3-4 months depending on our weather conditions. Many of our members are new to the area or recently purchased a home with camellias on the property and need help identifying the names of those camellias. How do you identify the Camellia blooms in your yard? Here are a few suggestions to assist you in the learning process of identification.



Our Club's experts came up with the clever name of Neighborhood Camellia Information Squad; (NCIS), which provides home visits to assist you with camellia identification and care. You can email your request to the club, [pensacolacamellia@gmail.com](mailto:pensacolacamellia@gmail.com) with your photos of the plant, leaves and blooms from the top and side view, they will be share it with our squad. Our experienced members that have their yard filled with camellias, (Skip, Paul, John, Greg) will then make arrangements to contact you directly.

You are always welcome to bring your blooms to the next meeting, January 16<sup>th</sup> and many of our members will try and narrow it down with the collective knowledge and various websites to reference.

A very helpful website is within the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. There you will find a 'Camellia Library - Search Feature' which includes 7 different criteria options for you to select from. Here is one example on the website, the criteria of, 'Search by Bloom Characteristics - Species, Form, Size or Color.' There are drop down arrows for you to select within each characteristic what you are looking for to narrow the search. For example under Species select Japonicas, Forms – Single, Color - Pink and Size All. The results are 46 varieties blooms photos within those parameters. It is a trial and error method but it might provide an answer or introduce you to other camellias you may want for your yard.



#### **Camellia Library - Search Feature**

Search by Bloom Characteristics - Species, Form, Size & Color

A fun way, but a little more effort is to bring your blooms out to UWF Camellia Garden for an enjoyable hunt through the garden to match your blooms to the many camellias that are there. There are over 120 camellias there that came from member's yards, chances are they could be air layers from your yard. All of these camellias have name plaques for a comparison or confirmation of what you suspect it could be. It's a start, and the time is now to find your answer while they are blooming. - Louise Seitz

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday Jan. 16th – General Meeting:** ‘Grafting Camellias For That Hard to Propagate Reticulata That You Must Have.’ Location: [Garden Center](#), (1850 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pensacola) 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program. Feel free to bring a treat to share, coffee will be provided.

- At 7pm the Nominating Committee will present and accept nominees for the slate of officers and board members. At the February meeting we will vote on the slate. Here are their suggestions for Officers and Board to serve for the 2024-2025 season.

Officers: President – Greg Taylor,  
1st Vice President - Show Chairperson, Christi Hankins,  
2nd Vice President - Programs, John Davy  
3rd Vice President - Membership, Debbie Brown,  
Treasurer - Bill Lyford,  
Secretary –Kristin Bennett,  
Past Pres - Trumin Brown,

The following will serve on the Board of Directors: Paul Bruno, Regan Hoffman, Mike Johnston, Carolyn Pulford, Louise Seitz, Mack Thetford, & Skip Vogelsang

- Program tonight, “**Grafting Camellias For That Hard to Propagate Reticulata That You Must Have.**” John Davy will explain the art of grafting then we will break off to tables for grafting your scion of choice. We will be collecting \$10 for this special graft that you will be taking home with aftercare instructions. May I suggest, looking through the show winners for that camellia you must have. Let us know which one it is so we might have the scion you want on hand tonight.



- When you are not grafting we will also be covering our **Community Novice Show** with information on how you can help and participate in that event. There will be signup sheets and you can try a different task at this small show than what you learned at the December show.

- At the meeting, we would like to **WELCOME our 51 NEW MEMBERS** by asking them to wear the **Red** outline name tag so our members know to greet you and introduce themselves. A new member is anyone that joined in Nov. 2023 – Nov. of 2024. 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.
- Please pay your 2024 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. 16th meeting please mail your payment to Pensacola Camellia Club P.O. Box 707 Pensacola, FL, 32591. Lifetime membership is \$100.
- ***Tonight we will be raffling off the following camellias.***



**Arlene Rand**

Species: Japonica  
 Color: White With Yellow Stamens And Yellow Filaments  
 Form: Full Peony Form  
 Size: Small

Pensacola Variety



**Betty Sheffield Variegated**

Species: Japonica  
 Color: Deep Pink Spotted White Variation With Yellow Anthers And Whitish Filaments  
 Form: Semidouble To Loose Peony Form With Slightly Wavy Petals  
 Size: Medium To Large



**Buttermint**

Species: Non-reticulata Hybrid - C. Kissii Hybrid  
 Color: Very Creamy White To Pale Yellow  
 Form: Formal Double To Rose Form Double, Occasionally Peony Form  
 Size: Miniature



**Ethel Davis Variegated**

Species: Japonica  
 Color: Clear Pink With Yellow Anthers And White Filaments  
 Form: Loose Peony Form  
 Size: Medium To Large

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](mailto:pensacolacamellia@gmail.com) by the 1st of the month for it to be included in the newsletter.



**Saturday Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>** – Pensacola Camellia Club will be at the Japanese New Year Celebration at Wright Place. This is a perfect match for members to explain Camellias, Native to Japan, and the species Japonica. We hope to bring plants with blooms to attract the public to purchase. There will be live performances of drummers and dancers in the large room for all that pay for admission to enjoy, 11- 4pm.

**Saturday Jan. 27<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, club information and smiles!

**Wednesday Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>** 'Salute to the Winter Rose, Camellias' at V. Paul's @4pm. All gardeners & Camellia lovers, come join us from 4:30- 6pm for a conversation about the care of camellias. Happy Hour prices on wine to salute the Winter Rose. Bring your blooms for identification or to match your wine to the bloom.

**Friday Feb 2nd** – **Set up** for Community Novice Show at West Florida Public Library, 239 N. Spring St, Pensacola, FL starting at 3:00 pm – 4:00pm

**Saturday Feb 3rd** – Pensacola Camellia Club to host **Community Show and Plant Sale** at the downtown West Florida Public Library, 239 Spring St, Pensacola, FL.

Everyone in the Community is invited to bring their camellia blooms to compete for prizes in various categories starting at 9:00am. The purpose of the show is to educate the novice on how to prepare their blooms to present it for judging, and have it stand out from the competition. Club members will assist you with bloom identification, set up, entry forms, and placement of blooms by category. Novices can also learn what judges look for in a bloom to determine which one stands out as 'The Best in Show.' Once judging is completed, prizes are awarded and everyone can view the display of the results.



**Save the date, March 19<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Banquet more information in the February newsletter.**