



We woke up that morning at Massey Lane and it was 32 degrees. There was no reason to stick around in the cold, so we headed home. It was a pleasant surprise to see that we would be able to get back in time for the UWF Garden Tour. It was so nice to get back where it felt like spring. The Camellia Tour at UWF was like a carnival. So many guests and new members went away with some knowledge and some with a new plant. What a wonderful day with the camellias in bloom.

The show season is over. Melinda and I carried over 479 blooms to 11 shows. The most blooms we carried to any one show were to Baton Rouge with 69 blooms. We displayed Pink Perfection 10 times. We travelled 4,152 miles. We won Best in Show for the first time at Mississippi Gulf Coast with Ferris Wheel. This year we won Silver sweepstakes at Northshore and Gold sweepstakes at North Georgia. For our newer members, at each show the exhibitor with the most blue ribbons wins the sweepstake with gold and runner up with silver.



I am so looking forward to being with my camellia friends at the Annual Banquet. I hope you have made your reservations on line through our website or by mailing in your check. Details are in the 'coming events' part of this newsletter. If you have trouble with either just call Louise and she will take care of you. All are welcome to attend you need not be a member.



- Greg Taylor / President

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday Mar. 9th** – Pensacola Camellia Club will be selling camellias at the ‘Celebrate the Spring Lawn and Garden Show,’ [1603 N. 12th Ave, Pensacola, FL 32503](#) at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart School Parking Lot. Hours are 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. If you can help for a few hours please contact Trumin at 850-375-4541. Please bring a chair and dress for the weather to greet the shoppers with camellias and smiles!

**Wednesday Mar. 13th** – Pensacola Camellia Club is included in UWF’s Leisure Learning Spring Programs. Leisure Learning members requested a Tour of the UWF Camellia Garden by the Club members at 1:00pm. If you are available at 11am we would like to pick up some spent blooms and dropped branches to make the place ready for this class of 20 guests.

**Tuesday Mar. 19th – Annual Banquet** at V. Paul’s Italian Ristorante, 29 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida. Cash bar will open at 5:30pm with Happy Hour prices on alcohol, wine and beer, followed by dinner at 6:30pm. You do not have to be a member to attend; all family and friends are welcome to this celebration. Paul has generously waved the setup fees for the club and we will be paying **\$45/per person that includes gratuity. Please make payment to: Pensacola Camellia Club and mailed to P.O. Box 707, Pensacola, FL 32591.** You can also pay **online for \$47/ per person**, [Click here](#) which includes credit card fees. Reservations should be in by March 13th.



At the banquet the T. Morris Scholarship Award, the ‘2023 Person of The Year’ will be announced, the 2024-2025 Officers and Board Members will be sworn in, along with Special Camellia plants available for auction.

**Saturday Mar. 23rd – Air layering** at member Skip Vogelsang’s garden 4760 Shannon Place starting at 9am and another team will be at John Davy’s camellia garden 5527 Oakmont Dr, Pace starting at 12pm. The club will provide the supplies needed for air layering, just show and help. Bring your water bottles and you will learn this method of propagations.

The UWF Camellia Garden has become the Main Attraction this time of the year. Various clubs have contacted the club to request tours and others have come on their own after asking, 'where on the campus is the garden?' The results of the many visitors are always the same as they leave with bright smiles, fallen blooms in hand and the desire to come back for another visit.

Skip Vogelsang had the pleasure of providing a tour with members of the 'Wide Angle Photo Club' on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. Once I heard about it I had to get their contact person to share some of their pictures for the newsletter. I thought our phone cameras take pretty



good photos, but not like these. Don't worry I did ask if they would like to present photo tips at one of our club members meeting next fall. Photos by Richard Smith & Gail Barsh



Feb 14th was not just Valentine's Day, but the formal presentation of funds from the Pensacola Camellia Club and University's Retired Employees Association totaling \$25K. These funds were matched by an anonymous donor for a total of \$50K for the UWF Camellia Garden's Endowment. Now we have financial support to maintain the existing garden and future enlargement of the space. Paul Bruno as PCC Foundation Chair person expressed his gratitude to PCC club members for their support to match these funds and work at the UWF Camellia Garden.



What perfect weather we had for our UWF Camellia Garden Tour on Feb 25th. The UWF Student Ambassadors transported our 100 visitors to and from the parking lot with their camellia purchases. Club members were on hand to greet, guide and educate the public on the garden and the camellias planted there. John Davy scared or taught many visitors on how to 'reduce' their large camellia plants, while other members provided air layering and pruning demonstrations. It was a lovely day to be at the garden which was in FULL Bloom with many smiling faces.

Blooms in hand as they are shuttled to their cars by the UWF students.

Members Cindy Dyrda & Vickie Baugh under Julia



John Davy pruning away



Happy visitor accessorizing her dress.

This couple was so happy to enjoy the day with us.



Trumin Brown recorded 70 plants were sold while Debbie Brown signed up 11 new members that afternoon. We have welcomed 70 new members to the club since November. We hope these new members will enjoy the camaraderie as they meet our members at the various events.

You can view more photos from the garden tour on our website under, About Us, Photo Galleries. If you took photos from that day or any event please share so we can add them to the website.

This successful event was brought to you by our many helpful members. Those that came Saturday to clean the garden, plus members who came to the Shade House on Saturday afternoon to load the van with plants and Trumin's truck with all of the needed supplies. Other members were at the garden at 11am on Sunday to set everything up, before welcoming visitors for a lovely day at the garden. Some call this work, I prefer fun!

Another image from Wide Angle Photo Club member, Richard Smith.

