



In 2018 Melinda and I were just starting our journey (some might say obsession) with camellias. That Christmas we were heading to Orlando to celebrate Christmas with her family. In a normal year we would have blissfully driven past Gainesville. Our new membership in the American Camellia Society provided us free entrance to botanical gardens. We spent most of the afternoon wandering around Kanapaha and Wilmot Gardens. Pictured below is from 2018, the poinsettia tree fascinated me.

This year's American Camellia Society's Convention was hosted by the Gainesville Camellia Society on January 2nd-5th. Part of their convention included a tour of Wilmot Gardens and their show was at Kanapaha. Our guide below at Wilmot Gardens was Dr. C. Craig Tisher; he was also our guide back in 2018.



More than 400 camellias, with 270 different cultivars, are located at Wilmot Gardens. Many of the specimens comprise two specialty gardens within Wilmot Botanical Gardens, the Gordy Camellia Garden and the newly created Mendenhall Family Camellia Walk. Since 2018, 100 camellias have been transplanted from the private garden of Clarence and Lillian Gordy from Ocala.



Melinda and I did spend most of the day Friday and Saturday with show set up and hospitality at Kanapaha. We also learned how to pronounce it properly. Emphasis is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> “a”.

The garden is private and does not reciprocate with the American Camellia Society. The admission is \$12; it was \$8 in 2018.

The photo to the right is Pensacola’s variety, Don-Mac, wanted you to know we are represented here.

Speaking of representing our club...at the Gainesville Camellia Show Kristin and Jim DeReuil took home a few prizes in the following categories; Unprotected Japonica, very large runner up with ‘ShowTime,’ and small runner up with ‘Les Marbury Red,’ under Reticulata very large runner up with ‘Moonrise,’ and large runner up with ‘Gayle Lawrence,’ and finally under Hybrid medium runner up was their ‘Polaris.’ I only won the Miniature runner up with ‘Little Ruby.’

While we were in Gainesville, the Northshore Camellia Club of Covington, Louisiana was having their annual show. The big winner there for **Best Bloom in Show, was Christi Hankins with ‘Kirsti Leigh.’ Congratulations Christi!**

Pensacola Club members took home 13 awards in various categories. Congratulations to our Club winners, Jane Benson, Al & Vickie Baugh, Jane Davis, and Skip Vogelsang.



Greg Taylor /President



## Ring in the New Year with Camellias by Kristin & Jim DeReuil



Jim and I rang in the New Year by taking a short road trip to Eden Gardens State Park in Santa Rosa Beach. If you have never been, it is worth the relatively short drive.

Eden Gardens is a 163-acre state park that was part of the historic Wesley Homestead, the home of one of the first families to settle the Point Washington Area. Lois Maxon purchased the home in 1963 along with 10.5 acres and proceeded to devote a million dollars to an extensive renovation of the home. She donated the property to the Florida Park Service on Christmas Eve 1968 (Thank you, Lois Maxon!).



There is a list of camellias on the Friends of Eden Gardens website. The Friends of Eden Gardens are working to expand the catalog and properly identify all the camellia plants whose labels have fallen off or become illegible. The list is very comprehensive and includes pictures. Very impressive!

The camellias are generally located in two separate areas, both easily accessible from the parking lot. If it is a nice day and you are looking for something to do, it is worth the drive. In addition to the camellias, you can tour the Wesley House, fish and hike. There are relatively easy trails that weave through the park.

They did a nice job camouflaging their electric meters. We will see something similar at the UWF Gardens in the near future.

John Davy is scheduled to speak at the Eden Gardens State Park Camellia Festival (10 am – 2 pm February 8, 2025) and the Pensacola Camellia Club will have an information table. If you go to Eden Gardens, look carefully for the camellias from the Pensacola Camellia Club that the Gardens' purchased to add to their collection.

Kristin and Jim DeReuil





The Annual Camellia Festival at Eden Gardens State Park will be held on Saturday February 8th, from 10am-2pm. This event, hosted by The Friends of Eden, is free with paid park admission which is \$4 per vehicle. Additional parking for the event will be available at Bay Elementary School with tram service to the park. The back gate will also be open during the event which is a short walk from the Bay Elementary parking lot.

There will be educational stations set up throughout the park for guests to enjoy, and live music played by Earth Vibes Band on the Bayou Stage. Bring your appetite too, because B's Smoking Barbecue will be selling delicious food & drinks near the pavilion.

Inside the Pavilion we will have a Camellia Waxing Demonstration, information about grafting from Pensacola Camellia Club, and information about air-layering from Walton County Master Gardeners. The camellia fundraiser will be held at the Friends of Eden Nursery area, and several educational booths will be located throughout the park including: Tri-County Beekeepers, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, Alaqua Animal Rescue, Friends of South Walton Sea Turtles, Choctawhatchee Audubon Society and more.

There are over 340 Camellia Plants at Eden Gardens State Park, for more information about the varieties we have please visit our website <https://www.friendsofedengardens.com/camellias>.

Members, Gina mentioned to me that if weather would force them to cancel they would post it on their website and face book page the morning of Feb.8<sup>th</sup>. - Louise



**Tuesday Jan. 21st – General Meeting** Program: George & Jane Davis to present ‘The History of The Davis Nursery.’ Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program.

- 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 2025-2026 season.

Officers: President – Mack Thetford,

1st Vice President - Show Chairperson, Christi Hankins,





2nd Vice President - Programs, John Davy

3rd Vice President - Membership, Rebecca Sherman

Treasurer – Laura Anderson, Secretary –Kristin Bennett, Past Pres – Greg Taylor,

Board of Directors: Brittini Alves, Jane Benson, Paul Bruno, Regan Hoffman, Carolyn Pulford, Louise Seitz, & Sandra Sherman

- At the meeting, we would like to **WELCOME our 36 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 Aug. 2024 – Aug. of 2025. New members, by attending the meeting your name will be included in a ‘**New Members ONLY chance**’ for a camellia plant. We also have a camellia plants chances for everyone to participate, tickets are a \$1.00 per chance or \$5.00 for 6 chances. See Lee Vanderpool to purchase, the proceeds support our club meetings.

	<p><b>Kirsti Leigh</b> Species: Japonica Color: White With White Anthers And Yellow Filaments Form: Loose Peony Form Size: Large</p>		<p><b>Nuccio's Pearl</b> Species: Japonica Color: White Washed And Shaded Orchid Pink Form: Formal Double Size: Medium</p>
	<p><b>Sally Kennedy</b> Species: Japonica Color: Light Salmon Pink With Yellow Anthers And White Filaments Form: Semidouble With Whirl Of Larger, Outer Petals And A Few Smaller Petals Or Petaloids Intermingled With Stamens In Center Size: Medium <b>Pensacola Variety</b></p>		<p><b>Sweetie Pie</b> Species: Japonica Color: Blush Pink With One Or More Red Stripes With Yellow Anthers And White Filaments Form: Semidouble With Occasional Rabbit Ears Size: Large To Very Large</p>

- Please pay your 2025 membership dues of \$10 by check or cash tonight. Becky Sherman, VP of Membership will accept your money and review your contact information to keep you informed of club events. If you have questions for Becky about your membership you can reach her at 850-428-8297. If you’re not attending the Jan. 21st meeting please mail your payment to Pensacola Camellia Club P.O. Box 707 Pensacola, FL, 32591 or go to our website and pay online for \$11.

**Saturday Jan. 25th** – Pensacola Camellia Club will be at the **Japanese New Year Celebration** at Wright Place. This is a perfect event for us, as Camellias are Native to Japan. 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.

**Wednesday Jan. 29th** – ‘**Salute to the Winter Rose, Camellias**’ at **V. Paul’s** – 4:00 pm. 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.

**RESCHEDULED Saturday Feb. 8<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 and smiles!

**Saturday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>** The Annual Camellia Festival at Eden Gardens State Park located at 181 Eden Garden Road, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459, from 10am-2pm. More information is on page 7 and there website. <http://www.friendsofedengardens.com/>.

**Friday Feb. 14th** – Join Us for ‘**Cocoa & Camellias**’ at **UWF Camellia Garden**, 1000 University Pkwy at 10am. The UWF Retired Employees Association and Pensacola Camellia Club members come together to celebrate the Garden with UWF President, Martha Saunders.

**Saturday Feb. 15th** – 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. 18th** – **General Meeting** Program: Forrest Latta presents, ‘Mark Cannon- King of the Gulf Coast Scion Trade.’ If time permits John Davy will provide a grafting workshop for those interested. Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm social, 7:00pm program.

**Saturday Feb. 22th** – [UWF Camellia Garden](#) **Work Day** starting at 10:00am to 12:00pm. We will be doing any necessary clean up before the garden tours. Please bring your gloves and water bottles.

**Sunday Feb. 23rd** – Pensacola Camellia Club will welcome the public to our [UWF Camellia Garden Tour](#), provide air layering and pruning demonstrations, and have plants available for sale starting at Noon to 4:00 pm. For more information about the UWF Camellia Garden Tours go to Activities, [UWF Camellia Garden & Tours](#) on our website.

## Buying Opportunities for Botanical Garden Signs

High quality 4x6 **Botanical Garden signs** just like the ones we have installed at the UWF Camellia Garden. They look especially nice in highly visible areas of your garden or yard.



The cost will be \$15.00 to \$20.00 each (including stakes and hardware) depending on how many the club orders as a group order. If you are interested act quickly by submitting your list of camellias --- all we need is the Camellia name and the other info will be added for you ---- so easy. Order 1 or 100 no minimum order.

### Camellia Names:

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1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

Please send your order to:

Skip Vogelsang 4760 Shannon Pl, Pensacola, FL 32504 or email to [Lbv3rd@gmail.com](mailto:Lbv3rd@gmail.com) Checks payable to Pensacola Camellia Club.

Members, recently I was informed that Lifetime member Dottie King passed away. I have not found her obituary to share any memorial service information with you at this time. Back in October of 2021 Debbie Brown interviewed her for the newsletter which I have included for you to remember Dottie.

### Getting to Know Your Fellow Camellia Member

An Interview with Dorothy (Dottie) King By Debbie Brown/ VP Membership



This story starts with our Lifetime Member Dottie King calling PCC Camellia Sales Inventory manager, Trumin Brown, to request some camellias for sale. She explained that her out-of-town relatives were visiting and she wanted to send them home with lovely, Pink Perfection and SeaFoam. Dedicated Trumin said we have those and he would deliver the plants to her home. I accompany Trumin to a trip to the Shade House to gather the plants for this sale which turned into a lovely visit with Dottie.

In 1971 Dottie and her husband moved to Pensacola which was his family home. They purchased the home of Judge Earnest Edward Mason in East Hill. The yard was full of well established Camellias and Judge Mason teased her that he took the best ones with him. Surrounded with so many different camellias it is hard to select just one as a favorite for her. Her pleasure comes from bringing the Camellias into her rooms to decorate throughout the home.

For 32 years she taught math and the last 16 were at PSC. She loved teaching and working with young adults but her greatest passion is photography. When she received her first camera she attended a class at PJC and it was history after that. She has traveled extensively photographing people, places and nature for the last 30 years. The best way to view what she has capture through the lens is to visiting her website,

<https://www.dottiekingphotography.com>

Her work has been displayed in Pensacola Museum of Art, Artel Gallery, and Quayside Art Gallery and received many acolytes including Best of Show.

The photo to the right is Dottie, posing with her photograph of Aspens, which is displayed on wood. She is a very artistic individual that appreciates the beauty of nature in her life.

