



The 2024-2025 Pensacola Camellia Club season has concluded my term as president, and I want to thank our members for their critical roles in planning and executing our meetings, shows and events. Everything that we do as a Club is essential for public engagement which attracts new members to the camellia world. Successful events require teamwork and involve both old and new members, who bring change and new ideas. Allowing new members to contribute helps enhance their sense of belonging and enthusiasm, and while guidance is necessary to prevent problems, the ability to change is crucial for perfection in a club. – Greg Taylor President

Photo from UWF Garden Tour by Ellen Milo



Please join us in celebrating this camellia season at the March 18th Banquet to show your appreciation to the Officers and Board Directors stepping down and support to those coming forward for the 2025-2026 season. Everyone has contributed with their time and talent given within their abilities which is why we celebrate. Social starts at 5:30pm with refreshments; 6pm is a buffet dinner at V. Paul's for the price of \$46 per person. Please contact Louise Seitz to make your reservations, 850-780-0410.

One thing leads to another – Louise Seitz

If you recall, in the February newsletter I mentioned on Feb. 8th we would be attending ‘The Annual Camellia Festival’ at Eden Garden State Park in Santa Rosa Beach, FL. John Davy packed his trailer with camellia plants for their fund raiser along with grafting supplies for him and Skip Vogelsang to demonstrate how to graft camellias. Skips camellia blooms attracted many visitors asking...’ if these were for sale.’ No, but here is PCC’s photo album of what we have in our inventory for sale. Other members provided information about PCC’s club, UWF Garden and answered camellia questions. In listening to their guests we learned that many from the Destin area were coming to Pensacola for the Federations of Gardens Educational Sessions on Feb. 13th and wondered if they could purchase camellias from us.



Based on that information and knowing PCC club member, Karan Llewellyn was the organizer of the Educational event we asked if we could sell plants there. We had an hour opportunity in-between their sessions in which 12 plants were sold. We could have sold more but many had car pooled from Destin which limited space for plants.

The story continues with the ripple effect of being at Eden. Our information about the Feb 23rd UWF Garden Tour attracted visitors from Tallahassee that came to purchase camellia plants on that rainy cold Sunday. They did not learn on Face book that we cancelled the tour due to the weather. Luckily, John Davy had delivered 50 plants on Saturday that they were excited to purchase. In 20 minutes I was there and found customers selecting their favorites for purchase. Thank goodness I have the Club’s square account on my phone to accept payments, since I had no cash for making change. Another 15 plants sold even in the rain and what these customers excited to return next weekend.



Here are some of Ellen Milo's photos from the **Rescheduled March 2nd UWF Camellia Garden Tour**, which was a beautiful day with perfect weather. Many happy faces came to the garden. To the right is Rhoda Gonzalez Warren holding the white camellia named in her honor, Rhoda Gonzalez.

Trumin recorded 67 plants sold and 3 guests are now members. Ellen's photos from the busy day are on our website for you to view under About Us.





Saturday Mar. 15th – **Air layering** begins at Leland Leonard’s property located at 537 Brent Lane, Pensacola starting at 9am. The club will provide the supplies and materials needed for air layering. Assisting members is the best way to learn this propagation method, please join us for one or all of the air layering dates.

Tuesday Mar. 18th – **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 \$46/per person that includes gratuity. Please make payment to: Pensacola Camellia Club and mailed to P.O. Box 707, Pensacola, FL 32591. Reservations should be in by March 12th. You can also pay by credit card for \$48/ per person which includes card fees on our website under ‘Get Involved’ or click **Banquet**.

At the banquet the T. Morris Scholarship Award, the ‘2024 Person of The Year’ will be announced, the 2025-2026 Officers and Board Members will be sworn in, along with Special Camellia plants available for auction.

Saturday Mar. 22nd – **Air layering** at Paul Bruno’s home located at 619 N. Baylen St., Pensacola starting at 9am. The club will provide the supplies and materials needed for air layering. Assisting members is the best way to learn this propagation method, please join us for this and other air layering dates.

Friday Apr. 4th & 5th– Pensacola Camellia Club will be selling camellias at UF/IFAS and Pensacola State College Milton Campus, ‘**Spring Festival of Flowers**’ sales event for the weekend. If you can help a few hours 9am- 4pm, let Trumin know 850.375.4541, bring a chair and dress for the weather to greet the shoppers.

Saturday Apr. 5th– **Air layering** at UWF Garden starting at 9:00am to Noon. The club will provide the supplies and materials needed for air layering. Assisting members is the best way to learn this propagation method, please join us for this and other air layering dates

Saturday Apr. 12th– **Air layering** at Regan Hoffman’s starting at 9am. The club will provide the supplies and materials needed for air layering. Assisting members is the best way to learn this propagation method, please join us for this and other air layering dates

Tuesday Apr. 15th – General Meeting Program: Forrest Latta presents, ‘Mark Cannon- King of the Gulf Coast Scion Trade’. Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm social, 7:00pm program. There will be more in the April newsletter on our last meeting of the season.

Saturday Apr. 26th– [UWF Camellia Garden](#) Work Day starting at 9:00am to 12:00pm. If you have wondered how to reduce large camellia plants, John Davy will lead a plant reduction demonstration. We will have members on hand to explain air layers and inside pruning of plants before we all get to work at the garden. Come watch and learn so you can improve your own yard with these methods.

Becky Sherman, VP of Membership – If you have questions about your membership dues of \$10 please call 850-428-8297. She will gladly review your contact information with you and accept payment of your 2025 dues. Mail your check to Pensacola Camellia Club, P.O. Box 707, Pensacola, FL, 32591 or go to our website and pay online for \$11.

Members Gardening Tip from Marilee Loduha.

For those of us that are shorter and aging gardener, I would like to recommend, GARRETT WADE PRUNING TOOLS. We were too busy at the February meeting to show you my pruners. I provided the photo and website information, Garrettwade.com where I purchased these super tools. They both are ratchet style pruners which make the user much stronger than they are. I was able to cut down very old thick Azaleas and Camellia branches by herself. Notice the extensions on the handles.



Thanks for the tip Marilee!

March 8th – Fun Time at the Community Camellia Show!

Ellen Milo's photos sum up the Community Camellia Show.... seeing a happy winner sharing her beautiful, 'Taylor's Perfection' tray of three.



Members discussed camellias with visitors.



Others assisted with bloom prep and bloom placement by categories.



You will have to go to the website to view the winning blooms from the show but I will say our 'T's Rose won Best Pensacola Variety presented by Brian Donor.

