



Hello Pensacola Camellia Club members and fellow Camellia Enthusiasts,

As I enter my role as President of the Pensacola Camellia Club, I am feeling a lot of gratitude. I am grateful to the many PCC members who greeted me with excitement and curiosity when I attended my first membership meeting, and my first Camellia show over 10 years ago. I still remember how welcomed the members made me feel. I have watched our organization thrive as the membership continues to share this enthusiasm and comradery with new Camellia lovers.

Our club has experienced many changes over these past 10 years. We endured changes resulting from heart-felt losses of long-time cherished members and we enjoyed exciting additions such as the van, shade-house and property, storage facilities, UWF garden renovation, and the T. Morris Scholarship.

Our club began 88 years ago with a meeting of the Men’s Camellia Club of Pensacola on November 23, 1937. The original purpose of the club was “to encourage growing of Camellias and to spread information regarding their care.” Today we continue this historical commitment by attracting new members, learning from our fellow Camellia lovers, and embracing the diversity of relationships that Camellias bring to our lives. Camellias build relationships, friendships, generosity, curiosity, and for some of us a little bit of friendly competition. In honor of our club’s historical purpose, please take time to introduce yourself to a member at our April meeting and foster a new relationship centered around camellias and their culture. You may find a new friend, mentor or friendly competitor sitting next to you at a club meeting. Every seed you plant has the potential to grow.

I look forward to learning and growing with you this year.

Mack Thetford, PCC President, 2025-26

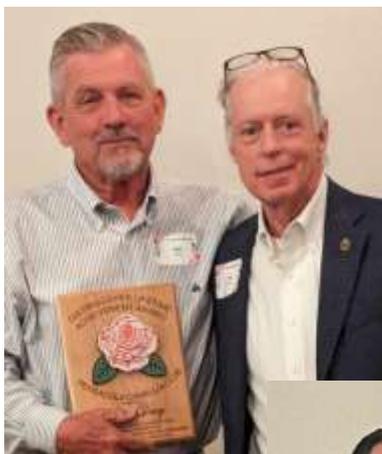


A Night of Fun! – Louise Seitz

We had 75 attendees at our annual banquet on March 18th where our 2025-2026 Officers and Board members took the oath to serve Pensacola Camellia Club.



Below, Paul Bruno presented John Davy with a Lifetime Achievement award. His distinguished service to the club since he was 17 years old, including serving twice as President and twice he was awarded 'Person of the Year,' is minor compared to everything he currently does for the Club and our members.



Jane Benson received the 2024 Person of the Year award for her historical presentations at our meeting and GCCS Convention, plus her research into our lost Pensacola camellia varieties. Her award included the newly found, 'Lady Estelle Peel.'



Our T. Morris scholarship winner is



Brian Donor. The award is presented for his dedication to Plant Science at the University of Florida & service to the Northwest Florida Community.

The auction brought in \$1,670 with many happy winners. Below is new member, Barbara Holder with First Blush, Wanda Mayo with Ferris Wheel and Debbie Brown with Dancing Flame. George Davis, Cindy McDonald and Jill Nelson were the other winners from the auction that we greatly appreciate their generous contribution which benefits the scholarship program. Thank you!



It was a fun evening to visit with old friends and new ones. Can you name the following?



Above Sandra Sherman, Lee Vanderpool & Peggy DeAromn



Lori Shipman, Rich & Kathy Franchetti



Ellen Vinson, John Davy & Eleanor Godwin



Clair Lyford, Sally Leonard, Bill Lyford, Leland Leonard.



Mike Johnston & Louise Seitz

Air-layering update – by Greg Taylor

We look to be having another year of record air-layering. Over a nine-year period, we have air-layered 2,684 branches and 450 cultivars. The most by far is Pink Perfection at 110. Sea Foam is a far distant second at 51.

Things to consider regarding having the club air-layer. Are your plants clearly marked? We have people every year who thought they were purchasing a specific plant only to find out later that it was Pink Perfection. It is difficult to explain that their Elaine's Betty is really a Pink Perfection.

We are actively seeking properties to air-layer. Not everyone wants to have aluminum foil on their plants for up to 8 months of the year. If you are one of those whose neighbors or HOA does not mind let us know?

We would want a yard with plants so that we can yield at least 40 air-layers. We want varieties that are desirable. People who purchase our camellias are looking for landscape plants. If your proposed mother plant is sickly, it will not make good air-layers. We also would prefer plants that do not require the use of a ladder.

You may also need to harvest them and bring them for potting.

Most of us can travel to a location to air-layer, however anything over 20 miles will limit the number of members that will be available.

I would also encourage you to air-layer your own plants. If you wish to do them for the club then we can arrange to get supplies to you.

If you wish to purchase them yourself here are a list of supplies:

Mosser Lee Sphagnum Moss will do about 10 air-layers





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. Regan has a large Pink Perfection that will be working on and many more. The club will provide the supplies and materials needed for air layering. Call Louise 850-780-0410 for her address.

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.

Planning ahead:

Officers and Board Members will meet on June 7th to plan the following season of events. Please let us know what you would like to learn or share with members.

- **Please reply to pensacolacamellia@gmail.com if you would be interested in becoming a Judge for shows.**

The PCC season begins **August 19th** with a potluck picnic at the Garden Center. This time last names that begin with A-M can bring the sides and N-Z can provide the desserts. More information will come over the summer for reservations.