



Hello Pensacola Camellia Club members and friends. I can't believe we are more than halfway through our Camellia flowering season. While the frigid weather may be canceling many of our regional shows I am continually surprised at the number of beautiful flowers I see around town within 24 hours of these unwelcomed cold nights. I began my drafting of this monthly address the same way I always do – by reviewing our club statement of purpose. This is my guide to ensure I serve the organization and you the members as our founding members intended. This organization is exceeding in the purpose of fostering and maintaining an interest in camellias and their culture. Our evidence is the tremendous success of our enthusiastic membership chair with her supporting cast of helpers and the report at this month's board meeting that we have over 50 new members so far this year! We certainly promote the study of camellias, provide opportunities for exhibition and appreciation, and work hard to assist you with nomenclature through our programs, shows, workdays, tours and invited speakers!! But most importantly, we provide opportunities for camaraderie among those sharing a common interest in Camellias.

This next month offers one of our most exciting opportunities for camaraderie when we gather as an organization at our annual banquet in March to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of the Pensacola Camellia Club. This is your time to celebrate, recognize your club's accomplishments and those individuals who work to make projects come together – "For the good of the Club". This year we celebrate reconstruction of the Roger Vinson Shade house and recognize those who contributed to achieving this task. We also celebrate the awarding of two Pensacola Camellia Club Scholarships awarded in the name of T. Morris! The evening would not be complete without the auction of very special camellias. I do enjoy the spectacle of the competition among our members to secure the highly prized Camellia varieties. This friendly competition has resulted in the club securing enough funds to support our T. Morris Scholarships in the past few years and I am hopeful of another successful auction this year.

If you are new to the club or a long time member and you have not previously attended our annual banquet I want to personally invite you on behalf of your Board of Directors to join us this year. There will be fun, food, competition, recognition, and an opportunity for you to get to know your fellow members a little better.

Mack Thetford/ President

Here is a photo summary of PCC's January Club activities.



The **Pensacola Opera** greatly appreciated the beautifully Camellia blooms our members; James Bowers, Paul Bruno, Jeanne Gund, Peggy DeArmon, LeAnna Sanders, Lori Shipman, and the UWF Garden provided. The VIP room and lobby were arranged by Jeanne Gund, Maria Rosasco and Louise Seitz for their performances of La Traviata this past Jan.23-25.



At the **Japanese New Year Festival** on January 24, Kwimi Takami Taylor was excited to share photo of her Pink Perfection. She explained, she had purchased it from us two years ago when she attended this festival. It is thriving and she was glad we were there for her to purchase another camellia from the Club. She plans to see us next year and with more photos and additional purchases.



January 28th, many attended V. Paul's for a relaxing salute to the '**Winter Rose, Camellia**' presented by our past Presidents; Paul Bruno, John Davy and Skip Vogelsang, sharing their passion and knowledge of camellias. Below, Paul presented an Edelweiss camellia to one of the raffle winners, Michelle Ingram, who joined the club as a lifetime member. Welcome Michelle!



Shade House Upgrades – Our Man, Dave McAftery



I asked David to pose with our new water tank that was purchased and installed in December when we had a leak along with some electrical updates for this system. We can't have plants without water.

Just when many of our buds are blooming here comes a blast of not cold air but a freeze in the earlier morning hours for a week. Dave made sure our plants were heavily water and covered with frost protection blankets that covered our sales inventory and potted air-layers.

We greatly appreciate that Dave is out there 3 to 4 times a week checking on our plants and everything at our property.





NEW Wednesday Feb 11th @ 10am **UWF Clean up**, to pick up blooms at UWF Garden.

Tuesday Feb 17th – Club Meeting: Program: Jane Benson to present “A Look at Soundside Garden.” Jane is our historian and enjoys the challenge of digging into history and this time it is the Godwin’s property at Soundside. Come and learn what she discovered.

- There will be sign-up sheets for UWF Camellia Garden Tours to assist with welcoming our guests, demonstrating air-layering and inside pruning.
 - Please see Becky if you need to renew your membership or update your information.
 - It is Fat Tuesday; feel free to bring a sweet or savory item to share.
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- According to our bylaws at the February meeting we will vote on the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. Here are their suggestions for Officers and Board to serve for the 2026-2027 season.

Officers: President – Mack Thetford, Treasurer – Laura Anderson,
1st V.P. - Show Chairperson, Christi Hankins, Secretary – Kristin DeReuil,
2nd V.P. - Programs, John Davy Past Pres. – Greg Taylor
3rd V.P. - Membership, Rebecca Sherman

Board of Directors: Jane Benson, Paul Bruno, Cindy McDonald, Dave McAferty,
Brianna Murdock, Louise Seitz, & Sandra Sherman

We have 2 events on Feb 21st for you to assist where you can help.

Saturday Feb. 21st – 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 21st UWF Camellia Garden Clean up starting at 10:00am to 12:00am. We will be doing any necessary clean up before the garden tours. Please bring your gloves and water bottles.










Sunday Feb. 22nd – UWF Camellia Garden Tour, Pensacola Camellia Club will welcome the public, 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, on our website go to **Activities**, [UWF Camellia Garden & Tours](#) and review the download brochure of the garden for you to educate our guests. You may also enjoy the photos from previous years by visiting our photo album on the website under [About Us](#).

Round of Applause

Before the long freeze came there were still a few more Camellia Shows to attend to increase the number of awards our members had won this season. As of this publication the big winner is **Skip Vogelsang** for the Gulf Coast outside growers! Just look at the number of our members who represented the Club with their blooms and judged at various shows this season. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !

*American Camellia
Society*
EXHIBITOR RANKINGS
2025/2026

Gulf Coast Region - Outside Growers

1		Skip Vogelsang	174
2		Hunter & Meg Charbonnet	133
3		Jim & Kristin DeReuil	81
4		Greg Taylor	72
5		John & Sandra Grimm	63
6		John Davy	39
7		Paul Huerkamp	25
8		Jane Benson	23
9		Alan McMillan	21
10		Ronnie & Diane Whiddon	19
11		Robert & Kay Taylor	18
12		Paul Bruno	17
13		John & Melinda Walker	16
14		Jim Campbell	14
14		George & Jane Davis	14