



Hello Pensacola Camellia Club members and fellow Camellia Enthusiasts,

Welcome to the 2026-27 Camellia season! I was overwhelmed with the participation at our August meeting to kick off the season. This annual picnic was so beautifully executed by our Board Members, Sandra and Becky Sherman. This mother and daughter team pulled off a great 250th celebration of the USA with the help of several PCC members while providing a great atmosphere for our membership and guests to catch up on camellias and meet new members. We had quite a few new members attending the meeting, some of whom attended their very first PCC meeting. Let me take this opportunity to say "Thank You" too all of our PCC members for your new and continuing memberships.



Your board of directors met in June to plan for many programs and activities for this season. John Davy has put together a great line-up of Programs! If you have a program idea or want to volunteer to give a program please talk with John, we always welcome exciting programs! Be sure to visit the website and fill your calendar with the many opportunities. Louise always has the most up-to-date information available for you there. Please Thank her for her efforts, it is not easy keeping up with all these details.

Christi Hankins has been working behind the scenes to secure our venue for our Annual Camellia Show in December. It is not too early to think about what role you will play this year. We will need for EVERY Member to display flowers. Your club members are here to help you if this is your first show. We will also need judges, runners, clerks, and more. Start now with your questions so we can remove all the mystery and help you have fun by showing off your prized Camellia flowers.

This year also brings an amazing opportunity to participate in the International Camellia Congress. Please participate in any part of the conference you can. There are three opportunities: pre-conference, Conference and Post Conference programs. You can register for the conference online. PCC has contributed sponsorship to support the conference, and you will have an opportunity to attend a lunch and program in Mobile during the Pre-conference. More details will follow in the newsletter.

I am happy to report my camellia obsession remains intact and I am now roaming through 1000 new rooted cuttings collected from gardens across the southeast this past year, looking for signs of flower buds. I am also still monitoring the nearly 600 seedlings grown from seeds collected at Masee Lane. So many opportunities for another surprise this season!

Please join your fellow club members at our September meeting "To foster and maintain an interest in Camellias and their culture". Please also take the opportunity to connect with a PCC member who has not attended a meeting in some time and offer them a ride or drag (invite) one of your coworkers or friends who was excited to see your camellia flowers last year to our next meeting. There is always enough room for one more Camellia and one more member...

If you're looking for me. I am likely "unplugged" in the garden.
Mack Thetford,
PCC President

We start with Fun!

How welcoming it is to see our Camellia Club Members and friends come together for a scrumptious picnic on August 18th. The wide selection of desserts and side dishes prepared or purchased by each other displayed the goodwill and friendship of coming together on a summer evening. As Mack mentioned, Sandra Sherman organized this event with the theme of celebrating our Country's 250th Birthday with red, white and blue found on the plates, utensils, tablecloths, and centerpieces. We had 82 members/guests signed in who received a ticket for two lucky members to take home a John Davy sasanqua camellia, Hawaiian Lei. Those plants went home with Brenda Elebash and William Paden other members took home the centerpieces donated by Sandra Sherman.

Ellen Milo took photos from the picnic that you can find on our website; look under About US/ Video/ photo-galleries and enjoy all of our photos. Greatly appreciate Ellen's sharing her talent.

Below, is Joe & Kathy Casey, Brenda Elebash, Clayton & Cindi McDonald, Skip Vogelsang, Laura Anderson, Cheryl Knowles and Jennifer Paige.



Happy Camellia Season to all members and friends!



You can view all of the picnic photos on our website under About Us/ Photo Galleries.



On to work!

WORKDAY INCENTIVE – FOR SEPTEMBER 7- LABOR DAY @ 8AM- NOON
ONE HELPFUL WORKER WILL BE GOING HOME WITH A
FREE CAMEILLIA - Pensacola Variety 'Lady Laura'.

How many of you were around in October of 2020 when John Davy had a semi-truck load of mulch delivered to the UWF Camellia Garden? The lovely red bark mulch has degraded and John has been at the garden spraying the weeds in preparation for a fresh load of mulch. He has scheduled delivered on September 7th. That correct, Labor Day's, September 7th when the university is closed and parking will not be an issue and the Psychology building will be open for restrooms. Please come to the UWF Camellia Garden with your gloves, potato rakes, shovels, and wheel barrels as we spread the mulch around the trees.

Come at 8am and with MANY hands be done before noon.



Benefits of Red Bark Mulch for Camellias

Moisture Retention

- Red bark mulch helps retain moisture in the soil, which is crucial for camellias as they prefer consistently moist conditions.
- It prevents rapid evaporation, ensuring that the roots have access to water.

Weed Suppression

- The mulch acts as a barrier, suppressing weed growth around camellias.
- This reduces competition for nutrients and water, allowing camellias to thrive.

Soil Temperature Regulation

- Red bark mulch helps regulate soil temperature, keeping it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
- This temperature stability is beneficial for the health of camellia roots.

Organic Matter Addition

- As red bark mulch breaks down over time, it adds organic matter to the soil.
- This improves soil structure and fertility, providing essential nutrients for camellias.

First Meeting Sept. 15

We have special guest speaker tonight, Sarah Brecher from Bellingrath's Horticulture department. Sarah will be covering what they did with all of those camellias they purchased from us to Enhance Their Camellia Collection that you would want to learn about.

John Davy has a few surprises before her presentation that you should want to see.

Let's Go Shopping Sept. 19

On behalf of the Pensacola Camellia Club's sales team, welcome back to another season of plant sales! This year's sales kick off very soon with our first event on Saturday, September 19th at our Shade House, 3279 Pine Forest Road in Cantonment. This first sale will be exclusively for active club members who attend our monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 15th. At this meeting, members who wish to purchase plants on September 19th will enter their names into a lottery-style drawing to determine time slots for plant selection. There will be one entry per household, and the time slots will be 15-minute intervals starting at 9:00 AM on the 19th. So, for example; if 20 members wish to purchase plants at this event, there will be the numbers 1 through 20 placed into a hat and drawn to see who gets which timeslot. The number 1 will be 9:00; number 2 will be 9:15, etc.

There are well over 500 plants with many different varieties represented. There will be only one of some varieties and over 20 of other varieties. If you are fortunate enough to draw one of the early slots, please be thoughtful of other members. If we only have two of a certain variety available, please just buy one so another member can purchase one as well; but if we have 20 of the variety, feel free to buy several.

The sales team will make the inventory available to look at on our website starting around Monday, September 14th, which will give members that entire week to see what we have available and make their selections. Want lists are very helpful and are encouraged when you come out to make your purchases; we will also have a color catalogue on-site which will be available to look through at the sale. If we run out of certain varieties or if anyone has any varieties that we don't have, there will be a request list that we will work hard to locate the plants our members are looking for.

There will be a second sale exclusively for our members the next Saturday, September 26th starting at 9am to noon also at the Shade House before we open up sales to the general public in October so take advantage of these early buying opportunities offered to our members. Most plants will be \$30, \$40 and there will be a small number of 2-year-old grafts for \$50. Payment methods accepted are **cash, check** or debit/credit cards. If using a card, there will be a \$1 fee per plant to cover the processing fee. Proceeds from our plant sales fund the activities of the Pensacola Camellia Club, so your purchases directly support our club. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the sale to help you find the perfect plants to take home. See you soon!

Dave McAferty and Trumin Brown

Before you plant those new purchases and kill a few camellias like most of us have done. Have a soil test done which will provide a complete analysis of proper pH and nutrient needs which will be the difference between success and struggle for your camellias. The link to the University of Florida soil test is on our website under 'Camellias for Sales'.



Important Work in October

Potting Day is October 17th. Come to the [Shade House](#) starting at 9:00am for potting our harvested air layers. There are over 600 air layers that will need to be unwrapped before they can be potted. Please bring your chair, gloves, pruners, carts and water bottles.



Tuesday Oct. 20th – Club Meeting- Program: "Cultivation and Care of Camellias." Demo of how to gib will be provided for new members. You will need to 'gib' 7 weeks prior to our show date (1st application Oct 18th) to have your camellias ready to produce blooms for our *December 12th show*. Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program. *Please bring in your toy donation for "Toys for Tots" or make a monetary donation and we will shop for you, [click here](#). The toys donations are in place of show prizes for our December Camellia Show winners.*

We love to hear your camellia stories and / or photos about what you enjoy about camellias or PCC's events. Please submit to Louise Seitz at pensacolacamellia@gmail.com by the 1st of the month for it to be included in the next newsletter.

Other Events... Oct 21 Pensacola Fair - Flower Show.



PENSACOLA INTERSTATE FAIR FLOWER SHOW 2026

Celebrate America 250!

74th NGC Standard Flower Show
"Happy Birthday to U.S."

 Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds
6655 Mobile Highway • Pensacola, Florida

WHAT'S *NEW* IN 2026!

 **ENTRY DAY**
WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 21, 2026
7:00 – 10:30 a.m.

 **JUDGING BEGINS**
1:00 p.m.

 **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Beginning
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
4:00 p.m.
when the Pensacola Interstate Fair opens

The Flower Show remains open throughout the Fair **October 22–31** with Fair admission.

 Horticulture has been reorganized into **five new sections**

- Annuals • Perennials • Shrubs • Trees
- **NEW Combination Plantings section**

 Hanging baskets are now judged **within** container-grown classes

 **NEW** High School Youth Horticulture Division

 Streamlined Botanical Arts Competition Horticulture and Artistic Crafts (No Botanical Arts Design Division)

 **Easy Sunday pickup**
Designs, container plants, and awards
November 1 • 8:00–10:00 a.m.

★ EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE! ★

Whether you grow:

 ROSES

 FLOWERS

 FOLIAGE PLANTS

 CONTAINER GARDENS

 TREES & SHRUBS

 FRUITS & VEGETABLES

 COMBINATION PLANTINGS

...there's a class for you! Open to all amateur gardeners and designers.

Sponsored by
PENSACOLA FEDERATION
OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
and
PENSACOLA
INTERSTATE FAIR, INC.

Friday Oct 23rd – Saturday Oct 24th is the Gulf Coast Camellia Society Conference which will be hosted by the Camellia Club of Greenville, AL. If you would like a registration package contact Jan Newton/ President o Greenville Camellia Society at newton3370@yahoo.com.