

## Newsletter Extra for May 2019!

Our season may be over but there is so much going on behind the scenes that we just had to keep you informed!

[www.pensacolacamellioclub.com](http://www.pensacolacamellioclub.com) or like us on Face book.

### From our April meeting...

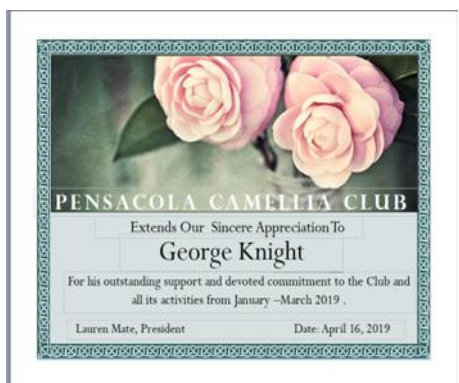


Pierre Kaufke provided us all with a very informative and entertaining presentation on Bonasi. He provided the history of Bonasi, explaining that over 900 years ago Chinese monks wanted something to remind them of home. They created Penjing which is plant scenery in a container. The Japanese expanded on the idea and created the art of bonsai, which means 'tree in tray'.

Dennis Hart from New Orleans is the current Gulf Coast Camellia Society President representing 14 clubs that are within the society. Our PPC members who are in GCCS assisted Dennis in recruiting new members. Everyone enjoys GCCS's entertaining and informative quarterly publication which you can have for the \$10 yearly dues. Click on the link to join and view old publications.



<https://gulfcoastcamelliasociety.org/HOME%20PAGE%20LINKS/Join%20GCCS.html>



The Board recognized George Knight at the April meeting for his outstanding support and devoted commitment to the Club and all its activities.



**Greg Taylor** set a high goal for the club members to produce 300 air layers from 4 camellia gardens during April. This is no easy task, he went out to these gardens prior to prune and tag where we were to air layer. He and his wife Melinda did a great job of having all the needed equipment for us to do the job; we appreciate you giving up vacation time for the club.

Below is Rita Perling , follow by Debbie and Trumin Brown focusing on their air layers. All photos by Louise Seitz



There were still some blooms on the plants we air layered, such as Betty Ridley & April Remember.



Above, Richard Freeman, Patty Moran and Greg Taylor.



## *A Camellia Story – by Pierre Kaufle*

It all began when a former colleague contacted me and asked me if I could help her with some camellia buds to be featured in a special tea ceremony. We talked about the camellias surrounding the Japan House on the UWF campus or those in my garden; finally I suggested some from the UWF Camellia Garden. We went to collect about a dozen or so buds, packed them carefully and sent them to “Urasenke” (I had no idea at the time who or what Urasenke represented). Those buds arrived in due time and in perfect shape in New York where they became part of a special tea ceremony performed at the Urasenke Chanoyu Center.

The response came back swift and almost overwhelming; it turned out that Pensacola was the only place that had been able and willing to send camellia buds, and Urasenke was very grateful for that contribution. To make matters short, Urasenke was immediately interested in establishing formal ties with Pensacola Camellia Club and is now a lifetime member.

So what then is Urasenke? First of all, one must remember the importance of not only tea, but also the tea ceremony for Japanese people. Well, Urasenke is the largest of the tea schools, dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century when Sen Rikyu formalized the tea ceremony into its present form.

When Sen Rikyu’s grandson, Sen Sotan, gave tea houses to each of his three sons, the tea tradition was established as the Omotesenke, the Urasenke and the Mushanokouji schools (many other tea schools also emerged). Since then, each of the three schools carries on the tradition, passing it on from grand master to grand master. The current Grand Master of Urasenke, Sen Soshitsu, is the 16<sup>th</sup> descendant of Sen Rikyu.

Sen Soshitsu XVI recognized and bestowed the special name of Fukutoku-Au (=Tea Room for Happiness and Virtue) to the tea room in the Japan House on the UWF campus. It is a distinct honor for any tea house to be recognized as such and be named by a Grand Master. Thus, the UWF Tea Room has a long relationship with the Urasenke center in New York.

The purpose of any Urasenke center is to teach, ‘The Way of the Tea’ (or the tea ceremony), which, in essence, is to foster inner peace through the sharing of a bowl of tea. To signify respect and appreciation of the tea both for the host (who prepares the tea) and the guest(s), there is no need for any verbal exchange.



The decoration of the tea room is stark: a hanging scroll in harmony with season or occasion, a simple vessel, and some flower. Camellia is the most favored “tea flower,” either as a single bud or slightly open bloom – white in preference (here one must also remember that Japanese camellia varieties are very simple by nature, and that the tea flower, a Camellia from the Western point-of-view, is not used in the tea ceremony).

Brought to Japan by monks practicing the way of Zen, the tea ceremony is an extremely important element of Japanese culture. Back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Sen Rikyu summarized the principles of the discipline of Tea into four concepts: harmony, respect, purity and tranquility, all infused by an acute sensitivity to nature. Constantly practicing these, whether in the tea room or not, is supposed to increase one’s spiritual awareness and help one to find inner peace. Originally practiced only by men to recompose themselves, the Tea Ceremony

has been open to women ever since the Edo period (early 1600’s – 1868).

Coming back to our own case, UWF has had a history of tea ceremony practices going back over 30 years. Instructors from New York have come to visit regularly in order to instruct our local tea practitioners, and presently, as mentioned, the Japan House has its own named tea room for this ceremony.

... And then, Ms. Mariko Kurashima from Urasenke in New York needed a few camellia buds for a special occasion Tea Ceremony. When she opened our website she was shocked at the amount and variety of camellias being grown and shown here. She inquired of Ms. Shigeko Honda to see if she could garner some camellias for her ceremony. And this led Ms. Honda to call on yours truly, which brings us back to the beginning of this story.



Actual pictures from Urasenke New York featuring one of the Pensacola camellia buds.

## Upcoming Events ....

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** The Pensacola Camellia Club officers and board members will be getting together to plan the 2019-2020 season of events. If you have an ideas of what you would like to hear at a general meeting or how you would like to help the club please reply to this email with your suggestions or call our President Lauren Mate.

**July 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline date for your Camellia Wish List Orders.**

Below is April Rose



Early Autumn



Dick Hooton announced at the April meeting that he will be placing orders for your individual request of camellias that you want to purchase that are currently not in our inventory. Search the Amercian Camellia Society website or the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society photo to assist you with your selection and details about your selection.

<http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org>

Dick can be reached at 850.969.0001 to answer your question and assist you .

**If people say you have too many camellia plants, they aren't your people.**

**Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup>**



*Please join us at the Garden Center starting at 6:00 pm, buffet opens at 6:30pm. If you did not RSVP at our last meeting in April, please do so by calling T. Morris at 850-476-4080 and leave a message. We need to have a correct count for ordering the fried chicken that the Club buys. Christi Hankins will be in contact with you prior to the picnic to find out what sides or dessert items you will be sharing with members.*

## Members Corner ....

The following is from ACS Website

### 2019 CLUB DIRECTOR BOARD POSITION ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you so much for participating in our second electronic voting process for our Club Director board positions. The results are as follows for the Atlantic and Pacific Regions, and the Three-Year Gulf Coast Club Director Term, with all positions having an effective start date of July 1, 2019. Two candidates tied for the One-Year Gulf Coast Club Director. A run-off election is required and will be open through midnight May 15, 2019 for Gulf Coast Members Only.

Atlantic Coast Three-Year: **Dr. John B. Swanson** Nominated by Gainesville Camellia Society  
Pacific Coast Three-Year: **Mr. Denis M. Dooley** Nominated by Oregon Camellia Society  
Gulf Coast Three-Year: **Dr. Mack Thetford** Nominated by Pensacola Camellia Club



These photos were sent to Rita Perling by her niece. When proud Aunt Rita looked closely she noticed this smart UWF graduate posing for pictures at the UWF Camellia Garden. It is nice to see the garden providing a special place for celebrations.



On May 1<sup>st</sup> Roger Vinson shared this photo of his pink perfections that were still blooming this late in the season. Also, notice the circular wreath shaped vase is just perfect in adding to the beauty of these camellias.

Roger, where did you find the perfect vase?

### **Camellia Care by Month**

**May** - Camellias are growing rapidly at this point and need moisture. Water your plants if it does not rain for 10 days.

**June** - Apply second dose of fertilizer to encourage flower bud set. Continue to water. Reapply mulch as necessary to conserve water and keep roots cool.

**July** - Care during the summer is often reflected in quality and quantity of blooms. Consistent watering is important to develop good root systems. Cuttings may be taken for rooting.

**August** - Remember to water during dry periods. Disbudding may begin this month. Late in the month you may want to begin gibbing.