



The last month has been very busy; we had our community novice show, our annual banquet and grafting events. Those of you who did not attend the annual banquet missed the installation of Officers and Board of Directors by Judge James Garrett. The first T. Morris Scholarship was awarded to, Will Steiner. He is a graduate student at University of Florida/ Milton in the Earth Science Horticulture program and was in attendance with his family. Louise Seitz was the recipient of the 'Person of the Year' award. She is very deserving for all she does for us and we are fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated member in our Club. The Camellia Auction included two camellias in memory of T. Morris; John Davy's, 'T's Rose' and Jim Smelley's, 'T. Morris', raised \$290 for the scholarship fund. The surprise camellia of the night was Jim Smelley's, Col. Richard Hooton, donated by Randolph Maphis. These three plants are not yet registered with the American Camellia Society; they are brand new per Randolph. The auction proceeds of \$600 went toward the Club.



Needless to say, the banquet auction truly missed the Colonel's demanding voice of attention as he would describe the camellias to build up excitement to have us bid against each other for the benefit of the club. Dick Hooton's illness and passing leaves a large void for PCC and the Gulf Coast Clubs. His leadership, vast knowledge, and willingness to educate or mentor members over the years will be greatly missed, and truly touched everyone's life. He strongly advocated PCC members to join the Gulf Coast Camellia Society and to attend other clubs annual camellia shows. His friendship and leadership touches many clubs in his capacity as a judge and competitive exhibitor, supporting many shows. The life of each gulf coast club is dependent on a successful attendance of exhibitors in order for there to be future shows.

One of the roles Dick passed on to me was the maintances of the Shade House which includes Inventory and Plant Sales. The Shade house property for you newer members, was purchased from T. Morris and was adjacent to her home in

Cantonment. Dick pushed us to install 3 raised beds with the intent for members to have a place to graft what they desire. Near the end of March we had a Friday/ Saturday work day of grafting various scions in those raised beds. Only time will tell if these grafts will move into our inventory. Dick appointed Greg Taylor as overseer of air layering production, which Greg averages 300 plants into our Shade House that will grow for a year before being ready to sell. The final method of inventory is purchasing camellias from the various nursery friends of Dicks. Between these 3 methods we sell a wide variety of camellias which cover our expense for our annual show. If you desire a special camellia please let me know and will see if we can find it for you through the nursery.

The Shade House has many projects that need to be attended to, some are one time projects and others are never ending, like weeding. We plan to email you throughout the summer with dates of when I plan to be out there in need of helpers of all sizes and ages. Bring the grandkids they are much closer to the ground for weeding.

One more thing from Debbie, our membership person, would like you to email her at dmarie.brown@att.net with any changes to your personal information. Some of you have dropped your landline so we can't call you. Others have changed internet carriers and your emails are coming back undeliverable. And some of you have downsized and moved and your mail comes back. Please help us know how to reach you so you don't miss out on the fun and friendships. – Trumin Brown / President



Here are a few photos from our Community Novice Show that was on March 5th. Paul Bruno provided instruction to Stella Vail on how to look up the blooms size to complete the entry card correctly. Followed by our clerk team of Brenda Elebash, with Christine and James Frazier.



Our experienced judge, Vickie Baugh, is explaining what a judge looks for in the bloom to Kristin Bennett and novice judge, Pat Moran. Our youngest member, Stella, reviewing her winning blooms with Christi Hankins at the awards table. I think it pays to have Bruno as your mentor.



Banquet summary; We had 70 members and friends attend our banquet on March 15th at V. Paul's for the installation of the 2022- 2023 Officers and Board of Directors by Judge James Garnett. We were please to award our first T. Morris Scholarship to University of Florida graduate student Will Steiner for his work in plant science. And yes the 'person of the year' was that focus driven Louise Seitz.



Our Auction had some very special camellias to honor T. Morris which expanded the the scholarship fund with \$270. There was another special camellia that Jim Smelley developed to be registered, Col. Richard Hooton. The proceeds to the Club totaled \$600.



Please consider sharing your camellia story and / or photos about what you enjoy about camellias or PCC's events. Submit to pensacolacamellia@gmail.com to Louise Seitz by the 1st of the month.

Upcoming Events

Saturday Apr. 9th - Air layering at University of Florida Milton campus starting at 1pm. Greg Taylor will bring the main supplies needed for air layering. We ask that you bring a ball point pen, knife or pliers, pruners, and your water bottle

Saturday Apr. 16th - Air layering at Skip Vogelsang's 4760 Shannon Place at 9am. Again the club will provide the main supplies as mentioned above.

Tuesday Apr. 19th – General Meeting program, 'The Why and How of Pruning, Fertilizing and Air Layering'. John Davy would like to start outside at 6:30pm with a demonstration of pruning on the camellias at the Garden Center, come early. Location: [Garden Center](#) 6:30pm for outside demo, 7:00 pm inside program.

Saturday Apr. 23rd – [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 pruning of inside branches before we all get to work at the garden. Come with friends and neighbors to watch and learn so you can improve your own yard with these methods.



Saturday June 4th – Officers and Board of Directors planning meeting at Spring Street library 10am-2pm. Please reply to Louise at pensacolacamellia@gmail.com with your ideas of what you would like to learn or do next season.

May, June & July No meetings are held but we will be maintaining the Shade House property throughout these months. Just as you cut your lawn at home the property needs cutting, and trimming. The potted camellias plants need weeding along with our raised beds. Trumin plans to be at the Shade House on Mondays and he would appreciate your help. We will email you throughout the offseason months for your help and support as we go forward and adjust our day to the summer heat.

Tuesday Aug 16th – Save the date for our picnic.

In the Spring Garden

By Art Landry, Baton rouge, LA



Spring is a busy time in the Camellia garden. It is time to prune, spray, and fertilize smaller plants that need it. It's also the time to do air layers, and do a general cleanup of the plants, such as removing all old blooms and buds, weak limbs, etc.

Most growers use a thick mulch of leaves, bark, or pine straw each year around established plants. Selective pruning of weak or infested limbs should be practiced by all growers. Some members have found that a pruning program on established plants can be used instead of fertilizer. Removal of about 10-20% of the branches will stimulate the plant into re-establishing the balance between roots and branches, putting out vigorous new growth to replace the pruned branches. Pruning can also be used to control the size and height of the plant so that they will remain a desirable size and shape. You will be rewarded with a healthy, vigorous plant with superior blooms.

Those plants not yet large enough to prune back extensively will benefit from a simple fertilizer program of an application now and another light feeding in summer. You can use a commercial Camellia fertilizer (or: "Nursery Special" or "Growers Supreme" or "Osmocote Plus" with time release nitrogen and containing trace elements.) Use as directed on package. You want a fertilizer with slow release nitrogen and trace elements. The nitrogen is released over time and reduces the chance of over fertilizing or "burning". The trace ele-

ments are essential to good growth and vigor.

Those who grow camellias in containers have their own program of fertilization involving feeding every month to replace nutrients lost with each watering. Time release fertilizers with trace elements such as those cited above will help reduce the work and frequency involved. March and April are good times to spray to control scale and other pests.

Malathion usually controls red spider mites and aphids, which often appear on plants at this time. Neem Oil can be used to control scale, mites and other pests at the same time. Dormant Oil or "Ultrafine Oil" still work fine for scale and are non-toxic. Systemic insecticides are available and effective. Hi-Yield Systemic Insect Spray and Fertilome Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench are two products used by local growers.

Dieback can be a problem all year long in our area, but the greatest exposure to the infection seems to be in the spring when the old leaves fall off or limbs are pruned or otherwise damaged. Prune away all infected limbs down below the canker or wound on the limb or trunk and treat with a fungicide like captan or benomyl. Pruning paint is optional. Dry benomyl added to water-soluble pruning paint seems to work well when painted on the treated area. Sterilize your pruning tools often using fungicide or chlorine bleach solution to keep them clean while you do the pruning.



Camellias Under Lights - by Jim DeReuil

Can growing camellias under LED grow lights speed up growth? Can seedlings be forced to flower sooner than normal? Is it worth it?

I stuck some year-old cuttings about 4 inches tall, that hadn't done much under LED grow lights to see what, would happen. After about a month under 12 hours per day, they seemed to take off. After a year, they grew from 12" to 18" which seemed fast to me. I don't have all that much camellia growing experience and I didn't have any control to compare to so maybe that growth is not unusual.



This August I collected seeds at Massee and put them under the lights and decided to push them hard: 20 hours of very bright light, fertilizer twice per month, and a touch of gibberellic acid. They emerged around November 1 and now, 4 months later are up to 11" tall with up to 11 nodes. I'm pretty sure this is fast. Recently, I've had to back off the fertilizer and light intensity due to leaf burn. So there is a still lot to learn.

Is it worth it? The setup I have is 4'x2' and could be recreated for about \$400. Electricity cost is about \$30 per month. It's kinda fun to look at. If I can save a year or more of waiting for blooms that would be nice. The biggest payoff would be finding and registering Kristin's Delight. Stay tuned. - Jim



For those of you that might have missed his obituary.



Colonel Richard "Dick" J. Hooton, Jr., USMC/USA (Ret.), 80, passed away on Thursday, March 24, 2022. Dick is the son of the late Ada Holland (Castleberry, AL) and Richard J. Hooton, Sr., of Pensacola, his father being part of the Bonifay-Gonzalez families.

Dick was born and raised in Pensacola; he graduated from PHS in 1959, attended University of Georgia playing football as a walk on, then attended PJC ultimately graduating from UWF, BA in sociology, in 1974. He began his USMC career in 1961, being designated a Naval Aviator in 1963. He served his country for 31 years, including 3 tours in Vietnam.

Personal decorations include the Silver Star, 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 52 Air Medals, and 2 Navy Commendation medals. Dick Hooton had a variety of interests after he retired in 1992. He served for several years on the Pensacola Opera Board of Trustees ending in 2020, and his love for Pavarotti and Puccini was well-known throughout the opera community.

Very active in the camellia community, he was president and board member of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society. His love, however, was the Pensacola Camellia Club where he served on the Board for many years. With hundreds of camellias in his yard on Escambia Bay, he delighted in each and every one, attending camellia shows and showing his flowers in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. He was a certified American Camellia Society show judge for many years. Dick won many awards for his beautiful flowers and was known throughout the camellia community for lending a helping hand to novices and judges alike.

Those left to cherish his memory include, his wife of 57 years, Bette (Capasso), of Shelton, CT; a daughter, Anne, of Pensacola; sons, Richard III (Faith) and Joshua (April), of North Carolina; numerous friends and family also survive. Dick Hooton was one tough guy, and he leaves a legacy of strength and courage to guide his family.

Our heartfelt thanks to Covenant Care Hospice and Dr. Hakim and his team at Ascension Sacred Heart, especially PA Holly Crawford.

Memorial Mass will be celebrated at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, 21 N. Palafox St., Pensacola, FL 32502, on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 9:00 AM, the Very Reverend Joseph Callipare, Celebrant. Inurnment will follow at Barrancas National Cemetery with military honors being accorded by the US Marine Corps at 10:30am.

In lieu of flowers, please remember Covenant Hospice of Pensacola, the Pensacola Camellia Club Foundation, PO Box 707, Pensacola, FL 32591 or Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 12423, Pensacola, FL 32591.

"Among the honors, postings, promotions, and medals that have been awarded me, the one in which I take most pride is to be able to say, 'I am a marine'.