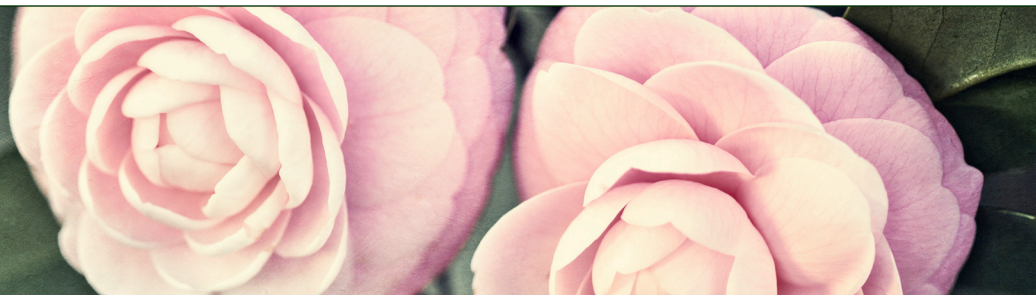


The Pensacola Camellia

February 2015



Newsletter of the Pensacola Camellia Club—established 1937
PensacolaCamelliaClub.com

President's Message

I hope that this newsletter finds you with some great Camellia flowers in your yard. We are in the Heart of the Blooming season and if we can keep mother nature from getting down below freezing we should have lots of beautiful flowers the next 2 months.

The Pensacola Camellia Club (P.C.C.) has some great stuff on tap the next few weeks so please mark your calender and come enjoy all of the events. Our annual Garden Tours will be held on Valentine's day, 2-14-15 from 9 am till 2 pm at the following two locations. We will be at the U.W.F. College Camellia Garden and we will also have a tour out at Soundside just a few miles east on Hwy. 98, east of Gulf Breeze. It will be held on the Godwin Camellia garden property. From Gulf Breeze, traveling east towards Navarre, go a few miles past Tiger Point Country Club and on your right (south side of the rd.) you will see a church and Soundside drive (191-b). Go south on Soundside drive about one half mile and the property is on your right.

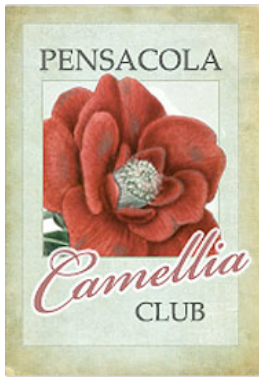
Our Community Camellia show will be held at the downtown Library on the corner of Spring and Gregory. The date is Sat. 2-28-15, from 9 am till 2pm. The community show is focused on the every day gardener and novice Camellia grower. It is very casual and informative and open to all in the community. Please invite all of your friends to come visit and to participate with any and all Camellias we might have. We will have experts on hand to help identify blooms and to help put flowers out for the show. This show is always great fun for the community and helps the beginner and expert as well learn about Camellias.

We will have a "Judges Training school" for anyone who would like to become certified to be a judge at shows. It will be held at the downtown library Sat., 2-21-15 from 9 am till 3 pm. See Skip, Roger, or Colonel Hooton for more info.

Our installation of Officers and annual banquet will be held Tuesday 3-17-15 at 7 pm. We will meet downtown at 29 Palafox street, V. Paul's Italian Ristorante (one half block south of Garden street). The cost is \$25 dollars and this includes the tip. There will be a cash bar and a flower display of Camellia blooms. All are welcome, and we encourage you to bring guests so we can introduce them to our Camellia club. Please make your reservation by 3-10-15 so we can plan for the party and purchase the food properly. Contact Paul at 982 7230, or Christie Hankins, or T. Morris. Last year we had 94 people attend. Let's break 100 this year! There is free parking behind the restaurant on Baylen street in the parking lot.

Please continue to promote our club and ask for your friends to consider joining. We are the oldest Camellia Club in the U.S.A., founded in 1937 and we are probably the largest with approximately 302 members. Thanks to all that make the P.C.C. such a great organization. Our next general membership meeting will be held on Tuesday 2-17-15 at the Pensacola Garden Club (north of Cervantes street on 9th avenue) Social time with refreshments starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7 pm. Please attend if you can.

--- Best Regards, Paul Bruno



Officers

- President - Paul Bruno
- 1st VP & Show Chair - Skip Vogelsang
- 2ndVP & Program Chair - Dick Sloan
- 3rd VP, Membership - Christi Hankins
- Secretary - Winkie Rhea
- Treasurer - Thekla Morris
- Past President - John Davy

Board Members

- LeAnna Brennan
- Dick Hooton
- Dante Kahn
- Alan McMillan
- Dick Sloan
- Jerri Smith
- Dr. Mack Thetford

Upcoming Events

PCC Garden Tours and Plant Sale

Saturday February 14 at UWF Camellia Garden and Godwin Property, Soundside Drive, Gulf Breeze. Tour Hours 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Directions to the UWF Camellia Garden: drive to the extreme end of UWF's main thoroughfare, Campus Drive. Then park in parking lot "V." The UWF Camellia Garden is a short walk up the hill from the parking lot.

The Godwin property is on Soundside Drive in Gulf Breeze. Drive highway 98 East past Tiger Point. At Concord Presbyterian Church, turn right on Rt. 393, Soundside Drive. The Godwin property is about 1/4 mile on Soundside Drive and location will be well marked.

Judges' Training School

Saturday, February, 21st, 9am-3pm, Downtown Public Library, 229 N Spring St. Judge Vinson hopes to get 20 people for class. Note needs to go into Jan newsletter and a sign-up sheet for members' meeting. Judge Vinson and others to get required booklets and materials from ACS.

PCC Community Camellia Show and Plant Sale

Saturday February 28, Downtown Public Library, 229 N Spring St. This show is designed to attract the "average" camellia gardener. Those who have won prizes at the December camellia show or other American Camellia Society adjudicated shows will not enter competitively but will bring in blooms for exhibit only. Show chair Skip Vogelsang encourages camellia gardeners to bring in blooms. Club members will help identify blooms, if possible. There is even a prize for best "unknown" bloom.

Bloom entry 8-10 a.m.

Public viewing 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Plant sales 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

PCC Installation Banquet

V. Paul's Italian Ristorante, 29 Palafox Place, downtown Pensacola, Tuesday March 17th at 6:30 p.m. Cost \$25 (includes tips). Make reservations by Friday, March 10th. Phone Winkie Rhea 850-438-7270. Outgoing President Paul Bruno promises a delicious meal, musical entertainment and tables decorated with camellias which patrons may take home after the event.

Membership Meeting

6:30 Tuesday, February 17th - Garden Center



Refreshment table was popular-- thanks for Jerri Adams' team for the food! Photo by N. Vickers.



Beth Bolles, Escambia County Extension agent gave an excellent program.



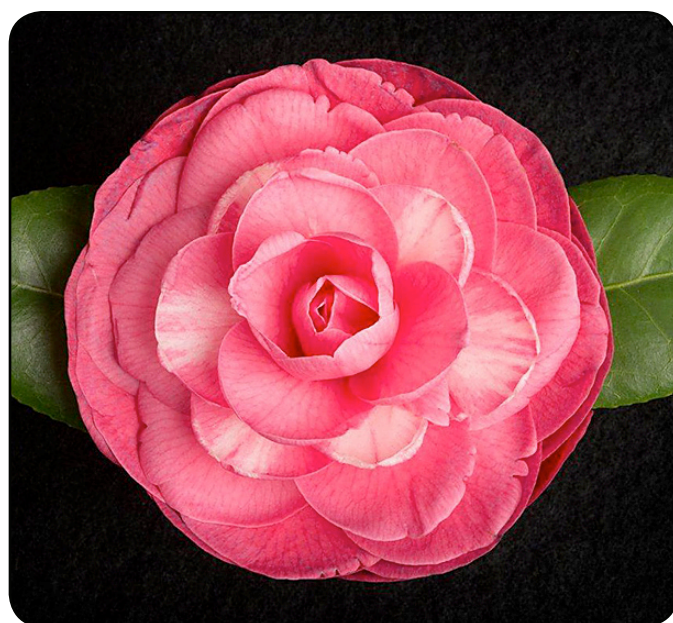
Membership/ hospitality table. Photo by N. Vickers.



Large, interested crowd. Photo by N. Vickers.



C. sasanqua, Midnight Ruby
Photo by Michael Spooneybarger.



C. heimalis, Rosea Superba
Photo by Michael Spooneybarger.

I've Been Thinking Everything I Have Learned about Camellias

by J. D. Thomerson

Yes, I have been thinking – as hard as that might be for those who know me to believe, I do think occasionally. I've been thinking about several things.

I have been thinking about my father, a Baptist preacher for forty plus years, and how he raised me to love plants, gardening, and landscaping – how thankful I am for this.



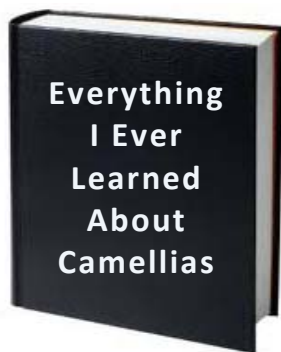
As a pastor, one of his many jobs was to write a short message for the weekly church newsletter. He titled his column, "I've Been Thinking . . ." and he had to think a lot to write a weekly column for forty years. After my Dad retired my family gathered all the old church newsletters we could

My Dad Loved Funny Church Signs



find and compiled all of his "I've Been Thinking" stories into a single nice hard bound book. What a treasure that book is to our family.

I have also been thinking about another book. When I first met Hulyn Smith he was just beginning to try and learn how to use a computer. He soon learned that I was a computer instructor so he called on me nearly weekly to come over to his house and help him solve an assortment of all kinds of computer problems. Hulyn was in his mid-seventies when we became friends and like many older-folks learning how to use a computer did not come easy. However, I remember the joy we shared looking at all the great camellia photos together and e-mailing photos to folks all over the world.



I also remember a book that set on Hulyn's shelf above his computer. It was a very nice big thick hard bound book entitled, "Everything I Have Ever Learned about Growing Camellias." After a couple of years of knowing Hulyn I was getting much more involved in growing camellias so I asked him one day if I could take that book home to read

and study. I had since noticed that the book was written by one of the Nuccio brothers (sorry, I cannot remember which one) and having learned about their expertise with camellias thought the book would be a great help to me.

When I asked Hulyn if I could borrow the book I remember how a big smile came across his face. He said, "Sure, but first let me explain something. This book was given to me as a gift from the Nuccio's and includes all their secrets about growing bigger, healthier, nicer camellias." Well, I was now even more excited to get the book.

I opened it up and the first page was a hand written note to Hulyn. It said, "Read and study each page carefully to learn all our secrets to growing camellias" and it was signed by one of the Nuccio brothers. I flipped to the next page but it was blank, so I flipped a couple of more pages but they were totally blank too, I flipped through about 400 more pages and each one was totally blank. I said something like "what the



Hulyn Smith loved to tell jokes and tell stories and I was glad to listen to them all.

heck" and Hulyn just laughed and laughed. Hulyn always liked jokes and kidding with his friends and the Nuccio's had really gotten him with this one and now he had gotten me.

I've also been thinking about the interviews I did with Hulyn and some of the questions I asked him. These audio/video interviews are now on the ACS Website and can be viewed by everyone – I encourage everyone to watch them. One of the first questions I asked Hulyn was to tell us some of his "secrets" to growing camellias. He quickly responded that he had no secrets.

NO SECRETS

Everything he learned he shared with everyone just as those before him shared with him. He said he was constantly learning new things about growing camellias and he did things different every year. Camellia folks don't keep secrets – we share what we learn, or think we have learned, with everyone – that is why being a member of a local camellia club is so much fun.

Well, all of the above is an introduction for what I really wanted to share in this article. In the spirit of keeping no secrets about camellias and sharing what little info I think I might have learned I wanted to write my first "I've Been

Thinking . . ." article about camellias. Thanks Dad for letting me use your "I've Been Thinking . . ." title and who knows, maybe one day many years from now my daughter and grandchildren can compile a nice hard bound thick book of the various "I've Been Thinking . . ." articles I have written about camellias.

I make no claim that any of the following is accurate or even the best way to do anything. All I am saying is that "I've Been Thinking . . ." about these things. Hopefully, it will get you thinking as well and we can all share our successes, failures, and ideas with one another.

Well Here Goes -- I've Been Thinking . . .

1. DON'T PLANT CAMELLIAS TOO DEEP. This is the number one cause of camellia death. Plant the camellia high in the hole and mound pine bark mulch or other mulch up around the plant. Remember, the plant is going to sink in the hole as the soil mix it originally grew in at the nursery decomposes. Even when planting high in the hole I have noticed that after a year or two some of my plants have sunk in the hole and I have to carefully lift it out of the hole and raise it.



If you want to kill a camellia then plant it too deep or let it get too dry when young and this is what you will get.

2. Be very careful to not let a new camellia plant get dry the first year you plant it --- well, better not let it get dry the second year as well and even be careful the third year. Camellias don't show lack of water and respond like hydrangeas and other plants. If they dry out even once before they are firmly established in the ground the party is over for them -- they will die a slow pitiful death. If you plant a new camellia high in the hole as you are supposed to do then the plant is going to dry out very quickly during the hot summer months. After planting too deeply I would say that letting camellias get too dry is the number two cause of camellia death.



The bronzing of the midrib of the camellia leaf is a sure sign of spider mite damage.

3. Don't wait until you see spider mite damage to spray with ultra-fine oil. If the weather is warm and dry those pesky things multiply by the thousands in a couple of days and by the time you see bronze leaves the damage has been done and it takes repeated oil or spider mite sprays to kill all the various stages of this nasty pest.

Spray monthly or at least every other month during warm dry weather remembering to coat the underside of the leaves.

4. If I had it to do over again I would plant Kumaga Nagoya rootstocks all over my yard, wait two years for them to get established, and then graft the best japonica and reticulata varieties on these rootstocks. I would then be set to go and have great growing plants.



Air layering camellias is fun and very easy and the success rate is very high. Much higher than my grafting success.

5. Air layering is a great way to get lots of nice sized camellias quickly and cheaply. Mist them several times a day for a couple of months and keep them in a shady area after cutting them off the mother plant. Make sure the soil in the pots drain very well -- air layered plants can rot easily if the mix does not drain very fast. Air layering is a much easier procedure than grafting camellias and results in very high success rates. Unfortunately, most reticulatas will not grow well on their own roots and therefore cannot be air layered. That is why most all reticulata's plants are grafted and thus more expensive to purchase.

6. Raised grafting beds are the best way to graft camellias. I have had very good success for three straight years grafting hundreds of camellias on both sasanqua (kanjiro) and Kumaga Nagoya in raised beds. Other camellia growers have had similar excellent results. The issue with root rot seems to not occur because of good drainage. Also, the grafts take and grow twice as big than the ones I successfully graft in pots. I wait until the following December to dig up the grafts and move them to pots or plant them in my yard.



Raised grafting beds at the home of Randolph Maphis. He had outstanding (the best ever he say's) success using this method.

7. Potting soil or mix in pots must be kept very loose and airy. Compacted, heavy, soggy soil is a death sentence to a camellia in a pot. Also, potted camellias seem to be happier being a bit root bound as opposed to being over potted. If you put a camellia in a pot too big for the root system they will likely root rot.



Pictured from left to right: Buck Mizell, Howard Rhodes, Mark Crawford, and Jim Smelley

If you want to learn about camellias then hang-out with these folks! They are among the best in the World.

8. Out of town camellia shows are fun weekend road trips. Become a novice camellia judge and then a full judge, if for no other reason the Friday night judges party socials are awesome.

9. My plants seem to like a fine misting of water on the leaves in late afternoons on hot summer days. If you mist the undersides of the leaves as well it will help prevent those nasty spider mites.

10. If you have an established old large camellia that looks sickly I recommend a hard pruning of the plant in early spring along with a fertilizer application and often the plant really responds and puts out nice new growth. If you have a sickly young camellia that does not respond to anything you do to try and rejuvenate it I would not give it more than one year to get healthy. A small new camellia plant that gets sick seldom recovers. As Hulyn Smith told me many times, "Dig it up and throw it away – we are not running a plant hospital here."

11. Spider mites seem to like plants growing in hot sunny locations. On the other hand, scale usually attacks plants growing in humid shady locations. Scale does not multiply quite as fast as spider mites and if you keep close check you can spray for scale once you notice it. Ultra-fine oil smothers scale as it does spider mites. I hate both of these pest so bad that I have begun to spray Ultra-Fine oil on my plants every other month only skipping extremely hot months during the summer (as Barney Fife on the Andy Griffith Show say's – Nip It in the Bud.)



Unless it is during the winter months make sure you use a Summer Oil or Ultra Fine Oil

12. Sasanqua rootstocks need to be grafted on several weeks later than japonica rootstock because they are slower to wake up from winter dormancy. That is why I think some of my grafts on sasanqua rootstock callus and begin growing only to die later. When checking the roots on these sasanqua rootstocks that failed they did not root rot they just died from their tops being hacked off. I am going to graft sasanqua rootstocks a bit later in the grafting season in hopes to improve my results.

13. I am considering just not grafting on japonica rootstocks growing in pots. It is very difficult to keep the rootstocks from root rotting in the pot. They must be kept on the dry side. I have had some success in keeping these japonica rootstocks inside a covered greenhouse so they will be out of



My success of grafting on japonica rootstocks in pots leaves a lot to be desired.

the rain. However, you must carefully begin watering these grafts once they begin to callus and grow because they cannot be totally dried out. There is just a fine line between being too wet and later being too dry and I am lucky to get 50% success with japonica rootstocks in pots. Several folks are now using a special "rootmaker" pot with air holes all around the pot that shows promise in helping to prevent rootstocks from rotting.

14. Kumagai Nagoya is a great rootstock. It has loads of big healthy roots and grows like crazy.

15. It is more fun to give than receive – give and it will be given to you. This is so very true in the camellia hobby world. Don't be stingy with your camellias. Share with others and they will repay you abundantly.

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full — pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

Luke 6:38

16. Seedling camellias sometime grow great for a year or two and then just die – it might have some bad genes, poor roots, dieback prone, who knows but you don't want that one anyway. You are breeding for good traits not bad ones.

17. Sasanquas are very pretty plants – don't let any camellia show grower tell you otherwise. Yes, they want look like much at a show but in full bloom in your yard they look great. Sasanquas are also easier to grow than other camellias and bloom before any cold damage.



Camellia Sasanqua
"Star Above Star"

18. Many camellia varieties are very similar – pick the best and forget the rest. Better to have several great camellias than hundreds of second class varieties.

19. Spray all new grafts, especially reticulata's, with fungicide (I use Pristine) when they put out new growth to control dieback. Dieback is worst in the spring and on new soft growth. I also recommend spraying all reticulata plants in the yard and/or greenhouse when new growth shoots up in spring.

CAUTION

20. When fertilizing plants in pots (and the yard also) be very careful with chemical fertilizers. During hot wet periods the fertilizer can "dump" most all the fertilizer in a short period of time (even time released kinds) killing plants in pots. Don't buy cheap fertilizer – it can do more damage than good. Unless you are very knowledgeable with fertilizer I would recommend that you use organic type fertilizer for camellias in pots. There are organic fertilizer products made from chicken manure (hen-do), pig manure (pig-do), and man biosolids (man-do.) Also, the blue powder fertilizer that is mixed with water (Peters or other brands) work very well when watering plants in pots. It has often been said that more camellias are killed from over fertilizing than under fertilizing.

21. Planning and hosting a camellia show is a lot of hard work. Yes, a lot of hard work. Always thank the folks that host these shows.

22. Some varieties are just hard to grow (at least for me.) I have about given up on Edna Bass, Herme, Clark Hubbs, and several reticulata varieties. Ville de Nantz is a hard one to grow but you have to keep trying with this one. What is odd is that some that seem impossible to keep alive for one grower might be easy for someone else or someone living in a different region of the country.



Ville de Nantz

23. There is no one best method for grafting camellias. Find what works for you and stick with it. Expecting 100% success is setting yourself up for disappointment. Many excellent grafters only get 50% success (when all is said and done) when grafting and often much less success when grafting in pots. Some grafting years are much better than others for who knows why?

24. Always remember, sometimes camellias just die – no fault of yours. Move on, it happens to even the best camellia growers.

As you can tell "I've Been Thinking A Lot." I am sure as soon as I send this article to others I will think of dozens of other camellia related things. I guess like my father I will need to have other "I've Been Thinking . . ." articles but instead of weekly ones like his I will shoot for one a year. Hope all your camellias are growing great and I look forward to hearing what everyone else has been thinking about next we get together.

North Winds Baptist Church

Huntington, NV

WHOEVER STOLE
OUR AC UNITS KEEP
ONE IT IS HOT
WHERE YOU'RE GOING

*I am going to have to show this one to my Dad.
I know that he will really like it.*

The article above was provided for reprint courtesy of Tommy Smith of the Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club.

Why Do My Camellia Buds Drop Without Opening?

By Dick Hooton, PCC Member

There are a number of reasons why Camellia buds drop off without opening.
Here are some possibilities:

- Root system won't support the large number of buds which formed.
- Extreme changes in temperature, especially freezes, will cause some of the buds to turn tan and drop off.
- Over-watering or under-watering.
- Poor nutrients or soil conditions.
- Infestation of mites prevent nutrients from getting to buds.

To this Skip Vogelsang adds - "Some varieties are just prone to "bull nose" or never fully open. Masterpiece is a prime example. And some varieties do not tend to open until the plant is larger and more mature – Black Magic often takes 4 to 5 years for blooms to fully open."

One solution is to attend our third-Tuesday PCC membership meetings and talk to our local "experts." The PCC has a group, NCIS (Neighborhood Camellia Information Service). When necessary, a member can make a Camellia house call and make recommendations. Visit the website: www.pensacolacamellioclub.com and access "contact us" or call Skip Vogelsang 850-438-3970.

A Camellia Calendar of Love

John Edwards (1915-2007), a Pensacola native and member of the Pensacola Camellia Club since 1937, left the growers of camellias a Camellia Calendar that represents 'tender and loving care' attitude. John loved camellias and expressed that love through his comment, "You can be down, you can be ill, but just go out there (his greenhouse) and see what God has created. It's marvelous! I'd say this is the best therapy that ever was."

February – Time to begin your grafting program. Prune dead wood. Pickup and destroy fallen blooms.* Compete in, and visit, Camellia Shows.

March – Complete grafting program. Fertilize. Complete your pruning program and cut back large plants. Pickup and destroy fallen blooms.* Compete in, and visit, Camellia Shows.

April – Complete fertilization. Time to propagate by air layering plants. Spray (after danger of frost). Pickup and destroy fallen blooms.*

May – Complete spraying of plants.

The attention given to your plants expresses your love for them.

*(Fallen blooms create spores that cause petal blight.)

-- Adapted from John Edwards' camellia calendar by Gordon E. Eade.
Appeared in PENSACOLA H&G , November 2007, p.72.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014
Pensacola Camellia Club Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation is a Florida not-for-profit corporation registered with the Internal Revenue Service ID No. 03-0384090. It is exempt from federal income taxation and is qualified to receive charitable contributions and bequests which are deductible for federal income, estate, and gift tax purposes. The Foundation's primary purpose is to help support the Pensacola Camellia Club, its annual Camellia Show, and its other activities. The funds held in the Foundation are the result of the generosity and foresight of our Club's members and friends.

The Foundation's investment funds for the years ending on December 31 for the last three years were:

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
\$56,364.74	\$65,385.46	\$67,873.93

The Foundation's income from interest and dividends during 2014 was \$2,224.33. It provided \$4,000 to the Club.

The Foundation's assets include \$1,340.00 for the Club's UWF Garden fund. The Foundation also holds title to the Club's 2005 Chevrolet pickup truck, and the lease for the club's shade house property donated by "T" Morris.

During 2014, the Club received donations and memorial gifts totalling \$4,635.00 from:

Mack Thetford
George Knight
Dick Hooton
Joan Blanchard
Paul Bruno
Roger and Ellen Vinson
"T" Morris
Timothy and Marguerite Burr
Dick Sloan

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Vinson, Chairman
Jack O'Donnell
Richard Hooton
Chuck Fosha
Skip Vogelsang, Trustees

From the PCC webmaster, Bill Lyford:

Why should PCC members go to the website? There are ideas for camellia care, photographs of PCC activities and history of the organization beginning in 1937. Besides, one can access previous newsletters and see photos of Pensacola varieties. Most members know that there have been over 100 varieties originating from this club. Also, there are direct links to the American Camellia Society website. If ACS has done it better, then we link to their website rather than try to duplicate the effort.

For those who receive the newsletter by e-mail, click [here](#) to go to PCC website. Click [here](#) to go to ACS website.

Pensacola Camellia Club (PCC) Statement Of Purpose

1. To Foster And Maintain An Interest In Camellias And Their Culture
2. To Promote The Study Of Camellias
3. To Provide An Opportunity For Their Exhibition And Appreciation
4. To Aid And Assist In The Standardization Of Camellia Nomenclature
5. To Recognize Those Individuals Who Have Enhanced The Camellia In Our Society

PENSACOLA CAMELLIA CLUB FOUNDATION

The Pensacola Camellia Club Foundation provides financial support for the activities of the Pensacola Camellia Club. For example, this year, because we are hosting the American Camillia Society convention, the cost of putting on our annual Camellia Show (including the facility rental, prizes and awards, tables rental, meals for out-of-town judges, and similar expenses) will exceed \$5,000. In years past, our club members had to solicit funds for the Show from local businesses and financial supporters. That was difficult, time consuming, and distasteful to most of our members. Now, thanks in large part to the Foundation's financial support, we no longer have to worry about financing our annual show and can devote our full attention to the show itself. Our Club greatly benefits from having our Foundation.

The Foundation always needs and welcomes your donations and memorial gifts. It is both exempt from federal income taxation, as a 501(c)(3) organization, and qualified to receive charitable contributions and bequests which are tax deductible for federal income, estate, and gift tax purposes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ONE OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS.

/s/ Roger Vinson, Chair
Jack O'Donnell
Richard Hooton
Chuck Fosha
Skip Vogelsang, Trustees