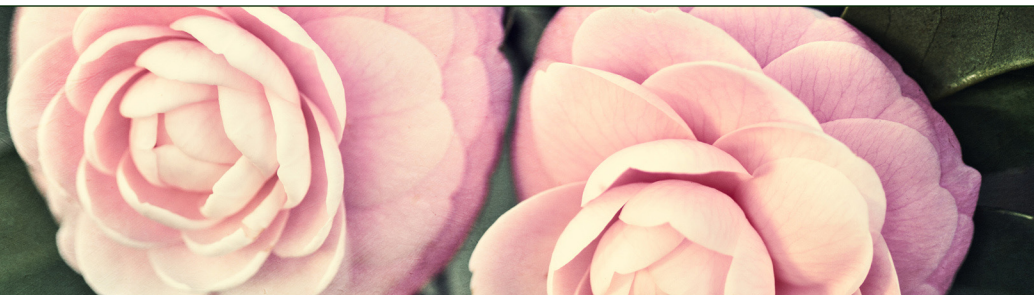


The Pensacola Camellia

March 2015



Newsletter of the Pensacola Camellia Club—established 1937

PensacolaCamelliaClub.com

President's Message

We are in full bloom season and all over town the Camellias are beautiful. Our great Pensacola Camellia Club continues to GROW! We recently exceeded 300 members and, as of this March 2015 newsletter, we are at 304 members! This will be my last president's message as we have had election and I am pleased to announce that Christi Hankins will succeed me as president of our club this month. Christi will be a great president and I look forward to serving under her leadership.

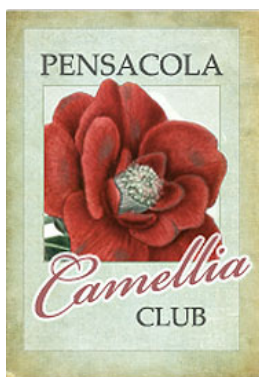
Please consider attending the Officers Installation Banquet on March 17 at V. Paul's Restaurant in downtown Pensacola. The banquet will begin at 6 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person which includes tax and tip. We will have dinner music by our own members, Norman Vickers on keyboard and Woody Edwards on jazz violin. It will be great fun! No stuffy, long-winded speeches, just good fellowship. There will be Camellia blooms decorating the tables—members bring blooms if you can share—which patrons may take home after the banquet.

What an honor it has been for me to work with the PCC the last two years! I will list some of the highlights for me, personally, and, I hope, for you.

- * Hosting the ACS national convention and NATIONAL CAMELLIA SHOW in December 2013
- * Upgrading long-term plans for shade house and plant sales property
- * Producing successful public grafting workshops, community camellia shows and picnics
- * Providing ongoing improvements to our fantastic University of West Florida Camellia Garden in association with the UWF Retired Employees Association and the University.
- * Purchased a camellia transport van to replace our original transport vehicle.
- * Arranged cooperative effort with Godwin Waterfront Camellia Gardens in Gulf Breeze.
- * Raised money and sold plants putting the club in solid financial shape.
- * Increased our endowment fund, thanks to your donations.
- * Increased membership, breaking the 300 member mark.

Thanks to all who have given time and effort to help achieve these goals. I look forward to our continued success.

--- 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

Photos from Community Camellia Show on February 28th



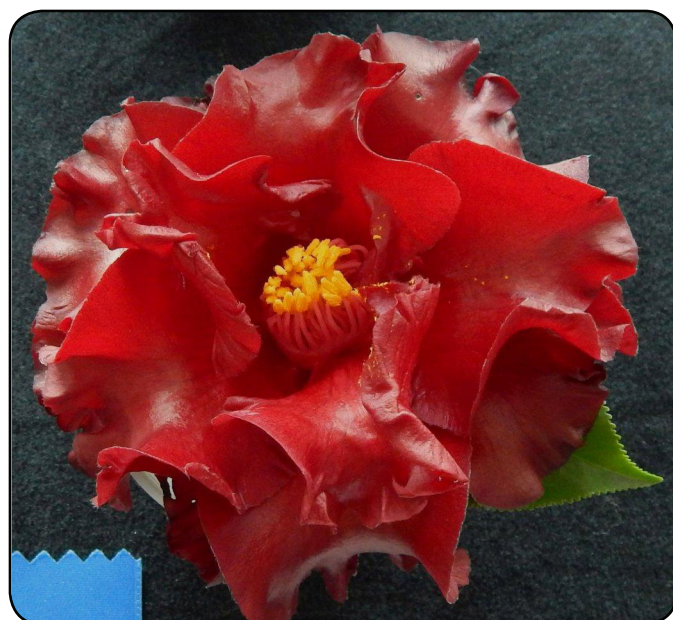
At refreshment table, Community Camellia Show, from left. Christi Hankins, Lynn Manthei, Jerri Smith and Carol Comber



Christi Hankins' Black Magic Camellia bloom won BEST OF SHOW!



Judging camellias, from left-- Dante Kahn, Roger Vinson and Mack Thetford



C. japonica, Black Magic
Close-up view of Christi's winning bloom.



Judging camellias-- from left-- Dick Hooton, Jerri Smith, Christi Hankins.

Background-- Roger Vinson and Mack Thetford

Photos by N. Vickers.

Year Around Fun with Camellias

by J. D. Thomerson

About a year ago while my daughter Katie and I were looking around our yard she asked me “what is your favorite plant.” I thought a few seconds and said “Katie, I don’t really have one – I like just about all plants.” Then I proceeded to name my favorites: hydrangeas, citrus, native azaleas, gingers, Japanese

maples and probably whatever else I saw blooming that day in my yard. Somewhere in the list I did include camellias. I remember Katie asking me “isn’t camellia’s your favorite.” I thought a couple of seconds and said “no, not really.” So Katie said, “but don’t you have way more camellias than any other plant.” Well, Katie was definitely right about that – I

have several hundred camellias in the yard and in pots all over the place.

My mind started to think really fast about why this was the case. It quickly dawned on me that the reason I have so many camellias and spend so much time with them compared to all the other plants in my yard is because camellias are not just a plant I grow to make my yard look nice but it is a hobby. I really like hydrangeas and have a nice collection of various varieties but I cannot say that it is a hobby. Mark Crawford has got me all excited about citrus and I have planted many varieties and I can’t wait until they begin to produce fruit – but, it is not really a hobby. The same is true of Japanese maples, gingers, and native azaleas – I enjoy collecting these plants and looking for new varieties and I like each of these plants just as much as I like camellias. But, none of these plants can I consider a hobby.

So, what is different about camellias? Good question – I had to think about this a bit. The easy answer is that it is because of the great people you get to meet – and this is very true. But, I know that the daylily, citrus, and other plant clubs also have wonderful folks too. Why, the camellia above all of the others. After thinking about this in more depth I think I



Kay and Katie Up Close with Dr. Tinsley Blooms

finally have the answer. Camellias are my hobby because there is constantly, every month of the year, multiple activities you can be doing with them and the other folks that are addicted to this hobby. You can continually be planning what you will be doing next month and the month to follow. For example: you can make all kinds of lists about what plants you will be grafting next January & February; lists of what varieties you want to air-layer come April and May; lists of which plants you want to get cuttings to root during June and July. My wife finds these various lists all over the house – I know she probably throws many away but I just make new ones.

In addition to the above activities I always look forward to collecting seeds come September and October and getting them planted. Then it is time to begin gibbing for early blooms because it will not be long until the early camellia shows will be held. Late September our local camellia club begins to meet once a month or more and this is always fun. There is just always something to be doing with camellias to keep me active, get my mind off of the troubles of my day job, and get me out and about visiting with other camellia nuts.

There are so many camellia activities throughout the year that I thought it would be valuable to create a month by month camellia calendar of events for everyone. So, here goes:

January: Make plans (and lists) and get ready for grafting season. Enjoy the peak of camellia bloom season and attend various nearby camellia shows. This is also a time to hybridize camellias – I understand that Jerry and Carol Selph, Randolph Maphis, Howard Rhodes, and others (including myself) are very interested in learning how to do this. Join with us as we learn and share successes and failures.

February: The peak of grafting season – perhaps my favorite time of the year. I really enjoy grafting during the cool days of February. Also, as soon as plants quit blooming it is time to do some serious pruning to your large plants. Seeds planted last fall should be sprouted and growing roots. I

I could not figure out what type of photos to include with this article so you get to look at my wife Kay and daughter Katie – I Love the Photos and the Ladies.



Kay & Katie with Pink Perfections an Old Time Favorite

pinch the end of the long tap root on the seedlings to make the roots branch out and plant each seedling in a quart pot.

March: Time to clean up old mulch, pine straw, old blooms, etc., and put out nice new mulch. Finish pruning bushes and fertilize the plants. Begin planning (making lists) of the camellias you want to air layer later in the month and in April/May. If you rooted camellia cuttings last summer they should be well rooted now and ready to be planted in a bigger pot. I like to use a quart or ½ gallon size pot to begin with but most nursery's go ahead and pot up in a one gallon size.

April: The month I enjoy air layering (it is usually really nice outside.) I usually begin to spray for scale and spider mites during April and May before either get an upper hand on me. If I have plants in pots that are root bound I bump them up to a bigger size pot if I haven't already done this in March.

May: Continue to make air layers. Water as needed all the camellias that have only been planted less than two years and that are not already firmly established – this is a continual situation but in Valdosta I seem to have to water the most during the months of April and May and then again around October & November. But, every year is slightly different – don't let recently planted camellias get dry.

June: Get cuttings of all the plants that you want to root. Most japonica's can be rooted easily. I have used old fish aquariums to make mini terrariums since I don't have a mist system. There are many other ways to root camellias and club members will be happy to share.

July: Continue getting camellia cuttings to root. July is so miserably hot in Valdosta that it is a great month to occasionally stay indoors and make all kinds of camellia wish lists. Also, perhaps make nice name tags that you can put on your plants to identify the varieties.

August: Late this month you can begin identifying camellia seed pods that sometimes begin to open or that will open later in September. Also, you can begin disbudding some of the early blooming varieties so that you get bigger and better blooms. I usually begin gibbing some camellia blooms in late August to get really early blooms. Make sure to gib this month if you hope to have any blooms for the early camellia shows.



Katie and Frank Houser Var

September: Check those air layers you made in early spring. If they feel hard as a baseball they are probably ready to be harvested and potted up. Continue to gib a few blooms every week or so to get blooms sooner and over an extended period of time. Our camellia club resumes meeting in September and Mark Crawford always brings some gib to share with club members. Plant those camellia seeds – if you have never done this it is extremely easy – I can even do it so just ask if you want some instructions.

October: Remember that it can get dry during October and the spider mites love dry weather. Spray ultra-fine oil as a precaution if you see the first hint of spider mite damage. Inspect for scale especially in the shady areas and limbs close to the ground. Air layers not already harvested should probably be ready although some varieties take a lot longer than others. Enjoy the many sasanqua camellias that are sure to put on a great show around town. Attend the early camellia shows and begin planning for the Valdosta Camellia show in early December.

November: A great time to plant new camellias. Visit Loch Laurel Camellia Nursery or a nursery in your area and pick out some new varieties. Planting now will give the plants time to get better established before the brutal hot season returns. There are many camellia shows to attend this month. Gibbed blooms will be opening periodically depending on when you applied the gib – remember, most camellias blooms open up about six weeks after they are gibbed. Remember to water – about 90% or more of a camellia bloom is water and water makes them larger and more vibrant in color.

December: Don't forget the Valdosta Camellia show the first Saturday of December. We will need as much help as we can get and encourage everyone within driving distance to attend and bring blooms. December is another good month to get all your camellia wish lists ready – especially for the upcoming grafting season that is not but a month or two away. Buy someone a camellia plant as a Christmas gift – it is still a great time to plant in our region.

Perhaps you would like to learn more about some of the camellia activities discussed above. If so, camellia junkies like Jerry and Carol Selph, Mark Crawford, and myself will be thrilled to help. Come to the Valdosta Camellia and Garden Club meetings or your local area camellia club and ask questions – don't be shy.



Frank Houser Var in Full Bloom

The article above was provided for reprint courtesy of J.D. Thomerson of the Valdosta Camellia & Garden Club.

Officers Installation Banquet March 17th, 6pm - V. Paul's Restaurant

Announcing Death of Geri Jinks

Condolences to Mike Jinks and family of Brookhaven, MS on the death of his wife Geri. Geri was former editor of the Gulf Coast Camellian and was known and beloved in the camellia world. She died after a prolonged illness.

For those who may wish to contact Mike, his information follows: 207 Edgewood Dr., Brookhaven, MS 39601. E-mail: gjinks@cableone.net.

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."

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.

June – Water if too dry.

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.

Upcoming Events

PCC Installation Banquet

V. Paul's Italian Ristorante, 29 Palafox Place, downtown Pensacola, Tuesday March 17th at 6 p.m. Cost \$25 (includes tips). Make reservations by Friday, March 10th. Phone Paul Bruno - 850-982-7230. Outgoing President Paul Bruno promises a delicious meal, musical entertainment and tables decorated with camellias which patrons may take home after the event.

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. Winning blooms from our December Camellia Show will be posted soon. View those lovely blooms and plan your next camellia addition to your own garden.

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 Camellia 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