



Hello Fellow Camellia enthusiast!

What a great turn-out for our September meeting. We had guests all the way from Louisiana. Special thanks to our speaker Mark Crawford for such an informative presentation. Thanks also to John Davy for such an exciting line up of programs for this camellia season. Our October board meeting lasted a full hour this month and we are making great progress on the development of strong committees and solid plans for upcoming events. Be sure to review the web page to see what we added to the list of upcoming activities and programs for our monthly meetings.

I do want to remind you all to continue with the supplemental watering of your camellias as they continue to develop flower buds and some are already beginning to flower. October remains the driest month for our area and the rain we receive is often not enough to reach deep into the dry sandy soil to ensure adequate watering.

This is also the season of planning for upcoming garden tours, flower shows, local events featuring our local camellia flowers, and for attending Pensacola Camellia Club activities. We have our annual Camellia Air Layering potting day coming up soon. If you have not experienced this fun day, try to join us this month.

Try to include one of the many Camellia Trial gardens in your plans this year. Visit the American Camellia Society web page to learn more about these gardens and plan your visits. While you are on the web page check out the new American Camellia Society capital campaign. The "Building new pathways" campaign will focus on the sidewalk to the Leon Silver Building which was originally designed with an area to accommodate customized bricks. All funds raised will be used for the improvement of Masee Land Garden and its infrastructure. This campaign focus is improvement of Masee Lane Gardens in preparation for the upcoming International Camellia Society meeting to be held there in 2027. Please check out all the events and opportunities on the American Camellia Society website today and purchase your brick(s). You will be investing in the future of the American Camellia Society.

I will be traveling this month so Christi Hankins will step in to lead our October meeting, but I do look forward to seeing you in November. Please join us this month for a great program and an opportunity to socialize and plan for a great Camellia season.



Mack Thetford / PCC President

Wow, what a turnout for our first meeting of the season. Thank you Ellen Milo, our photographer, who suggested a group photo of our members and guests who attended our September 16th meeting.



We were privileged to have Mark Crawford from Valdosta, Georgia as our guest speaker who told the tale of his travels to China for the Four Season Camellias. He mentioned his surprise of finding the climate comparable to Miami, which is too warm for Camellias to grow here but there in Zhaoging area of China there are Palm Trees and Camellias. The Chinese culture view the red camellias as the most valuable and the pink formal double are overlooked by them, but not by Mark (see his photo below). Yellow Camellias are guarded and were collected to serve in tea for his visit.



Mark had various selection of Camellias transported to the USA where they have been held in quarantine for two years. Some have died and replacements were shipped, which the USDA has allowed the American Camellia Society (ACS) rented space for these root cuttings to be potted and watched over by a Master Garden of Maryland at ACS's expenses. This method has been more successful for their survival. Mark invited Kip McDonald from Southern Living to join us to explain the production

process of these Four Season Camellias and when we will see them in markets. Below is one of the plants and its bloom, the name has not been revealed at this time.



Below are new members left to right; John Walker from Magee, MS., Eddie Martin from Belle Chasse, LA, Jimmy Boerschmann from Georgia, Mark Crawford from Valdosta, GA, and four from Pensacola, Rayeto & Michael McCartan, Donna Kirby and Kathryn Daniel.



We have some great members that read the meeting reminder and as suggested, 'feel free to bring in some tasty treats to share,' provided a wide selection of items. Thank You for attending the meeting and participating in the simple act of fellowship. Let's not forget to acknowledge the members who provided help with the clean up, lights out, and locked the door, at the end of the meeting. Great Team Work!

Shade House Expansion – by Dave McAferty

The early days of October are now upon us and as each day gets shorter and the heat and humidity finally start to subside, our collective joy grows. All of our hard work dedicated to our plants over the summer has paid dividends as we witness our flower buds fatten and begin to show the first peeks of color. Soon, the gardens will begin to fill with all sorts of beautiful shades reminding us why we labor so much in the summer heat.

As most of you know, the club stores our plants for sale at the T. Morris Shade House. Currently, this facility is packed to the brim with hundreds of plants that are ready for their new homes. As the operations at the shade house have grown, the facilities there needed to keep pace. We were fortunate to have the materials donated to construct an additional structure on the property. The new Judge Roger Vinson Shade House is in the late stages of construction and will be up and operational for the harvesting of this year's air layers in mid-October. This structure previously stood at the Vinson's house and Ellen was kind enough to donate the materials so that we could expand our operations; a huge thank you to her. Now, the Judge Roger Vinson Shade House will stand proudly right next to the T. Morris Shade House for years to come. Whenever you have time, please come check out the new facility at our Pine Forest location. While there, take a look at all of the different varieties of blooms we have for sale. There is something for everyone so come see what you can't be without!



Here are a few photos reflecting the progress of the Vinson shade house. We greatly appreciate John Davy's Panhandle Growers neighbors, Jake and Jeff for working on this project for the club.

Here is a great opportunity for you to discover the results of our spring air layers as we work side by side. We will have harvested over 600 air layers from the various gardens for you to unwrap, prune pot, and store in the shade house on **Saturday Oct.18th at 9am**. Please bring a chair and pruners; we will have tables and shade for you. Unwrapping is time consuming but anyone can do it, so bring the children and spouse for a few hours or for the day it is a great way to interact with members. As you get tired of unwrapping, relocate yourself to potting with another member or pull the wagon to move the plants into the shade house. (New members, this all takes place at 3279 Pine Forest, Cantonment, Fl.)



NEW EVENT

Come find beautiful sasanqua camellias on display at the **Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival, November 7th - 9th at Seville Square**. Thanks to member, Maria Rosasco, for getting us visibility at this major Pensacola event. The plants are donated by John Davy on behalf of the Club for the purpose of advertising Pensacola Camellia Club information.

This year we are looking for volunteers to attend the auction table to accept bids for the camellias but more importantly to explain who and what the Pensacola Camellia Club is all about. There will be handouts of club information at the table to assist you.



You can sign up to represent the club for which day and time you prefer at our October club meeting. Contact Louise if you have questions at 850-780-0410.

Visit <https://www.ggaf.org> for more information on this event.



Just added...

Saturday Oct 11th - The Shade House will have its gate open to sell Camellias plants from 9-2pm. Feel free to review our inventory list on our website and let Trumin know which plants to save for your purchases. We are doing this because the church north of us is having a yard sale which should attract passerby.

Saturday Oct. 18th – It's Potting Day! ALL HANDS NEEDED! We will be at the [Shade House](#) (3279 Pine Forest Rd, Cantonment) starting at 9:00am for potting our harvested air layers, spraying camellias, fertilizing, and general clean up. There are over 600 air layers that will need to be unwrapped and trimmed before they can be potted. Please bring your chair, gloves, pruners, carts and water bottles.

Tuesday Oct. 21st – Club meeting – Program: Paul Bruno will cover 'Basic Camellia Culture.' You will need to 'gib' 7 weeks prior to our show date (1st application Oct 25th) to have your camellias ready to produce blooms for our *December 13th* 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 donation and we will shop for you, [donate here](#). The toys donations are in place of show prizes for our December Camellia Show winners.*



Friday – Sunday Nov. 7-9th - Great Gulf Coast Art Festival at Seville Square. Hours are 9-5 on Friday & Saturday and Sunday 9-2pm. As mentioned above we are asking you to volunteer to represent the club at the auction table for a few hours on any of the days of the festival.

Saturday Nov. 8th – [UWF Camellia Garden](#) Work Day starting at 9:00am. We will be gibbing and general cleaning up of the garden. This year it is important to gib the garden so there will be blooms for our guest that attend the show. We will provide the gib.

Tuesday Nov. 18th – Club meeting – Program: Kristin DeReuil and Christi Hankins present 'Dry Run of Show Blooms.' Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm social, 7:00pm program. *Please bring in your toy donation for "Toys for Tots" or make a donation and we will shop for you, [donate 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 newsletter.

2025-2026 Gibbing Schedule for Camellia Shows near Pensacola.

This schedule is an approximation based upon an average time between the application of the gibberellic acid and blooming of about 6 weeks, bracketed with applications a week earlier or later. Thus, there are three application dates for each show. For example, if you gib 2 blooms on each plant at each application, you would have gibbed a total of 6 blooms on that plant --- and with luck maybe 1 of them will open in time for that show. The estimated time is for an average japonica plant in moderate shade and under normal Pensacola weather conditions.

Location	Show Date	1st Application 8 wks prior	2 nd Application 7 wks prior	3 rd Application 6 wks prior	4th Application 5 wks prior
Slidell, LA	12/6/25	10/11/25	10/18/25	10/25/25	11/1/25
Pensacola, FL	12/13/25	10/18/25	10/25/25	11/1/25	11/8/25
Gainesville, FL	1/4/26	11/8/25	11/15/25	11/22/25	11/29/25
Tallahassee, FL	1/10/26	11/15/25	11/22/25	11/29/25	12/6/25
Covington, LA	1/11/26	11/15/25	11/22/25	11/29/25	12/6/25
Mobile, AL	1/17/26	11/22/25	11/29/25	12/6/25	12/13/25
New Orleans, LA	1/24/26	11/29/25	12/6/25	12/13/25	12/20/25
Greenville, AL	1/24/26	11/29/25	12/6/25	12/13/25	12/20/25
Baton Rouge, LA	1/31/26	12/6/25	12/13/25	12/20/25	1/3/26
Gulfport, MS	2/7/26	12/13/25	12/20/25	12/27/25	1/3/26
Fort Valley, GA	2/28/26	1/3/26	1/10/26	1/17/26	1/24/26
Brookhaven, MS	3/7/26	1/10/26	1/17/26	1/24/26	1/31/26

NOTE: Some growers suggest 7 to 5 weeks before a show. The chart I originally found suggested 8 to 6 weeks. This chart gives dates for both rules of thumb.

We will have gib for members at the Oct. 21st meeting at the Garden Center.



To apply, select a well-developed flower bud with an upward-facing leaf bud, and remove the leaf bud with a twisting action. Place one drop of acid in the cup left where leaf bud was removed.

