



STAFF PHOTOS BY ERIC CARLSON

A Night Of Pageantry

Mistress of Ceremonies Nancy Humphries, Miss South Carolina 1987, and special guest Sheri Huffman, Miss Virginia 1991, accept limited edition prints of the Oak Island Lighthouse as gifts for their contributions to the 1993 Miss Brunswick County Scholarship Pageant, in photo above. Below, pageant director David Clegg is surprised to receive a caricature of himself from former Miss Brunswick County winners, who called him "the best business manager anybody ever had." Seven young women competed for the 1993 crown, which went to Larniece Laneer McKoy, a Winnabow resident and sociology major at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Grafting Seems To Interest Everyone

One aspect of plant propagation that seems to interest just about everyone is grafting. Grafting is the process of joining two genetically different plants to each other to create one plant that combines the best characteristics of each individual plant.

For example, most apple trees are grafted to a rootstock that dwarfs the tree. Trees grown on dwarfing rootstock will produce a lime structure that is easier to prune, spray, and harvest. In addition, most dwarf trees are precocious, meaning that the tree began bearing fruit at a very early age. Most peach varieties are grafted to the variety "Lovell" because research has demonstrated this combination grows the best peaches in the shortest period of time.

Many times grafting is performed for economic reasons. The great majority of roses are grafted to one or more kinds of rootstock because a saleable plant can be produced more economically than by rootstock because there is no other way to economically propagate a desired variety.

Archeologists have found evidence that indicates man has been grafting plants for his needs for nearly 4,000 years. Dwarf fruit trees were grafted and used in the gardens of Versailles hundreds of years ago. Natural plant stem and root grafts exist throughout nature. Man has observed and mimicked the phenomenon to produce some of our most beautiful and bountiful plants.

Some plants are easier to graft than other plants. In general, most plants of the same species can be grafted to each other. However, many plants of different species can also be grafted. Examples of two different species of plants that are graft compatible are English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Fatshedera (*Fatshedera lizei*). English ivy can easily be grafted to Fatshedera to make an interesting and unusual ornamental plant.

The tomato can be easily grafted to eggplant or potato rootstock. A Malaysian friend of mine told me that tomatoes were routinely grafted to eggplant rootstock in Malaysia because the eggplant had such superior resistance to root nematodes. I have grafted tomatoes to eggplants and have had students that made the graft. It is an easy and fun graft to make.

Grafting is easy to do as long as you know a few basic rules. The

THE PLANT DOCTOR

C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
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It is very important that when the scion and rootstock pieces are joined that the cambium layer (the tissue just inside the bark) make direct contact. Without proper contact the graft will never take.

Next, wrap the graft tightly with plastic tape or waxed string. I used plastic wrap, wax paper, and aluminum foil to completely cover the entire scion wood and graft union. Be sure the graft stays shaded and out of direct sun. If the scion dries out or gets disturbed in any way in the first several months after grafting, the graft union is usually ruined. As soon as the buds on the scion began to emerge gradually (over several weeks) remove the plastic wrap from around the scion.

Successful grafting is highly technique dependent. If you are interested in learning to graft, visit a nursery or consult with a knowledgeable plantsman. I am sure they would gladly give you some pointers on the topic. NC Cooperative Extension Service has an excellent brochure called "Grafting and Budding Nursery Crop Plants." Publication AG-396, that details the fine art of plant graftage.

Please send a SASE or check with your local Cooperative Extension Service for a copy of this publication.

Send all your gardening questions to the Plant Doctor, Post Office Box 109, Bolivia, NC 28422.

Publication Focuses On Coastal Native Americans

Back before Virginia Dare, John White and Sir Walter Raleigh, the North Carolina coast belonged to

Native Americans.

Archaeologists believe Native Americans lived along Tar Heel shores since at least 12,000 B.C.

A new Sea Grant publication, "North Carolina's First Inhabitants," explores information that historians and archaeologists compiled about the original natives of the coast.

The 20-page publication relates what is known of the prehistory and lifestyle of coastal North Carolina's three language-speaking Indian groups—the Algonkians, the Iroquoians and the Siouans.

"North Carolina's First Inhabitants" also explains how state and university archaeologists are using artifacts recovered from digs to get a clearer picture of the Indians' existence prior to European contact.

Virtually all of North Carolina's coastal Indians died from diseases contracted from Europeans before their history or culture was thoroughly recorded.

The publication also describes the efforts of present-day Waccamaw-Siouan Indians in Columbus and Bladen counties to reclaim their heritage.

It also includes a hands-on activity that parents, teachers or youth group leaders can use to teach children how scientists conduct archaeological digs.

To receive a copy, write UNC Sea Grant, Box 8605, N.C. State University, Raleigh NC 27693 and ask for UNC-SG-92-13. Cost is \$2.50.

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Brunswick Native To Speak At Genealogical Society Meeting

A Leland native will be guest speaker when the Old New Hanover Genealogical Society meets Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. in Bear Hall, Room 105, at UNC-Wilmington.

Donald R. Lennon will speak on East Carolina Genealogy Records.

Lennon attended UNCW when it was known as Wilmington College. He earned his baccalaureate and master's degrees from East Carolina University and later studied archives administration at American University and at N.C. State. He is certified by the Academy of Certified Archivists.

Among the several books he and co-authored or edited are *The Wil-*

ington Town Book, 1943-1778, co-edited with Ida Brooks Kellam; and *Harnett, Hooper and Howe: Revolutionary Leaders of the Lower Cape Fear*, co-authored with Dennis R. Lawson and Alan D. Watson.

Lennon is a member of the Society of American Archivists, the Historical Society of North Carolina, the N.C. Literary and Historical Association, the Association of Historians in North Carolina and the Society of N.C. Archivists. He is on the board of directors of the N.C. Preservation Consortium.

For more information, call June Swinson at 343-1100 or Pat Gasson at 392-0381.



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