



Exciting News for Our Camellia Club!

President Larry Heard was proud to announce at our March meeting some truly exciting news! Our club will soon have a permanent location designed to expand and meet future needs. As we celebrate our shared passion for camellias, along with the peace and tranquility these beautiful flowers symbolize, the property will fittingly be named:

Tranquillam, Pacem et Camellias.

This name, which is Latin for "*Tranquil, Peace & Camellias*," reflects the serene beauty of camellias and our hope that this new location will become a peaceful gathering place for all camellia enthusiasts for many years to come.

We look forward to sharing more updates soon as we begin this new and exciting chapter!

***** IMPORTANT MEETING INFORMATION *****

CHANGE OF VENUE: April 13th Meeting

Meeting Location Change

Due to building maintenance at the Jon Archer Agricultural Center, our April 13th meeting location has been changed.

We will meet at:

5813 Helen Street, Mobile, AL 36618

(Note: Some GPS systems may list this as Helen Drive)

The meeting location (pictured below) is about 4 miles west of I-65. After crossing University Boulevard on Hwy. 98, Helen Street is just over 1 mile on the left. Look for a chain link fence—gates will be open. A wrought iron sign displays the street number. Parking is available anywhere on-site.

You may want to enter the house via the front steps. There are some chairs available, but since we plan to meet outdoors, you may want to bring your own for comfort.

Meeting Details – April 13th

- Potluck prep: 1:30 p.m. (Club will provide ham and chicken)
- Potluck social: 2:00 p.m.
- Meeting begins: 2:30 p.m.



March Meeting Highlight: Camellia Bloom Identification

Our March meeting was blooming with beauty, especially after the record-breaking snowstorm! It seemed the camellias were eager to show just how cold-hardy they are, as members brought in an impressive collection of vibrant blooms for everyone to enjoy. Below are some pictures of these exquisite late-season beauties our members brought in for 'Show and Tell' — see if you can identify your favorites, or simply admire their resilience after the winter weather!





One of the highlights of our camellia 'Show and Tell' is how our members label each bloom. By writing the bloom's name on the back of a leaf, everyone can easily identify the variety on display. This simple yet effective method allows us to appreciate and learn more about the different camellias brought in. It's always exciting to see the range of beautiful blooms and share knowledge in such a hands-on way.

We encourage all members to participate—bring a bloom from your garden to our next meeting to show it off and join in the fun! Whether it's a well-known favorite or a unique variety, every bloom adds to our shared appreciation of camellias.

Dr. Richard Hardison, japonica



Joy Kendrick, japonica



Rouse's Big Red, japonica



Bloom Spotlight!

Check out this spectacular camellia — 'Mary Elizabeth Dowden' (Reticulata hybrid)!

Brought to our March meeting by Larry Heard, this gorgeous bloom wowed everyone with its stunning pink petals.

Not only is it large in size, but it's also a magnificent late-season bloomer, perfect for extending your camellia garden's beauty into spring!

Love what you see? Great news — this fabulous variety is available for purchase through the Club!



Raffle Fun! 😊

At the close of our March meeting, we raffled off three stunning camellia plants to some very lucky winners! This monthly tradition is always a highlight, and our members eagerly anticipate the chance to take home new blooms for their gardens.

Congratulations to the winners of these beautiful varieties:



Kramer's Supreme





Bart Colbert Variegated



Dixie Knight Supreme

Of special note, one lucky winner took home a truly special plant—the **Dixie Knight Supreme** raffled is a scion from one of **Jim Smelley's** award-winning camellias! As a renowned grower and hybridizer, Jim's contributions to the camellia world are well known, and this plant carries the legacy of his excellence. What a fantastic addition to any garden!

We can't wait to see these gorgeous blooms flourish in their new homes. Who knows—you might be a lucky winner at our next meeting!

 **Mark Your Calendar!** 

Join us for food, fun, and friendship at our annual end-of-the-year picnic!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 1st, at Jim Smelley's** — it'll be the perfect way to close out the year with fellow camellia enthusiasts!

**For additional information regarding
Camellia Club of Mobile please visit
our website:**

<http://www.mobilecamellia.org/>

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