



# Camellia Club of Mobile

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## March 2026

### Monthly Meeting Info

March 8, 2026

Building opens 1:00 p.m.

Potluck prep 1:30 p.m.

Potluck Social 2:00 p.m.

Meeting begins 2:30 p.m.

### Meeting Location

Jon Archer Agricultural Center

1070 Schillinger Rd. N

Mobile, AL 36608



**Blooms:** Please bring your blooms to our meeting for show and tell.

## A Wonderful Meeting with New Faces, Beautiful Blooms, and Hands-On Learning

Our February Camellia Club meeting was a special one, filled with fellowship, flowers, and learning.

We were delighted to welcome several new members to the Club. It's always a joy to see fresh faces and growing interest in camellias, and we look forward to getting to know each of them and sharing our love of these beautiful plants.

As always this time of year, members brought in gorgeous blooms from their gardens to display and share. The variety of colors, forms, and sizes were a delight to see — a wonderful reminder of just how diverse and stunning camellias can be. It's one of the simple pleasures of our winter meetings to admire everyone's "garden treasures" up close.



A special thank-you goes to Debbie for the great Super Bowl-themed table decorations that brought an extra bit of fun and festivity to our gathering — especially the Highland cow figurines in their tiny football helmets, which everyone agreed were absolutely adorable. And of course, we all enjoyed the delicious potluck items shared by members — good food and good company always make our meetings even more memorable.



A highlight of the day was Larry's grafting demonstration. Watching him carefully explain each step and then skillfully demonstrate the process made what can seem intimidating feel approachable and doable. His patience in answering questions, along with his tips and insights from years of experience, made the demonstration both educational and enjoyable. We're also looking forward to a hands-on grafting session in the next couple of weeks, where members will have the chance to practice and help add to our growing collection of Club grafts.





Our meeting ended with our usual raffle of camellia plants. Eight lucky members took home plants and I hope we'll see blooms from their plants at next year's annual show!



It was truly a fun, informative, and welcoming meeting — exactly what Camellia Club gatherings are all about.

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## Camellias at the Richards-DAR House Museum



Located in Mobile's historic **De Tonti Square District**, the **Richards-DAR House Museum** is both an architectural landmark and a place where history and horticulture come together. Built in the early 1860s, the house reflects the elegance of the period and has long served as a site for preservation, education, and community engagement.

The museum and its grounds are maintained through the dedicated efforts of four Mobile-area DAR chapters, whose cooperative stewardship helps preserve the house, care for the landscape, and welcome visitors throughout the year. This shared commitment ensures that the Richards-DAR House Museum remains an active and meaningful historic site within the community.

Surrounding the house are mature camellias that bloom each winter and early spring, adding seasonal beauty and continuity to the landscape. These camellias—many long established—are an integral part of the property's character, providing color, structure, and a living connection to the past. Their presence also reflects Mobile's long-standing love of camellias and the important role they play in Southern gardens.

Throughout the grounds, camellias of varying forms and colors frame the historic setting, enhancing both the house and garden spaces. Together, they create a setting where architecture, landscape, and heritage are seamlessly intertwined.



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## **The Never Forget Garden at the Richards-DAR House Museum**

One of the most meaningful features on the grounds of the Richards-DAR House Museum is the Never Forget Garden, created in observance of the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Centered around a commemorative monument crafted in Alabama from Sylacauga marble and sculpted by **Craig Brown**, the garden serves as a place of reflection and remembrance, honoring the sacrifices of America's unknown service members.

The garden was dedicated during a special ceremony attended by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, community guests, and Denise Doring VanBuren, President General of the National Society DAR. Camellias planted around the monument provide a serene and dignified setting, their winter blooms symbolizing remembrance, endurance, and gratitude. Today, these camellias continue to bloom each season as a living tribute and a lasting reminder to never forget.



A mature camellia (pictured below) blooms behind the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier monument in the Never Forget Garden, its stately presence and winter flowers providing a serene backdrop that reflects both remembrance and enduring beauty.



For information on the Richards-DAR House Museum and Daughters of the American Revolution, click on the below links to visit their websites:

**Richards-DAR House Museum**

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution**

**Tristan de Luna Chapter, NSDAR, Mobile, AL**

**Tristan de Luna Chapter, NSDAR, Facebook**

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

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

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