



Camellia Club of Mobile

est. 1940

September 2024

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to the Camellia Club of Mobile (CCofM) as we embark on a new season, celebrating our remarkable 85th anniversary of growing, sharing, and showcasing the exquisite beauty of camellias. This milestone highlights our rich history and the vibrant community spirit that has thrived over the decades. We invite you to mark your calendars for our first meeting on September 8, 2024, and to join us for our ongoing monthly gatherings, held on the second Sunday of each month through April 13, 2025.

At our first meeting of the season, we encourage all CCofM members to share their summer experiences and insights regarding their camellia endeavors, including updates on grafting techniques, air layering successes, seed propagation, and fertilizing. This meeting is also a great opportunity to ask questions pertaining to the coming months.

Together, let's cultivate not only our cherished blooms but also the friendships and knowledge that make our club truly special. We look forward to reconnecting with all of you and exploring the captivating world of camellia culture.

Larry Heard
President

Meeting Info

September 8, 2024.

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



There are reports of early blooms this year. If you have blooms, please bring them for "show and tell" at our September meeting.

On August 22, the Board, together with several enthusiastic members, convened for a planning meeting to strategize upcoming events and discuss preliminary details of our annual show. Those in attendance contributed their insights and ideas to ensure a successful and engaging year ahead.





Football Season is upon us!

Auburn holds a unique charm for camellia enthusiasts, regardless of whether one supports Auburn or Alabama. This vibrant community offers a remarkable opportunity to appreciate the beauty and history of camellias in two significant locations: **Pebble Hill**, an antebellum cottage constructed in 1847, and **The President's Home**, which dates back to 1938. Both sites not only showcase stunning plants filled with exquisite flowers but also reflect the rich historical and botanical heritage of the region. Visiting these gardens provides an enriching experience, connecting visitors with the cultural significance and elegance of camellias that have long been cherished in Southern gardens.

Camellia Club of Mobile members Leo Brown, an Auburn graduate, and James Walker are the originators of the below blooms.



'Auburn Sunrise'
Reticulata hybrid



'Auburn Sunset'
Reticulata hybrid

A few pictures taken at Pebble Hill, March 2024:



'Pebble Hill Peppermint'
japonica



'R.L. Wheeler'
japonica

The *Tom Corley Camellia Collection* at Auburn University is a notable botanical collection featuring a diverse array of camellia species and cultivars. Established through the efforts of Tom Corley, a dedicated camellia enthusiast, the collection showcases a wide range of camellias, including some rare and historical varieties. It serves as a valuable resource for research and education on these beautiful, ornamental plants and is a highlight for garden enthusiasts visiting Auburn University.

For detailed information on the *Tom Corley Camellia Collection* click here >> **[Auburn Series of Camellias](#)**

Information on Auburn camellias obtained from *Auburn-Opelika Men's Camellia Club* and **[americancamellias.com](#).



Gulf Coast Camellia Society (GCCS) Conference, Oct 18-19, 2024, Pensacola Beach, FL

The Pensacola Camellia Club will host this year's GCCS conference.

The GCCS conference hotel and registration can be completed online by clicking below link:

<https://pensacolacamellioclub.com/gulf-coast-camellia-society-conference/>

If you have questions or need assistance please email Louise Seitz, pensacolacamellia@gmail.com or Trumin Brown, trumin.brown@att.net.

We hope to see many of our Camellia friends at the conference for a relaxing time.
Your host,
Pensacola Camellia Club

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

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

Connect with us



TOM CORLEY COLLECTION OF AUBURN CAMELLIAS



Auburn Sunrise



Auburn Sunset



Kenny Howard



Mary Corley



Madge Rouse



Miss Auburn



One Second



**Pebble Hill
Peppermint**



Rouse's Big Red



Rollin Toomer



Sweet Auburn



Samford Park



War Eagle



Aubie Registration pending

Auburn Camellias

Sweet Auburn. This very large *C. japonica* blooms midseason with red-purple petals and yellow anthers. It was named in 2014 by the A-O Men's Camellia Club from a chance seedling that had been growing in the Auburn area since the 1950s. Dr. Dennis Rouse (1920-2003) called it "Harbin's Seedling".

War Eagle. This long-lost *C. japonica* was named by Dr. Gilbert E. Fisher of Union Springs, AL, in 1960 but no one in the Auburn area had it in their collection. Members of the A-O Men's Camellia Club found it growing on the old Fisher estate in Union Springs in 2017. Another specimen was found later in Auburn at the former home of Alpha Cullars now owned by Linda (Henry) and William Dean. It has a dark red, full peony to loose peony form flower that blooms midseason.

Rollin Toomer. This very large, semi-double *Camellia japonica* flower is white with yellow anthers and filaments and was named and registered in 2017 by Kenneth Rogers of Auburn to commemorate the popular celebrations held at Toomer's Corner in Auburn after big athletic victories.

One Second. The name commemorates the Auburn football victory over the Alabama Crimson Tide with one second left on the clock in 2013. This *Camellia japonica* was named and registered in 2018 by the A-O Mens Camellia Club from a seedling found growing in the Loachapoka garden of Tom Corley.

Mary Corley. This lovely, very light pink, large, semi-double *Camellia japonica* bloom was registered in 2004 by Tom E. Corley of Auburn to honor his wife, Mary. It blooms early to mid-season.

Rouse's Big Red. This chance seedling was registered in 2014 by the A-O Men's Camellia Club to memorialize one of its founding fathers, Dr. Dennis Rouse (1920-2003), Professor and Dean Emeritus of the College of Agriculture at Auburn University. It has a large to very large (5" x 2.5") semidouble form flower that is red with yellow anthers and white with red base filaments. The bloom consists of 18 petals. It is a profuse bloomer. The late-blooming flowers are long lasting and have a consistent form, heavy petal texture and fall in one piece.

Pebble Hill Peppermint. This was a *Camellia japonica* seedling found in the Loachapoka garden of Tom Corley (1921-2016). It was registered in 2018 by the A-O Men's Camellia Club as part of the Tom Corley Camellia Collection at Pebble Hill. Named for "Pebble Hill" (circa 1847), the home of the Auburn University Center for the Arts and Humanities where the "Tom Corley Camellia Collection" is located. The small sized 2.5" x 1.5" formal double form flower is pink with red veins and has red stripes. This profuse bloomer is long lasting with heavy petal texture and consistent form. The petals are pale pink with pink-red veins shading to pink-red at the base and near white at the edges. Each Petal has at least three red stripes.

Miss Auburn. This tall, upright, dark pink to red *C. sasanqua* was named and registered in 1941 by Tom Dodd Nursery, Semmes, Al

Kenny Howard. Registered in 1994, by the American Camellia Society and named for the long-time athletic trainer at Auburn University, Kenny Howard (1927-2017). This *C. japonica* is small to medium size, rose coloured formal double chance seedling that blooms mid-season. Average flower size is 7.5 cm across x 3.7 cm deep with petals that swirl or stack.

Aubie. Registration pending. A sport of the popular, heirloom *Camellia japonica*, "Ville de Nantes", named "Heavy Ville" by Tom Corley. Registration pending by A-O Men's Camellia Club.

Tom Corley Collection of Auburn Camellias
A collection by the Auburn-Opelika Men's Camellia Club

Cultivar name	Year registered	Significance	Size	Color	Shape	Vigor	Growth habit	Bloom Period
Aubie	Not registered	Sport of 'Ville de Nantes'	L	Red variegated	Peony	Slow	Bushy	L
Auburn Sunrise	2020	Mobile, AL; Reticulata Hybrid	L	Orchid pink	Semi-double	vigorous	Upright	M-L
Auburn Sunset	2020	Mobile, AL, Reticulata Hybrid	LV	Orchid pink	'semi-double	vigorous	Upright	M-L
Kenny Howard	1994	Auburn athletic trainer	S-M	Rose	Formal double			M
Mary Corley	2004	Wife of Tom Corley	M-L	Light Pink	Semi-double	average	Upright	E-M
Madge Rouse	1995	Wife of Dean Dennis Rouse	L	Clear light pink	Anemone to peony	vigorous	Dense, upright	E-M
Miss Auburn	1941	<i>C. sasanqua</i> registered by Tom Dodd Nursery	S	Dark pink to red	Semi-double	vigorous	Tall, upright	E
Pebble Hill Peppermint	2018	Named for Pebble Hill (c. 1847)	S	Pink with red stripes	Formal double	average	Upright	L
Rouse's Big Red	2013	Dean Dennis Rouse	L-VL	Red with yellow anthers	Semi-double	average	Upright, spreading, open	L
One Second	2018	2013 football	M	Rose red	semi-double	average	Upright	L
Rollin' Toomer	2017	Toomer's Corner	VL	White	Semi-double	average	Upright	E
Sweet Auburn	2014	Seedling from Dennis Rouse	VL	Moderate purplish pink; may be variegated	Semi-double	Vigorous	Upright	M-L
Samford Park	2020	Seedling from Dean Richard Guthrie	M	Pink margins to pure white center	Formal double	average	Spreading	M-L
War Eagle	1960	Named by Dr. Gilbert Fisher, Union Springs, AL	L	Dark red; may be variegated	Full peony	average	Upright	M