



Camellia Club of Mobile

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October 2025

Camellias in October: Bloom, Bud & Beyond

October marks the start of camellia season along the Gulf Coast—*Camellia sasanqua* varieties are already blooming, while *Camellia japonica* is busy setting buds. Now's the time to refresh mulch, clean up fallen leaves, and ensure your plants get consistent moisture.

Avoid pruning this month, as the buds for this season's blooms are already in place. Pruning now would mean cutting off the very flowers we've been waiting for!

Thinking of adding to your garden? October is one of the best months to plant new camellias, with warm soil and cooler air helping roots establish. Also, keep an eye out for tea scale on the underside of leaves and treat as needed.

Tip for later: Prune camellias after they finish blooming in late winter or spring—this gives the plant plenty of time to recover and form next year's flower buds.

Happy planting—and don't forget to snap a photo of your first blooms and share your pictures on our **Facebook** page!

Monthly Meeting Info

October 12, 2025

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.

Gulf Coast Camellia Society Convention — Gulfport, MS

Dates: Oct 24–25, 2025 • Venue: Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront

Friday (10/24):

- ACS Judging School (Jim Campbell)
- Board of Directors Meeting
- Wine & Beer Reception • Buffet dinner (6:00 p.m.)
- Plant Auction I

Saturday (10/25):

- General Membership Meeting (9:00 a.m.)
- Speaker: Sarah Brecher (Bellingrath Gardens)
- Plant Auction II (10:30 a.m.)
- Speaker: John Davy (Panhandle Growers)
- Silent Auction closes 4:30 p.m.
- Cocktail 5:30 p.m. • Banquet 6:30 p.m. • Keynote 7:30 p.m. (Dr. Eddie Smith, MSU "Southern Gardening")

How to take part in the auctions:

- Donate plants/items: contact Jim Campbell at **rivercamellia@bellsouth.net**; deliver donations to the Ballroom by 5:00 p.m. Friday, Oct 24.
- Winners may pay by cash, check, or credit card.

Why go: rare camellias, practical grower talks, fellowship on the Coast.

Source: The Gulf Coast Camellian, Vol. 51, No. 4



2025 GULF COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY CONVENTION

OCTOBER 24-25, 2025
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront

CONNECT • LEARN • BLOOM

Don't forget to register!
You should have received
your email invitation.



Hosted by the
Mississippi Gulf Coast
Camellia Society

**Camellia Elegance in the Courtyard:
A Living Legacy at the Condé-Charlotte House**



Nestled within the Spanish courtyard of the Condé-Charlotte House in downtown Mobile is a camellia unlike any I had ever seen—trained with quiet precision against the wall in a stunning display of both gardening and artistry. When I toured the home some time ago, this beautifully sculpted plant was in full bloom, glowing with delicate color against the sun-warmed brick of the surrounding walls. Though small in stature, it commanded attention, adding a living softness to the historic setting.

The camellia, growing in the courtyard against the historic masonry wall, has been meticulously trained in an espalier style—its branches guided outward in a delicate fan shape that highlights each bloom like a work of art.



The Condé-Charlotte House itself is a layered tribute to Mobile's colonial past, representing the city's transition through French, British, Spanish, and early American rule. The house was built in the mid-1800s atop the brick foundation of Fort Condé, the original colonial fortification that once protected Mobile. Its original structure served as Mobile's first courthouse and jail, adding yet another dimension to the site's deep historical roots.

The rear courtyard, designed in the late 18th century when the Spanish held Mobile, reflects the structured elegance of Spanish colonial gardens—intimate, enclosed spaces often planted with ornamental shrubs and fruit trees. In this tradition, camellias were prized not just for their blooms, but for their shape, longevity, and grace.

While no records mention the specific cultivar of this espaliered camellia, its placement and form are no accident. Spanish garden design emphasized harmony between architecture and plant life. Plants were often trained to enhance their sculptural qualities, offering year-round beauty in confined urban spaces. Camellias—with their evergreen leaves, striking winter blooms, and willingness to be shaped—fit perfectly into this philosophy.



Today, the Condé-Charlotte House is lovingly preserved and operated by the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Alabama, an organization dedicated to historic preservation and education. Their stewardship ensures that treasures like this courtyard camellia—and the stories it silently holds—continue to inspire future generations.

As members of the Camellia Club of Mobile, we're fortunate to live in a region where history and horticulture bloom side by side. The courtyard camellia at the Condé-Charlotte House is a living tribute to both, quietly linking our present-day love for camellias with the layered traditions of Mobile's colonial past.

For those who haven't visited, I encourage you to stop by the Condé-Charlotte House. Whether you're drawn to the architecture, the garden, or the camellia itself, it's a place where stories—and petals—unfold with every season.



Sources:

Conde-Charlotte House>>[**condecharlotte.com**](http://condecharlotte.com)

An interesting read on the museum >> [**Belle on the Battlefield**](#)

Conde-Charlotte Facebook page >> [**Conde-Charlotte Facebook**](#)

History of the museum>> [**Conde-Charlotte history**](#)

National Society Colonial Dames of America>> [**NSCDA-Alabama**](#)

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

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

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