TIDEWATER CAMELLIA CLUB
Sixty Beautiful Years
Source of material for this presentation was obtained from Tidewater Camellia Club Show Scrapbooks 1953 to DATE
Tidewater Men’s Garden Club

January 23 & 24, 1953 First Camellia Show

Cosponsored with the Cape Fear Garden Club at City Recreational Center located at Second and Dock Street
1954 Camellia Show
Cosponsored with the Cape Fear Garden Club in the newly named Community Center at Second and Dock Street.
There were 100 exhibitors and 2200 blooms on display, all in GLASS CUPS.
1954 Camellia Show

Another view of the 1954 Camellia Show showing the importance of FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS and CAMELLIA ART to the show.
The 1955 & 1956 shows were held at the Wilmington Savings & Loan. Les Marbury + Carl Allen worked for Worthheimer Bag Co. and provided burlap coverings for the show. Blooms were displayed on Spanish moss.
1956 Camellia Show

Another view of the show highlighting CAMELLIA ART and TRAYS OF THREE OR FIVE in baskets.
1957 Camellia Show

The 1957 show was held at Isaac Bear Gym in the old Wilmington College at Thirteenth and Market Street across from New Hanover High School.
The 1959 & 1960 shows were also held at Isaac Bear Gym. In 1960 the club’s name became the Tidewater Camellia Club. Members were still men only. In 1961 the showed moved back to the Community Center.
Floral Arrangements

Flower arrangements with a THEME were judged at shows. The arrangements were exhibited by women’s clubs and they had to use camellias.

The Theme from 1957 was *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.*

The 5 arrangement classes were Entrance Hall, Living Room, The Den and Moonlight Patio.

The Junior Division classes were Girl’s Dressing Table, Coffee Table and Sweet Old Fashioned Girl.

Commercial nurseries exhibited their plants but could not enter into classes.
The 1962 show was held on the fourth floor of the Wachovia Bank at Second and Princess Street. No pictures are available for this show.

In 1963, the New Hanover High School Art Department agreed to have their students make posters for the show. The First place winner receive $10. Posters were made for several years and placed with business merchants to advertise the show.

Unfortunately, the 1963 show was cancelled due to bad weather.
1964 Camellia Show

The 1964 & 1965 shows were held in the girl’s gym at New Hanover High School. The North Carolina Camellia Society met at the Cape Fear Country Club in conjunction with the show. In 1964, 3500 blooms were on display.
Show Publicity

The Publicity Chairman managed all TV, radio, newspaper and posters for the show.

Radio Stations and newspapers within 150 miles of Wilmington publicized the shows.

Leslie Gruber (Farm Editor), Bugs Berringer (garden specialist in Rocky Mount), and the Star News wrote articles on the show.

Local TV stations had camera crews attend the shows to be shown on Saturday night.
Camellia Cover Girls were a traditional advertising feature for the shows. Pictured is 1965 Camellia Show Cover Girl, “Sweetie” Thompson and 1968 Miss Wilmington Jeanne Harden.
Ribbon Cutters

Traditionally, the currently crowned Miss Wilmington would serve as the Camellia Ribbon Cutter to open the show.

Wilmington’s Mayor and the Show Chairman would join in the ceremony.

Pictured is
1969 Miss Wilmington
Frances Farmer
1966 Camellia Show
The 1966 & 1967 shows were again held at the girl’s gym in New Hanover High School. The shows were sponsored by 50 business merchants. 2500 Blooms were exhibited in 1966.
Camellia Show Awards

Camellia Show awards were traditionally goblets, bowls or serving pieces made of Sterling Silver. This view of the 1966 Court of Honor table shows Sterling Silver Goblets.
1966 Fall Show

In November 1966, the first Fall Show was sponsored by the Coharie Men’s Garden Club of Clinton, NC. The Whiteville Camellia Society and the Tidewater Camellia Club had demonstrations on grafting and air layering.
The 1968 show was held at the National Guard Armory on Carolina Beach Road. During the 60’s & 70’s, judges were treated Friday nights to heavy hors d’oeuvres, a luncheon on Saturday and a banquet on Sunday. The Friday night event was usually held at Les Marbury’s and later at Henry Rehder’s home.
1969 Camellia Show

The 1969 show was held at Roland Grise Jr. High School. The gym floor had to be covered with heavy paper to protect the floor from damage by people walking on it.
1969 Camellia Show

The Roland lunch room was used for a nursery show. Nurserymen from south eastern North Carolina exhibited their plants in competition with one another. Les Marbury had a display for many years on a separate table not to be judged.
In the early 70’s, a meeting was held at Plantation Gardens on Metts Ave. A proposal was made and adopted to allow women in the club.
1970 Camellia Show
1970 was the last show held at Roland Grice Jr. High School.
There were 2500 blooms on display.
1970 Camellia Show

In 1970 The American Camellia Society held its Fall Meeting in Wilmington at the Timmie Plaza Motor Inn on Water Street (Hilton). Blooms were displayed in the hotel’s meeting rooms.
1975 Hanging Basket Display

In addition to blooms and floral arrangements, there were hanging baskets on display.

Men of the club made wooden racks to hang the baskets.

Dickie Stinson of Zone 5 entered a basket that was 6 feet from the top of the rack to the floor.
1975 Camellia Show

The 1975 show was held at the Hilton. Show set-up was scheduled Friday night but the Hilton rented the room for a dance that lasted until 11:00 P.M. Members set-up the show beginning at midnight and finished several hours later. The exhibition still began at 7:00 A.M. the next morning.

1300 blooms, 140 hanging baskets and 50 arrangements were displayed. Table settings featuring camellias was a popular display.
1977 Camellia Show

1976 -1978 shows were held at the Blockade Runner Hotel. Early shows were funded by members and local merchants. Later corporate sponsors provided the funds through sponsorships to put on the shows.
1977 Show Sponsors

- Andrews Mortuary
- L.R. Armstrong & Son
- Baldwin-DesChamps
- Balentines
- Blockade Runner
- Browning Photography
- Burke Yopp Funeral Home
- Cape Fear Ford
- Carolina Savings & Loan
- Causey Garden Center
- Coca-Cola Bottling Works
- Cross Seed Company
- Farmers Supply
- Federal Paper Board
- James Ferger, Landscape
- First Citizens Bank
- First Union National Bank
- Fleishman’s
- Flipp’s BBQ
- Foy, Roe & Company
- Freeman Shoe
- Furniture City
- Garden Inn Restaurant
- Godwin Oil
- Gold N Crust Spaghetti House
- Good Earth Barn
- Graves Electric
- Graystone Galleries
- Gurr Jewelers
- Hanover Iron Works
- Harris Pontiac
- Glasgow Hicks Insurance
- J. M. Fields
- Joe’s Nursery
- Kingoff’s Jewelers
- Kmart
- LaMode, Inc.
- Lancaster’s Picture Frame
- Lincoln Construction
- Lowrimore, Warwick & Co
- MacMillan Buick
- Harris Newber, Agent
- Pearsall & Company
- J. C. Penny
- Pepsi-Cola Bottling Corp.
- The Plant Place
- Queensboro Steel Corp.
- The Raw Bar
- Reagan Construction
- Tom Reich Chevrolet
- Ripa Industries
- Rippy Cadillac Oldsmobile
- S & G Concrete
- Sears, Roebuck & Co.
- Sophie Flowers Florist
- Springer Coal & Oil
- Star-News
- Sutton Council
- Swift Agriculture Chemicals
- Planters National Bank
- Walker Taylor Insurance
- Tinga Nursery
- USS Agri-Chemicals
- Vaughn & Company
- Wachovia Bank
- Ward Funeral Home
- Will Rehder Florist
- Wilmington Electrical Supply
- Wilmington Fertilizer
- The Wonder Shop
- Woody’s Greenhouses
- Woolco
1979 Camellia Show

The 1979 & 1980 shows moved to the Wilmington Motor Inn. Burlap was no longer available from the burlap company. Lewis Strawberry Nursery provide black plastic to cover the tables for many years.
1980 Camellia Show

In 1980 the show was moved to Independence Mall. The mall paid the club $1500 to host the show and also provided security for the trophies. There were 1300 blooms displayed.
Camellia Plant Sales

Phillips Nursery furnished plants for the club to sell and fund the shows starting in 2000. In 2002, Independence mall no longer wanted to host the show so the show was moved to Masonic Lodge on South 17th Street.
2007 Camellia Show

In 2006 the show was held at Parsley Elementary School on Masonboro Loop Road. Parsley was a favorite location for the show but the show was again moved in 2009 due to prohibitive costs.
In 2009, the show was held at the Shrine Club on South College Road and continues at this location today. 1080 blooms were displayed in 2009. Floral arrangements, Camellia Art from local schools and a ribbon cutter were added back into the show.