TIDEWATER CAMELLIA CLUB
A BRIEF HISTORY

Responding to an invitation from members of the Hanover Garden Club, a group of seventeen men assembled September 25, 1952 to organize a Garden Club for men. Mrs. Russell Wood and Mrs. J.H. Farrell represented the Hanover Garden Club. Mr. Henry Rehder, who was instrumental in arranging the meeting, would serve as the first president and is considered Tidewater Camellia Club's Founder.

By mutual consent, the following committees were appointed:

Constitutions: Nominations:
Harry Solomon (Chairman) Dr. William Doaher, (Chairman)
Henry Rehder Arnold Petterson
Dr. William Walden J. Russell Wood
C.J. Oldenbuttel

Appendix 1 is the oldest list of membership available and is presumed to be the Charter Membership. The following officers were elected on September 30, 1952:

President & Founder: Henry Rehder
Vice President: C.J. Oldenbuttel
Secretary & Treasurer: W.H. Powell

By 1958, club membership reached over 100. In 1960 the club's name was changed to Tidewater Camellia Club. The club has sponsored a Camellia Show every year since 1956 except when canceled due to freeze. Each year the Tidewater Annual Camellia Show has grown with exhibitors and judges from many southeastern states. Today, it is one of the largest and best attended shows in the United States.

Tidewater Camellia Club leadership has been a major strength of the organization. Beginning with Henry Rehder in 1952, club leaders have been active locally and nationally within the American Camellia Society. Tidewater Camellia Club has had four members elected to President of the American Camellia Society.

Our honored ACS Leaders:

S. Leslie Marbury ACS President 1956
Carl M. Allen ACS President 1993 - 1995
T. Edward Powers ACS President 1999 - 2001
Matt Hunter ACS President - 2011 - (currently serving)