

A BRIEF HISTORY

On September 25, 1952 a group of men gathered to organize the Men's Garden Club. Mr. Henry Rehder, who was instrumental in arranging the meeting and would serve as the first president. He is considered Tidewater Camellia Club's Founder.

The following officers were elected on September 30, 1952:

President: Henry Rehder

Vice President: C.J. Oldenbittel

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 a freeze. Each year the Tidewater 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. The Tidewater Camellia Club has had four members elected to President of the American Camellia Society.

Our honored ACS Presidents:

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 - 2013