



KEY WEST GARDEN CLUB

Fall Newsletter

2018



Message from the President

Happy Holidays to all!!

And welcome back to all our snowbirds who are helping to give our beautiful gardens much needed love and attention with all the additional Monday morning volunteers!

The holiday lights and decorations are up, thanks to a special band of creative elves. This was seen in a magical evening setting for our festive Holiday Party on December 12th.

We have now created the new space for our expanded orchid collection in the arbor next to Reception...providing a fabulous and colorful "Hello" to all our visitors as they enter the courtyard!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Luncheon on Sunday,

January 27th.

Until then, I wish all of you a peaceful and joyful season,

Rosi

Bonsai

Bobbie Savageau continues to keep our bonsai collection in good shape. Some are even in bloom!

Visitors often offer to buy one because they look so cool.

The happy Buddha brings a smile to all.



Plant Sale



Plant sellers: Carol Borland, Patti Rodriguez, Kitty Somerville

The Plant and Art Sale was another successful event. Kudos to Mary Brady who did a masterful job of getting it all to run smoothly. The art vendors did very well and helped lots of folks with their Christmas gift-giving.

The plant-selling portion of the event went really well. Jane Tiedeman and her group were magnificent in taking the lead in moving plants from Propagation, from the truck and putting together the selling area. Kitty Somerville and her crew manned the selling, cashiering and carting, which was very organized. The buyers had a very good experience. People were very pleased with plants, the knowledge given and the service we rendered. The signage put together by Propagation really helped in the selling of plants.



Rosi Ware and the MARC group visited in full force on the Saturday of the sale. Michelle Mularz from the Florida Extension Center gave one of the educational lectures. The talks were set up by the food booth and were well attended.

The weather was perfect and we give a huge shout-out to all the volunteers who worked in all the areas for the sale.



Mary Olson, Lou Anne Steely and their crew were kept very busy at the food booth. The Brats sold out!!





Chuck Pratt, who was our awesome “gate checker” is seen here holding up one of the means of transportation of one of our customers. Chuck also was entertaining the young one who was interested in the bird on the back of the bike

Hanna Schenk put together a great display of the plants still available, so come on in and check it out!



Hurricane Michael in October



A wedding in the rain in the Birdcage Room... making the best of a difficult situation.

This bride and groom had an exciting wedding on this evening in October.

What you can't see is that her dress bottom is soaking wet and muddy.

They were happy anyway.

The bride was very calm about it all, "If rain at a wedding is good luck, we must be loaded for life!"

Thanks to the Propagation ladies for cleaning up the bird cage room, even though they couldn't stand near plants due to rain.

Weddings at the Club are a big part of our income. Our receptionists, Elaine Belanger and Kathleen Gillis, are excellent facilitators for our venue. They have been wonderful at adapting to all situations.



Book Binding.

Robin Robinson's sister Renee taught a course in book binding. You learned how to put together the book of "quires" and ended up with a very pretty journal. Here I am, very proud of my work. Renee has also taught basket-making at the Club. She is a very talented lady. Thank you, Robin, for sharing your sister with the Garden Club.



Aerial View of West Martello

A few members of the Garden Club took the Seaplane to Fort Jefferson and got a picture of the Garden Club from the air. Pretty neat!



Trip Advisor Review October 2018

The Gardens have done well on Trip Advisor and more visitors are now stating that is a reason for their visit. This past year the Key West Garden Club was rated #15 of 129 things to do in Key West and rated #6 of 11 Historical sites. Over the last year KWGC has averaged 4.7 stars in reviews.

Here is a recent post:

“mistyschulz

Woodburn, Oregon This garden is amazing! Just what I wanted to see as a garden in Key West housed within the walls of a Civil War era structure. Many types of gardens are found here. The flowers are lovely, the trees exquisite, views of the ocean and Higgs Beach, and the Monarchs flutter all around you as the visitor.”

We ask that our members continue to help spread the word about our beautiful site by liking our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/gardeninafort/> and sharing on social media. Thanks to Kitty & Steve Somerville for monitoring the site.

Gift Certificates now available.

You can now use a gift certificate at the Garden Club. What a great idea for any gardening friends! The certificate can be used for merchandise or plants or membership. Thanks to our receptionist Elaine Belanger for creating this new offering.

They can be purchased at the front desk.



Floral Design at Christmas



October Meeting

Kathryn DePoo, who works out of the May Sands schoolyard and grows food with the Montessori children in the GLEE Garden. She talked about growing our own foods in the Keys.



Eggplant does well in the Keys.



Several of you have written to Christa Varacalli and asked about Notes on the Food Gardening presentation given by Kathryn DePoo at our first meeting. She has provided us with a link to her entire presentation -- on the website for the GLEE-sponsored Key West Community Food Garden. The link is right in the middle of the Home page, entitled Key West Garden Club, Plot to Plate, Grow Your Own Food: <https://www.communitygardenkeywest.com/documents/2019/Key-West-Garden-Club-Talk.pdf>.

While you are there, she asked Christa to say that they are accepting applications for new members: that Sponsor, Communal Plot, and Individual Plot memberships are available. Information is on the webpage at [communitygardenkeywest.com](https://www.communitygardenkeywest.com). Garden is open for visitation any Saturday from 10am to noon.



Trip to the Botanical Gardens



Dick Rezba, in center with blue shirt, organized a trip to the Key West Botanical Gardens. Dick is a member of both organizations and is hoping to increase interest in the Botanical Gardens. It was a one and a half tour and a lunch. There were many who had not been to the Gardens on Stock Island and we were all impressed by the improvements done since the hurricane. There are many champion and heritage trees. A beautiful place for walking and learning. <https://www.keywest.garden/>

Ho, Ho, Ho

Rita, Jane Tiedeman, Danielle Huarda and Missy Krile are working on the lights by the green gazebo.

Donna Farrow also headed up the decorating committee. She and Hazel Hans are enjoying the beautiful tree.

Other “elves” were Ellen Engelson and Robin Robinson and Mary Brady. Donna & Darrell Dye were once again the lighting experts.





Evening party.

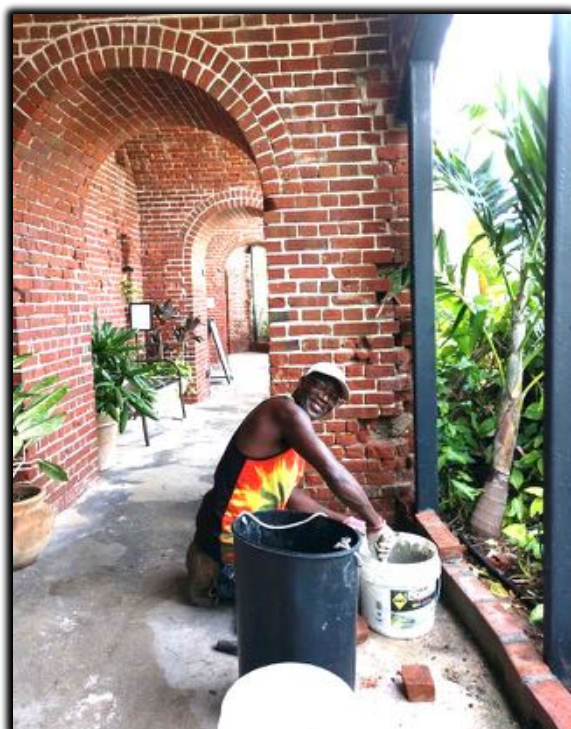


The evening gathering was a way to appreciate all the work that the decorating group did. Lou Anne Steely out-did herself with the yummy food for the event.

In Memorium: Dr. Patricia Inez Tatum Major, 74, of Big Coppitt Key, Florida, passed away on Oct. 23, 2018, at her home. Pat was a master gardener, a member of the Orchid Society and a longtime member of the Garden Club. Pat loved gardening and was a regular member at our events. Donations can be made to Florida Keys SPCA in memory of Pat.



Working around the Gardens



Caro repairing bricks at the entrance and Steve Somerville cleaning the fountain.

Save the Date.

The **winter luncheon** will be **January 27th** at the Hyatt Centric, 601 Front Street in Key West from 12 to 2 PM. The cost is \$35. It is a buffet and includes a drink ticket. This is such a beautiful location and is always a great way to catch up with friends. Information can be found on the Garden Club web site and payments can be made on-line. Reservations must be received by January 15th. Contact Jill Benado 305 293-1886 or Sue Sullivan 305 849-1070 if you have questions.

Dues Reminder:

Don't forget to renew! Membership dues are due by January 1. You can pay online at our website

<http://www.keywestgardenclub.com/Membership.html>

Remember we are a 501©(3) non-profit and you and your donations are tax-deductible.



Receptionist Kathy Gillis is always in the spirit.

**Wishing you all the best of Holidays and peace
and good health in 2019!**

Thank you for photos from Lynne Bentley-Kemp, Robert Parker, Kitty Somerville, Hazel Hans, Sue Sullivan and Robin Robinson.

Thank you to Christa Varacalli for proofing.

Editor, Sue Sullivan