



KEY WEST GARDEN CLUB

Spring News Letter

2018

Message from the President

What an amazing Spring!!

All that wonderful rain throughout May has made our gardens grow unbelievably! Everything we have planted since Hurricane Irma is now well established and looking Very Happy!!

All of our new gardens now look mature, after only 6 months....our visitors can smell the perfume garden as soon as they enter the courtyard, and there are masses of butterflies everywhere!

The addition of a newly donated birdbath is also helping to attract more birds and wildlife to our gardens.

All of the bridal parties who have held weddings at the gardens have been lavish in their praise of the gardens and helpful staff we have!

Our gardens are bringing joy to many people and creatures!

Maintaining the gardens is always more difficult in the Summer months as we have fewer volunteers, and all the plants (Including the weeds!) grow more quickly, but we will make sure that the gardens are always a joy to visit for locals and tourists alike.

We did have some extra help from a group of young hard working Coast Guard in May, who helped Hazel and Bob restore a number of our benches, which badly needed treating; and the help of a new (very young) volunteer and her Navy Father!

She loved pulling weeds, so we hope she (and her Dad) returns!!

Wishing all of you a wonderful Summer, wherever you are !
Rosi



Key West Garden Club Board 2018- 2010

In April the Board met at Kitty Somerville's house for the annual strategic planning meeting. The review of the previous year was very positive in spite of Hurricane Irma. The Club has had a dramatic recovery and is still financially viable.

Front row: (left to right)
Robin Robinson, Rosi Ware,
Kitty Somerville.
Second row: Sharon Thomas,
Hazel Hans, Sharon
Lieberman, Jane Tiedeman,
Lynne Bently-Kemp
Third row: Sue Sullivan, Lou
Anne Steely, Mary Olson,
Sharon Jones, Christa
Varacalli, Mary Brady, Donna
Farrow.



Who's Who:

Director/President and Garden Chair: Rosi Ware
Director/VP/Fort Chair: Hazel Hans
Director/VP/Propagation Chair: Kitty Somerville
Director/Recording Secretary: Lynne Bentley-Kemp
Director/Corresponding & Communications
Secretary: Sue Sullivan
Director/Treasurer: Sharon Lieberman
Director/Garden Tours: Mary Olson
Director/Plant Sale: Mary Brady
Director/Back up to Fort Chair: Lou Ann Steely
Director/Programs: Jane Tiedeman
Director/Membership: Christa Varacalli
Director/Strategic Planning and Finance
Consultant: Sharon Thomas
Director/back up to Garden Tour & Fertilizer bags:
Donna Farrow
Director/Orchid Chair: Sharon Jones
Director/Immediate Past President: Robin
Robinson



MARC House Ice Cream Social

In March the MARC House had their social with lots of delicious ice cream. It was well attended and made money for MARC . Our Gardens are a perfect place for this event with our air-conditioned pavilion as a cool spot to dish up the goodies and then the lovely outside areas to eat.



Donation of Painting by Fran Decker

Fran Decker presented the finished version of her beautiful painting of the Strangler Fig which she worked on as part of the first Soiree we held at the Garden Club in January.

The painting will be hung in our library room and is a wonderful reminder of the iconic tree.

The White Perfume Garden

The Portlandia by the orchid arbor is blooming profusely and the white fragrant garden is full of luscious blooms with wonderful aromas. The jasmine and the almond bush are flowering like crazy, as are the gardenias and the Rademachera.



Birdbath Donation

Mariann Trombetta won a birdbath in a raffle and decided to donate it to the Garden Club. It is in a corner of the White Perfume Garden. This should help attract more delightful birds to the gardens...as well as all the beautiful butterflies!



Everyone wants to visit the Gardens!!



Our youngest volunteer

This little one was visiting with her Dad who is in the Navy. A future gardener!!



Floral Design Summer



Ron Zemlicka Farewell Party



Mimosas and the spectacular muffins from the kitchen of Patti Rodriguez.

Our wonderful Receptionist, Ron, left Key West at the end of May. Ron was a Board Director and Treasurer for many years before becoming one of our first Receptionists in 2006.

Ron was also responsible for getting The Garden Club official 501 © (3) non-profit status immediately after Hurricane Wilma decimated the gardens in 2005, for which we will be forever grateful!

Ron was with the Club for 18 years and will be greatly missed. We wish him and his wife, Holly, all the best in their new life in Safety Harbor, FL.



Thank you pot luck for volunteers



We had a pot luck lunch for our volunteers at the end of March. What an amazing array of food. Not only are they great gardeners, they are also great cooks!!!



Carol Borland and Sharon Thomas work in Propagation and are part of the finance team.



Receptionist, Kathleen Gillis in the St. Patty's Day spirit.

Jeff Stotts and Native Plants

"There are good reasons to plant natives. They survive saltwater inundations and bounce back after bad storms. You will always have a green garden with natives." He suggests using natives for the bones of the garden.

Some of the shrubs that grow well in the high alkaline soil of the Keys are the native firebush, locust berry, acacia, crabwood, strong bark, Bahama senna, pigeon plum, wax myrtle, and wild lime. Stotts especially recommended the wild coffee shrub.

These attract birds and butterflies.



ORCHIDS

Sharon Jones and her crew are working on repotting orchids. Glen Curry is helping. Pam Van Soest and Nancy Callihan look on. Jan Blackman was also working hard that day.





Kitty Somerville shared a picture of an orchid that she is quite proud of.

We all have orchid envy of this one!!!

Use those orchid fertilizer balls and talk nicely to your plants.

Here is the formula for what our team sprays once a week on our orchids.

- 1 tsp. CAL-MAG
- 1 tsp. White vinegar
- 1tsp. Vodka (happy orchids)
- 1/2 tsp. Super Thrive
- 1/2 tsp. Pool algacide
- Shoot of very mild dish washing detergent (Publix's Mild & Gentle)
- 1 gal. of water



Thanks for works around the Garden



Tim Schantz repairing the window in the dining room.



Propagation doing air layering.



The Birdcage continues to look fabulous with the Propagation Team working on it every week.

The beautiful photos of Lynne Bentley-Kemp are on view in the pavilion meeting room. We are so fortunate to have such talented members. Lynne has also put up photos on metal in the bathrooms. We are so lucky to have such a talented artist in our group.



Coast Guard Volunteers



The Coast Guard sent some volunteers to help us out. Under the direction of Hazel and Bob Hans, several benches were renewed and coated with preservative to help them last longer in our climate.

There is so much that goes on in the Gardens that is behind the scenes. Yet, the place would never look as wonderful and kept up if it weren't for our volunteers.

Please note the succulent wall garden (cultivated by Sharon Lieberman) that is in the Bonsai area.



Old Photo



How we have changed!!! This is an eerie photo of West Martello. Not sure of the date. This is just the inside walls of the fort. It sure looks so much prettier now.

Monday morning education.

Another Monday morning 10:30 session. Hazel Hans is giving us more information on native plants. We were also inundated with the pesky caterpillars of the Edwards Wasp Moth. They were floating down all around us. They ran rampant this year and defoliated most of the Ficus trees. Fortunately the trees have made a flourishing comeback.



Thank you for photo contributions from Kitty Somerville, Lynne Bentley-Kemp, Hazel Hans, Robin Robinson, Rosi Ware and Sue Sullivan.

Thank you to Christa Varacalli for proofreading.

Sue Sullivan, Editor