



KEY WEST GARDEN CLUB

Summer Newsletter

2018

Message from the President



What a glorious Summer we've had!

Plenty of sunshine and rain, resulting in very healthy gardens! The small core of fabulous Monday volunteers has been indefatigable, keeping on top of all the major maintenance jobs. The Butterfly Garden just gets better and better; the Courtyard and White perfume gardens are lush and aromatic. The native gardens on top of the hill and outside the Fort look strong and healthy! Propagation is in full swing getting home-grown plants ready for our November Plant Sale!

Major news this month is the total repair of the Orchid Arbor—it has now been rebuilt using marine-quality wood, with stainless steel fixtures, and a brand new top-quality shade cloth is on order. All of our orchid collection was temporarily housed in the shade area next to Reception whilst the orchid arbor was being rebuilt; we all liked the look of the orchids displayed there, and so have decided to

expand our orchid collection to have an additional permanent display there too for this coming season.

I am looking forward to seeing you all this Fall as our monthly meetings start again on the first Thursday in October.

Safe travels back to The Keys!

Rosi

Scholarship Award

Our current Scholarship recipient, Sydney Gallagher, graduated from Key West HS in 2016 and just finished her sophomore year at the University of Florida with flying colors. We are delighted with her hard work and academic success (3.64 GPA) as a Marine Science major with coursework on environmental and sustainability issues.

Sydney had a busy summer working on the Fury and taking classes. She is spending the Fall Semester in the Galapagos Islands. In August, Sydney visited with some of the Monday volunteers and was thrilled to receive this year's check for \$2,000.

Here is Sydney's description of her activities:



“My semester abroad is 6 weeks total. The program is split into four different tracks: Evolution, Ecology and Conservation; Marine Ecology; People, Politics, and Environment; and Sustainable Tourism. I am taking two courses from the first track and two from the Marine track. The first week here in Quito we all took a one-week-long Spanish course. The following week our first class started. All the courses are three weeks long, so students are taking one course at a time and are able to focus solely on that class. Everyone in the program is based here in Quito, Ecuador for the first module. We are all staying with local families. When the second module begins next week, we are all flying to the Galapagos, where we will remain for the rest of the program (December 8th). We will be on the island of San Cristobal where the university USFQ has a campus. We are also staying with local families there. My classes in order are Tropical Ecology and Climate Change, Marine Life, Marine Ecology, Marine Ecosystems, and Geographic Information Systems. I am super excited for my next class, Marine Life. Next week we are going to the coast for a week to tag humpback whales. Once we're in the Galapagos we are going on a couple of dives to learn how to survey underwater. I am absolutely loving it here! It is already flying by so fast. I never want it to end! But I am beyond excited to go to the Galapagos.



These are photos of Sydney in the Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Amazon Rainforest.

Thank you all once again for your generosity. I am so grateful for the support.”
The Club is very proud of Sydney and her hard work.



This summer the Garden Club once again did an in-kind donation to the Little Pink Houses of Hope.

Since the organization began, their mission has been to provide week-long vacation retreats for breast cancer patients and their families, where their energy for the week can focus on healing and growing as a family unit. Because they offer a wonderful respite from the stressful world of doctor appointments and treatment, demand for their retreats is incredibly high. The Club offered our gardens for their box lunches after a paddle boarding event.

Fourth of July Celebration



Thanks to Robert Parker for sharing his photos of the fireworks on the 4th. It was another lovely evening. The fireworks were spectacular and all went off without a hitch.

New Plant Signs for Plant Sale

Kitty Somerville has led a project to help with the sale of plants at our next November sale. Christa Varacalli did an amazing job of resourcing the signs and Lynne Bentley-Kemp used her skills to finish them off. These have 5x7 photos of the plants we are selling with icons that give info about the horticulture. The information was researched using IFAS sites and “Natives for your Neighborhood” and are as accurate as possible. The signs will be on stakes that will make them easy for plant buyers to see. They also now have their own storage space in Propagation.



Here are the web site urls for your own research.

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

<https://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/PlantList.asp>

<https://ifas.ufl.edu/about-us/>

After “Irmageddon”

A Reminder of what happened last summer...

This photo was in the Key West Citizen recently.



We are looking so much better today

Good news about a capital grant

At the DAC1 meeting it was agreed to pay the County \$800,000 for brick and mortar repair at West Martello!

This is a huge win, as it means we will now have all the failing arches and walls repaired by qualified people over the next 12 months!! Ray Saunders from the County wrote a very good grant proposal and made an excellent proposal to the TDC. Rosi was thrilled to be able to give it top marks and ensure they received the grant request! Another big step forward!



New Orchid Arbor

The Orchid Crew getting ready to move orchids for the renewal of the arbor.





Almost done and waiting for a new shade cloth.



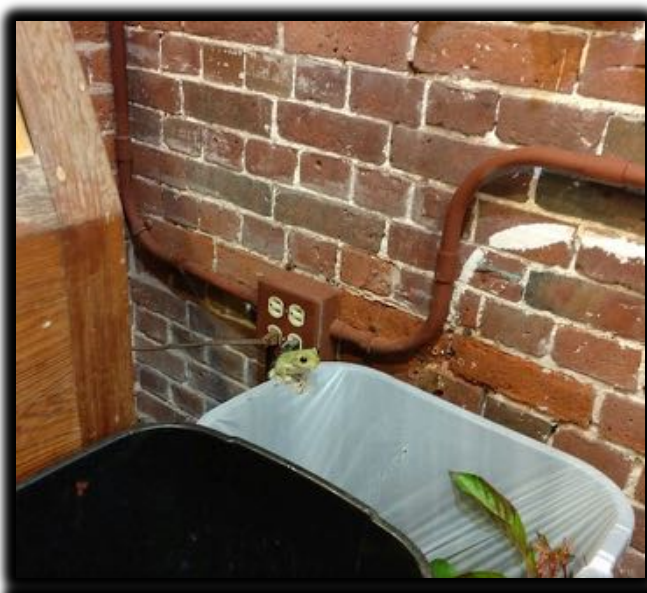
We have expanded our space for orchids. There are now more in the arbor by the office door.

The Bird Cage just keeps getting prettier...



Propagation continues to spruce up the “Bird Cage”. Thanks to Lynne Bentley-Kemp and Carol Borland who painted the bricks to a pretty green, which complements the plants and the room.



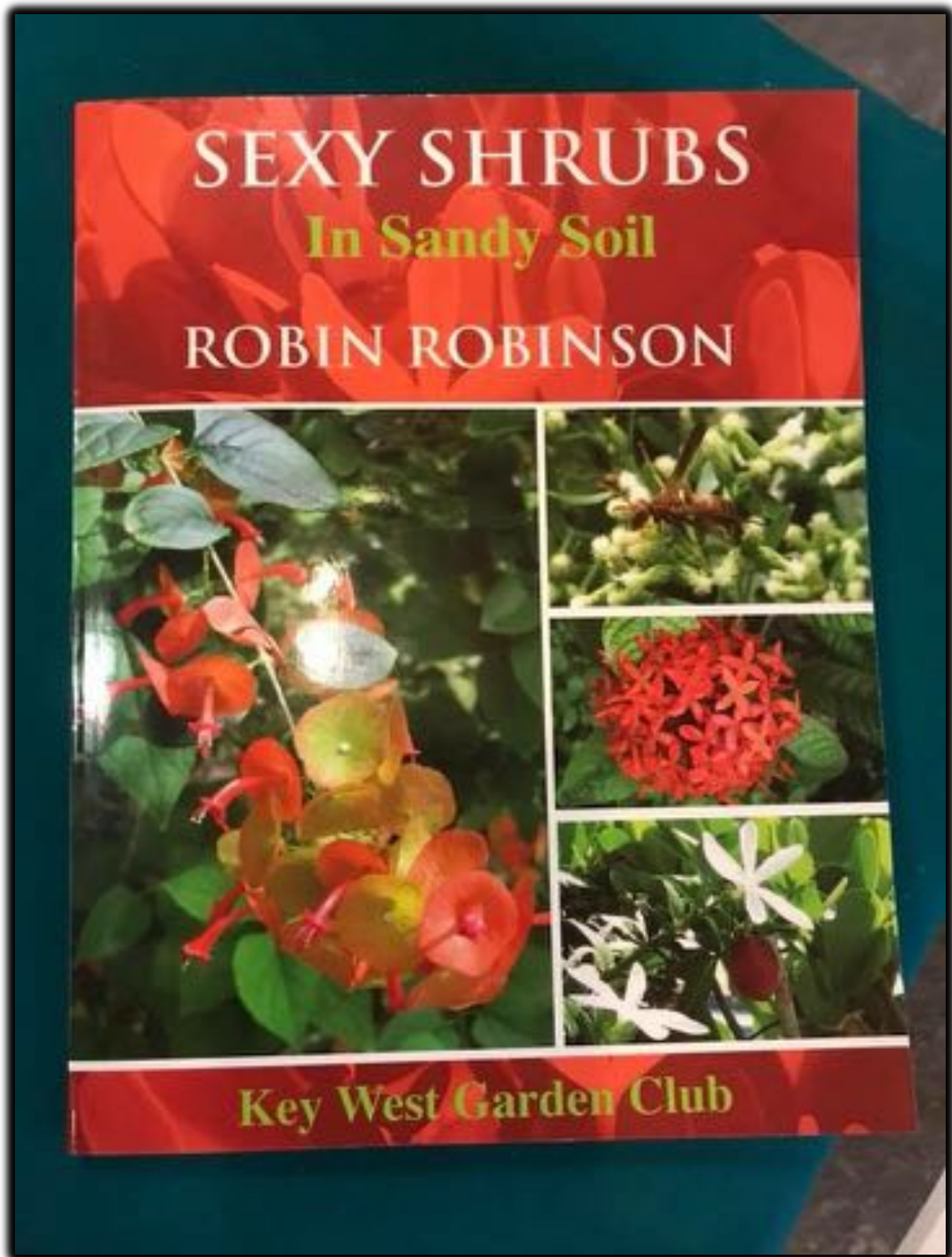


Top left to right: The morning “Peeper” and the morning “Greeter”.

The stephanotis in bloom and with fruit. Elaine Belanger, one of our exceptional receptionists!

Robin Robinson has done it again.

Another wonderful book! This one has articles on “sexy” shrubs. It is on sale at the Graden Club for \$20. This has loads of informaion about shrubs that do well in the Key West area. There are great pictures!



Mosquito Control reminders of best practices to cut down on mosquitoes breeding by:

- Emptying all standing water and water-holding containers in yards
- Keeping hot tubs and pools in working condition and chlorinated
- Emptying plastic swimming pools when not in regular use
- Flushing out water-holding plants like bromeliads
- Cleaning clogged roof gutters and draining flat roofs
- Stocking ornamental ponds with mosquito-eating fish
- Drilling holes in garbage cans and recycle bins
- Removing old tires with stagnant water
- Removing water from stored boats
- Changing water in pet bowls, vases and birdbaths at least twice a week
- Screening rain barrels, water tanks and cisterns or requesting fish

Floral Design (Photos by Lynne Bentley-Kemp)



Propagation

Propagation is very busy in the summer, especially with a skeleton crew. The succulents are so happy!



Trip Advisor Comments

- 5 stars!!

I crave places where I can experience nature and find interesting spots to photograph when I travel, and the Key West Garden Club delivered in spades. Despite the loss of their beautiful, shade-giving Strangler Fig tree from the hurricane, the garden had so many interesting environments to offer and you could appreciate the work they've put into restoring the damage. There were wonders to behold around every corner.

Though this was my third trip to Key West, this was my first visit to the Garden Club and I can't wait to visit it again and again to see all the new additions that the gardeners have planned. On this trip, I also got to visit the Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory (meh) and the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden (not much happening given the season and Hurricane Irma damage) - and the Garden Club was my favorite. And not just because it's free. This is a great place to bring a book or a picnic lunch. For me - I had a ball exploring and taking pictures.

Bravaencore

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Located at the West Martello Tower ruins, the Garden Club Botanical Gardens are quite impressive. The folks who devote their skill, time, and energy to cultivate and maintain these gardens are to be sincerely commended! We particularly enjoyed the Butterfly Garden. Each area has its own theme and one can spend as much time wandering around the gardens as one wishes.

Donations are appreciated - and shame on you if you go to enjoy these lovely gardens and aren't as generous as possible!

GrandmaBarbara0420

Delta, Pennsylvania

Thank you to Kitty and Steve Somerville for monitoring the Trip Advisor Site. And a huge thank you to all who volunteer, and our receptionists for making this such a lovely place to visit.



Sandy Bergin and Marisol Mitnacht in the Butterfly Garden.



Sally Dodd is a gem coming to volunteer and yes, that is our Rosi in a boot (again) but she will be OK in a couple of weeks.

Programs

We look forward to welcoming our members back from their travels and hope the summer went well for all. Jane Tiedeman has a great lineup for our general meetings. Here are the first two. Hope to see you there!

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Kathryn De Poo “ "Food Gardening in the Keys"

Thursday, November 1, 2018

Janice Duquesnel – “Native Palms of the Florida Keys”

Many thanks for photos from Robin Robinson, Kitty Somerville, Lynne Bentley-Kemp, Sue Sullivan and Hazel Hans. Thank you for edits from Christa Varacalli.

Editor,
Sue Sullivan