



Key West GARDEN CLUB WEST MARTELLO

Summer Newsletter 2021



Message from the President

It's now September; it's hot and humid with rain showers or thunderstorms most afternoons...classic summer tropical weather!

The gardens are growing like crazy, and we have only a small band of dedicated volunteers to keep on top of it, ensuring the gardens are looking their best for all our many visitors and the many wonderful weddings that are hosted in the gardens! So please thank this dedicated group of "round the year" volunteers, many of whom appear in the accompanying photographs in this newsletter.

The Restoration of the Archway and Citadel has now been completed, and it looks stunning! No doubt both will be prime choices for wedding photos and creating memories for visits to West Martello.

Volunteers have tidied and replanted the White Perfume Garden around the citadel in the "Inner Courtyard," creating one of the favorite "Garden Rooms" for all our visitors.

The Propagation Team is working hard to create our much sought-after, home-produced plants for sale at our Annual Fall Plant & Art Sale on 19th & 20th November, as well as regularly selling plants directly from Propagation or in our Courtyard.

The Garden Club has also been regularly hosting the Monroe County Extension Service in-person Plant Clinics on the first Monday of each Month from 11am - 2pm. As many of our Garden Club Members are also Master Gardeners, we have been able to help the wonderful Michelle Leonard-Mularz in fielding queries from the public. If any of you have any plant or gardening issues at all, please do contact the Extension Service, either virtually or in person. Mularz-Michelle@monroecounty-fl.gov.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in person again when we host our first member meeting on Thursday, November 4 at 1:30pm at West Martello.

Until then, stay safe and enjoy your gardens, wherever you are!

Rosi,
President

Left-to-right:
*Jasmines from the
White Perfume
Garden and Old
Man Palm fruit*



Work Around the Fort and Gardens

Monroe County completed the repairs to the partially collapsed historic archway at West Martello to match the original.

“Completing the iconic archway repair is an important symbol of resilience after Hurricane Irma,” said Cary Knight, Director of Monroe County Project Management. “There is a tremendous amount of history and beauty within those walls.”

The Gardens also had restoration work done to the beautiful citadel in the center of the fort. The archway is part of a tunnel that allowed the soldiers to enter the citadel safely. Impressive *Before* and *After* photos.



Top of Hill by the White Gazebo in 2019 ...

Looks so pretty in 2021!



Tropical Storm Elsa hit the Garden Club in July and did damage. Our Bulnesia suffered a major pruning. Caro was on the job and the tree and area are recovering nicely.



Workers Around the Garden

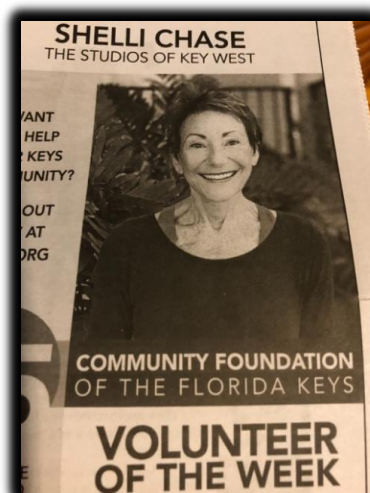


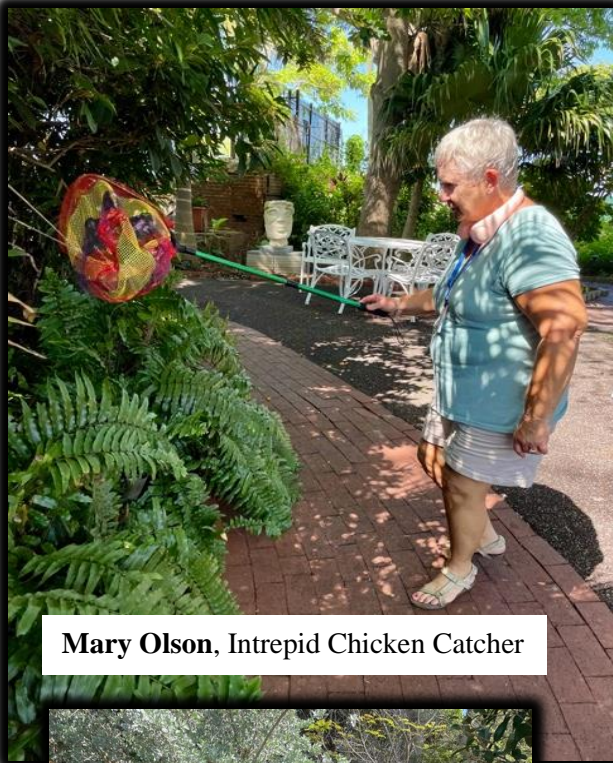
Pam VanSoest, Mike Sheehan, and Steve Somerville repairing shade cloths in Propagation after Elsa



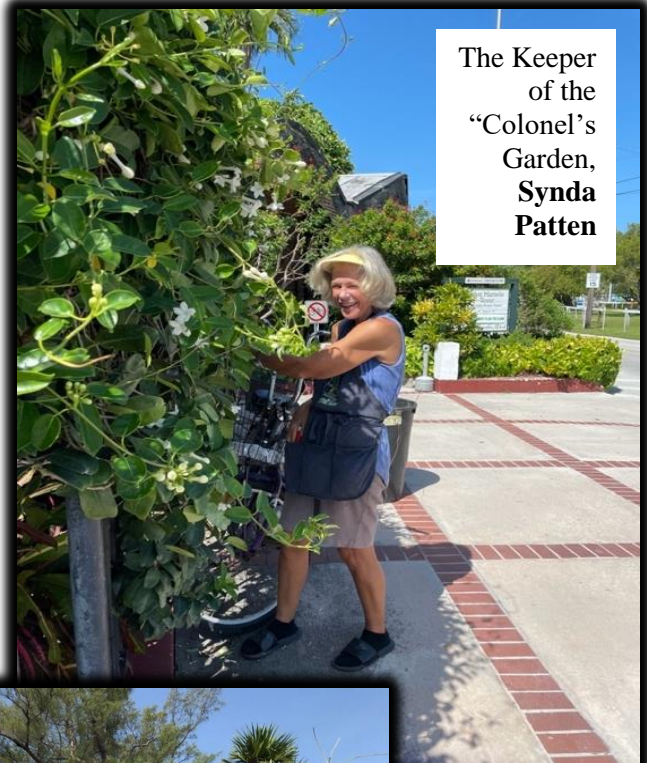
Ron Clay, Eloise Pratt and Rosi Ware: “the Three Musketeers”

Congratulations to Shelli Chase, not only an amazing worker for our Club but also a key volunteer for the Community Foundation. Way to go, Shelli!





Mary Olson, Intrepid Chicken Catcher



The Keeper
of the
"Colonel's
Garden,
**Synda
Patten**



Davin R. pruning
on the hill by the
almond tree



Paul McGovern and
the evil plant that
attacked **Eloise
Pratt** and sent her to
the E.R. (She is OK.)



Hazel Hans and **Paul M.** quenching thirsty plants



Steve Somerville and **Jeff Ware.**
Our stalwart, heavy-duty workers and
occasional Iguana Control

Propagation



Key West Garden Club
Summer Plant Offer

Buy any plant from our propagation area and get a

free 1-gallon
lignum vitae plant
grown by our volunteers

lignum vitae

Mondays only, August until October
9:30 am until 11:30 am

Sharon Thomas repotting a Lignum vitae and **Kitty Somerville** with some of the Lignum vitae in stock. Big thanks to members Donna and Darrel Dye for the donated trees.

Propagation is getting ready for the Fall Plant Sale. **Kitty Somerville, Kris Griffin** and **Christa Varacalli** are holding Stingray Alocasia, a very cool shade plant.

We will have lots of crotons with special thanks to **Patti Rodriguez** for sharing her croton expertise.

Lynne Bentley-Kemp and **Nancy Henning** were also working in Propagation.



On the right is a sampling of **Patti R.'s** "croton nursery." She is propagating many fun, different types of that plant!



Our colorful past president **Robin Robinson** and her equally colorful son Rollins visited on Monday. Robin is still writing her informative columns on Keys gardening every Sunday in the *Citizen*. Check it out.



On the right is **Ellen Engelson**. Ellen is saying goodbye to Key West and moving back to Carolina to help care for her mom. Ellen has made great contributions to the Garden over the many years she has lived here and will be sorely missed. She promises to come back and visit!

Orchids and Butterflies

We have blooming orchids even in the summer with the attention of **Sharon Jones, Pam VanSoest** and their crew!



The **Butterfly Garden** always looks lush thanks to **Donna Farrow** and her crew, which includes **Ellen Engelson** and **Bridget Dawson**, among others.



Reception and Merchandise

Lou Ann Steely, who oversees events and works with our receptionists, and **Michael Perkinson**, one of our excellent receptionists. They make sure all goes well with the running of the fort and dealing with wedding clients and visitors.



Our merchandise has wonderful items. Thanks to **Hazel Hans** for getting great items at reasonable prices.

Congratulations to **Mary Olson**, board director and chair of Garden Tours. Mary recently graduated from the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys *Leadership Success Academy*.

The *Leadership Success Academy (LSA)* provides specific leadership and governance skill-building programming and activities to board members and CEOs of local nonprofit organizations.

This certification program focuses on Leadership Assessment and Servant Leadership, Roles and Responsibilities of Board and Staff, Financial Literacy, Fundraising and Development, and Strategic Planning and Change Management.

All these skills contribute to an effective Board of Directors.



Educational Lectures, Open to the Public

Our educational lectures will be starting up in November. We will be meeting in person and using CDC guidelines. Our first general meeting will be Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 1:30pm at the Garden. **Rosi Ware**, President of the Garden Club, will be speaking on the Gardens: “Virtual Tour of the Gardens” — **Mark your calendars!!**



Thank you for photo contributions from **Lynne Bentley-Kemp**, **Eloise Pratt**, **Kitty Somerville**, **Rosi Ware**, **Sue Sullivan**, and **Patti Rodriguez**. Thank you to **Christa Varacalli** for proofreading.

Editor, Sue Sullivan