



Fall News 2021

President's Letter



HELLO AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

After 2021, I am sure we are all hoping for a much Happier & Healthier 2022; and helping out at the Gardens, or just visiting, can definitely help to lift your spirits!

We have had 3 months of beautiful weather, primarily warm sunshine, lots of breezes and the occasional shower...resulting in a very happy gardens at West Martello!

Many of our snowbird volunteers have returned and are helping with the annual major jobs in the gardens, plus preparing the final pathway for the installation of flexi-paving right next to the ocean on top of the hill and linking the older flexi-paved path to the White Gazebo, so the entire garden is now accessible by wheelchair and stroller!

Over the past 2 months we have held a very successful Plant & Art Sale, bringing the community together to buy plants, gain gardening advice from our own plant experts, and from the numerous speakers we had at the sale—not to mention the utterly delicious food on sale at the Garden Club "Cafe" in the green gazebo! Thank you to the entire team who worked so hard to make this such a success!

Immediately after that, the fort and gardens were transformed into a magical wonderland with many lights and ornaments throughout! We held a special members' party one evening in December so that everyone could enjoy the lights and decorations in the dark, over drinks and snacks. Thank you to the team of decorators and party organizers who made this all happen.

We are extremely fortunate to have such an array of talented members in the Club who keep the gardens growing; propagate beautiful new plants for the gardens both at West Martello and throughout the Lower Keys Community; event & member meeting organizers, and an increasing number of Master Gardener members who help educate all of us.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you throughout the Season, at the West Martello and at our annual tour of private gardens in February. This year we have organized a "Stroll through the Meadows," visiting 7 gardens in the pretty historic district, all within walking distance of each other.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy & healthy 2022.

Rosi
President

December Luncheon at the Hyatt



Sharon Jones, Pam Van Soest and Carol Borland did a fabulous job with our winter luncheon. The table decorations looked very festive and there were lucky winners of poinsettias and solitary bee houses made by Mike Sheehan. Everyone also got gardening gloves!!



Plant Sale and Art Market





Setting up for the November Sale was a very soggy affair but the plants loved it. The next two days were perfect. Lots of people, great food, lots of plants sold. A huge success and big thanks to Mary Brady, Jane Tiedeman, Kitty Somerville and all involved.

The Holiday Party!

Rosi in a swingy red dress, beautiful music, fabulous food, outstanding lights and a full moon. Thank you Lou Ann Steely, Mary Olson and all your elves.



Work Around the Garden



Visitors to the Garden



Talented Garden Club Members in Keys Choral Arts

Mary Olson, Mary Brady, Kris Griffin and Lou Ann Steely lent their voices to the Keys Choral Arts.

It was a glorious concert and Lou Ann is a superb accompanist!



New Receptionist

Our new staff member is Kim Sherman. Kim works as receptionist two days a week. We hope you all stop by when you are at the Garden and say Hi!



Scholarship Update

Marsella Munoz, the recipient of the Garden Club's *Lois Kitching Scholarship*, came to the Club on a Monday morning and talked about her first semester at Florida State University. She is doing very well in school and has had interesting internships.

She has worked with Mote Labs and is involved with coral restoration and studying invertebrates living in the coral.

A very impressive young lady.



Educational Meetings at the Club

Our First Thursday meetings have returned. Rosi started us off with a great virtual tour of the Gardens. Upcoming are talks by Shelly Krueger, UF/IFAS extension agent and Bill Irwin, Biology Professor at the Florida Keys College. Also speaking will be Patrick Garvey of Grimal Grove and Linda Kost about a Keys Butterfly Project.



The Christmas Decorations around the Fort including the sparkling lights, were spectacular this year. Big shout-out to Jane Tiedeman and her decorating crew.



Garden Tours

The Garden Tours will be happening on Feb 25th and 26th. They will be gardens in the Meadows district and all walkable. Come on out and help support the Club or volunteer and be part of a fun event. Contact Mary Olson if you would like to help. molson5500@gmail.com

Flexi-pave in the Gardens

This week will see the final flexi-paving of the hill area. Flexi-pave has made the Gardens accessible to most visitors and has made the grounds safer to walk. It looks really nice too.



Wishing everyone a healthy Happy New Year!!

Thank you for photo contributions from Rosi Ware, Eloise Pratt, Kitty Somerville, and special thanks to Lynne Bentley-Kemp. Check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/gardeninafort and Instagram (www.instagram.com/keywestgardenclub) with Lynne's photos. Thank you to Christa Varacalli for proofing.

Editor, Sue Sullivan

