



2022.603.0045

Upper Keys Garden Club

Francis Tracy Garden Center
MM94

P.O. Box 373
Tavernier, Florida 33070

2004-2005

OFFICERS 2004-2005

PRESIDENT
Kay Hazlehurst

VICE PRESIDENT
Mary Nelson

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Edna Waldorf

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Miki Bruninga

RECORDING SECRETARY
Susan Genevish

TREASURER
Lynn Shullaw

DIRECTORS
Gay Sacharoff
Carolyn Friedman
Irma Richardson
Gunilla Wade
Chris Childree

water absorbing polymers wet it then add to soil -

2

soil moist -
Miracle Grow by Scotts - Potting soil with polymers -

SCHEDULE Meetings begin at 11:30 am the third Tuesday of the month.

September 21 Julia Mead, "Creating a Butterfly Garden"

October 19 Short luncheon meeting followed by Field Trip to Miami Tropical Bonsai

November 16 Roger Hammer, author of Wild Flowers of the Florida Keys

away **November 20** Plant Sale and Educational Day

December 14 Holiday Party, Pot Luck Lunch, Auction

January 18 Member Plant and Information Exchange *cuttings -*

10-2  **January 21** Garden Walk *\$12*

February 15 Allison Higgin, The Nature Conservancy, "Native Flora in the Florida Keys"

March 15 Field Trip

April 19 Don Chafin, Going Bananas, Miami, "Tropical Fruit Trees"

May 17 Potluck, end of season

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY, PHONE TREE, EMAIL TREE

Chris Childree

SPEAKERS AND FIELD TRIPS

Miki Bruninga

GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION

Marylee Mobley, Sharon Anderson

HOUSE SUPPLIES

Mary Fitzgibbon

MEETING DECORATIONS AND REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE HOSTS

Edna Waldorf

MONTHLY PRESS AND PUBLICITY

Mary Nelson, Nancy Klokke

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Sharon Anderson

EVENTS

GARDEN WALK

Gay Sacharoff

PLANT SALE

Marylee Mobley, Sharon Anderson

A Brief History

In June of 1952, 10 women formed the Key Largo Garden Club, a club "of civic and cultural advantage to native plant growth in the Keys."

Membership was limited to 20 because meetings were held in private homes. By 1954 membership had increased so much that members voted to form a second club, the original to serve Key Largo, and the new Upper Keys Garden Club to serve Islamorada, Matecumbe, and Plantation Key. Charter Members, including Francis Tracy and Margaret Bond, signed our charter as a non-profit organization on September 11, 1956, in Key West.

Article 11 states, "The general nature and objects of the Corporation shall be to foster, promote, develop, protect and conserve the natural beauties of the Upper Keys through education and publicity; to encourage cooperation of all members, residents and visitors in these matters..."

The Club's first flower show was held at Coral Shores School in 1956. Beautification of Coral Shores School got under way in 1957. By 1960 the school's grounds were written up as the most beautiful in the state.

With 60 members in 1962, the need for larger space became urgent. Under the presidency of Millie Gasser, Dr. Fred Bond offered the current property, stipulating that it never be sold for commercial use and that it be named Francis Tracy Garden Center to honor our "Angel of Mercy of the Keys." Many hours and much work went into raising money for the building. A mortgage of \$8,000 was secured for the remainder.

George Coffin of Miami drew the plans without cost, and D.L. Skidmore of Islamorada was the builder. A granite cornerstone, salvaged by Rodney Albury from a ship that sunk off Tavernier in 1890, was placed in the south side front wall. It features the names of the members.

The first meeting in the new building was held September 1964, followed by an official opening in November. More than 200 friends attended. Many donations of furnishings and equipment were received. Each member purchased a chair at \$3.75. One hundred chairs were bought. Through fundraising, the \$8,000 mortgage was satisfied on December 4, 1967. Mrs. Tracy, at age 90, lit the flame to burn the mortgage.

Mrs. Tracy served the club faithfully for 18 years, until her death in 1970.



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Decorations -