

GARDEN OF GOODNESS

Holiday market brings 40-plus vendors

More than 40 booths scattered the grounds of the Francis Tracy Garden Center in Tavernier on Nov. 30 for the Holiday Craft Market & Festival. In honor of Small Business Saturday, local artists and small business owners celebrated their talents, donning paintings, plants, jewelry, candles, essential oils, statues, decorations and other arts and crafts. Patrons enjoyed a food truck and spectacular bake sale as they browsed the different forms of craftsmanship. The festival was sponsored by the Garden Club of the Upper Keys – a nonprofit education organization founded in 1952 that's dedicated to teaching people about the natural environment and native plants, enjoying the beauty of the botanical world, and preserving the natural beauty of the Upper Keys. While not the first festival the group has held, it was the first to have a significant focus on arts and crafts, from handmade gifts and heirloom decorations, to plants and botanical decor.

—Weekly staff report



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HOLLY HOUSER/Keys Weekly

1. The Garden Club of the Upper Keys' Beverly Middleton, property director; Kathy Janco, president; and Evelyn McGlone, fundraising director, were vital in getting this year's festival up and running.

2. Kati Giles tests out Stacey's Naturals' African Shea Butter. Stacey's Naturals creates handmade, organic skin and hair care cosmetics.

3. Virginia Spear, former Plantation Key School kindergarten teacher, purchases her holiday wreath from Wreaths by Leanne, which boasts wreaths "for all occasions."

4. Rose Hawkins admires statues by Golden Keys Statuary. Discovering their creative talents only one year ago, Larry Golden pours the molds and wife Janie personally hand paints each one.

5. The festival is a family affair for Fireside Candles owner Jimmiy Garvey, who has his father-in-law, Robert Wogatske, left, to help him. Fireside Candles offers aromatherapy products, candles, soft scrubs and diffusers – all made by hand.