

**HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UPPER KEYS GARDEN CLUB
1970 TO 1980**

**IN DECEMBER 1970 THERE WERE 209 MEMBERS.
WE HELD WEEKLY CARD PARTIES, WORK SHOPS, HAD AN ANNUAL
FLOWER SHOW, AND FASHION SHOWS TO RAISE FUNDS.**

**WE ORGANIZED A JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND
EACH YEAR SENT 4 TO 6 STUDENTS TO SUMMER CAMP. PAYING \$40.00
PER STUDENT.**

**OUR CLUB GAVE \$100.00 TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF LIGNUM VITAE
KEY. WE GAVE OUT MANY AWARDS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR
HORTICULTURE AND ARTISTIC ABILITIES WITH FLOWERS.**

**MRS. FRANCES TRACY DIED OCTOBER 19, 1970 FROM A STROKE
SUFFERED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1970.**

**MARCH 1971 WE HAD 206 MEMBERS. WE SOLD CALENDARS AND COOK
BOOKS, HELD FLEA MARKETS, BAZAARS, HAD FLOWER SHOWS AND
CARD GAMES AS WAYS TO EARN MONIES.**

**IN 1972 THE MEMBERSHIP DROPPED TO 152 PAID MEMBERS. DURING
THIS TIME THERE WAS ALSO A KEY LARGO GARDEN CLUB. OUR
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IN 1970 TO 1975 WAS 60 INCLUDING GUESTS.**

**SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS DURING THE 1970'S: HANGING BASKETS,
DISH GARDENS AND TERRARIUMS; LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVES;
HORTICULTURE BASICS LIKE SOIL MEDIA, PROPAGATION, FEEDING,
WATERING, AND PRUNING; IKEBANA -FLOWER DESIGNS IN THE
JAPANESE MANNER; GROWTH AND CARE OF BROMELIADS; GROWTH
AND CARE OF BEGONIAS; WILD LIFE IN THE KEYS; USE OF DRIFTWOOD
IN MAKING PICTURE FRAMES AND DECORATIVE ITEMS; PLANTS OF
THE BIBLE; RAISING ORCHIDS; THE TREE SNAIL; AND WHAT EVERY
HIBISCUS GROWER SHOULD KNOW, JUST TO NAME A FEW.**

**THE GARDEN CLUB ALWAYS HAD A CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH PINK
CHAMPAGNE WHERE ALL MEMBERS BROUGHT A COVERED DISH AND
A GIFT EXCHANGE. AN ANNUAL PICNIC WAS HELD IN THE SUMMER.
THE CLUB MET 12 MONTHS A YEAR UNTIL FEBRUARY WHEN THEY
VOTED TO NOT HAVE FORMAL MEETINGS IN JULY, AUGUST, AND
SEPTEMBER.**

**IN 1972 THE FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS HAD 28,900
MEMBERS.**

**THE UPPER KEYS GARDEN CLUB HAD 146 MEMBERS IN APRIL OF 1973
AND 150 MEMBERS IN MAY OF 1974.**

**IN 1974 SEEDS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO OUR MEMBERS TO ENCOURAGE
EVERY MEMBER TO PLANT A TREE.**

ANNUAL DUES WERE \$5.00

STARTING IN 1976 AVERAGE ATTENDANCE DROPPED TO 35.

**JANUARY 1977 FLORIDA STATE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS IS THE
LARGEST OF ALL STATE FEDERATIONS COMPRISED OF 396 CLUBS AND
31,000 MEMBERS.**

**SEPTEMBER 1977 DUES WERE INCREASED FROM \$5.00 TO \$8.00 BECAUSE
OF INCREASED EXPENSES.**

IN 1979 THERE WERE 99 PAID MEMBERS

**DECEMBER 1979 CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY. WE
CELEBRATED WITH CHAMPAGNE.**

THE YEARS BETWEEN 1980 AND 1989

OUR ANNUAL GARDEN WALK TOURS WERE STARTED IN 1980

OCTOBER 1980 WE HAD 113 PAID MEMBERS

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES WERE OFTEN HELD

**SOME OF THE PROGRAMS DURING THESE YEARS WERE:
CACTI AND SUCCULENTS; IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, HIGHWAY
BEAUTIFICATION; AFRICAN VIOLETS; CARE OF CHRISTMAS PLANTS;
PLANTING PROCEDURES FOR CLAY POTS; HANGING BASKETS;
GROWING AIR PLANTS AND BROMELIADS ON DRIFT WOOD;
LANDSCAPING WITH PLANTS THAT SAVE WATER; RAISING HERBS;
FLORAL ARRANGING; WADING BIRDS; BONSAI; ORCHIDS AND THEIR
CULTURE JUST TO NAME OF FEW.**

IN 1981 \$1200 WAS RAISED BY THE GARDEN WALK

FLOWER SHOWS WERE VERY POPULAR IN THE 1980'S

SEPTEMBER 1981 DUES WERE RAISED TO \$10.00 AND GARDEN WALK TICKETS WERE \$4.00 AND YOU RECEIVED SANDWICHES, COOKIES AND TEA.

TO RAISE FUNDS WE ALSO SOLD TROPICAL JELLIES AND PRESERVES, BAKED GOODS, COOK BOOKS, AND HELD ART SHOWS.

WE WORKED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE WINDLEY KEY QUARRY. CHARLOTTE NEIDHAUK, CARETAKER OF LIGNUM VITAE KEY WAS ALSO VERY INSTRUMENTAL IN PRESERVING THE QUARRY. SHE WROTE CHARLOTTE'S STORY, THE STORY OF ELLIOT KEY. SHE PASSED AWAY IN APRIL 1983.

**OUR MEETING MONTHS ARE NOW SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY
NOVEMBER 1984 "ART AMONG THE FLOWERS" ART SHOW WAS A WHOPPING SUCCESS. WE MADE \$1700.00 FOR THE GROUNDS**

WE CELEBRATED OUR 35TH ANNIVERSARY, 1949 TO 1984, AT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH CHAMPAGNE.

1984 WE HAD 90 PAID MEMBERS

OUR FLOWER SHOW HELD MARCH 29 AND 30 1985 EARNED MANY COMMENTS OF PRAISE FROM OUR JUDGES AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC

MAY 1986, THE FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS HAD 29,000 MEMBERS

WE DONATED AND PLANTED THE HEDGE OF BUTTONWOODS ALONG THE HIGHWAY FENCE AT PLANTATION KEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

1987 WAS THE YEAR OF REPAIRS? THERE WAS A COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF OUR PLUMBING SYSTEM, NEW VERTICAL BLINDS, AND A NEW PAINT JOB FOR THE CLUB HOUSE.

IN 1988 AND 1989 WE HOSTED QUILT SHOWS IN MARCH FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS QUILTERS GROUP

NOVEMBER 1987 OUR FIRST ANNUAL PLANT RAMBLE WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. IT HAS BECOME A GARDEN CLUB TRADITION AND A GREAT MONEY MAKER

IT WAS IN 1988 WE ESTABLISHED A CONTAINER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FEEDING OF WILD BIRDS AND TO HELP LAURA QUINN OFFSET HER EXPENSES WITH INJURED BIRDS.