

Almost two years ago....I asked this question of you:

Ditty Wilson Presidents
report
3-17-1981

What are the advantages of belonging to a Garden Club?

Please think about the strong organization that we have here.....All of our accomplishments.

I believe that each of you have something to share.....and it is in that sharing that we learn, and grow!

What is our purpose (Read)

Our club differs from a Womens Club, where their studies include the fine arts field music, drama, art and the family. We differ from church groups...which work toward bible study and the social life of the church families.

We need to be bringing programs each month, dealing with horticulture, our gardens, plants, birds, conservation, and beautifying our homes, and our community, and most especially our very own Francis Tracy Garden Center.

All members need to participate in some way...to be a part of the club...and if we have not given you an opportunity to do this....please let us know the things that you would enjoy doing....because we can use everyone of you...many types of helping hands.

In this two year period...we have grown from 52 members to a membership of 121. We have many new members who are really interested in the on-going work of the club....they clearly are interested and anxious to learn about the plants and gardening on our Fabulous Florida Keys.....many of them are already ~~very~~ active and integrated into our programs.

We can be proud of our Francis Tracy Garden Center, but with it comes many responsibilities. The past two years...it has needed a new roof....new paint job....and new plumbing.

The beautiful old trees were pruned last fall, and of course we have monthly expenses on our grounds, as well as our monthly utilities. We have been charged with keeping it in top condition, by those members who 30 years ago struggled to earn the

money....to build this club house.....

As I said two years ago....I now reiterate.....Our Garden Club requires the Work Of Many Hands. Our 3d annual Garden Walk, not only was a grand affair...a marvelous Public Relations project, but it netted us \$1200. Our annual Flower Show just ahead of us...of Artistry and Horticulture, gives northerners, ab better understanding of our Florida Keys, and our members the opportunity to present their plants and arrangements as proof of all they have learned during the year. This year, our terrific committee has spent months in preparation for what will surely be the Best Show ever! But they need your help to pull it off.

Our 1980 project of planning and planting the Landscaping for the county government Center....was a great and rewarding experience! ~~Our~~ ^{The use of} our own members studying and working to present meaningful horticulture, and artistic programs at our regular meetings. This is how we learn and grow....these are the worthwhile projects that we as a Garden Club member must stand for.

Each of our hands hold some secret magic...and the skills of many types are needed.... First, there must be the tapering hands of the dreamer, hands that can remain tranquil as a vision is born. There must be hands strong and capable...hands trained to transform a vision into a reality. We need those hands that are all green thumbs....hands that are happiest when they know the feel of the soil.

There must be the hands to wield the pen, so that the story of our accomplishments will be known in every state. There are those hands at which we never cease to marvel...hands of an artist who...by careful manipulation, transforms a Severed Flower into a masterpiece.

We must have patient loving hands...and we could not carry on, without the Bountiful hands which give, not once, but many times. There must be helping hands, to guide those taking their first step....these are the hands that give so freely of their talents, seeking (our)

money....to build this club house.....

no reward. And we need the hand of fellowship, to welcome any who would join our ranks.

I asked this of youtwo years ago.....you responded by giving our club those

helping hands.....and more. That is the reason that we have had two such outstanding

years.....We may not reap National or State Awardsbut we have reaped our own

rewards.....learning to work as a team....pulling together....in unison

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