

History of Garden Club
 Key Largo Garden Club from 1952 to 1954, renamed
 Upper Keys Garden Club Jan 1954

On June 10th 1952 Mrs Everet Perkins invited ten ladies to meet at her home on Key Largo to consider forming a Club that would be of civic and cultural advantage to the growth of the Keys specially its native plant growth. They were Mrs Henry Grant, Mrs Jessie Van Vichten, Mrs Eunice Bridgam, Mrs C.H. Laurence, Mrs Maralin Vaughn, Mrs Olga Unger, Mrs Marie Schope, Mrs Dixie Stephens, Mrs Carl Schreffel and Mrs Perkins, all had purchased land and built homes here after the close of the war in '45, and were interested in Club work. At this time 1966, several are dead and none still live here.

Mrs Grant was asked to take the chair, and she nominated Mrs Carl Schreffel, who was President of the Perrine Garden Club until moving to Keys, as President of what they had decided to call the Key Largo Garden Club.

Their object to be specially the Horticulture of Keys and any Civic Projects in which they could help.

They were to meet once each month at members homes, and each member would be asked to prepare and present a paper dealing with some fruit, vegetable or plant that could be developed here successfully, this worked well, papers on Rock Melons, Limes, tomatoes, native roses, and compost beds were excellent, and there were several speakers brought in to talk on development of Keys.

Trips were made to Homestead Experimental Station, Fruit and Spice Garden, Fairchild's and to Key West.

It was voted to limit membership to 20 as that was all most homes could care for, but so many new members were interested it soon grew, and was extended to 32 in 1954.

Early members were Mrs Fred Bond, Mrs Bonnie Sheffel, Mrs Ann Baldwin, Mrs Tony Baldwin, Mrs Violet Carpenter, Mrs Mary Easton, Mrs Mary Jones, Mrs Francis Tracy, all from Tavernier and Plantation Key, and Mrs Florence Booth, Mrs Kinsey and Mrs Kirtley from Matakumbi.

Mrs Florence Booth was elected Pres in Dec 1954 when Mrs Schreffel's term expired and she had to return to Miami on account of illness. she had been a fine progressive President.

Since the Club had taken in so many new members specially from Islamorada and Matakumbi, Mrs Bridgham suggested we form a second club, which was done, the original Club kept the name Key Largo Club with Mrs Grant as Pres, and the other group selected the name Upper Keys Garden Club, with Mrs Booth as Pres. and the meeting a Christmas Covered Dish Lunch at Mrs Booth's home on Lower Matakumbi, it was quite a festive affair and Mrs Booth a gracious hostess, had the June and Dec. meetings after that at her home for several years.

Plants and garden tools were exchanged at Christmas, and a swim party in June.

In 1953 it was decided to have a Library, and by purchase and gift some twenty books were accumulated, but having no place to store them and too much to carry around, it was voted in 1959 to present them to the Bookmobile where they can be obtained.

Mrs Booth had room to accommodate larger gatherings and the members met regularly at her home for Luncheons and a Splas party in June and Xmas party with exchange of plants at Xmas, this she kept up for several years. Jan of 1956

Mrs Alida Tjader was elected Pres In Jan 56 her home would accomodate the Club as it grew. and many meetings were held there

Mrs Cohen was Sect, and was collection data for a book on Key trees and plants ,and had a wide correspondance on this subject. It was voted to have a committee set up By-Laws and find out about incorporating the Club ,she was a great help on this line as she had legal exsperiance. and our charter was registered in .56 at Key West.

There was a committee to Clean up and plant at Islamorade Beach on the Bay and toO the Monument grounds were clrare d and planted ,Am. Legion Post to take over.

We attended Key West Flower Show in a body on invitation.

Mrs Cohen was elected Pres in Jan of 1957 and Compiled the leaflet " The Prayer of the Trees, which was printed and distributed to all Realtors and societies on Keys and many mailed.

A class was formed at Fruit and Spice Garden to take instruction in making all sorts of articles from palm fronds etc, for sale at our first Flower Show in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce

held at Coral Shores School Fe. 22-23 which was excellent . Mrs Cohen opened her home for many instructive talks and instruction. she resigned in Nov. of 57, and Mrs Gertrude Thompson Vice Pres took over and was elected Pres Jan .1958.

Principal Albury had talked to Mrs Tracy regarding landscaping at Coral Shores School and Mrs Thompson at once took an interest in that as a project, appointed a committee , Mrs Lea Smith , Mrs Sturdevant, Mrs Lund and Mrs Tracy, and with hard work in three years a Achool grounds had been develo ped ,according to the Supt. of schools the best in Monroe or Dade County, Donna did much damage but until the County took over with maintainance and fertelizeing in.63 it was kept in good condition and much admired.

The exspences were met from our raffle of plants at meetings. We assisted by donation with the school scholarship fund, and held our second flower show at the school in 58.

Mr Lester Du Bell opened his grounds for a Ramble on one of the few unspoiled native Hammocks ,on which he opened Trails to shew his native growth and the many imports from S.America and the Islands. It is some 40 acres ,not open to the public except by invitation.

We made a second visit in 1960 before Donna.

Mr Bruce Ladine came to Tav. Fire House with a fine desplay of tropical specimines and slides in fall of .58 , his death in 1960 was a loss to all 8. Florida.

Mrs Pat. Futch became Pres. Jan 1960, her home being large enough many meetings held there , and one of our most enjoyed meetings that winter was an open house at the school, when Mr Wm Whitman who has a wonderful Garden at Bal Harbor ,came down with fine pictures and gave a talk on horticulture and salt resistant plants.

Many gentlemen attended and refreshments were s rved, also music by

Mrs Evelin Allen, and songs Mrs Phelps McKenny.

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"Donna " did so much damage on the Keys in Sept. of .60 that Garden Club members could do little as id from their personal repairs, but in Jan .61 Mamie Glenn accepted the Presidentsy and while we were not too active we kept up those established, and the Cutler Ridge Garden Club in Feb. with the help of most Miami Clubs, collected and delivered to Tavernier Fire House several hundred plants to be distributed to Club members and any who needed them, plants of all sorts for rehabilitation, this was taken care of by Mrs Pat Futch and took some days ,but all were given out and appreciated. Mr Alex Sprunt gave an excellent bird picture at Fire House, with a talk on usefulness of birds. an Oct. meeting and we had fine Xmas party at Mrs Ingrid Nelsons.

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In Jan of 62 Mr Brezelle became President ,but resigned after 3 months on account of death in family and Mrs Millie Gasser Vice Pres. became Pres. until serving until Jan 1965 this proved a very busy 2 years and she did wonders for Club. The need for largers meeting accomodations became more urgent as membership grew, and in spring of 62 Dr Frederick Bond came forward with the offer of a very fine piece of property on U.S.L , his only stipulation being that is should never be sold for commercial use and that it be called Francis Tracy Garden center, this was brought before the next meeting and was accepted, Mrs Tracy felt it not an honor she should have, but as it was for the good of the Club, she agreed . At once the question of a building came up ,and a committee investigated the costs and possabilities, reports were made at the August meeting held at the Islander. There was a full attendance ,and much discussion but after an hour of debate it was voted by a two thirds majority to go ahead and plan for a building if we could raise enough money that first year to make it feasible. A Garden Club is not a money making organization primarily but this seemed a worthwhile cause for the Keys as well as Club. Sales and a big Smorgasboard were held, and Feb 28th-29th of 1964 Mrs Lou Kaufman opened her lovely home and grounds for the fifth flower show ,a huge success, and plant sales, raffles, and refreshments ,the Club was on its way to make plans for a real Club House.

Mr George Coffin, a well known architect from Miami ,offered to draw plans without cost ,which he did and he spent many days on this and meeting with committee and he stayed in charge of work until it was completed . Dr Bond arranged for financing through the Florida Bank (bank of Florida) in Homestead ,and arranged for insurance. Four bids were asked for and received, in April ,and the lowest we found to be responsible D.L. Skidmore of Islamorada, we accepted, work was started 28th of May 1962, and his 90 day limit was beaten by a week. A corner stone was put in first of June, made of Granite that came on a reef off Tavernier in 1890 ,when Rodney Albury salvaged from the ships hold.

There were many donations specially from friends of Mrs Gassers Such as the Tile, plumbing , refridgerator, and Mr Arthur Miller Gave the tables in memory of his wife.

In Sept the building was accepted by the building committee and the work of furnishing begun, 100 chairs were purchased and each member was asked to buy a chair at \$3.~~00~~²⁹ each each Monday A.M. a workshop was held to arrange details and make articles for sale at the Xmas Bazar, held in Islamorada, as that was more central, this was held in early Dec. both in ~~64~~⁶⁵ and ~~65~~⁶⁶ and both financial successes. Nov. 63
Our Open House, the public invited was held the Sunday after Thanksgiving and a large attendance made the members feel their hard work and efforts in raising the money for this building was well worth while. There were a number of large donations, and in '65 it was voted to ask for Patrons who would give a stated sum from \$1.00 to \$5.00 monthly during the year and many responded, and are still doing so. Mrs. Haely sent "The Plant Doctor" to set out about 100 plants around the building, and Mrs. Buckle had about twenty Hibiscus and other plants set, there were many donations of plants and the yard committee put on 30 Bouganvillae and 25 Palms on Front. Memorial Trees and plants have been set for Capt. Butters, Mr. Chas. Dean Mr. Wm. Deemer, Capt. Tracy
There have been two Flower Shows held at the new building, Feb. of '65 and '66, both accredited by the Federation and judges supplied, they were both outstanding considering the newness of the building and the fact that Betsy left many gardens a wreck. Pot Luck suppers were held often and popular, and a weekly card party with some evening parties to which the gentlemen came as well.

April - Pat Knox 1971 - 1972

Garden Club Presidents from 1952 to 1966

July 10th 1952 to Dec. 1954

Mrs Belle Schreffel

Dec. 54 to Jan 56

Mrs Florence Booth

Jan 56 to Nov 57

Mrs Alida Tjader

Jan. 57 to Nov 57

Mrs Caroline Cohen

Nov 57 to Jan 60

Mrs Gertrude Thompson

Jan 60 to Jan 61

Mrs Pat Futch

Jan 61 to Jan 62

Mrs Manie Glenn

Jan 62 to April 62

Mrs Genevive Brezelle

April 62 to Jan 65

Mrs Mildred Gasser

Jan 65 to April 66

Mrs Lillian Strange

April 66 to April 68

Mrs Elenor Townsend

April 68 to April 70

Mrs. Pat Knox
Phenia Brown

April 70 " April 71

During the years there have been Seven Flower Shows
Two held at Coral Shores School Co-Chairman Mrs Alida Tjader
Two at The Elks Club in Tavernier " Mrs Lea Smith
One at the Home of Mrs Louise Ksufman which she graciously
opened for the Club, this Show made the consideration of
proceeding with plans for a Club House possible.
Two at Francis Tracy Garden Center in 65 and 66 with Mrs Polly
Buckel in charge. , for these Judges came from Federation
and were accredited.

The sale of Cook Books started and carried out by Mrs
Elenor Townsend in 65 has been a most successful project.

One of the outstanding trips made by the Club was in 1959
to Lignum Vitae Key by boat from Starks Dock, about 25 members
took their lunch and spent the day touring around the Island
seeing the many native plants and trees and the only house
made from native rock, the caretaker was most helpful and took
us into his home to see things he and his wife had made from
native material.

A most interesting trip was made in 1964 to the Japanese Garden
just off the County causeway in Miami, ending for lunch at Matheson
Hammock and Fairchild Gardens.

Delegates attended the Federation conventions at Miami Beach in
1963, and Hollywood in 1964, the 65 Convention in Pensacola was voted
too far away, and expensive.

In fall of 1958 Mr McLean came from Homestead to demonstrate flower
arrangements, each member to bring materials, and he also brought
a large supply, this an all day meeting at the home of Mrs Cully
at (Blueberry Hill) on Indian Key Fill, which was completely destroyed
by "Donna", five classes were held for instructions on setting up
of Flower Shows and flower arrangements since 63, one at Tavernier
Fire House, at Mrs Kaufmans, Mrs Bruntons, Mrs Arthur Millers, and
Garden Club, Mrs Freeman and Mrs Crim from Coral Gables, Mrs Mahoney
from Key West and our own Mrs Gladys Cale.

History Highlights of Upper Keys Garden Club-1952 to 1967

On June 10, 1952 ten ladies met at the home of Mrs. Everett Perkins and formed a club "of civic and cultural advantage to native plant growth in the Keys", named the Key Largo Garden Club.

There were many interesting and informative meetings, with members preparing papers and demonstrations of their experiences dealing with such things as rock melons, limes, tomatoes, native roses, compost beds, etc. Original membership was limited to 20 members because of meeting in private homes. Many of these places were destroyed by "Donna" in 1960.

By 1954 the club had grown so large that it was voted to form a second one-the original to serve Key Largo area and the new Upper Keys Garden club to serve Islamorada, Matakumbi and Plantation Key. By-Laws were accepted and on Sept. 11, 1956 in Key West 15 Charter Members, including Francis Tracy and Margaret Bond signed our legal charter, as a non-profit organization. Article 11 of the Charter 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, etc. Article X states "This Corporation shall not own real property of a value in excess of \$50,000.

The Club's first flower show was held at Coral Shores School in 1956 in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Fred Bond as chairman. Beautification of Coral Shores School got underway in 1957 and by 1960 was written up as most beautiful school grounds in state. After Donna in 1960 grounds of Monument at Islamorada and Isla. Beach Park were cleaned up, trees and plants put in.

With 60 members in 1962 the need for larger meeting space was urgent. Under the presidency of Mrs. Arthur Gasser this major undertaking was realized when Dr. Fred Bond offered our fine piece of 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". If the Garden Club should cease to operate as such the land shall revert to the Bond Estate. Dr. Bond arranged for financing of our building project and our insurance. Only those people involved know how many hours and how much work went into all the money raising events needed to start the building. A mortgage of \$8,000 was secured from the Bank of Florida in Homestead for the balance to complete it.

Mr. 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's hold off a reef in Tavernier in 1890, was placed in the south side front wall containing names of all the members.

The first meeting in the new building was held Sept. 1964 and official public opening on Nov. 1964 with over 200 friends present. Many donations of furnishings and equipment were gratefully received including tables by Mr. Arthur Miller in memory of his wife. Each member was asked to purchase 1 chair at \$3.75 ; 100 were bought. Much effort went into raising the \$8,000 to get a "Satisfaction of Mortgage" on Dec. 4, 1967. Mrs. Tracy, at 90 years lit the flame to burn the mortgage.

During my research of all the minutes of meetings of The Upper Keys Garden Club, since 1952 and the Charter being issued in 1956, as well as interviews with some past presidents and long term members these are some of the important decisions made for the club.

No political or religious programs or promotions of same shall be made during our meetings.

Since we are a non-profit organization, no contributions shall be made to civic, service, or fraternal organizations or other non-profit groups.

None of our club properties, such as chairs or tables may be loaned, rented or taken from the club premises.

In order to avoid an embarrassing omission of some deserving person we do not send gifts or donations to families of deceased members. We only send cards from the club but encourage planting of trees or other plants by individual members.

It was voted 6/18/72 to get a plaque for the wall, with names of all deceased past presidents, showing the years served. It would be impossible to so honor all deserving past members.

Voted 9/17/72 No pictures on the walls except Mrs. Tracy's.

Voted 7/18/72 Immediate Past President and all Committee Chairmen shall be on the Board of Directors.

Our By-Laws are intended to keep the Club operating as it was chartered - as an educational aid to preserve the natural beauties of the keys. Any member who is unable or unwilling to abide by the accepted By-Laws should not accept an office in the Club. Refusal to do so should call for the dismissal of such person through due process as provided in the By-Laws.

Mrs. Francis Tracy was one of our founding members and served the club faithfully for 18 years until her death on Oct. 19, 1970. In her History of the Upper Keys Garden Club, dated late 1966, Mrs. Tracy stated "A garden club is not a money making organization primarily, but building a club house seemed a worthwhile cause for the Keys as well as the club." Therefore there were many fund raising projects ~~raising projects~~ for several years for the building, furnishings and grounds of our club. Several members now recommend that we limit the number of such endeavors to those necessary for the maintenance and operation of our club and worthwhile educational or environmental projects.

Our Comprehensive General Liability Insurance Policy states that: The insurance does not apply to bodily injury or property damage arising out of (a) activities to which the public is admitted if an admission fee is charged by the insured. (c) The use of premises occupied by the named insured for purposes other than meetings of members and guests.

Fla. Dept. of Revenue - Notice 10/20/89 Surtax is imposed - - on conditions: #2 The event for which an admission is charged is located in Monroe County.

It is imperative that we not use sale, ticket or admission in our advertising or fund raising activities!

Betty Pankau, Program Chairman, made an announcement about our field trip to Orchid Jungle on Monday, January 7th. We are to meet at the Garden Club by 8:30 AM, where we will divide into the available cars to drive to Miami.

We announced that our Flower Show is scheduled for March 29th & 30th. We have arranged for Flower Arranging Classes to run for five weeks on Thursday mornings @ 10:00, beginning Feb. 14th. Urged those interested to sign up.

Jenny Smith, Art Show Chairperson, gave her report on the Art Show, which was held on the grounds on Nov. 24th. She reported that we have a gross income of \$1701.20, less the expenses of the food, etc. which should not be too much. Also thanked Lynn Shullaw, Food Chairman, and Betty Wilson, Plant Chairman. We all gave these girls a big hand for the wonderful job they had done, and encouraged others to plan to help out next year, as they missed out on a lot of fun.

Ellie Grabowski and Betty Wilson reported on the progress of the Garden Walk, which will be on Jan. 18th. Lists were circulated for our members to sign up to bring sandwiches, etc. and to act as hostesses at the various homes.

Florence Long made the sad announcement that Blanche Sturdevant had passed away and that services would be held at the San Pedro Church on Thursday, Dec. 20th. Blanche was a long time member of our Garden Club, and was the lady who had donated the Melvin Albury House to the Old Tavernier Association and was honored at our April 84 meeting. *Old Church Comm. Center*

That concluded our meeting, and we all reminisced with our members and guests about how the building was built, etc. This was read from our Dec. 79 meeting, and they all filled in some of the details.

AND NOW SOME HISTORY OF OUR CLUB: IN 1953 WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 43 THE MEMBERS DECIDED TO RAISE MONEY TO PURCHASE PROPERTY FOR THE FUTURE SITE. MRS. LEA SMITH GAVE THE FIRST DONATION OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS. MARGARET BOND BECAME INTERESTED AND SPOKE TO HER HUSBAND, DR. BOND, WHO GENEROUSLY GAVE THE PROPERTY THE GARDEN CLUB WAS BUILT ON. MONEY WAS RAISED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000.00 THAT YEAR AND WITH A MORTGAGE OF \$8,000.00 FROM THE BANK OF FLORIDA IN HOMESTEAD THE CLUB HOUSE WAS BUILT.

MR. GEORGE COFFIN, ARCHITECT, DREW THE PLANS AND TOOK CHARGE OVER THE BUILDING. MRS. TRACY AND HARRY HARRIS, COMMISSIONER, PLACED A CYLINDER WITH MEMBERS NAMES IN THE SOUTH SIDE FRONT WALL.

THE FIRST MEETING IN THE NEW BUILDING WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 15, 1964. THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC OPENING WAS HELD NOV. 28, 1964, OVER 200 FRIENDS CAME. MRS. FRANK HENNETT, STATE PRESIDENT AND MRS. E. JORDON, DISTRICT DIRECTOR WERE AMONG THE GUESTS AT THE OPEN HOUSE.

1980-81 June Thorpe - Comes. Sec. - Devotionals

1982-83 June Thorpe - Comes. Sec. Flower Show

1984-85

Art. IV. This Corp. shall perpetual existence

Charter Members.

Alida Ward ^{Leader} ~~Adler~~ Pres. + Director

Vivian J. Gross V. P. + "

Mary M. Easton Sec. + "

Margaret Bond Treas. + "

Annabelle Baldwin

Francis D. Tracy

Patricia Lett

Bernie Shreffler

Margaret G. Ely

Carolyn V. Cohen

Directors -

Past President

wrote "The Prayer of the Trees"

Wilabel Kinay

Kruezz

Gertrude Thompson

Ana Regan

Thelma Miller

Vera S. Kirtley

Seal on Charter Aug. 21, 1956

Upper Keno Garden Club Memorial George A. Coggin Architect

Charter Members -

Past Presidents

1970 { Francis Tracy Historian.
Gertrude Thompson
1971 { Annabelle Baldwin

4 M. J.

1973 Eleanor Townsend

1976 Mary Stedman

1980 Louise Leppold

1984 Phemie Brown

1986 Orpha Warrwright

1970 ? Ann Thompson - Treasurer

1971 Madeline Thompson -

1971 Susan Lund - Chaplain

1972 Jane Longstreet died 9/72

1972 Betty Kiesewetter

1972 Orpha Bros ^{Member 1972 - No address}

1972 Mary Schmitt ^{joined '67} died 11/72

1973 Lillian Heald ^{joined '68} ~~Pat~~

1973 Eunice Bell -

Living Past Pres.

millie Basser

Pat Knox

Thelma Page

Betty Wilson

Myra Stedman

Barbara Green

Margo Ellis

Lynn Strickland

Sally Thomas

Ann Hayward

~~no~~ Politics, Religion - or other

Plant a tree

History of
Upper Keys Garden Club .

On June 10 1952 ten ladies gathered at the home of Mrs Henry Grant on Key Largo to formulate plans for a Club that could help with the conservation of our native trees and plants and introduce new ones as the realestate companies were bringing in machinery and destroying much of our native beauty. They also wished to help on Civic projects..and beautification.

These ladies were Mrs Everet Perkins, Mrs Corinnr Grant, Mrs C.H. Laurence, Mrs Eunice Bridgham, Mrs Maralin Vaughn, Mrs Marie Schope, and Mrs Belle Schreffel. And Mrs Dixie Stepheny, Mrs Jessue Van Vichten Mrs Unger.

Mrs Bridgham asked Mrs Schreffel to take the chair, and after making decisions as to what the Clubs name and plans would be Mrs Scheffel was elected Pres, Mrs Shope Sect, and the name Key Largo Garden Club was chosen.

Meetings to be first Thursday in each month at members homes and membership not more than twenty.

Speakers on Horticulture were to be obtained, and visits made to placas of interest when possible.

At each meeting a member had to prepare a paper to read on her own experiances in the raising of Plants, trees and care and fertelizer of them. some excellent papers were prepared.

Mrs Belle Schreffel server as Pres. from June loth 52 until Dec .of 53 when she returned to Miami on account of her husbands illness., she had been very active in Gardenclub work in Miami and was of great help in setting up the activities of the Club, she brought cuttings, seeds and flowers to each meeting for distribution and identification. She has been asked many times to return and give talks.

On Jan 5th 54 Mrs Florence Booth was elected Presidency se rving two years until Jan. 56 an excellant President and in her terms there were field trips made to Experimental Gardens at Homestead, The Fruit and Spice Gardens, and Fairchild Gardens, and Key West Flower Show in Martello Towers,, she also invited the Club to hold meetings in June and Dec. each year for Covered dish Lunches , Splash Parties , and a visit to her beautiful Orchid display

In 53, Mrs Schreffell suggested a Library be accumulated , and there were some twenty books on many subjects purchased and donated.

In July 53 five new members joined , among them Mrs Tracy who is still an active member , but never wished to hold office, preferred to be just an assistant to any wishing information , as she had been active in Club work for many years and wanted others to take over and learn. She has be n an Honorary member for past five years.

In fall of 55 , the first Lime Festival was held, Mrs Caroline Cohen in charge, and there were three Stations on the road where Lime Aid was served, limes given away , and literature supplied on the Keys and specially on Limes, which were plentiful.

Mrs Cohen wrote and had published a number of articles all over the country which brought many touriets we feel sure.

The membership had increased to such an extent that Mrs Eunice Brifgham and Mrs Grant advocated there be a second Garden Club they retain the name Key Largo, and as our membership from Islamorada and below was so large that few private homes could seat them, we decided it was best ,

History of the Key Largo, later the
Upper Keys Garden Club 1952 to 1966

On June 10th 1952 four ladies meeting informally, discussed the need on the Keys for some sort of an organization to conserve the native beauty of the Keys and help preserve its plant life and learn what new things might be imported and how to care for them, also to take part in any worthwhile Civic activities.

These four were Mrs Bertha Perkins, Mrs Corinne Grant, Mrs Eunice Bridgem, and Mrs, Mrs C.H. Lsurence and Mrs Jessie Van Vichten,. They decided to ask friends and any interested to meet with the on July 10th at the home of Mrs Grant (Lone Star Coralæ On Key Largo. Ten ladies attended this meeting and were enthusiastic about the idea. Mrs Grant asked Mrs Belle Schreffel to take the chair ,she had been active in Miami and Pres. of the Perrine Garden Club, and it was decided to form a Club known as The Key Largo Garden Club to obtain information through literature ,speakers, and have the members each look up some special native plant and its care, to present at the meetings, this was done most successfully.

Mrs Grant nominated Mrs Schreffel as Pres. and Mrs Marie Schope .Sect. Meetings to be held once a month at the homes of members, very light refreshments to be served .

Mrs Schreffel served as Pres. from July 10th 52 until Jan 53 , she was a great asset to the Club, and each month brought ,seeds and plants and instructed how to use them for best results.

During her years in office the Club made field trips to the Homestead Experimental Station, Fairchilds Gardens, the Fruit and Spice Gardens and visited Key West Garden Club, Mr Bruce Ladine came down and gave a fine talk on the plants from Experimental Station, Dr Ladine was a Botanist of wide repute ,and wrote several books that are standard on Horticulture in S Fla., his death in 59 was a gre at loss.

Mrs Marie Schope was elected Pres Jan 53 and during her year the same polocy was carried out, a number of new members were accepted ,and a Library was started with books both donated and bought ,but by the time the Book mobile came to the County they had grown so havey to carry to meetings ,and no place to store them it was voted to present them to the Bookmobile where we can get them at any time .

Among the new members in 53, Mrs Florence Booth and Mrs Kinzey from Lower Matacumbi joined and Mrs Bonnie Shreffler ,Mrs Blanch Sturdevant, Mrs Francis Tracy and Mrs Mary Easton joined ,from Tavernier. It had been voted to limit membership to 20 but by 54 it was raised to

32, as many as most homes would seat .

Jan of 54 Mrs Florence Booth was elected Pres serving 2 ye ars to Jan, 56 She was an excellent Pres. and many trips and Rambles were taken.

One specially to the Home of Mr Lester DuBelle on Plantation Key,, some 20 acres which he has opened with trails .preserving all the native plants and trees and adding many from the Islands and S America.

This is not open to the public, but our Club has visited it twice by invitation.

Mrs Booth had the Club meet at her home twice a year a June Splash party, and a Dec. Xmas party with exchange of Plants and Pot Luck lunches.

In the fall of 55 a lime Festival was held, in charge of Mrs Cohen three stations were set up along the road, where free lime ade was served and information and literature supplied to visitors.

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The first Key Like Festival was put on in Nov. 54, Mrs Cohan had articles in all the papers, and we had booths at four places along the Highway to serve limeaid and Keys Literature to tourests and residents alike distributing the pamphlet (Trees) which she had compiled, it received much favorable mention over the country..

The Club had grown to such an extent that a number of the members above Rock Harbor decided to set up a seperate club there and retain the name as it applied to that section, and in Jan of 55 when Mrs AladaTjader became President it was voted to call the present Club (Upper Keys Garden Club).

At this time the Club became active more in Civic activities, Mrs Gertrude Thompson contacted Principal Albury at Coral Shores School, regarding the beautification of the school grounds, which was started in that spring, and was noted in the Herald as the best looking school grounds in Florida, active in this were, Mrs Lea Smith, Mrs Blanch Sturdevant, Mrs Sam Lund, Mrs Tracy and many helpers, it was the main prodject for six years, until 1962 when the County voted a yard maintenance man and furnished fertelizer., Donna did some damage, but it still looks quite well.

A committee was appointed to clean up around the monument at Islamorada and make plantings, the Veterens to maintain it, and a committee also cleared up the land back of the Civic Building and put in trees and shrubs, but Donna hurt that badly.

In Nov. of 56 the first flowere show as held at Coral Shores in Cooper ation with the Chamber of Commerce, Dr Fred Bond chairman, and it was quite a success, Mr and Mrs Fred Ely arranged the tables and we had a large Plant Show that Mrs Thelma Miller took over.

In June of 56 the first interest was shown in joining the Federation and a speaker from Pompino came down to talk at Mrs Tjaders, there was much discussion but several members did not wash to joing them and it was tabled, however Mrs Caroline Cohen Sect. did write about obtaining a Charted and a committee appointed to st up By-Lawa.

In Dec. 56 Mrs Cohen was elected Pres and was very active in 1957 in getting Charted set up and registered, also corresponded with many people over the countyr who had visited the Keys and seen what was being done to advance them by the Club. She planned a book on Keys horticulture, but it was found too expenscive to publish.

Mrs Cohen Resigned in Nov of 57, and Jan 58 Mrs Gertrude Thompson was elected Pres.

Much interest was shown in the proposed Deer refure, which .Rep. Danny Fescell was backing and a letter was written him offering the Clubs Co-Operation .

The Club was invited to have a Ramble on the estate of

Mr Lester Dubelle on P^lantation Key in March, this is one of the few places left untouched and in natural state except for a large number of plants and trees which he has imported and cared for since 1930, and well worth a trip, it is still native. Mrs Thompson and Tracy in charge.

Gertrude Brazell

in 1953
Mrs Scheffel started the first Library and 10 books
there were about ten books bought but it was found very hard
to have them carried to each meeting, and when the Bookmobile
was first brought to Keys they were presented to them.

On Nov 16th 54 it was voted to change the name of Club to
Upper Keys garden Club as it now stands, as there were now
members from all the Keys.

Mrs Florence Booth who was Pres. in 54 and 55, instituted the
holding of a Special Covered luncheons at the June and Dec.
meetings held at her home June a Spas Party and Dec. Xmas party
exchanging plants as gifts, this still carried on in 1965

The Club was invited to make a display at the Key West Garden Show
in Feb of 55, and we had four displays, Mrs Lund won a ribbon for
her arrangement.

In March of 55 Mr Lester DuBelle who has a fine collection of
native and imported trees and plants on his large acreage on
Plantation Key invited the Club to tour his Gardens, this was much
enjoyed by the members and was repeated in 1958.

In Nov. of 55 Dr Bruce Ladine from the Experimental Station gave us a very
fine talk with slides, on Use of Tropical Materials on the Keys, Dr Ladine
has since passed on, a great loss.

Jan meeting 1956 Mrs Alida Jader was elected Pres. Mrs Easton Sect.

In May Dr Bond who was chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, asked
if the Club would be interested in holding a Flower Show at the
school in conjunction with them and it was decided to join them
on 50 percent basis, it was a most successful Show, with 2 judges.
on Feb 22-23 old school Cafateria.

The first suggestion that our Club join the Federation was.
brought up and the District Chairman from Dade County came and
gave a talk at Mrs Jaders home, but there was some opposition
and it was dropped for the time being.

1956
In 1960 Mrs Alida Tjader became Pres, and with carrying on of our established projects, we were a busy Club,, but made a field trip to Viscaya and attended the Garden Clubs Flower Show in Key West Mrs Mills invited us to her beautiful gardens after lunch, and served refreshments .

It was voted to join the Federation and dues raised to \$3,.00 to cover that, .

Feb. 12-14 in 1960 our second Flower Show was held at the Elks Club in Tavernier,, Mrs Lea Smith in charge ,and while the Key Largo Club participated, they did not take a very active part as their Pres. Mrs Ralph Smith was quite ill .

Judges were obtained through the Federation .

In Sept Mrs Hope Lindley invited the Club to her lovely home on Lower Maticumby and served a delightful lunch, that home was destroyed by Donna completely .

Our next large gathering was in Oct .at Mrs Cullys home (Blueberry Hill) where we spent the day and a wonderful instructor on flower arrangements, members brought local specimens, and he brought a large supply of flowers and containers.

Mrs Tjader was elected for a second term and served until her home was destroyed in Sep 1960 by Donna , a storm which almost put the Garden Club out of existence, but In Jan 1961 Mrs Mamie Glsnn was persuaded to take the Presidency with Mrs Marion Austin as Sect ,and as she had room in her home we had many meetings with her and got back safely. but were not able to do much on Gardening.

The Palm Blight was affecting Key West and we had a committee to obtain information as to its control, fortunately it did not reach the Keys, we contacted Road Board as to beautification , but were advised to wait for four laning.

Jan. of 1962 Mrs Clyde Futch became Pres . and though almost a new member ,she was interested in carrying on our projects ,and had room enough to entertain the Club several times, and her big activity was in interesting the ladies of Cutler Ridge Garden Club in the need on the Keys for replacing many of our lost in Donna plants and shrubs. Mrs Jack Wain came to see for herself and at once started a campaign to interest 62 of the Clubs in Dade County in raising and collecting plants of all sorts for the Keys, and that spring there were truck and car loads sent down for distribution not only to members but any resident who needed plants, these were placed west of Tavernier fire house, Mrs Futch in charge with headquarters at Clinic Bldg,, a delegation from Cutler Ridge came down in three days they disappeared like magic.

In Feb. we held a very successful Flower Show at the Elks Club Bldg. Mrs Lea Smith again in charge .

Helen Brunton offered her home for an instruction meeting in preparation for the And Mrs Henry Freeman spent the day telling the members of the part the Federation would play in setting up such a Show

Mrs Brunton also offered her home for our Xmas party which was very well attended.

Mrs Genavieve Brazzell was elected Pres Jan 63, but on account of a death in the family only served two months ,and Mrs Mildred Gasser succeeded her, for two years 63-64, these were very busy years as in the spring of 63, the discussion came up at a meeting at Mrs Gassers home regarding the need for larger quarters ,the Club then had over 60 members

Mrs Caroline Cohen was Elected President Jan 56, and was very efficient ,during her year ,the By-Lays were accpoted and the Club became Incorporated,the subject ofjoining the Federation was discussed ,but there were objectors and it was dropped.

The first Flowere Show in cooperation with the Chamber of commerce, Dr Fred Bond chairman, was held at Coral Shores School and was well attended, , Mr and Mrs Fred Ely took over table arrangements ,there was a large display of native plants and Mrs Thelma Miller had a fine collection of plants for sale. To ladies from Homestead came as judges though not for Federation.

Mrs Cohen resigned in Nov. and for the year 57 ,we were very active on Civic projects under Mrs Gertrude Thompson as Pres. Butification at Coral Shores grounds was gotten under way with Mrs Lea Smith, Mrs N. Sturdevant , Mrs Sam Lund and Mrs Tracy in charge ,and by 1960 it was written up as the most beautiful School Grounds in the state.

Donna did much damage in .60 ,but it was in fair shape again by .62 whwn the County took over maintainance. The work there was financed by plant raffles at meetings.

The Grounds of the Monument at Islamorada were cleaned up and replanted, to be cared for by Post 145 . *Ann. Seaton*
The Islamorada Beach Park also was cleaned up and trees and plants put in .

The first donation of \$100 was made to the Scholarship fund. and we had many instructive meetings .

70 The Club held a Ramble on the grounds of Lester Dubell on Plantation , one of the few places where nature has been allowed thave its way, and where he has imported many plants and trees you will see no other place on Keys, it is only open to the public on invitation, and our Club has been invited twice.

Mrs Alida TJader was elected Pres in 59 , and carried on the activities of her predicessor , with addition of a second

Flower Show at Coral Shores, which we put on as a Club, but the man of Chamber of Commerce were most helpfull. and it was a very good show.

During this year , a number of good programs were put on Dr R Bruce Ladine from Experimental Station came down with slides and specimines of material and gave us an excelant talk at Coral Shores Auditorium, Dr Ladine has written many books and papers and his death in 1960 was a distinct loss.

Mr Whitman from Bal Harbor came for an evening talk with fine slides, this also at Coral Shores , and his description of his Gardens with many salt resistant plants was most interesting.

This was an open house and many gentlemen came and enjoyed it.

It was quite a gala affair with music and refreshments, Mrs Evelin Altem gave several fine selections and Mrs Phelps McKenney donated her fine voice.

Mrs. Tracy's History Of Upper Keys Garden
Club,

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REPROGRAPHIC
SERVICES

THINGS TO DO TODAY

Today's Date _____

- | | ✓ | □ |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Board May 9, 72 | | |
| 2 voted that no soliciting of | | |
| 3 funds be done at reg. meetings | | |
| 4 of club - unless approved by | | |
| 5 Board before hand. | | |
| 6 | | |
| 7 Board May 8, 73 voted to | | |
| 8 ask all out going officers to | | |
| 9 turn in their keys. | | |
| 10 | | |
| 11 Nannie Mac Echols recommended | | |
| 12 for houses leaving Sept. 14, 1976 | | |
| 13 Started Nov. '76 | | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 Clock was purchased 12/15/67 | | |
| 16 in memory of Mary Stedman | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | | |
| 20 | | |

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SOUTH SHORE BLUE PRINT DIVISION

Key Notes of the Upper Keys

By JAN HELMLE

Joining the administrative staff of Keys Community Hospital is Ernesto Lopez-Silvero, announces James Seppala, hospital administrator.

Mr. Lopez-Silvero comes to the Keys from New York City where he was administrative assistant and medical translator in the Medical De-

partment of Winthrop Products, Inc. for five years.

The previous six years he was associated with Vademecum Int'l. as an editor-proof reader. They publish medical reference books in English, French and Spanish. Prior to this he was media director for an advertising agency in Puerto Rico.

He came to Miami 17 years ago from Cuba, his native

country. In 1962 he became a United States Citizen.

He met his wife Sandra (nee Saunders) on a visit to the Keys. Her parents are natives of Key West. The Lopez-Silveros have three sons, Damon, 9, Richard, 10, and Clinton, 12.

He will be credit and collection manager as well as purchasing agent for the hospital.

★ ★ ★

It's hard to realize but Christmas shopping time is here again. And everybody knows the place to find gifts that are unique, one-of-a-kind, are the Christmas bazaars, sponsored by various clubs and churches.

First on the local scene is the Community Hospital Auxiliary Bazaar, set for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, at Holiday Isle of Islamorada. Auxilians have been working several months making the array of gifts displayed in booths including candles, with Miss H. Dalton Wood, as chairman; tree trimmings, Mrs. John White, chairman. Stuffed animals and other toys, knitted caps, boots, jewelry, stationery, children's apparel, etc. will be on the miscellaneous booth, with Mrs. Howard Gibbs in charge. Baked goods and other edibles will be in another booth manned by Mrs. Gil Plaster and Mrs. Angela Cipolla.

All proceeds from the bazaar are for the Francis Tracy Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Even though the bazaar is on the same date, in the same place as the Auxiliary luncheon meeting, it is a completely separate event. It is open to the public and one doesn't have to attend the luncheon to go to the bazaar.

Guest speaker for the luncheon will be Mrs. Bertene Graf, of Miami, representing the South Dade Chapter of the American Red Cross. She will be introduced by Mrs. Adrienne McGillicuddy of the Upper Keys Red Cross office.

★ ★ ★

are happy to be back in Islamorada. They were away three months on their honeymoon in New Jersey, New York and Michigan.

★ ★ ★

Was sorry to hear that Malcolm Knox has been hospitalized ever since he and Pat moved to Largo. According to what son Douglas says (I wasn't home when Pat called) Mal is now out of intensive care and is doing well. Know he'd appreciate some cards. Their address is Oakcrest Park No. 155, 1001 Ulmerton Rd., Largo Fla. 33540.

★ ★ ★