



APPLICATION FORM

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

(Type or print all information)

Date of Application 10/22/86

Name of Award The HILDA FOX AWARD OF \$100.00

Award Number 20

Submitted by State Federation of Florida

Name of Applicant Upper Keys Garden Club, Inc.

(Name of club or clubs, council, district, individual, institution or organization, state or region. Type EXACTLY as to appear on any award won.)

Address P.O.Box 373 Tavernier, Fl. 33070

TITLE, THEME OF PROJECT, SHOW OR ACHIEVEMENT ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION OF 13 MILES of U.S.#1, PHASE 1

DESCRIPTION: (Briefly describe project, saving detailed information for Book of Evidence. Give size of club, city and project. Give number of clubs and members participating, expenses and summary of project. For FLOWER SHOW AWARDS, give theme, town, club name, membership, number participating, number of entries, top awards given. See below for detailed information for Flower Shows).

Upper Keys Garden Club, Inc.: 61 members. Our "Tree Planting Project" is two-fold: first, the \$550.00 "Beautification" of our own Frances Tracy Garden Center along our 220' frontage of the Overseas Highway; second, our contribution in accomplishing the thirteen mile stretch of Highway Beautification for Monroe County, on the Overseas Highway, MM106 - MM93. This includes: donating \$500.00 from the club treasury toward that tree planting, helping to establish a moratorium on any new billboards, and currently working on compensation from county for old sign removal. It also includes checking each billboard between MM 106 and MM 87 for permits and licenses and having a D.O.T. representative come to the Keys every two weeks to post notices on each offending billboard requesting its removal. Our new "Land Use Plan" became law June 30, 1986 which covers sign control and removal of all illegal and non-conforming signs and billboards.

And finally, our project of obtaining a "Scenic Highway Designation" for U.S.1 Overseas Highway in Monroe County and removal of billboards.

Upper Keys population: Approximately 15,000

Signature of State Awards Chairman

Elin Haymans

Address 9160 Burnt Store Rd., Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Signature of State President

Betty S. Williams

NOTE: Awards must be received by Florida's National Council Awards Chairman on or before DECEMBER 1.

Send to:

Mrs. Kenton H. Haymans
9160 Burnt Store Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Enclose Addressed Postcard for Acknowledgement of Receipt.

Duplicate application forms required. Attach one form permanently to Book of Evidence, secure copy with gem clip for easy removal. FLOWER SHOW APPLICATIONS (BOOK OF EVIDENCE) MUST INCLUDE: Three signed Evaluation Forms, two copies of schedule, pictures, publicity, expense records, names of judges, Junior Club participation, conservation and educational exhibits. #11 must list 10% member clubs exhibiting, #17 must list garden visited, #18 must list 5 or more clubs participating, #5, 18 and 20 not eligible consecutive years.

Award Number 20
THE HILDA FOX AWARD OF \$100.00

Upper Keys Garden Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 373
Tavernier, Florida 33070
Membership: 61

"Highway Beautification" of our own Francis Tracy Garden Center with new trees and shrubs along our 220' frontage of the Overseas Highway, (U. S.#1).

Roadside Development Projects: A cooperative effort of many organizations (begun in 1981 through our efforts); beautification of 13 miles on the Overseas Highway; a moratorium on any new billboards; removal of old billboards and compensation for their removal; D.O.T. participation in the form of a representative who comes every two weeks, posting notices on billboards requesting their removal; and finally our project of obtaining a "Scenic Highway Designation" for U.S.1 Overseas Highway in Monroe County. Our new "Land Use Plan" became law June 30, 1986 which covers sign control and removal of all illegal and non-conforming signs and billboards.

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22. Financial Statement
23. Packet of Letters from Dignataries
24. Final Phase 1986 - Mission Accomplished

Back Cover- Year Book enclosed

AWARD NO. 20
THE HILDA FOX AWARD OF \$100.00
UPPER KEYS GARDEN CLUB, INC.
TAVERNIER, FLORIDA
33070

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Tavernier, Florida 33070
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OUR STORY BEGINS

Early in 1981, when the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority started construction of a new pipeline system, replacing the antiquated 14" pipeline running down from Dade County to Key West ... the pipeline company was trenching through and destroying our beautiful native trees in its path. Everyone in the Keys was in an uproar over the situation.

The president of the Upper Keys Garden Club suggested that rather than fight and obstruct the work, we should meet with the D.O.T. the Aqueduct Authority and the pipeline management to work out a solution. An appointment was arranged and it was agreed that there was about three months time to root-prune the Memorial trees in the median strip which runs through Tavernier. An attempt would be made to work around the other existing trees.

The D.O.T. engineers and the pipeline company asked for the name of a nurseryman who could handle the job of root-pruning and potting of trees to hold them for replanting. Jerry Droney was selected and work began immediately.

Officers of the garden club walked the two miles of highway, listing and counting the trees to be removed. The pipeline company took video photos of the entire strip. At this time it was also guaranteed that a stand of southern grass in the median would be replaced in Tavernier.

In March of 1982, the pipeline company, Botunco and McPhail, called to say that their work was finished and they had videotaped the finished landscaping. Approval of the garden club was needed to finalize the project. Could I call a meeting?

Board members of our garden club were invited, as were members of civic organizations in Tavernier. Also attending were Jerry Droney, the nurseryman, and Dale Baldwin a landscape architect from Tavernier. The tape was viewed and suggestions made by those attending. (See enclosed letter from Botunco - McPhail.)

That is how the beautification project for the Upper Keys began; it has been in a continuing state since that time.

Bortunco - McPhall

A Joint Venture
Mile Marker 102 1/2, Key Largo, Florida 33037

May 25, 1982

Mrs. Betty B. Wilson
P. O. Box 794
Tavernier, Florida 33070

Dear Betty:

I would like to recap our informal meeting of yesterday with yourself and other members of the Garden Club. Mr. Ron McPhall and myself furnished a Video-Tape machine, TV set, and Video-Tapes of the Tavernier medians prior to construction start for viewing. We explained the contractors position in regards to contract documents, the relationship between the Owner, Engineers, DOT, and the Contractor, the grade and alignment change through Tavernier, the revegetation as opposed to Sodding situation, and a count of the trees and shrubs done on the morning of May 24, 1982 (82 total). We also discussed the DOT required seeding mixture.

Mr. Droney covered the replanting situation that he has accomplished and his discussions with DOT. The Garden Club is basically satisfied with the tree replanting and ground contour of the medians, but indicated some concern about the revegetation. The Contractor explained the hydro-seeding accomplished thus far, plus the minimal amount of rain up to this point. The Garden Club agreed that more time and some rain would be needed before results would become very visible. Mr. Droney commented that the light showers we received Saturday and Sunday evening have started the greening process and that state mix grows in stages needing 30-60 days with recurrent showers.

The contractor indicated his willingness to furnish more trees subject to financial limits of \$2,000 and DOT approval being received by the Garden Club for their beautification plan. Gerry Hugo agreed to speak to the Tavernier Rotary Club if requested, to answer any questions local businessmen might have. A count of the trees originally in Contract #5, Tavernier medians will be forthcoming when the Video-Tapes are viewed on a larger TV screen.

Sincerely,

BorTunCo/McPhall



Gerry Hugo
Construction Manager
BorTunCo/McPhall

cc: Mr. Tom Chasteen
Mr. Ron York
Mr. Jim Sweet
Mr. Lew Vickers

GH:nw

OUR STORY CONTINUES

In late 1984, Mayor Ken Sorenson, the county commissioner representing the Upper Keys, urged the commission to set aside \$10,000 for Phase I of Highway Beautification. Mayor Sorenson agreed to chair a committee to handle the project. So that as people enter the Keys from Mile Marker 106 on the north, we would begin a journey on a scenic highway of not only the ocean on the east and the Bay of Florida and Gulf of Mexico on the west, but we would have native and exotic trees throughout the entire strip of the Overseas Highway, a colorful sight to behold.

Mayor Sorenson called a meeting with representatives of D.O.T., Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, Monroe County Road Department and others, to clear all the permits required for this large undertaking.

FFGC District XII Roadside Development Chairman, Betty Wilson, suggested that County Extension Agent, Janet Bunch, be invited to speak to the garden club at the next meeting to explain the plan. Dale Baldwin, Landscape Architect, was invited to present the landscaping plan for the first 13 miles of Phase I. The Upper Keys Garden Club had been trying for years to get permission for such a project, so it was hoped that the club could donate money for beautification in the median in front of the clubhouse.

The presentation was well received and that day the club voted unanimously to donate \$500 from the treasury. Another \$250 was donated by individual members as memorial trees for loved ones.

This started the ball rolling and many civic organizations joined in the cause.

Bids went out to nurserymen on the Keys for the trees that had been selected; over \$6,700 worth of healthy 12' stock. Other money went for soil and staking. Holes were augered in the bed-rock, which is under the surface in this area and everything was on go ... until D.O.T. engineers and planners found that they had been using an outdated set of plans. When the four-lane highway had been widened the 60' median required for planting trees with trunks over 4" diameter trunks had not been maintained.

So here we were with thousands of dollars of healthy trees in pots and no place to put them, county workmen and machinery already in action and many pages of landscape designs to be scrapped.

(See letters from FFGC and Governor Graham.)