

WELCOME

The members of the Upper Keys Garden Club welcome you to Garden Walk 1985. As you tour each garden, do enjoy the beauty of Gods handicraft, and the efforts of our members and friends, who have so graciously opened their yards to us. They have designed and developed their own landscaping, so feel free to ask questions. We do ask, that you do not touch their plants.

Horticulture and landscaping are perhaps the oldest art form, where the gardner incorporates colors and species to express himself, to create beauty while executing designs. Horticulture and landscape design have been among the most esteemed professions throughout history. Egyptian gardens date back to 2200 B.C., while the hanging gardens of Babylon date back to 600 B.C. Even into the early Christian era gardens became the gathering place for the Romans and Greeks. But with the fall of Rome, artistic pursuits, including horticulture were lost. It was not until the beginning of the 6th century, that the art of horticulture was again practiced fully, during the Monastic era.

Our Florida Keys, for the most part, are quite arid. As you drive around the island you will note the outcropping of bedrock, which is limestone... some yards are all crushed rock fill and covered with pea-rock... though a home is cooler in summer with grass and trees. Most of our soil for planting (except for the compost beds we each make), is brought in from the mainland, and very expensive. With water not only very costly, but at various drought periods impossible to use, the rain (and even night dew) with the use of rain barrels, and other water storage containers, become of utmost importance.

In each of the gardens we have selected for you to visit today, they have been planned and developed entirely by the owner. Several of the homes and landscaping are quite new, but with the sub-tropical climate and lot of TLC they are developing fast. You will see many varieties of orchids, ferns and bromeliads. Bromeliads thrive in the Keys, they have many survival strategies: some form cups with their leaves, where water and organic material can accumulate and decay into nutrients... they also have specialized hairs on the leaves for catching moisture. Some of the colorful bromeliads such as Neoregelia, enjoy sunny spots, while Vriesias, with their feather like flowers, and Guzmania with their bright colored bracts, can settle for a more shady area of the garden.

BEGINNING AT THE NORTH...THE GARDENS IN ORDER

At 90.5 turn on Sunshine Blvd. to Coral St. turn right, go to the end, which is Tide Ave. there is a parking area there for both of the next two homes. Across the street on Coral is the home of Edd and Joyce Adair. It is a well established yard, and Edds hobby is his wonderful vegetable gardens. He begins planting late Sept, usually, and basic to his garden is the great compost bed he keeps going. They have had vegetables on their table for two months, already, and they have continued to re-place and replant. See both vegetable gardens as you stroll through their yard. Then walk around on Tide St. to the home of Betty and Woody Wilson.

The Wilson's home, is just one year old, and began with Bettys cuttings of crotons, tea plants, minature scheffalera, and dracenas. The Royal Palm trees were moved from their penthouse roof-garden. The odd-shape of the lot, with a 60° corner, created some interesting challenges in her landscape design... especially with the necessity of having a one-story home. But with the use of artificial hills, terraces, steps and ramps, holding it all together, with large fossilized coral boulders, it has developed over the past year. They were able to save most of the unusual

native trees, making a quiet hammock, perfect for all of the ferns and bromeliads. She calls this her "friendship garden", because of the generosity of her friends in giving plants to fill the many beds. You will enter the bird sanctuary garden through the back porch on the Pearl St. side, this is a private little garden of orchids and other tropical foliage.

On to MM 90. and Lupolds at 136 N. Coconut Palm, in Plantation Key Colony. John has designed wonderful little pathways, through the buttonwood trees, that are ablaze with orchids of every variety...every inch seems to be filled to capacity with till another area set aside for cactus, and bromeliads gardens...everywhere you look is beauty even to the Tillandsia perched above you. MM 89 Mulcrone at the corner of Seminole and Pueblo st. (fenced yard). Here is a very large collection of bromeliads in raised beds, planters built up with native coral. You'll meander around the pathways of his beautiful native hammock. A few years ago Tom got "bromeliad fever", as we say, and went to a bromeliad nursery and said, "give me one of everything". Consequently his hobby keeps him busy dividing, replanting, and sharing. He has a fine collection, and you'll also enjoy his many staghorn ferns on his back porch.

MM 87.5 turn Palm Ln. Jim and Evelyn Oliver live at the top of the hill on Plantation Blvd. Their home and landscaping was created 6 years ago, again using the Persian dynasty theory of artificial hills, with terracing and steps, so that while the home is built up over 13 ft., it still maintains the one-story look. The roof here, plays an important part in the moisture delivery to the plantings surrounding the home. You'll enjoy the private little garden of native trees, bromeliads and ferns...abounding in squirrels and birds. This dwelling has a large collection of crotons, agava, and large cactus.

On the ocean side, Bibles home is reached from the old road, across from Plantation Yacht Harbor MM 87, turn on N. Drive St. and go to the end 317. Jim and Donna have worked for three years, to plan this unusual and interesting landscape. Saving most of the native trees, including the many Keys thatch palms, the little bridge and wooden walkway take you down steps of railroad ties, to the natural hammock with limestone suiles. Returning, you pass by the gold-fish pond and waterfall, and many tropical fruit trees, and on to the waterfront there is a good vegetable garden, and tropical foliage.

At MM 87 just south of Bibles is East Ridge St. near the end at 181 is the Green residence. the home of Barbara and Phil Green. They started 3 years ago, when they purchased a burned down house, by bulldozing it clean, they began the three year process of building this stately residence and designing and planting the landscaping...doing all of the work themselves. Using the state tree, the sabal palm, and a variety of other palms, and many tropical fruit trees they have created a beautiful residence. Of course living on the ocean, creates many problems with plants, from the wind and salt spray, and they have lost a few of their plantings. Here you will also pass through a porch on your tour to the ocean side of the property.

Thank you for attending our

GARDEN WALK 1985

We hope that you'll plan to participate next year.