



The Garden Club of the Upper Keys News & Notes

WEB Edition

Summer 2020

COVID-19 CHANGES PLANS

With the spread of COVID-19 in the US, GCUK President Kathy Janco suspended all in-person meetings until September, 2020. In-person meetings will resume when guidance from state/federal agencies recommends this to happen. That being said, club activities require social distancing and the creativity of your Board.

Since April, Board meetings have been held on-line via Zoom.com. As a positive bonus, this has allowed Board members who travel north in the summer to participate. In August, the Board will decide whether the Gingerbread Craft Market that is scheduled for November 28 will be held.

The Board will keep you apprised of the status of future activities by e-mail or through our website, <http://gardenclubupperkeys.org> and on our Facebook page, Garden Club of the Upper Keys.

2020~2021 Board of Directors Initiated

Elections for our 2020-2021 Board were held on-line through SurveyMonkey sent to the General Membership on April 17, 2020. Initially, the Board had hoped to hold an in-person Installation of Officers outside in the Francis Tracy Center Gardens. However, the new Board opted to hold the installation ceremony on May 27 at 11:00AM through Zoom.com. The officers listed below were elected with an initiation ceremony led by Melissa Sorenson and held through Zoom.com.

Your officers for 2020~2020 are: **President:** Kathy Janco; **Vice-President:** Laurie Brooks; **Treasurer:** Anne Makowsky; **Secretary:** Suzy Cushman. The **Directors** are **Fundraising** - Kathy Holmes; **Hospitality** - Betty Ann Gear and Fran Reig; **House** - Christine Hudson; **Membership** - Debbie Sue Jonas; **Program** - Laura Hartner; **Property** - Beverly Middleton and **Publicity** - Patti Graham.

2020-2021 CLUB SCHEDULE SET *

At its April 13, 2020 Board meeting, the calendar for this coming membership year was set as follows:

- **Board** meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00AM on Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov.10, Dec. 8, 2020; Jan. 12, Feb.9, Mar. 9, Apr. 13, May 11, 2021.
- **General Membership** meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00AM on Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, 2020; Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 13, May 18, 2020. Doors open at 10:00AM for social time.
- **Special Events:** **Gingerbread Market**-Nov.28, 2020; **Garden Walk** - Feb. 13, 2021; **Members Only Garden Walk** - Mar. 23.

* ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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From the desk of President Kathy Janco ...

Good day members,

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. - Audrey Hepburn

With all of the changes in our lives due to COVID-19, we need to believe that our tomorrows will be positive ones. Over the past few months, it has been a difficult and winding road full of uncertainty for all of us, some more than others. I was very disappointed that we had to cancel our last three meetings of our 2019-2020 club year.

That being said it has given your board of directors a different and, sometimes, a better way to keep in touch. When some of us scatter to different parts during the summer, we try to have meetings but find it difficult to hear with the speaker on our phones. Since we do not have Wi-Fi at the clubhouse, we had no other choice. Our board meetings from March to the present have been broadcast using Zoom.com. It has allowed us to be fully involved with our club but at a distance. It has been lovely to see each others' friendly faces without the use of masks.

Your board is charging ahead as though our meetings and activities will start up again in September are preparing to offer you many great programs, field trips and fundraisers. If we are still having issues with COVID-19, we are also making alternate plans to keep you as an active member of the club. Hopefully, we will find things to keep all of us interested, engaged and learning new things with virtual field trips and programs. Who knows what we will come up with... it's a new experience! Look at some of the ideas Laurie Brooks and Laura Hartner have generated located on page 4 of this issue. We will have to adapt our plans as we move ahead but these are the same problems that everyone else everywhere is having.

We are not alone. We still have an obligation and desire to keep up and maintain our historic clubhouse and gardens in these difficult times. This is just like our members did from our start back in 1956 when the Keys were much harder to tame.

Looking forward to seeing you at a Garden Club event soon. Stay safe and be well!

Sincerely,
Kathy

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. -- Audrey Hepburn



The Garden Club
of the
Upper Keys, Inc.
at
The Francis Tracy
Garden Center
94040 Overseas Hwy.
Key Largo, FL 33037

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 373
Tavernier, FL 33070

Board of Directors

President - Kathy Janco
V-President - Laurie Brooks
Treasurer - Anne Makowsky
Secretary - Suzy Cushman
Directors of:
Fundraising - Kathy Holmes
Hospitality - Betty Ann Gear
and Fran Reig
House - Christine Hudson
Membership - Debbie Sue
Jonas
Program - Laura Hartner
Property - Beverly Middleton
Publicity - Patti Graham

NEWS & NOTES Editor Laura Hartner wants to let you know that we will now have two editions of our newsletter: a "Members' Only" edition and a "Website" edition. The Members Only edition will have contact information, such as telephone numbers and passwords, that are confidential for our members. The Website edition is one that is appropriate for the public with specific information blackened out.



Notes from the Directors...

HOSPITALITY CO-DIRECTORS Betty Ann Gear and Fran Reig need volunteers for the upcoming club year. Your job entails setting and cleaning-up refreshments for monthly General Membership meetings and special events. You can volunteer for specific months or for the entire club year. It's a great way for new members to connect with others and be active. They do ask that once you commit to a date(s) that you show up. If you are interested in helping out, please call Betty Ann at _____.

HOUSE DIRECTOR Christine Hudson says that the painting of the outside of the clubhouse has been delayed due to Covid-19. However, prep work has begun and members can look forward to seeing a fresh "face" on our clubhouse when they return in the fall.

PROPERTY DIRECTOR Beverly Middleton's "Gardenistas" are continuing their work over the summer. They are meeting once a week on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM for one hour. Upcoming tasks will focus on the front berm and planting some of our rose pink fragipanis. Interested and willing members are welcome to join them!

VICE-PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION Laurie Brooks needs cash donations to support the dinner the club is to provide on July 30, 2020 at God's Kitchen. Usually, members donated specific items but for this occasion, John Reig will be making paella to serve. **CHAIR Edna Waldorf** says that the kitchen is now serving over 100 people. Edna has collected \$60. so far, but she anticipates another \$120. are needed. Checks can be sent directly to John Reig at _____. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated!

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR Patti Graham announces that our club website is getting a new, up-dated, and easy to follow look! Much appreciation is given to webmaster Amy Jorgensen, members Lonell Rice and Patti Graham for this work. One of the new features is that you can go from our website to our Facebook page by clicking the Facebook icon. To take a look and use our website, the new password is:

FACEBOOK EDITOR Joan Hilt wishes that everyone is staying safe and in good health during the pandemic. She hopes that you are enjoying the informative club posts on Facebook. If you have not yet checked us out on Facebook, you can find us under "**Garden Club of the Upper Keys**".

Patti Graham and Laura Hartner are developing a new club brochure with the help of several members who offered proofreading support. The brochure is designed for prospective members and is planned to be shared with realtors and the Key Largo and Islamorada Chambers of Commerce.











VICE-PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION Laurie Brooks and PROGRAM DIRECTOR Laura Hartner are putting their heads together to create lists of activities and program activities during the COVID-19 quarantine and social distancing. Their suggestions and ideas are posted on page 4 of this edition. If you have any questions or would like to share your ideas, you can call Laurie at _____ - (cell) or Laura at ____ (cell).





Gardening and Learning During Covid-19

What's a body to do while self quarantining or at least social distancing? Well for those of us with gardens to attend, it's a no brainer – some of our yards are in better shape than they have ever been and we could still spend hours more. Here are a few relatively safe things you can do:

-  Walk around your yard, neighborhood or the County and State parks – the trails are open.
-  Take pictures of interesting plants and animals that you see and share them on-line or by text, email or however else you are staying in touch these days. We love the pictures that Joan Hilt posts to Facebook from her morning walks. We could have a photo contest again. We did one several years ago – submit your pictures to our editor!
-  Cook! We are still cooking for God's Kitchen every month that has a fifth Thursday, only now we cook the food at home and drop it off – it is more needed than ever.
-  Volunteer. The State parks need volunteers. Working in the native plant nursery at Pennekamp is a great way to learn your natives while spending time outdoors. If you can commit to just 4 hours/week, contact Elena Muratori at Pennekamp at (305) 676-3786. Help out in the garden at the clubhouse or one of the gardens we help support such as Island Dolphin Care or REEF.
-  Attend lectures, take virtual tours or do research on-line. Have you viewed these websites: ilovegardens.com or goodgardeningvideos.org? At the first site, you can dream about visiting numerous gardens on your next vacation from your couch or take some virtual or pictorial tours. The second site is from a non-profit organization that offers videos on numerous gardening topics.
-  Join Plantsmap. Plantsmap.com is a website community that hosts botanical collections with customized tools that solve the challenges of documenting, organizing, mapping, tagging and sharing information about plants. Check out the work Charlene Regenhart has done creating a Plantsmap site for our club at <https://www.plantsmap.com/organizations/garden-club-of-the-upper-keys>
-  Join the Florida Native Plant Society – you'll get newsletters to read and video and zoom lectures to attend. <https://www.fnps.org>
-  Explore the Master Gardener Program. Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program - University of Florida <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener>
-  Register for the FREE plant clinics on-line via ZOOM.com offered by the Monroe County Extension Services. (See information on right)
-  Contact your club directors and let us know what we can do for you! What programs would you like us to run and how? Zoom sessions, videotaped programs, outdoor workshops in the Francis Tracy garden – give us all your ideas.




PLANT CLINICS PLUS!

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA


At the start of each clinic, we will have a 15-minute topical discussion on the following issues:

- July 7: Landscape Hurricane Preparedness
- July 14: Easy-to-build Self Watering Containers
- July 18: Attracting Butterflies
- July 21: Salt Tolerant Plants
- July 28: Threatened & Endangered Plants

VIA ZOOM 10 AM TO 11 AM
ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Contact: monroe@ifas.ufl.edu or
(305) 292-4501



FLORIDA
MASTER
GARDENER
VOLUNTEER



Minutes of the February 18, 2020 General Membership Meeting

The minutes posted below were approved by the Board at its May 12, 2020 meeting. This action was taken as the length of time until the next General Membership meeting is unknown.

GARDEN CLUB OF THE UPPER KEYS INC. Minutes of the General Meeting Of February 18, 2020 Francis Tracy Garden Center, MM94 Bayside, Tavernier, FL

This was the second of our evening meetings with the clubhouse open at 5:30 PM for socializing with pastries and beverages available.

Our program featuring John David, owner of Keez Beez, began at 6:30 PM. Mr. David shared his knowledge of and experience with bees with our members in his informative presentation of "The Importance of Honeybees". As a special culmination of his talk, Mr. David provided a honey tasting.

President Kathy Janco opened the meeting at 7:50 PM. The minutes of the January 21, 2020 General Membership meeting were approved as electronically sent.

President Janco asked members to say "yes" if a member of the Nomination Committee called to ask them to consider a position for the next club year or to apprise her if one was interested in serving in any capacity.

President Janco thanked Anne Makowsky for the wonderful, well-organized and relaxing trip to Key West. She provided information for the "Members' Only" Garden Walk which is to be held on March 11, 2020.

Congratulations were given to one of our own members, Terry Willner-Tainow, who received the **Unsung Hero Award** from The Community Foundation of The Florida Keys in Key West this past January.

President Janco asked members for their feedback about our recent Garden Walk to include in a summary of this event. She asked that members e-mail Evelyn McGlone with what they thought went well or what could be improved. The Fundraising Director is starting to look for houses for next year's Garden Walk. Your suggestions would be welcome. The meeting was closed at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Hartner
CGUK secretary

Accepted 05.12.2020

GCUK 2019-2020 President's End of Year Report

Each year, an End of Year report is presented by the Club president at our annual Pot Luck luncheon. This year, the Covid-19 quarantine prevented it from occurring so it is presented below.

FRANCIS TRACY GARDEN CENTER GARDEN CLUB OF THE UPPER KEYS, INC.

The 2019~2020 Year in Review

Written by Kathy Janco, *President with board member contributions and*
Presented to the General Membership on May 19, 2020

The Francis Tracy Garden Center, Garden Club of the Upper Keys is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization whose mission is to develop, protect, and conserve the natural beauty of the Upper Keys. We accomplish these through education of and in cooperation with our members, residents, and visitors.

OFFICERS: *President* - Kathy Janco; *Vice-President* - Laurie Brooks; *Secretary* - Laura Hartner; *Treasurer* - Mary Jaeger; *Immediate Past President* - Marilyn Rogers.

DIRECTORS: *Fundraising* - Evelyn McGlone; *Hospitality* - Betty Ann Gear; *House:* Christine Hudson; *Membership* - Debbie Sue Jonas; *Program* - Anne Makowsky; *Property* - Beverly Middleton; *Publicity* - Patti Graham.

SUPPORT: *Archives* - Gerry Yeager; *Parliamentarian* - Lonell Rice; *Webmaster* - Amy Jorgenson; *Website Coordinator* - Lonell Rice, *Facebook Administrator* - Joan Hilt, *Grant Administrator* - Charlene Regenhardt, *Clubhouse Usage* - Terry Estep, *Community Outreach Assistants* - Edna Waldorf, Jean Simmons, and Nancy Perez.

REPRESENTATIVES: *Islamorada Chamber of Commerce Liaison* - Steve and Kathy Holmes; *Key Largo Chamber of Commerce Liaison* - Evelyn McGlone and Kathy Janco.

As President of the Garden Club of the Upper Keys, I saw my role as one of leader, supporter, and encourager. I began reaching out to the new Board members early to begin a collaborative dialogue and to set goals in a team-building process. I desired to increase involvement in our club with all the club members and to positively acknowledge their contributions and participation.

In early March 2020, I canceled the remainder of the club's yearly activities on-site at the Francis Tracy Garden Center due to the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing. Board meetings were held in April and May via Zoom.com, an internet video conferencing site. Our installation of officers was also held through this application but we look forward to doing it in person in the near future. It is my sincere hope that club activities will resume for our new club year in September 2020.

There is more than sending e-mails to the membership, collecting dues, maintaining the membership directory, and writing News & Notes in the membership director's role. Our **MEMBERSHIP** Director, Debbie Sue Jonas revamped our membership forms

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and presented members with a form that reminded them of their past information. The Board had created a business membership and Debbie Sue was instrumental in developing guidelines and procedures for business members. At the time of this writing, the club is 111 members strong.

Following tradition, members were able to make monetary donations for the "Perpetual Plaque." This year, we received \$4,675. Thank you so very much.

Debbie Sue reformatted News & Notes, our monthly communication to members, into the style of a newsletter with events, photos, birth month recognition, and gardening -related information. She is still sending out birthday greetings to each member via email and is now, at the Board's decision, having birthday recognitions take the form of a poster for all to see at our general membership meetings.

PROGRAM Director Anne Makowsky offered an eclectic year of programs that were of interest to our members and the public at large. They were:

- Iguana Technical Assistance Workshop, *David Jacob, a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Non-native Fish and Wildlife Program.*
- Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Connect to Protect Network, *Jennifer Possley, Conservation team leader and Daniela Champney, Volunteer with Connect to Protect.*
- The History of Scientific Names of Plants, *Roger Hammer, Naturalist, Photographer, and Author.*
- Edible Gardening in a Sub-tropical Climate, *Katherine DePoo, GLEE Key West Community Garden.*
- The Importance of Honey Bees, *John David, founder, and owner of Keez Beez.*
- Container Gardening, *Kathy Carr, Master Gardener, Monroe County, FL and Jefferson County, NY, GCUK member. NOTE: To due COVI-19, this program was presented through on-line video.*

Two field trips were offered to members. The first was a car trip in October 2019 to Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, FL. The second was a bus trip in January 2020 to Key West, FL to view the Key West GLEE Community Garden, the Key West Garden Club's Garden at Martello Towers, and the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden. The club's "Members Only" Garden Walk was held on March 11, 2020 and focused on native species at four different homes and was followed by a lunch at Buzzard's Roost.

HOSPITALITY Director Betty Ann Gear and her team of helpers provided refreshments at our general membership meetings. The Board decided that a "social time" be offered prior to our meetings for members to share fellowship and goodwill instead of holding "Saturday Coffees". So, in January 2020, our doors opened one hour prior to the advertised start of meetings for this purpose. Betty Ann also coordinated refreshment events at our fundraisers. The Board outlined a policy this year for sending good wishes in times of illness and words of sympathy for losses.

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As you know, our dues *do not* cover the expenses incurred for maintaining our house and gardens. That is why fundraising is a must for our club. **FUNDRAISING** Director Evelyn McGlone worked to oversee several large projects. Fran and John Reig took the ball and organized a Yard Sale at the clubhouse on September 28, 2019. Donations from club members and lunch sales made this event one that brought the community and members together.

The second event was our Fall Festival and Craft sale on November 30, 2019, co-chaired by Beverly Middleton and Evelyn. The theme focused on a gingerbread theme and offered gingerbread cookie decorating for smiling youngsters. Forty-two outside vendors and our own club members' baking and craft items for sale in the house joined to make this a special community event for holiday shopping and socializing.

Our final and most famous event of the year is our Garden Walk on February 15, 2020, co-chaired by Beverly and Evelyn. Five homes were selected for public viewing of their distinct and beautiful gardens. The offerings by the owners of the host home gardens, including Julie and John Landau's Bali Hai Estate was most generous. Back at the Francis Tracy Garden Center, thirty-two vendors sold their wares and our members hosted a "tea" party of cookies, small cakes, and beverages. The weather was glorious and a local gospel band provided music to add to the party atmosphere. As this was our club's 40th year of hosting our spectacular Garden Walk, seed packets of nasturtiums were given to participants for the celebration. Again, all these events could not have been possible without the volunteer donations of goods, time, and hard work by our members.

Our events need to be communicated with our members and the community. **PUBLICITY** Director Patti Graham, Facebook editors Joan Hilt and Laurie Brooks, and our Webmaster Amy Jorgenson and Website Coordinator Lonell Rice made sure that this was accomplished in an informative and timely manner. Club activities are posted on the GCUK Website and Facebook page and shared at monthly meetings of the Key Largo and the Islamorada Chambers of Commerce. One can find many of our announcements for events in local publications: Conch Telegraph, Keys Life Magazine, Keys Weekly, Free Press, Key West Citizen ("Around the Keys"), and the Keynoter and Reporter Facebook pages. Flyers and posters for our major fundraising events are posted in community businesses with a special Media Day for Garden Walk.

At the start of the year, Kathy requested we change our Bylaws to split the work of the Property Director into two directorships: House and Property. Christine Hudson was appointed the **HOUSE** Director. In her role, Christine is responsible for ensuring the house is clean, safe, and in proper working order. She initiates and spearheads improvements to our clubhouse. She is following the work of the Capital Improvement Committee chaired by President Kathy Janco. Outside lighting was placed on the exterior of the clubhouse organized Mary Jaeger. Kathy had the fascia in front of the house replaced and repaired. Exterior painting will take place this summer. A handicapped ramp has been installed at the sunroom door by Richard Barretto. Several projects were done by John Reig, Bruce Jonas, and Terry Estep. Hopefully, when companies are back to full swing after the coronavirus issues, we will be completing several projects

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that have been in the works for years over the summer.

PROPERTY Director Beverly Middleton continues to tend to and improve our gardens. She has engaged the help of members on Garden Volunteer Days. Help is always needed and appreciated! Beverly has placed a netted garden structure to protect young seedlings and other plants. It is her wish to propagate plants that the club can sell at our fundraising events. The club is now the site of one of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, "Connect to Protect" program and cared for by Charlene Regenhardt and Jean Neudorf. An inventory of the plants in our gardens, both native and non-native was recently completed. Our Grant writer, Charlene Regenhardt, has submitted a grant to the Tourist Development Council (TDC) to improve our gardens.

Vice-President Laurie Brooks serves as the **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION** Director. As part of our community involvement, we connect and maintain memberships with the Key Largo and Islamorada Chambers of Commerce with club representatives. We continue to provide flower arranging activities headed by Jean Simmons with the residents of Crystal Health and Rehab Center, quarterly dinners for God's Kitchen organized by Edna Waldorf, a tree to the owners of a newly constructed Habitat for Humanity home in Key Largo and maintenance of the sensory garden at Island Dolphin Care. In our education partnerships, Laurie has worked with the student garden club at Ocean Studies Charter School to maintain their wildlife and "Connect to Protect" gardens and the REEF interns on our butterfly garden at their headquarters and "Connect to Protect" garden. The club presented a scholarship to Take Stock in Children. Several club members and others participated in monthly Native Plant ID classes held at the clubhouse by Jim Dusquesnel from August through February.

ARCHIVIST Gerry Yeager has been organizing four boxes of our archives with club volunteers and hopes that the inventory can continue once the Florida Keys and History Museum reopens. Ultimately, Gerry's goal is to digitize the entire collection. It would be wonderful to find someone to take on the digitizing.

The **BOARD** continues to make decisions for the club in terms of organization, policies, procedures, and activities. They take the concerns and ideas of the club members such as reinstating the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of General Membership meetings. Using the monthly records of **TREASURER** Mary Jaeger, they ensure that we are fiscally sound. Mary also volunteers in many other areas of the club. She is always there to lend a hand.

Our **SECRETARY** Laura Hartner continues to maintain a log of the Board's resolutions for easy access in additions to maintaining minutes for both Board and General Membership meetings. I would like to thank Laura Hartner, John Kocol, Patti Graham, Laurie Brooks, Terry Estep for working on our clubhouse usage agreement and our insurance needs and quotes.

There are not enough words to describe how amazed and grateful I am for the dedication, compassion, and generosity of the many members who have given of themselves this year to the Francis Tracy Garden Center ~ Garden Club of the Upper Keys. Volunteers generously give their time and dedication in making non-profit organiza-

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tions, events or programs run smoothly. As giving members and volunteers, you bring so much to our club. Skills, advice, experience, friendship, vision, leadership, inspiration and more. So many of you have given so much. Time can be so allusive and precious and you chose to give yours.

Our clubhouse and grounds would not be possible to maintain without the donation of funds and time from you, our members. Without you, none of the work we need to do and do would be possible!

On behalf of myself and our Board, I would like to say thank you for your unwavering support and generosity. And on a more personal note, I would like to thank you for being my inspiration. Our club has been changed because of the time we have spent together. Our club is in a better place as am I because you decided to give back. I will never be able to fully express my gratitude to you but please know from the bottom of my heart how much I appreciate and respect every one of you. My wish is that we continue to be an active, vibrant club that involves our members for it is only with your help that we can move forward.

Thank you for your kindness, compassion, and caring.

Sincerely,
Kathy Janco