



In August of 1963, a group of neighbors gathered in their homes and gardens to learn about horticulture in the hot South Florida climate. Last week, the club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Originally called the Park Planters Garden Club, the nonprofit organization went through several name changes, including the Hibiscus Garden Circle, before settling on the Plantation Garden Club in 2007.

Members say they enjoy the bonds formed while planning activities and learning new plant techniques. First Vice President Phyllis Kowal, who has been with the organization for three years, explained what she loves most about the club. “The friendliness, all the ladies. We’ve bonded, become close friends.”

Both Recording Secretary Peggy Tingle and President Claudette Hammond have been with the club for four years. “I love the community. I’ve been in Plantation over 40 years. I decided I wanted to get heavily involved, so I started with the Plantation Garden Club,” Tingle said. Hammond stated, “I like the camaraderie. I like to meet others. There is a lot I did not know about what plants can do that I have learned through the Garden Club.”

What started as a social gathering to learn about plants has evolved to include outreach programs benefiting local schools and city projects. The club planted trees in the

city’s Arboretum and gave scholarships to the Horticulture Clubs at both Plantation and South Plantation high schools. As the group gathered recently in the clubhouse of El Dorado Estates Hammond said she was excited for the new season. “Look for big, big things this year,” she declared.

Hammond has been with the club for four years and already has made an impact. She gave the club its first motto, “to grow the is to love them;” created its first booklet, which includes the by-laws and duties of each position; and organized the very successful High Tea event at the Covenant Village of Florida back in April.”

“It was wonderful. We had a fashion show, and we were all decorated,” Tingle, a former teacher and reading of specialist at Peters Elementary, gushed. The event will return April 26, 2014.

Club President Hammond says she plans to have more hand-on fun, segments for future meetings. Recent events included a snake meet-and-greet and a christmas wreath making class. “I’m trying to lead the club in the right direction so we can get our name out there,” she said.

The Plantation Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of each month and is always looking for new members. For more information, call 954-583-094

PLANTATION GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES HALF-CENTURY HISTORY

Keisha Hatchett
KHATCHETT@TRIBUNE.COM

PLANTATION 60TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

MANAGING EDITOR
JUDITH ZIZZO

ASSISTANT EDITOR
WILLIAM SANTOS

REPORTER
ALYSSA CUTTER

DESIGNER
PHAEDRA BLAIZE

VICE PRESIDENT OF EDITORIAL
PAMELA DOTO