

THE REDINGTON BEACH GARDEN CLUB

A BRIEF HISTORY

1956

Thirteen women formed the Friends O' Garden Circle.

1958

The name was changed to the Redington Beach Circle of the Fla. Federated Garden Clubs. While with the Federated Clubs, the Circle won the prestigious Federated Club Award. Their project was several years of working with the Parkland School for Mentally Retarded Boys and Girls. At the monthly St. Petersburg Garden Club meetings at Sunset, the Circle sponsored the sale of the plants and trees the children had planted.

1967

The association with the Federated Garden Club was discontinued so that the club could focus on more local concerns and became the Redington Beach Garden Club.

1970'S AND 1980'S

The RBGC members formed work parties to do necessary gardening throughout the town including painting, planting, laying sod, etc.

The club was limited to thirty members who were residents of Redington Beach because that was the number that could be accommodated in members' homes where the meetings were held!

Over the years the acquisition of new members did not keep up with the attrition of older members as more women worked outside the home and could not attend daytime meetings. With these changes, and the demise of the Island Garden Club for similar reasons, it was decided to make some changes in the bylaws. Applicants were no longer required to be Redington Beach residents. Language was altered to remove female gender bias. A concerted effort was made to encourage new membership which has resulted in a regeneration of the club. With the use of Town Hall for meetings, the size of the club was no longer restricted.

The objectives of the club remain the same - to:

- o *promote interest in gardens*
- o *stimulate study of flowers and plants*
- o *work for preservation of our natural beauty*
- o *cooperate in all efforts toward civic beautification*

Active participation in the club is required by attendance at meetings, participation on committees and projects and, paying dues which are used for operating expenses, projects and charity.

Although the club is nonpolitical, interest in civic activities is encouraged. About a half dozen members have been married to former mayors, and one member was a mayor herself.

Accomplishments of the last few years have included the gift of the flagpole at the Town Hall. This was given in cooperation with her husband in honor of Jo Byers, a former club president. We've given gifts of trees, new plantings around the town signs, memorial books to the Gulf Beach Library, and an evergreen tree for Town Park for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting. We bake cookies and provide refreshments. We volunteer serving assistance for that event in cooperation with the Redington Beach Homeowners association. Our annual Christmas giving gives precedence, but is not limited to, projects which benefit the needs of Redington Beach residents. Our monthly program meetings have taught us much about the gardens and plants of our area.

2006

We were proud to celebrate a half century of service, fun and fellowship!

The RBGC continues to grow both its' membership and creative new and fun projects. Contact us today at Redingtonbeachgardenclub@gmail.com

