

February 17, 2016

## Boca Raton Garden Club prepares for season



Boca Raton Garden Club members, from left, Lenore Alford, Mary Kaub and Emilie Palmieri are gearing up for a busy season.

Grace Johnson joined the Boca Raton Garden Club after being widowed in 2008. She is the current president and will complete her two-year term in June.

Born and raised in Staten Island, she has lived in Boca Raton since 1972. Johnson had a successful career as Boca Raton's city planner for almost 18 years. Upon retirement, she served on the Planning & Zoning Board for 15 years. She enjoys quality time with her son, daughter and four grandchildren.

Johnson outlined the six-month plan for the 150-member club. Monthly meetings take place the first Tuesday of each month at the clubhouse, 4281 NW Third Ave.

March 1 will feature Mary Cristou's talk on edible gardening; Ikebana will be demonstrated by Kathy Jones April 5; and May 3 will be "Fun with Flowers" by Emilie Palmieri.

Floral arts classes on the second Tuesday of each month are conducted by club members Lenore Alford, Carolyn Basler, Marie Young and Barbara Horan.

"The third Thursday of the month is a horticulture meeting," Johnson said. "Sometimes it is a field trip. In December we went to the Breakers hotel gardens, which was fabulous. Sometimes it is a speaker or an in-house lesson on some aspect of planting. Rebecca Stallard, our horticulture chairperson, prepares excellent programs."

"Each month we raise funds and have fun while doing so. This February, Sherrie Bieber is chairing a Florida Beach Party with live music and a great dinner. March will showcase our annual Treasures Sale and Plant Sale where gently used items donated by our members are sold to the public. Sheila Thomas, chairlady, will accept all usable donations."

All plants for sale are homegrown, and donated by club members and neighbors. Jo Hofmeyer and Kathy Laws are arranging an Art for Sale event in April in conjunction with Hospice by the Sea. The season concludes with our installation luncheon at a local restaurant the first Tuesday in June, which is organized by first vice president Mary Kaub.

"We do not sit idle in the hot summer months," Johnson said. "Members meet at the clubhouse to create beautiful crafts, which are sold at our annual Holiday House Sale in November. All year long, Dirt Gardeners led by chairwoman Carol Rice toil two mornings a week to maintain our lovely gardens. We are a very busy club."

The club also raises funds toward a college scholarship for a Palm Beach County resident majoring in biology, ecology, conservation or a similar major; youth programs at the grade school level; and summer Camp Wekiva camperships. It has donated funds for a permaculture garden for community gardens and provided funds for Place of Hope at the Haven.

"For me, the Boca Raton Garden Club is a place of refuge, a peaceful, serene location in the heart of the city of Boca Raton," Johnson said. "The gardens are beautifully maintained year round, and members are friendly and open hearted, creating a wonderful sense of camaraderie. Membership provides an ongoing learning experience, with informative talks about floral design, horticulture and conservation. Since the club owns its own building and has constant maintenance costs, we are always raising funds by having wonderful socials."

Visit [bocaratongardenclub.org](http://bocaratongardenclub.org) for information.