

Garden Walk

Saturday, February 15, 2025
 Presented by the Garden Club of the Upper Keys
Tour Spectacular Private Gardens
 10am – 4pm, rain or shine!



Jacqueline Campa

Private Garden Tour Tickets \$32 in Advance • \$35 Day of Event
 Complimentary Activities at Francis Tracy Garden Center • MM 94 • 9am – 4pm
 Vendors and Plant Sales • Art Show by the Art Guild of the Purple Isles
 No Pets and No Smoking Please

Tickets

Tickets available at www.GardenClubUpperKeys.org
 Tickets on sale at locations listed below until 2/13/25:
 MM 106 Key Largo Chamber of Commerce • MM 88 Island Home Garden Center
 MM 100 Key Largo Flowers & Gifts • MM 87 Islamorada Chamber of Commerce
 Also available the day of the walk at all private garden tour locations & Garden Center



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

GardenClubUpperKeys@gmail.com



Castoff items that have been re-imagined, colorful ceramics and shady places to relax create a rejuvenating garden.

Garden Walk - an Upper Keys Tradition Since 1981

by Karen Beal, photos by Karen Beal except as noted.

The Garden Club of the Upper Keys has been making the Upper Keys smarter, greener and lush for 70 years! Teaching residents and visitors the value and beauty of native plantings has been key to its mission. This is their 44th Garden Walk event and is the major fundraiser to enable the club to maintain the Francis Tracy Garden Center. This historic property and building is the jewel of the day's offerings. The club site (mile marker 94) will include an art show by the Art Guild of the Purple Isles, food truck refreshments, unique gifts and plants from vendors and the opportunity to stroll the grounds of the club headquarters. Four diverse properties are on the map this year:

Art Meets Landscape: Several barren cap-rock lots have turned into a tropical tapestry of greens and golds with bursts of gem tones scattered throughout. This is not surprising for an accomplished artist is the gardener! You would never guess from the road what wonderful pathways and lush surprises await. The husband and wife team created a Keys-centric landscape with native plants alongside flourishing tropicals that support butterflies and caterpillars along side birds, squirrels, friends and family.

Truly "Old Keys" Charm: The Upper Keys always had a vibe of its own and this expansive property takes advantage of the bay view and the native plants. You will walk through the massive hardwood hammock trees to reach the Red Mangrove transitional landscape then on to the shoreline. The boathouse is utilitarian but with an artful twist - you could live in it and feel like an old-time Conch on the water's edge.

Teaching Ecology to the Future Generation: The Ocean Studies Charter School (mile marker 100.3) uses every excuse to give students an opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn by doing. There are dense hardwood hammocks with impressive learning pods, sawgrass and cypress swamps, native pollinator planters and a edible garden - and a colorful peace garden! Three properties give the school the room it needs and the University of Miami School of Architecture, Pennekamp's Native Plant Nursery and the Upper Keys Garden Club are just a few of the collaborators in this impressive project.



Colorful pathways lead to the water in this Bayside paradise. Photo by Charlene Regenhardt.



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Learning about plant types, choosing and planting, as well as creating colorful signage are all part of a school day at Ocean Studies.

Colorful Modern Paradise: Paths and plantings make the most of the color and textures available when you live in the tropics. If you are moving past the 'all native' landscape look, this property will inspire you. Airplants and orchids vie for attention against the red and green foliage. The gravel and brick paths lead you to the best seat in the house and a fabulous view of the bay.

Tickets are available at four locations in the Upper Keys and online, as well at several locations on the day of the Walk. See the ad on the previous page for full ticket purchase details.



Massive hardwoods create an arch over the entrance to this Old Keys property complete with chickens and an expansive view.