

Timeline for the History of the Frisco Garden Club



April 22, 1932: a group of fifteen women met to organize the Frisco Garden Club. Mrs. Roy Warren (Ester) was elected President and the group wrote and adopted a Constitution and By-Laws.

“Object: The object of the club shall be to promote an interest in gardens, their design and management to cooperate in the protection of wild birds, flowers, and native plants.”

November 1932: FGC sponsored the first Flower Show ever held in Frisco. They had 63 entries of chrysanthemums.

1933-1936: The money raised by the Club was used to help plant flower beds in town and along the highways in celebration of the Texas Centennial.

1937: FGC sponsored a successful “mum” show with 213 guests from 20 different towns. Frisco gained a reputation of growing very large mums.

1938-1939: The Frisco Junior Garden Club was organized. Membership in FGC was limited to 30 members and the dues was 25 cents.

1940-1944: Programs concentrating on good gardening methods, with an emphasis on growing vegetables on “Victory Gardens”- to provide food during WWII. The dues was raised to 50 cents. They had Fall plant sales.

1945-1946: The Club carried on with annual flower shows and pilgrimages to local gardens. The project of planting and up-keeping of public gardens were stopped.

1947-1948: the project of building a War Memorial. A committee was formed, money raised or donated for an urn of polished red granite from Fredericksburg. The cost of \$487.50 and the urn was placed on the lawn of the First Baptist Church of Frisco. (The urn has been moved several times throughout its history.)

1949-1950: the project was to purchase 29 street signs and the city installed them at each intersection. Also, house numbers were purchased and sold to homeowners.

1951: A tea was held to honor past presidents and donate 2 garden books to the Frisco School Library; also \$5.00 in fruit to the inmates of the County Farm.

1952-1953: The Club purchased 400 redbud trees which were sold at a cost of 40 cents to each citizen of Frisco and surrounding communities. A redbud tree was presented to each of the 5 churches in Frisco.

1954-1955: projects included planting shrubs on the grounds of the Community Hall and the clinic. A lavatory and mirror were purchased for the restroom of the Community Hall.

The Club flower was changed from a yellow chrysanthemum to a yellow iris.

1956-1960: The Junior Garden Club named “The Merry Gardeners” was organized in 1956, celebrating 25 years as a club. The FGC sponsored the planting of trees and

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shrubs at Frisco school grounds. 30-40 members and the Merry Gardeners participated in the Spring Flower Show. A \$15 donation was sent to Texas Garden Club's Headquarters in Ft. Worth.

1961-1967: The Junior Garden Club had grown to 43 members and they continued to study bulbs, trees, wildflowers, birds, and flower arrangements. The Club used The Community Hall as a permanent meeting place and was given a storage closet to keep their records. (papers were thrown out when the building was sold). FGC continued to plant redbud and crepe myrtle trees in the community.

1968-1970: Membership dropped to 14 as a result of a number of members residing in Little Elm formed their own garden club.

1971: The Frisco Garden Club went from a standard club to a regular club and the Frisco Junior Garden Club disbanded. A "Yard of the Month" project was adopted (this ended in 1991). Memorial gifts of planting trees was established.

1972-1975: By laws changed to read that all elected officers and committee chairman would serve 2 year terms. The history of the Frisco Garden Club was to be included in the Frisco History Book to be written and published by the Frisco Bicentennial Committee in 1976. In 1975 the Memorial Urn was moved to the intersection of Main St. and Spur 33. VFW paid for a new foundation and moving the urn.

1978-1985: Only 7-10 members met in each others homes and served lunch. The FGC continued to have interesting programs and worthwhile contributions to the community.

1985-1987: Fourteen FGC members selected a project to build a picnic shelter in Bicentennial Park. The Club sold canned buffalo stew and jerkey at the Texas Sesquicentennial Celebration. Dues increased to \$10 and the Club had it's first Thanksgiving Bake sale- a successful endeavor which was continued for many years.

1987-1989: Membership grew to 21 and the Club was well represented at both the Fall and Spring Convention of the newly formed District X. The FGC was incorporated in 1988, and the first Arts, crafts, and floral show was held on June 18, 1988 at the Golden Gate Mall. Construction began on the picnic shelter.

1989-1991: " Recycle" became a theme. The Club needed to involve other civic organizations (Lions Club, Boy Scouts) and the citizens of Frisco to raise enough money for the picnic shelter. On June 3, 1991 we had the dedication of the picnic shelter in Bicentennial Park. 1990 -we began to participate in Merry Main St.

1992-1994: 28 members continued to represent FGC at Spring and Fall Conventions. Their projects included, window blinds for the Frisco Library, an annual Christmas tree lighting , planting crepe myrtle trees honoring past presidents.

1995-1997: The city moved Frisco RR caboose to Bicentennial Park and put up a fence encircling the caboose. We planted rose bushes in the corners of the fence. In 1996 we

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hosted the District X Fall Convention, updated the War Memorial by adding a bronze plaque honoring veterans of Korea, Vietnam, and Desert storm wars; and hosting a Memorial Day ceremony with the VFW on Main Street. We also continued to purchase gardening books for the Frisco Library.

1997-1999: field trips to Marie Caillet's iris gardens in Little Elm and Sue Olivier 's community Garden. Programs on maintaining wildlife and wild bird habitats, conservation of water, recycling, and unusual floral arrangements. A Horticultural report was added to the agenda and gardening books were purchased for the Frisco library. The Club had a spelling team called "The Blooming Idiots" with show-stealing fresh flower hat costumes.

1999-2001: the Club purchased 15 cement garden planters and planted them with a juniper and seasonal flowers and placed them throughout the city. The Club chose to present two \$500 scholarships to the Frisco Educational Foundation.

2001-2003: In 2003 we hosted the Spring District X Convention and continues with programs on roses, floral and artistic designs, and Japanese flower arranging. Two \$500 scholarships were given to the Frisco Educational Foundation.

2003-2004: Freedom Meadow Luncheon fundraiser was begun with fine china and beautiful centerpieces.

2004-2005: we oversaw our first sponsorship of a new garden club, Stonebriar Garden Club. 2nd year for our successful Freedom Meadow fundraising luncheon. Our Memorial Day ceremony with the VFW (since 1996) took place at a new park- Frisco Commons. The urn had been relocated to a beautiful spot called Veteran's Memorial.

2005-2006: We completed the living garden at Freedom Meadow and it was dedicated on Sept. 8, 2005. Our projects were Arbor Day (planting of an Eve's necklace tree), celebrating Memorial Day, Merry Main Street, and two \$500 scholarships to Frisco Educational Foundation.

2006-2007: A 75th Anniversary Celebration with many City dignitaries, garden club past presidents and members. We continued with all our projects.

2007-2008: Our Club participated with the Heritage Association of Frisco in a joint venture to commemorate Bi-Centennial Park & the Homer E. Carter, Sr. Vintage tractor with plaques acknowledging their historical significance to the history and development of Frisco. We also participated with the Visual Arts Guild in a beautification project of the Main Street gazebo. We planted trees, roses, and native water-wise perennials. All of our projects continued- Freedom Meadow, Arbor Day, City gardens, Merry Main St. and Memorial Day.

2008-2010: Dedication of the Vivian Stark McCallum City Park which we continue to plant 2 pocket gardens by the stone wall on both sides of the Park. We included many

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of Vivian's prize iris plants. We planted a butterfly garden at Bledsoe Elementary School.

2010: 84 members. Blue Star Marker was added at the entrance to Frisco Commons Park. We became a lifetime member of the Heritage Association. A 9/11 special "Day of Remembrance...Celebrating Freedom" at Freedom Meadow. We seeded the meadow with bluebonnets and the Frisco Fire Dept watered them with a spray. All projects continued.

2011-2013: 84 members, Frisbee Disc Gold Hole #3 was completed by FGC, (new project) Crozier Sickles house gardens were landscaped and planted – , live flowers used for Memorial wreath, "Buffalo Stomp" at Freedom Meadow, Christmas wreathes at Heritage Village, Two \$1000 scholarships awarded to FEF. 2012 awarded Texas Garden Club of the Year (Bronze division), and we hosted the District X Fall Convention.

2013-2016: 57 members, Walk of Honor completed in 2014, we landscaped two pocket gardens at the Veterans Memorial, website improved and added a Facebook page, Community Parade entry, continued projects- Memorial Day, 9/11 at Freedom Meadow, Bicentennial Park, Main St. gazebo, McCallum Park, Arbor Day, Crozier-Sickles gardens. Attended Dallas Council meetings. 2015 joined the Frisco Chamber of Commerce.

2016-2018: 89 members. We awarded two \$1500 scholarships. Projects-all our city garden work continued, a Club logo was designed and we had shirts and aprons with our logo. We participated in Fleur D'Art, Wreaths across America, donated personal items to VFW hospital, and became part of the Legacy Tree program. In 2017 The Gazette newsletter was created and published monthly.

2018-2020: 72-76 active members. We added 2 Board positions- Membership at Large and Member Advisor. We also added a Parks and Recreation Liaison person. new projects- Butterfly garden at the Discovery Center (we designed and planted), fed lunch to 90 Parks & Recreation workers, participated with VFW in the MIA/POW ceremonies (provided ceremonial flowers), Boys & Girls Club container gardens established, Parson House flower activities, participated in the Community parade, Two \$1500 scholarships to FEF, signage in Bicentennial garden, and club members made 5000 "buddy poppies" for VFW. We also visited Ft Worth Botanical Gardens, Myers Park, and Texas Garden Club Headquarters. We gave Freedom Meadow garden back to the City, and continue to do the ceremony for 9/11. Buffalo Stomp takes place at Cottonwood Creek -reseeding the meadow with wildflowers. We continue to work on the Frisco Common Memorial garden, Main St. garden and decorate the gazebo, Crozier-Sickles gardens, and Bicentennial gardens, McCallum Park, Arbor Day and Memorial Day. We attend Dallas Council.

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2019: Texas Garden Club of the Year (Bronze division), 1st place state awards: Year-book, Community Gardens, Civic Project with Native Plants. Hosted the District X Fall Convention.

2020: Due to the Global Pandemic, the Clubs annual Wildflower Luncheon was postponed until further notice. Ways and Means scrambled to hold an online auction to fund our next garden club year. The City of Frisco and Heritage Association requested the Frisco Garden Club to take on the landscape design and upkeep of an additional Heritage Village home: The Smith-Muse House. The City of Frisco held the 9/11 Observance virtually.

2021: Members learned to “Zoom”. The Club adapted to the challenges of a Pandemic; continued to tend to our many outdoor spaces and civic projects. The positive side of a global pandemic proved to be that citizens enjoyed their public Parks more. Our website filled the need to find like-minded garden enthusiasts. Membership actually increased to an all time high. The new garden club year 2021-2022 started out being “lovingly” referred to as our hybrid year. September-December membership gathered together for in-person meetings at various Frisco Locations. A fundraising fashion show was held in October to generate funds. November’s in-person meeting was followed by a garden tour of member, Brad Elledge’s yard. The year ended with our annual holiday celebration at Stonebriar Country Club.

2022: The Hybrid Year returned to the zoom virtual meeting concept in January. Program presenters (FGC members), Dottie Jones, and Gay Worley learned to overcome the technical challenges to teach members how to design beautiful floral arrangements from grocery store finds.

Prepared by Frisco Garden Club Historian

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