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**Guide to the**

**THE IRVING GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB  
RECORDS  
1951-2006**

**1.5 linear ft.**

**Accession Numbers: 9798-88; 0203-124; 0203-169; 0708-137**

**Collection Number: 16**

**Prepared by Kevin Kendro**

**June 2000**

**Updated November 2004**

**Updated July 2007**

**CITATION: Irving Green Thumb Garden Club Records, Collection 16, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.**

**Historical Sketch**

The Irving Green Thumb Garden Club was organized at a meeting held in March 1951. In April 1951, the club held its first official meeting during which officers were elected, by-laws were approved, and the name "Green Thumb Garden Club" was adopted. Later, the name was changed to the "Irving Green Thumb Garden Club" in order to distinguish it from other Green Thumb Clubs in the state.

The purpose of the club is "to stimulate the love of gardening, to aid in the protection of native plants, and encourage civic beautification." The club met once a month September through May. At the meetings presentations were made concerning plants, floral design, wildlife, conservation, and environmental concerns. For many years, the club also conducted an annual flower show. Membership in the club was limited to twenty-five.

In addition to its social function, the group also conducted community projects such as tree plantings at community buildings and along public roadways. The Irving Green Thumb Garden Club organized a junior garden club at Paul Keyes Elementary School, and presented yard-of-the-month awards to the owners of well-tended yards.

The Irving Green Thumb Garden Club was a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Texas Garden Club, Inc., District X.

The club's membership dwindled during the early 2000s and was unable to be replenished. In 2006, with membership at seven, the fifty-four-year-old club voted to dissolve itself at the end of that year.

**Sources:**

The Irving Green Thumb Garden Club Scrapbooks

Notes from long-time member, Mrs. Lucy Hendy

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of seven scrapbooks compiled by members of the Irving Green Thumb Garden Club covering the years 1951-2005. The scrapbooks summarize the club's yearly activities through minutes, photographs, yearbooks, newspaper clippings, flower show programs, and Texas Garden Club certificates of award and achievement. Also included in the collections are state and national garden club publications, 2002-2007, meeting minutes, 1977-2005, the club's general business file, and a plaque. The collection is housed in six flat boxes.

The scrapbooks have been left intact. Acid-free interleaving paper has been used to aid in preservation. Except for volume two, 1963-1968, the scrapbooks are in good condition. The pages in volume two have separated from the binding, but the order is maintained and the material is easily readable.

The first few pages of volume five, 1981-1989, are made up of yearbooks, newspaper clippings, and programs relating to the Irving Council of Garden Clubs from the mid-1970s. This council was a federation of Irving garden clubs, of which The Irving Green Thumb Garden Club was an active member. (See Collection 14: The Irving Council of Garden Clubs Records for more information).

For a list of past presidents and additional information on the club, see the next page, which was prepared by Mrs. Lucy Hendy, long-time member and club president in 2000. Box 6 contains correspondence concerning the club's decision to dissolve in 2006.

A folder of records relating to the Irving Council of Garden Clubs was removed from this collection and placed in Collection 14, The Irving Council of Garden Club Records.

**Provenance Statement**

The Irving Green Thumb Garden Club Records were donated to the Irving Archives in four accessions. Accession number 9798-88 was donated on May 15, 1998, by Mrs. Ruth Taylor. Accession number 0203-124 was donated to the Archives on February 18, 2003 by Lucy Hendy. Lucy Hendy also donated accession numbers 0203-169 and 0708-135 on April 18, 2003 and July 1, 2008 respectively. Prior to their donation, the records were kept in club members' possession.

A folder of records concerning the Irving Council of Garden Clubs was received as part of this collection. The collection processor deemed it appropriate to remove the folder from this collection and place it with Collection 14, The Irving Council of Garden Clubs Records. A note to this effect has been made in the provenance statement of both collections' finding aids. The Irving Green Thumb Garden Club officers, who donated this material to the Archives, were also active members of the Irving Council of Garden Clubs.

## **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish material from The Irving Green Thumb Garden Club Records must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

### **Container List**

#### **Series I. Club Records**

##### Box 1

Vol. 1 Scrapbook, 1951-1963

##### Box 2

Vol. 2 Scrapbook, 1963-1968

##### Folder

- 1 Green Thumb Garden Club Yearbooks, 1953-1971  
(missing are: 1954-55; 1960-61; 1961-62; 1965-66; 1971-72).
- 2 Green Thumb Garden Club Yearbooks, 1972-83 and 1997-98  
(missing are: 1976-77 and 1977-78).

##### Box 3

Vol. 3 Scrapbook, 1968-1972

Vol. 4 Scrapbook, 1972-1981

##### Box 4

Vol. 5 Scrapbook, 1981-1989

##### Box 5

Vol. 6 Scrapbook, 1989-1996

Vol. 7 Scrapbook, 1996-2005

##### Box 6

##### Folder

- 1 Business Notebook, 2000-2007  
Contains by-laws; flower show material; District X of the Texas Garden Clubs newsletters, 2002-2007; National Garden Club newsletters, Keeping in Touch, 2002-2007.
- 2 National Publications, 1997 and 2006-2007  
The National Gardener.

3 Local Publications, 2002-2007  
The Lone Star Gardener, 2002-2007.

4 Minutes, 1977-1989

5 Minutes, 1990-2005

6 Correspondence, 2000-2007

Includes the club's letter of dissolution to the state organization and the state organization's acknowledgement; a letter to members concerning the club's dissolution; a final club roster; a brief history of the club; and a brief history of the Irving Council of Garden Clubs.

Also included in the box is a plaque presented to the Irving Green Thumb Garden Club by Irving Parks and Recreation Department for their beautification efforts, 2003.