



Cassina Thymes



Volume 27 – Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Cassina Garden Club – St. Simons Island, GA

December 2014

CALENDAR

**Christmas Market Pre-Sale
& Baked Goods Delivery**
Friday, December 5th
2:00 – 4:00 pm

**30th Annual
Christmas Tour of Homes
“Jingle Bells & Seashells”**
December 6th, 2014
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sea Island
*Tickets \$45 before the Tour
Tickets \$50 day of tour*

**New Christmas Market &
Annual Bake Sale**
December 6th, 2014
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Cassina Cabins
Gascoigne Bluff, SSI

Hanukkah
December 16 through
December 24, 2014

**Cabin Fever “Stuffing &
Sealing” Party**
December 29th & 30th
Gruber Aviation Café
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Entry Code 2004

Merry Christmas to All!
December 25, 2014

Jingle Bells & Seashells Almost Here – Dec 6th!

We are ready, so let the Christmas Season begin! We have “polished our bells” and “cleaned our shells” planning for Cassina’s 30th Christmas Tour of Homes “*Jingle Bells & Seashells.*”

Nancy Krabill has wired the Tour’s highlights into print ads, social media, blogs, tweets, toots, press releases, appearances and radio spots. For example:

- **Golden Isles Magazine** featured our five Tour homes in the Nov. issue.
- **Elegant Island Living** showcased our Christmas Market workshops in their current issue.
- Our own Mary Starr, assistant editor of **Coastal Illustrated**, did a wonderful all inclusive Tour article in their November 12th publication.

Future publicity includes:

- Tour information in **Paisley Magazine**.
- A print ad in **The Florida Times Union**, Taste Section, Thanksgiving week.
- An article and photos in **The Georgia Times-Union** by Terry Dickson.
- A feature article in **The Brunswick News**.

We also plan to place an ad in the classified section of **The Brunswick News** describing both the Bake Sale and the Christmas Market in order to reach those who may not be interested in purchasing Tour tickets.

On November 15th we loaded our trucks and cars and headed to St. William’s Church to set up our booth for their Fall Bazaar. It was an excellent opportunity to test market the wreaths, shell pots, bows and other items we will be selling in our Christmas Market. All thumbs up! The effort was very successful. Thanks to all our great helpers – Anne Aspinwall, Liz DeMato, Rose Ann Williams, Libby Hogan and our super Christmas Market Chairs Nan Weiss and Joan Neely. (Continued on page 2)



L-R:
Gee Gee
Adams,
Liz DeMato,
Jane Bangert,
Nan Weiss &
Joan Neely

From the President



Dottie Fielder during recent summer vacation in Iceland

Are you finished with your Christmas shopping?

It was a shopper's paradise during November for Cassina members, starting with orchids galore at the membership meeting, followed by excellent deals on holiday finery at the Museum Shop, and then a preview of our own Christmas Market surprises at St. William's Bazaar. It was easy to find the Cassina booth at the bazaar; one just needed to look for the area with the most activity. Gee Gee Adams, Jane Bangert, Joan Neely, Nan Weiss, Anne Aspinwall, Leslie Carlton, and Liz DeMato were the busy queen bees we have buzzed around since the summer, guiding us to create beautiful holiday decorations for sale at our new market. By all means, at least wait until December 5-6 to complete your shopping. The Christmas Market will be open on Friday for early sales, so as you bring your baked goods to the Meeting Cabin from 2:00 to 4:00 step into the tent to get first pick of the results of our labors.

Speaking of baked goods, we will need LOTS to keep the buyers happy from 9:00 until 5:00 on Tour Day. If you are like me, you haven't started your baking yet, but I'm sifting through the recipes (pun intended) to find ones that will be appealing to the palate and to the eyes!

Ticket sales for the Christmas Tour are going strong and you have an opportunity to win a really nice Sea Island prize if you sell the most tickets. Watch for Facebook postings about the Tour and "Share" them so all your FB friends know how to purchase them online or from you.

It is a thrill to see so many Cassina members involved in our club activities. Every week there is something engaging to do, be it planting some new flowers in the gardens, weeding the Fort Frederica Herb Garden, assisting as a docent for a cabin tour, going on a field trip, or writing a note to let a member know you are thinking of him or her.

I can hardly wait for the Christmas Tour! I'll see you there.

Dottie

Jingle Bells & Seashells...continued

June Brown and Dale Anderson are asking every member to contribute to the "Best Bake Sale in the Southeast." Looking for ideas? Please contact June or Dale—their enthusiasm and creativity will inspire you.

A few of our homes still need additional docents. If you have not yet volunteered, please call or email Liz DeMato. It will be greatly appreciated.



Once again, we hope you are making your ticket list, checking it twice, selling to all whether naughty or nice.

And remember, the prizes for the top two sellers will be \$200.00 and \$100.00 gift certificates redeemable in either Sea Island's restaurants or gift shops.



Many thanks for everyone's contributions, advice and time. The fellowship has been wonderful. We have truly enjoyed working with each of you. The Tour would not be possible without your unqualified enthusiasm.

We look forward to seeing you on December 6th.

Tour Cheer to All,

Jane and Gee Gee



Tell everyone about our new Christmas Market & Annual Bake Sale! Remember to bake, bake, bake!

Board Notes

Cabin Fever Capital Campaign budget for fiscal year 2015 was approved.

Motion to approve the seeking of grant funds for exterior subgrade water-proofing and interior concrete was passed.



On October 29, Cassina welcomed several members plus Honorary Chairs and the Leadership Committee to the cabins for a tour and informative talk by Tidewater.



Top: Greg Jacobs from Tidewater. Bottom: More than 30 guests and Cassina members attended the October 29 event.

Recent Event Unveils Restoration Effort

The Cabin Restoration capital campaign team (*thanks to Jennifer Broadus' creative talents and professionalism*) has produced a beautiful, informative brochure describing Cabin Fever. This piece, which will be used as part of a 2015 direct mail campaign, provides an overview of the project: the need and the scope of work to be done.

On October 29th, Cassina welcomed several members plus Honorary Chairs and the Leadership Committee to the cabins for a tour and informative talk by Tidewater Preservation, Inc. The guests were fascinated by the history that is being revealed and left with a big case of CABIN FEVER! Thank you to Dale Anderson, Anne Aspinwall, June Brown, Sue Chambless and Ruth Kolumber for treating our visitors to Cassina hospitality and wonderful hors d'oeuvres. Thank you to Joanne Scott for all the publicity shots.

* * *

Mark your calendars!! Cassina Garden Club will be hosting Joseph McGill of the Slave Dwelling Project at a "sleepover" in our cabins on Saturday, March 28th. A recent article in *Smithsonian Magazine* featured Mr. McGill and described his passion for bringing attention to the importance of preserving slave cabins and increasing understanding of this aspect of America's history. Since 2010, he has slept in more than 60 cabins which once housed enslaved people. Now, the tabby slave cabins that Cassina has been maintaining and preserving for 82 years will join this group.



Joseph McGill

Look for the whole weekend of March 27, 28 and 29 to be filled with multiple fundraising events tied into Mr. McGill's visit.

Submitted by Janice Lamattina



*The Capital Campaign Team:
L-R:
Ruth Kolumber,
June Brown,
Nancy Krabill,
Dottie Fielder,
Janis Rodriguez,
Jennifer Broadus,
Marie Dodd,
Kay Harrell &
Janice Lamattina*



*The grounds and gardens will not be changed. The **entire** restoration project of both cabins will take several years to complete as fundraising continues.*

Cabin Restoration Update

The Club voted at the September meeting to restore the Tea Cabin windows and doors to be historically correct pending the findings of the removal of the stucco around the windows and doors of the Meeting Cabin. Fred Ecker, President of Tidewater Preservation, and his son John, removed the stucco around the two doors and the riverside window on the Meeting Cabin. Once the stucco was removed, the doors and window were compared with the Tea Cabin as to the placement of the original windows and doors on the tabby slave cabins. The measurements of the opening as well as the concrete filled space below and above the window showed that the opening was originally a door. This confirms the findings on the Tea Cabin.

Tidewater has begun building the timber frames for the Tea Cabin windows. Once the windows are installed Tidewater will begin the removal of the brick that was put in as “filler” in 1932 and replace it with tabby. Once the windows and tabby are restored, stucco will be added to the outside. No new stucco will cover the original stucco that was discovered. All will be protected with three coats of whitewash. This process does take time, as each stage must be allowed to “cure” before the whitewash can be applied.

It will be exciting to watch the final stages of the exterior restoration of the Tea Cabin. Please note that the Club is only restoring the Tea Cabin at this time and only the Tea Cabin is being restored to be historically correct. The grounds and gardens WILL NOT be changed. The **entire** restoration project of both cabins will take several years to complete as fundraising continues. Funds will come from donations, our Christmas Tour of Homes, Garden Walk and grants.

Anyone wanting to understand the findings on site is welcome to contact Janis Rodriguez by email Janisemr@aol.com or phone 638-9455. Janis will meet you at the cabins and explain the latest discovery.

Submitted by Janis Rodriguez



November & December Birthday Winners!

The birthday drawing winners for November and December are Cassina's holiday elves extraordinaire! Joan Neely (*November*) and Jane Bangert (*December*) have been hard at work making exciting plans for our Jingle Bells & Seashells Christmas Tour and irresistible holiday items for our new Christmas Market. Joan became a Cassina member in 2013. Jane has been a member since 2011. Please thank both of these active members and wish them a happy birthday and festive holidays!

Submitted by Lee Dillard – Membership Chair

A STUFFING PARTY!!

No, not what goes in the turkey!

This is stuffing envelopes for our first Cabin Fever direct mail campaign.

Volunteers are needed to stuff & seal. Have houseguests? Bring 'em along and let them see Cassina Elves in action!

**Gruber Aviation, Airport Road
Monday & Tuesday,
Dec. 29 & 30 - 9 AM – 5 PM**

**Entry CODE: 2004
Please RSVP to Janice Lamattina**

lamattina2@comcast.net



Hostesses with Mostest!

Our October 29th Cabin Restoration Preview event was made extra special because of the hard work and delicious culinary efforts of our wonderful hostesses, June Brown, Dale Anderson & Sue Chambless. The array of hors d'oeuvres was divine and thoroughly enjoyed by our members and guests. Thanks for a job well done, ladies!

Membership Note:

The Membership Committee encourages members to invite guests to our January 8th meeting. This is an open meeting and an excellent opportunity for interested gardeners and nature enthusiasts to learn about Cassina as well as our program topic: **Protecting Our Native Birds.**

Members Meet at The Vine for an Herb Container Workshop



Growing herbs in the winter inside in containers can be tricky. But now our members have all the dirt on how to grow them indoors with success this winter. Left: Dottie Fielder, Sandy Anderson and friends from The Vine. Right: Caroline Fleetwood, Sue Cansler and Jennifer Wilcoxon.

GARDEN TIPS

Mulching is critical to protecting plants

Now is the time to get ready for freeze warnings. I plan to cut down my asparagus and mulch heavily over top. Remember if you decide to cover sensitive plants, the cover/blanket must reach down to the ground ALL the way around the plant which then traps the heat radiating out of the ground. Placing a cover over the plant like an open umbrella is almost useless. Placing 3 to 4 inches of mulch such as pine straw over plants works very well.

Wet soil holds more heat than dry soil so you might want to irrigate beforehand. Do NOT run the irrigation for frost protection. You can actually hurt the plants by super cooling if you do not control the water rate properly.

Last chance for sign-up for Master Gardener Class
CALL (912) 652-7981
or email dlinvill@uga.edu



Submitted by Lee Dillard

Keep those Pull Tabs Coming

Please continue to bring us your pull-tabs and your unopened hotel toiletries to our January Meeting. The toiletries are used at the Ronald McDonald house and are much appreciated.

Cassina had 69 lbs. of pull-tabs at the regional meeting – the most of any club!
Thanks to all who collected!



Libby Hogan - Chair

Member Concerns

Condolences to Judith Eff-O'Grady over the loss of her mother.

**Have info to share? Call: Sandy Storino 634-1141
or Anne Brown 638-8189**



Gail Matthews & Linda Black

November Meeting Highlights

Orchids Aren't Difficult, Just Different!

Presented by Gail Matthews

We welcomed Gail Mathews from LiveOak Orchids in Savannah to share her knowledge of growing these spectacular plants. Contrary to conventional wisdom, there is no magic recipe for growing orchids. She brought along many varieties to share with us from her seven greenhouses which house thousands of award-winning orchids. As we found out, orchids aren't difficult, just different. Light is undoubtedly an important factor so it should be bright but watch for the leaves to maintain their color and consistency. Water is key so be sure to completely saturate the plant once a week to wash out the roots but do not leave any water in the leaf axils which promotes growth rot / fungus. Did you know that cinnamon treats fungus? Try a Bamboo dipstick to know how often to water. Fertilize once a week. To bloom again snap off at the flower base or stem and stalk depending on the plant and place in a bright morning sun filled room. Go online to the American Orchid Society for additional information and references.

Submitted by Nan Weiss

Bronze Leaf Canna Lilies with red flowers have multiplied in Bobbie Mohlman's garden. She would like to share with anyone who would like to come out and get a few starts. She lives at 923 Champney in Hampton. Please call ahead because it is a gated community:
634-9139 or 407-592-9396

THE CASSINA THYMES

The Cassina Thymes is published 10 times a year and is distributed to members around the 1st of the month via email and also by regular mail for those who request it. Articles must be submitted by the 15th of the month preceding the publication month. Please submit photos and articles to Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Broadus – jenniferbroadus@broadus.com