

# Cassina Garden Club

## NEWSLETTER



MAY, 2007

“Our Heritage ”..... “Our Future”

**GARDEN PREPARATION FINALE: Saturday, April 28 – Dollar Weed Elimination Day**

**CABIN CLEANUP DAY: Wednesday, May 2 – 10am – Spring Cleaning.**

**Bring your cleaning tools, willing hands and a sense of humor.**

### BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 3 at 9:30 am at Cassina’s Meeting Cabin.

All Board Members and Standing Committee Chairs should attend.

Please bring your final reports for the year and your recommendations for next year.

Please advise Frances Allen, 634-1410 or [tfin410@bellsouth.net](mailto:tfin410@bellsouth.net), if you cannot attend.

### Please Make Plans to Attend Cassina’s First Annual Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Walk

**Dates:** Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 2007

**Hours:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Saturday and 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Sunday

**Lecture:** Ryan Gainey – Friday, May 4, 5:30 pm at St. William’s Catholic Church

**Tickets:** Advance Tour Ticket (sold through 5/4/07) \$ 20

Day of Tour Ticket - \$ 25

Ryan Gainey Lecture Ticket \$ 35

Advance tickets available at the following locations on St. Simons Island:

ACE Garden Center

Coldwell Banker

PlatinumPartners

G.J. Ford Bookshop

Pat’s Hallmark Shop

St. Simons Drug Store

Day of Tour tickets will be available at Cassina’s historic cabins on Gascoigne Bluff.

Docents will be available in each garden to direct visitors’ attention to unique plant material, hardscape and garden art.

### Special Appreciation is extended to our Corporate Sponsors

ACE Garden Center – *Presenting Sponsor*

Sea Palms Realty - *Lecture Sponsor*

**Garden Sponsors:** Klickie Aiken; Coldwell Banker Platinum Partners; Roland Daniel Properties; Golden Isles Realty; Trupp-Hodnett/ ResortQuest; Signature Properties; Dee Wright

**Corporate Benefactors:** Candace Long Brewer; Coastal Greenery, Inc.; Suzanne H. Frehse Interiors & Floral Designs; Gene’s Greens; Island Realty, Inc.; Oglethorpe Bank; Owens Landscape Design & Services Inc.; The Tortoise and the Hare at the Roost; Viola’s Market; & Watermarks Printing.

**MEETING DATE – Thursday, May 9 – 11 am – Annual Picnic (Active & Associate Members)**  
**MEETING PLACE – Cassina Cabins on Gascoigne Bluff**  
**PROGRAM – Installation of '07-'08 Officers**

**Hostesses for our Picnic are: Pam Brittin, chair; Gae Andrea, Jane Bowen, Leslie Carlton, Maddie Criswell, Caroline Fleetwood, Susan Haley, Jean McKnight, Julie Spivey, Emily Swift.**

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**Besides announcements this month, I have some thoughts that I wish to convey. Ladies, we are a volunteer organization – We joined Cassina because we love gardening, the beauty of our area, the historic heritage, and the desire to give back to our community. Our reasons are different, our skills are different, our talents vary; but we can all bring something to Cassina.**

**Times change, circumstances change; but we can grow with the changes. We've all made changes the past couple of years. The electronic world is upon us. We carry cell phones, we communicate by email, we publicize by websites; but that does not take the place of meeting and working with one another. Getting to know each other is one of the benefits we gain for our efforts.**

**This club is an enduring endeavor – Not just a flash – we have a legacy to be proud of. Many ladies have worked many years on many projects to protect and enhance our Golden Isles. One of our members wrote her thoughts expressing these feelings (attached to this newsletter). We are the ladies who “do” and “continue to do”. This past year the theme was “Our Heritage – Our Future”. Our future depends on you, your Cassina Commitment. Much of our time has been spent on fund raising to provide for the upkeep of the cabins. Our Docent program makes the history relevant; the gardens are not only lovely, but also educational.**

**Every one can contribute. There are many ways you can serve. Each of you is needed to help. The tasks do not have to be onerous, many hands make light work. There will be an opportunity to sign up and show where you are interested in helping.**

**The Garden Walk is a new venue for us. This two-day event not only allows us to help, but also allows us time to see the gardens ourselves. I know that many have expressed disappointment at not seeing the homes on the Christmas Tour because we are working. However, you will have the opportunity to see the lovely gardens. Reap the benefit of all the hard work and effort that has gone into this event.**

**Be an ENTHUSIASTIC supporter of Cassina. You have much to be proud of.**

*Frances Allen*

**Things we all need to know - Remember we are the Cassina Garden Club on Gascoigne Bluff not the cabins at Epworth.**

**Don't throw away water in which eggs are boiled. Use it to water house plants, for it contains many needed minerals. Be sure to let the water cool.**

**Water geraniums with beer to make sensational plants.**

**Pour leftover tea in the saucer of African violets.**

**To get tall, narrow and other odd shaped containers sparkling clean; place small strips of unpeeled potatoes in the container, fill with vinegar and allow to stand overnight. Shake thoroughly and drain. Fill with soap suds and shake again. Rinse well and allow to dry. Your container will really shine!!**

# Cassina Garden Club:

## THE WOMEN WHO “DO”

By *Denise Trethaway*  
Membership Co-Chairman

From its inception, The Cassina Garden Club has *never* been the “Ladies Who Lunch”, but has always been the “Ladies Who Do.” Organized in 1928, Cassina Garden Club adopted the charge to better the community through civic projects and programs.

In the 30’s these resourceful women persuaded the Glynn County Commissioners to renovate the tabby cabins, with the ladies agreeing to furnish and landscape and maintain them. Imagine how much time and persuasive effort that would take today! The club also planted azaleas in Christ Church Cemetery, sponsored the first Garden Club of Georgia pilgrimage, and organized the Boy Scout Movement on St. Simons Island! The ladies of the 30’s even established our island’s first library, created the cookbook we still sell today and sponsored *The Cassina Berries*, the first Junior Garden Club on the island.

Later Cassina members organized a Camellia Show, had the entire of Gascoigne Bluff declared a Bird Sanctuary through its Wildlife and Conservation Committee, and then began the Christmas Tour Of Homes! If that weren’t enough, these far-sighted women worked to place the cabins on the National Register of Historic Places!

Today we remain true to the original spirit of the founders of Cassina: We are the “Ladies Who Do” and *not* the “ladies who Lunch.” We have two major projects this year, *The Christmas Tour of Homes & Bake Sale* and *The Tabby and Tillandsia Garden Walk*. Both require effort and commitment on the part of *all* of our members to make them successful. We weed and plant the cabin gardens, clean the cabins, host tour groups, help children learn about plants and give presentations at local civic organizations. None of this would be possible without each member doing her part.

When we decided to join Cassina Garden Club, we knew we would meet new people, have entertaining and informative programs and be part of the largest and oldest garden club on the island. What we may have forgotten is the dedication to purpose that sets this club apart from other garden clubs we may have known. Each one of us should be an *active* member of a committee; that is the definition of *active membership*. Each one of us should renew our commitment to ‘the charge’ the founding ladies set for this organization and each one of us should recruit new members who are willing to do the same.

We have a unique opportunity to preserve history in the form of the Slave Cabins. However, it comes with a price: Our time and energy. Our opportunity is not in a textbook; it is a tangible part of American history...our heritage, if you will...that we, as Cassina members, are fortunate enough to maintain.

Our Motto: “Our Heritage...Our Future...”

And I would add: “We are the Ladies Who Do...preserve our heritage for the future.”