

Cassina Garden Club
NEWSLETTER



September 2013

Calendar of Events

September 5, 2013:
Cassina Board Meeting held
at the Cabins 10:00 a.m.
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September 9, 2013:
St. Simons Council of
Garden Clubs, Open House
Coffee at 10:00 a.m. at
Lee Dillard's house.

September 12, 2013:
Cassina Garden Club
Meeting, **Members Only**
Coastal Georgia Historical
Society Heritage Center,
Hospitality at 9:30 a.m.,
Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

October 4-5, 2013:
National Garden Clubs'
Tri-Refresher in Augusta

October 22, 2013:
Oleander District Fall
Meeting held on Jekyll.

December 7, 2013:
Cassina's 29th Annual
Christmas Tour of Homes.
This year's theme is:
Sea Island —
"Holiday Traditions".

September Meeting

All Members



Greg Jacobs of Tidewater Preservation, Inc. will be our speaker. Greg is the Project Manager of Tidewater. and will present a power point presentation and Q&A on the survey done on our tabby slave cabins.

Our seven new members will be introduced by their sponsors.

September 12, 2013

Coastal Georgia Historical Society
A.W. Jones Heritage Center

9:30 a.m. Hospitality ~ 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Hostesses: Libby Hogan, Beverly Nash, Sally Sasser

National and State Awards

Cassina Garden Club won many awards at the Regional, State and National levels. Congratulations to all concerned. Below are details of awards won.

Garden Club of Georgia Awards

Civic Improvement Award	First Place large club and Trophy Winner
Gardening Award	First Place large club and Trophy Winner
Horticulture Achievement Award	First Place large club
Holiday Decorations Award	First Place large Club
Publicity Press Book Award	First Place large club and Trophy Winner
Publications Award, Newsletter	First Place large club
Website Award	First Place large club
Yearbook Award	First Place large club
b Youth Sculpture Contest - 4th Grade	First Award - Ben Aspinwall

Deep South Region Awards

Horticulture Award	First Place and Overall Winner
Publicity Press Book Award	Second Place
Yearbook Award	Second Place
Youth Sculpture Contest - 4th Grade-	First Award - Ben Aspinwall

National Garden Club Awards

Garden Center Award	Certificate
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2013 Oleander District Meeting

Mark your calendars for the 55th annual Oleander District Fall Meeting that will be held on Tuesday, October 22, at the Morgan Center on Jekyll Island. It promises to be a most enjoyable and educational meeting. Watch for details.

Board Notes

To keep the membership better informed about Board actions, a report from the most recent Board meeting is included in the monthly newsletter.

The Board did not meet in August.

An Invitation from The St. Simons Council of Garden Clubs



All members of
St. Simons Garden Clubs
are invited to
an Open House Coffee Hour
Monday, September 9, 10 a.m.
at the home of Lee Dillard, Council Member

The St. Simons Garden Club Council invites **all Cassina members** to this gathering to chat informally, to share gardening and project ideas and to learn of the Council's role in supporting what our clubs do. We look forward to having many members join us.

GCG 2014 Calendars

The September Membership Meeting will be the last date to purchase the 2014 GCG Calendar, *Expressions*. The desk size (5½ x 8½ inches) is \$8.56. Please make your check out to the **Garden Club of Georgia** and mail it to Becky Stephenson, 143 Rosemont Street, St. Simons Island, GA 31522, or purchase it at the September meeting. All calendars purchased will be available in November.

Membership

We have a wonderful class of new members this year with lots of talents to offer our club. Welcome! We are glad you are a part of Cassina and look forward to getting to know you better as we work together for our community and garden club. Please continue to be aware of your first year responsibilities. If you have any questions, your sponsor should be able to help you or feel free to call anyone on the Membership Committee. Our new members are counting on their sponsors to help them through this first year. Remember, if you are the sponsor of a new member this year, you are not eligible to sponsor another prospective member until their first year is complete.

Our *October* meeting is an Open Meeting where guests and prospective members are welcome. This is the perfect meeting to begin the process toward next year's membership. If you are bringing a prospective member to the October meeting, please be sure to sign them in and mark your name as their sponsor. By personally signing in, the prospective member will get credit for attending. Please have the prospective put "PM" by their name on the sign in sheet. Once a prospective member has attended the first open meeting, they are eligible to schedule a cabin orientation with you and a member of the Membership Committee. As a part of the cabin orientation, the prospective member will receive an application for membership and a member questionnaire. At that time, the sponsor will receive the Sponsor Endorsement Form. It is the **sponsor's** responsibility to come with the prospective member to the Open Meeting and to schedule and attend the cabin orientation. Please call a Member of the Membership committee to schedule this orientation. If you have any questions, please call June Brown, Membership Chair.

Donations to Cassina

A special Cassina member recently donated \$5,000 to our garden club. The money will be used toward the restoration of our tabby cabins. Thank you for your generous contribution to this important project.

Through grants, fundraising and donations we will be able to complete the restoration of the cabins. Several members have included Cassina in their wills. This gesture will help to protect our cabins for the future. Our fundraising projects—the Christmas Tour of Homes and the Tabby and Tillandsia Garden Walk — continue to raise money for our cabin fund. Donations from our visitors, our community and our membership also help. Members might consider giving a donation in memory of/or to honor a friend or loved one.

The restoration can be done in stages and the Tidewater Preservation, Inc., has given us the guidelines to follow. Greg Jacobs, the Project Manager of Tidewater, will present the completed survey of the cabins at the September meeting and all members will be able to ask questions regarding the project. Don't miss this important meeting.

Cassina Newsletter

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29th Annual Christmas Tour of Homes and Bake Sale Sea Island – “Holiday Traditions” December 7, 2013



Following our highly successful 28th Tour, Cassina will return for a second Sea Island-exclusive event in 2013! Again five beautiful private homes will be showcased in all their holiday finery, with Cassina members Anne Aspinwall and Lee Dillard adding their decorative touches. The fabulous Forbes Five Star Cloister Hotel will be the Special Interest Stop again, sporting its holiday traditions of the huge Christmas tree and the Gingerbread House. Tourgoers will be able to enjoy lunch and dinner at The Cloister or Beach Club restaurants. Special discounts for tour guests at Sea Island shops and a unique overnight package at The Lodge (also a Forbes Five Star hotel) will be announced soon on the club's website.

The grand tradition of Cassina's famous Bake Sale will return with the new extended hours at the cabins of 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Kay Harrell's incredible decorated cakes and Bill Heisel's yummy pound cakes will carry on the tradition of scrumptious baked goods, candies, jams and jellies that guests have come to expect for years. "Will Call" was so successful in 2012 that it will continue, allowing guests to purchase goodies prior to boarding the buses for Sea Island and pick up their treasures upon returning to Gascoigne Bluff in the afternoon. Cassina cookbooks will be sold with cheerful holiday wrapping, perfect for gift-giving, at the cabins and also at selected tour locations.

"Arranging Christmas," chaired by Jennifer Broadus and Yolanda O'Hern, will again place gorgeous arrangements in each of the featured homes with raffle tickets on sale for lucky winners. Be sure to sign up at the membership meeting to supply greens from your property for the club members to use in their masterpieces.

Chairman Janice Lamattina has been marshaling the troops to make this year's Tour and Bake Sale the best ever. Plan to help out in some capacity when called on by a head hostess or other committee chair. There will be several sign-up sheets at the September meeting, with a variety of opportunities to participate. *Merry, merry!*



Christmas Tour Decorating Committee



Plans are well underway for another outstanding Cassina Christmas Home Tour and Bake Sale. Our festive theme, "Holiday Traditions," will be interpreted in the holiday decorations in five lovely Sea Island homes. Each home has its own character and charm. Our decorating goal will be to highlight these features and include examples of holiday customs and traditions that will prompt happy memories of wonderful Island Christmases.

Please join the Decorating Committee. Using your creative talents, we will work together with members of the Greens and Arranging Christmas Committee towards a creative decorating plan and implementation schedule. We will incorporate fresh Island greenery and festive floral arrangements that have become so characteristic of our Cassina Tour. At least two of the five homes will need our special "Cassina Christmas touch." Decorating will be done December 1st to the 6th, just before the December 7th Tour Day.

The first Decorating Committee meeting to discuss the homes, view photos and begin our plans will be on Thursday, September 19th at 10 a.m. at 101 Bay Berry Circle in Sea Palms. Please join the fun! Call Lee Dillard at 638-7959.

Last Chance for a Miller Photography Certificate!



David Miller, family photographer extraordinaire and generous benefactor of Cassina Garden Club, is offering the last 44 certificates for a portrait sitting plus one 11" X 14" color (or black and white) finished portrait for the **reduced price of \$100**. Any certificates not sold by Cassina **by November 1, 2013**, will be returned to David, regrettably unsold and unused. David was a garden sponsor of the Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Walk for five years. Not only did he contribute as a sponsor, but he issued certificates for the club to sell at \$125 each, ALL of which we kept as a donation to the club! For the 2012 Garden Walk, David gave us 50 certificates, of which 44 remain.

Many of our members have purchased certificates (with proceeds going directly to Cassina) and happily enjoyed the gorgeous family portraits that David painstakingly produced for us. Quite a few of us sold the certificates to our friends and neighbors who are not Cassina members. They make wonderful Christmas or birthday gifts. We can name lovely brides who have had their engagement photographs taken with a certificate, numerous family reunions which were captured on David's film, countless grandchildren who smile at us forever from a moment frozen in time, plus a few naked babies who coo from their position on a furry rug.

David Miller is one of St. Simons' best portrait photographers. He will schedule your appointment at your convenience, in the location of your choice (beach, marsh, backyard garden, living room...you name it), and will spend as much time as it takes to get everyone smiling and happy at the same time, even the dog! You will have multiple poses to choose from. Those of us who have had sessions with David can attest to his patience and skill at placing everyone at ease and getting the best results possible.

Seriously consider buying (and/or selling) at least one certificate before November 1. David is very easy about extending the life of your certificate. Even though these show an expiration date of May 30, 2013, he will continue to honor them as long as you show up! You will not get such an opportunity again. And the other best part is...Cassina Garden Club is the beneficiary!

Send a check, made out to Cassina Garden Club, for \$100 to Dottie Fielder, with your name, address and phone number. Indicate "Miller Certificate" on the check. Mail to Dottie Fielder at 937 Champney, SSI, GA 31522.

You will be sent the certificate. Call David at the phone number on the certificate to schedule an appointment upon receipt. He will get a list of people participating.

2013-2014 Yearbook Distributed at September Meeting

The new Cassina Yearbook will be distributed to members at the September meeting. Our award-winning Yearbook contains all the information that members will need to stay informed about the upcoming year's activities.



Don't forget to bring your pull tabs to the September meeting!

Cassina Products



The Cassina Products committee has been working hard this year to add new retail venues and replenish product inventories at new and existing retail venues. We currently have 23 retail and tourism vendor sites, with 19 of them actively selling product.

Thanks to our great cabin docents, products sales have also been brisk throughout the summer tour months. As of August 1st, total sales for the year are about \$3,500. All cookbook/product sale funds are used to maintain the historic cabins, as outlined in our By-Laws.

We will continue to actively sell and increase distribution, adding more retail and tourism venues in the months ahead. We also plan to aggressively sell decorated Coastal Cookery books and ornaments during the 2013 Cassina Christmas Tour on Sea Island.

Need a *Coastal Cookery*, *Native Flora of the Golden Isles*, or notecards for a special gift? Call Jennifer Broadus: 638-0897

Docent Committee



Visitors enjoying a tour of the cabins this summer.

During June, July and August, the cabins were open for visitors every Wednesday morning from 10:00 am-Noon. During the first two months, we welcomed a total of 305 visitors. Thanks to Liz DeMato, we had some outstanding publicity which helped to increase the number of our visitors this year. To date, we have collected \$359.03 in donations and \$209 in cabin sales and 17 current members and 5 of our new members have graciously served as docents.

We had several private tours and drop-ins. We had a special opening for the Summer Reading Program of the local public library system. Another special opening was for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Camp at Epworth by the Sea where we had 68 teenagers from across the southeast visit the cabins. That was very lively!

We do need docents for Tuesday, September 24th, for an "Autumn Adventures" group from Epworth by the Sea. Please let Martha or Leslie know if you can help.

Totals for the summer will be published in the next newsletter. For more information about tours of the cabins or serving as a docent, please contact Martha Armstrong or Leslie Carlton.

Member Concerns

We are thinking of Sara Taylor while she is in Baltimore taking care of her sister for an extended length of time.

Please contact **Beth Thrift** for any member concerns at beth_thrift@bellsouth.net

Field Trips

Wreath Making at the Vine Tuesday, November 5, 2013



Make a wreath at the Vine on Tuesday, November 5th at 3:30 p.m. Bryce and Kelly will lend their expertise as well as have wreath forms, fresh greenery, berries, feathers, etc., to create a beautiful holiday decoration. Price for the workshop is \$50 and includes all materials. Wine and cheese will be served. Limited to 15 participants. Please call Sibby Gruber for details at 638-9984.

Savannah Heritage Tour Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Regardless of how many times you have enjoyed what Savannah history has to offer, here is an opportunity to renew your interest or refresh your memories. Join our tour leader, Angela, of Savannah Heritage Tours for an approximate 2½ hour bus and house/garden tour which will include the Savannah historical district, Davenport House with additional emphasis of its the garden structure and Bonaventure Cemetery located 10 minutes from the downtown historic district east of Savannah on a scenic bluff of the Wilmington River.

We will car pool to Savannah leaving at 9:00 a.m. from the tabby cabins, arrive for lunch in the historic district at 11:00 a.m. at The Olde Pink House, 23 Abercorn Street, and depart from there at 1:00 p.m. on the tour in our private tour bus.

This tour is limited to 14 people. Cost per person, excluding lunch, is \$38.



Charleston Garden Get-Away! March 25 & 26, 2014



Limited to just 40 Cassina members, this overnight trip to the beautiful city of Charleston promises to be a fun and rewarding experience. The trip includes a visit to America's oldest private gardens, Middleton Plantation, and includes a lovely low country buffet lunch in their garden pavilion. We will motor coach into Charleston for our stay at the charming Indigo Inn located in the center of the historic district. A wine and cheese party will be provided in the garden of the inn, then we will walk to dinner at one of the city's best restaurants.

Those who dare can enjoy a walking ghost tour after dinner, which is one of two optional tours offered. The second day begins with a private tour of the Edmonston-Alston House and Gardens in the famous Battery district. The rest of the day is free time to lunch, shop, sightsee and explore! We depart at 4:00 p.m. for the journey back to SSI. You will enjoy this great little get-away. Limited to 40 members. Reserve Now!

Cost is \$280 per person (double hotel occupancy).

Deposit of \$100 by October 15 - Payment in full by December 31, 2013.

Call Jennifer Broadus for details at 638-0897 or 230-4080