

Cassina Garden Club
NEWSLETTER



February 2014

Calendar of Events

January 29, 2014:
Annual February Luncheon
reservation deadline .

February 6, 2014:
Cassina Board Meeting at
Cabins 10:00 a.m.

February 7, 2014:
Annual Cassina Luncheon
**“Becoming a Botanical
Garden at the
Jacksonville Zoo”**
Speaker: Bob Chabot
(Members and Guests)
Brunswick Country Club,
11:00 a.m.

February 19, 2014:
Savannah Heritage Tour.

February 27, 2014:
Oleander District
Luncheon and Lecture at
Savannah Technical College.
Dean Norton, Director of
Horticulture at George
Washington Mount Vernon.

March 25 and 26, 2014:
Charleston Garden overnight
Field Trip.

Annual February Luncheon
Open to Members and Guests
**“Becoming a Botanical Garden at the
Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens”**

Speaker: Bob Chabot

Director of Horticulture and Facilities at the Jacksonville Zoo



As Director of Horticulture and Facilities at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Bob Chabot oversees the development and management of the gardens, exhibits, grounds, and facilities, while also participating in design and implementation of the Zoo’s Master Plan. Bob is also Board President of Greenscape of Jacksonville and Vice President of the Association of Zoological Horticulture.

Friday, February 7, 2014

Brunswick Country Club

11:00 a.m.

Dottie Fielder, Chair

Reservations must be received by January 29th

Annual February Luncheon

Cassina members and their guests are warmly invited to attend our annual luncheon on **Friday**, February 7th, 11:00 a.m., at the Brunswick Country Club. Our theme this year is “Herbs and Evergreens” with our table arrangement competition as a special part of our annual luncheon.

Our guest speaker is Bob Chabot, the Director of Horticulture and Facilities at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. Bob’s vast knowledge of public horticulture comes from 20 years in the field, during which he served as Curator of Horticulture for Zoo New England in Boston, Director of Horticulture at Roger Williams Botanical Garden in Providence, R.I., and in his current position with Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens since 2005.

Please indicate on your check payment of \$30 your choice of Chicken Romano, Shrimp Scampi or a vegetarian sauce, otherwise you will be served the Chicken Romano. Lunch will be served at rectangular tables for 8. Call Dottie Fielder if you would like an invitation for a guest

If you would like to carpool from the cabins or have any questions about the luncheon please call Dottie at 634-5728.

Floral Arrangement Competition



Anne Caswell returns as chairman of the competition of “**Herbs and Evergreens.**” Check out those green things in your yard for frost-bite and combine the good pieces with some bright color (or not). Instructions:

- Arrangements should be brought to the cabins between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, February 6th.**
- Arrangements should be centered around the luncheon theme: “**Herbs and Evergreens**”
- Arrangements should be suitable for rectangular tables to seat 8, should be no more than 15 inches in height and 12 inches wide. **No tablescapes.**
- Materials must be natural: real flowers, greenery, moss and/or dried materials.
- Use knowledge we gained from Jim Harrell’s recent excellent presentation on arranging plants from your own garden! Anyone interested in doing an arrangement or with questions should call **Anne Caswell at 638-0478.** The competition is open to members and guests.

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.

Twenty members attended the January Board meeting and discussed the following items:

- \$10,000 grant request to DAR.
- Final report given on Christmas Tour of Homes.
- Details of February luncheon and floral competition reported.
- The Garden Walk will be April 26th with April 27th for rain date.

Savannah Heritage Tour



A reminder to those going on the Savannah Heritage Tour on February 19th. Carpools will leave the cabins at 9:00 a.m. Lunch at the Old Pink House on Abercorn Street then depart at 1:00 p.m. for our private bus tour.

Tour Leader, Angela, of Savannah Heritage Tours will lead a 2 1/2 hour bus, House and Garden Tour, which includes the Savannah Historical District, the Davenport House and the Bonaventure Cemetery.

January Membership Meeting

Sixty-three members and guests attended Cassina's January open meeting held at the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, hosted by Martha Martin and Nan Fuller. President Janis Rodriguez called the meeting to order. She thanked members for their help in making the Christmas Tour of Homes such a success.



Guest speaker: Lelie Kiger

Members introduced their guests. The "Garden Grace" was given by Anne Brown. Rose Ann Williams then introduced the guest speaker, Leslie Kiger, who gave a wonderful presentation of her quilts and quilt making.

Kay Harrell gave the Treasurer's report and Leslie Carlton, Assistant Treasurer, reported on the Christmas Tour and Bake sale proceeds.

Members were reminded of the upcoming field trips to Savannah and Charleston. Beverly Nash reminded members of the historic Sites and Garden Annual Fundraiser in Savannah on February 27th.

Invitations for the Annual Luncheon were handed out to members. This will be held at Brunswick Country Club on **FRIDAY**, February 7th at 11:00 a.m.

Ann Worthington discussed our Garden Walk that will be held on April 26th. Ann, June Brown and Dale Anderson are co-chairing the Garden Walk this year. ACE Garden Center will again our major sponsor.

Martha Martin reported there has been recent frost damage. Members were informed that there will be Saturday morning gardening sessions throughout the winter. Community Outreach programs were discussed, including Pennies for Pines (Sally Sasser), pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House (Joan Wilson), Hospice Gardens (Nan Fuller) and Golden Days (Neil Henry).

Birthday Winners

Each month a drawing is held at the membership meeting to celebrate the birthdays for the month. (*Remember, you must be present to win*). As there is no regular meeting in February, there were two birthday winners this month. January's birthday winner was Sandy Anderson, and February's birthday winner was Martha Martin.

Happy birthday to Sandy and Martha and all members with a January or February birthday.



Sandy Anderson



Martha Martin

Arbor Day

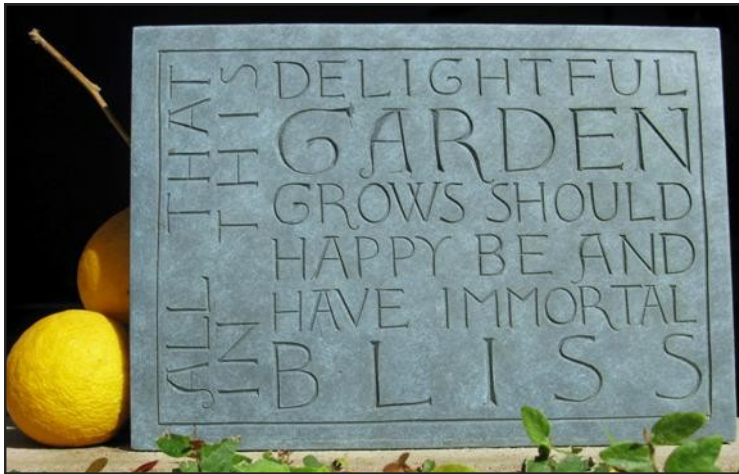
Georgia's Arbor Day is on February 21st, always the third Friday in February. Frances Allen is planning to plant one of our olive trees at Fort Frederica that day, at 3:00 p.m.

Black History Month

The cabins will be open on one or two Saturdays in February in conjunction with events planned for Black History Month. Cassina will coordinate with Friends of Harrington School for this event.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Garden Walk



GARDEN WALK 2014 is gearing up and under way. This year's tour theme is "**Garden Discoveries,**" and there will be lots of discoveries to be made. Six gardens, all on St. Simons Island, were selected this summer by the garden selection team of Janis Rodriguez, Pam Hamilton, Anne Aspinwall, and Neil Henry. The gardens are varied in size and décor, unique, and definitely interesting as they offer a wide range of ideas. Several of the gardens belong to Cassina members.

The format of the tour is basically the same as last year. It is a one-day event on Saturday, April 26th with a backup rain date of April 27th. Ace Garden Center and Dawn Hart will again be our Garden Walk sponsor for which we are most thankful. The poster, rack card, and ticket will continue to use the original Tabby & Tillandsia logo, colored last year by Rita Trudeau. Labeling of garden plants and shrubs was popular with tourgoers and docents alike last year and will be repeated and added to this year. There will be an afternoon Garden Party at the cabins with a few new features, some prizes, and a raffle.

But it doesn't stop there! Watch out! We have some new twists with an intriguing challenge to help you explore each garden and something to spur your creativity. In other words, tourgoers will be engaged, sent on a quest and given a good time. How so you ask? That is next month's discovery! If you have suggestions or ideas to share let us know. It's your tour, too. (Co-chairs: Dale Anderson, June Brown,

Historic Sites and Gardens Annual Fundraiser Lunch and Learn - Founding Gardeners February 27, 2014 in Savannah



Dean Norton

The Historic Sites and Gardens Committee of the Garden Club of Georgia annually holds one major fundraiser. Proceeds from this event go to provide grant monies to preserve many historic sites and gardens around the state. This year, the fundraiser will be held by our Oleander District on February 27, 2014, at Savannah Technical College and will include lunch and feature presentation.

Guest speaker for this event will be Dean Norton who has been the head horticulturalist for George Washington's Mt. Vernon for thirty years. He will be sharing gardening history of Mt. Vernon and his expertise as a horticulturalist.

Members are encouraged to support this event. Several have already signed on to go. Tickets are \$40.

Please contact Beverly Nash for further details or send a check to Beverly Nash for \$40. The check should be made out to the Garden Club of Georgia.



Don't forget Ronald McDonald House!!! Bring to each meeting your pull tabs and bath toiletries— shampoo, lotion etc.— for the use of guests staying at the house.

St. Simons Council of Garden Clubs

The St. Simons Council of Garden Clubs, hosted by Cherokee Garden Club, met on Monday, January 13th. Council President Dale Anderson asked the attending Presidents and representatives to encourage their members to attend the Historic Preservation Statewide Fund raiser featuring the Director of Mount Vernon. See page 4 of this newsletter for details.

Representatives of the Live Oak Garden Club, Cherokee Garden Club, Hamilton Garden Club and Cassina Garden Club had a chance to discuss their club's projects and plans for the year. One of the activities of the Council is to promote and support each other's fundraising efforts. Of particular interest to Cassina Garden Club was the report that we have invited Hamilton Garden Club to have their plant sale on the grounds of the Tabby cabins on the day of the Cassina Garden Walk.

Topics also discussed were planting a Cherokee Rose and construction of an arbor at the Council Rose Garden in celebration of Arbor Day, the need for gardening and floral books at the library, plus the Council's continued donation of a monthly flower arrangement for the front desk of the library.

Cassina Products

After brisk selling at the Christmas Tour, we are starting out the new year visiting our 20 plus retail vendors to restock their inventories and sell more books. Off to a great start!

Thanks to all who sold cookbooks at the Christmas Tour...we sold 95 Coastal Cookery books! Great job!

Remember, Cassina books and products make great gifts. Let Jennifer Broadus know if you need something!

Cabin Donations

As an independent, non-profit organization, Cassina Garden Club depends on your financial support from dues along with fundraising events, and donations to maintain our grounds and cabins. Please consider donating to the **Cassina Garden Club Cabin Restoration** project when thinking of Honorariums and Memorials.

The following donations have been received in the past month. Cassina Garden Club thanks you for your contributions.

Memorials:

In Memory of Janis Rodriguez' mother, Martha McGaughey:

Anne and Mike Aspinwall
Alice Marie Burnet
Kay and Jack Cantrell
Lynn and Tom Costner
Lee Dillard
Kay and Jim Harrell
Janis and Cesar Rodriguez
Peggy and Craig Wyvil

In Memory of Denise Trethaway's husband, Robert Trethaway:

Lee Dillard

In Memory of Jane Rives' daughter, Mary Rives:

Lee Dillard

In Memory of Helen Castrillo's sister, Glenda Cochran:

Lee Dillard

Member Concerns

Our sympathy to Helen Castrillo on the loss of sister, Glenda Cochran.

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

Garden Query by Frances Allen



Muhly grass belongs to a genus of perennial grasses named in honor of the American amateur botanist Gotthilf Heinrich Ernst Muhlenberg. There are around 155 species. Showy and easy to grow, these native U.S. grasses combine handsome, slender leaves with eye-catching flower plumes that typically appear in late summer and fall. Plants tolerate heat and drought, but they look better and grow larger if given supplemental water. Good drainage is a must.

Gulf Muhly is native to the Southeast. Young leaves are used by the Gullah people of South Carolina to make traditional baskets. It is called sweet grass because of its pleasant fragrance like freshly mown hay.



Ilex Rotunday, also known as **Lord's Holly**, is an evergreen shrub and tree, believed to have been a mutation that was propagated by Mr. Baumgardner. I first saw it as a tree in the parking lot at the Sea Island Golf Course. There is one at Albert Fendig's home. This picture is from Mary Burdell's mailbox in Sea Palms. Male plants are needed to produce the large red berries.

As a side note, the **tung oil tree** has died. It was located on the property of IDAC building next to Frederica House parking lot.



Freeze Warning!!

- Pick ALL fruit – do not leave any citrus on the trees.
- Take hanging and potted plants into a sheltered area, e.g., garage.
- Pots that you cannot move – drape a blanket or sheet over the plant **and make sure the covering touches the ground 360 degrees around the entire plant.**



- Do **NOT** use your sprinkler system and try to frost/freeze protect the plants. This will actually super cool the plants and make them even colder.
- Have about 3 inches of mulch around your plants. This keeps the heat in the ground which protects the roots.
- PLEASE consider your pets and treat them appropriately. Give them shelter and extra food. Don't forget to break the ice out of their water dish and refill.