

Cassina Garden Club

NEWSLETTER



March, 2008

“Our Heritage ”.....“Our Future”

Meeting Date – Thursday, March 13th – 10 am

Meeting Place – Cassina’s Cabins (LOCATION CHANGE FROM YEARBOOK)

Program – “Creative Container Gardening”

Anna Messer, Manager of Horticulture Projects at Sea Island Company, will create unique container displays for both inside the home and outside, and discuss their maintenance.

Hostesses – Betsy Thwaite, Chairman; Mary Carnathan, Ladye Heisel, Connie Herndon

Active Members Only - Pre-meeting social at **9:30 am**.



This is the meeting where we exchange plants with each other. As you are thinning out your beds, dividing your plants, please bring them to the meeting to share with your fellow Cassina gardeners.

Board Meeting - Thursday, March 6 at 9:30 am at Cassina’s Meeting Cabin.

All Board Members and Standing Committee Chairs should attend.

Please advise Frances Allen, 634-1410 or tfin410@bellsouth.net if you cannot attend.

Cassina’s 80th Birthday Celebration was a huge success, and special thanks to all who attended. Our thanks also to those who made all the wonderful table arrangements for our February Luncheon: **Anne Aspinwall, Sue Cansler, Anne Caswell, Natalie Crane, Suzanne Frehse, Susan Haley, Phillis Harrell, Ladye Heisel (2), Cecelia Holman, Jennifer Kuja, Cheri Leavy*, Barbara Murrah*, Joanne Scott, Jan Smith*, Becky Stephenson, Mary Stivers, Sandy Storino, Betty White, Bonita Wright.** (*Prospective members)

Table Arrangement winners were **Jennifer Kuja** and **Bonita Wright** who tied for **first** while third place went to **Susan Haley**. Pictures of all of the arrangements and clipart in this newsletter are in full color on our website, Cassinagardenclub.org. Webmaster **Kay Harrell** also posts our newsletters and other announcements.



Jennifer Kuja



Bonita Wright

Be sure to look for the new listing on the opening page of our website entitled ***What’s New On the Website***. Click on it and it gives you a page with Kay’s latest website postings and links to take you directly to the new information. Currently included are photos of **Betty Davis** and her committee (**Lella Kelso, Louise Ufer and Cecilia Holman**) teaching at Oglethorpe Elementary School for

Heritage Day. I don't know who had more fun, the students or our ladies. We have received glowing reports from the school for their assistance.

ELECTION OF 2008-2009 OFFICERS - The nominating committee report was included in the last newsletter, but this is a reminder that we will vote on the slate of officers at the March meeting:



President.....**Sharon Flores**
1st Vice President.....**Sally Hawie**
2nd Vice President.....**Elizabeth Freyer**
Recording Secretary.....**Anne Aspinwall**
Corresponding Secretary.....**Becky Stephenson**
Treasurer.....**Sue Cansler**
Assistant Treasurer.....**Leslie Carlton**

SATURDAY GARDEN WORKDAY --- Please help on March 29

Ruth Kolumber reports that the February 16th workday started chilly and buggy, but the chill was dispersed by some lovely sunshine. **Cecelia Holman** added a little fun to our tasks as she tried to bewitch the gnats away with her fans of rosemary branches. (Although we tucked sprigs in our caps, we learned rosemary does not keep the bugs away.) We had a good group of 15 ladies, which included five of our new members, who trimmed and weeded in the gardens to prepare for spring planting. Our roses were nicely weeded, trimmed and fertilized, thanks to **Kay Harrell** and **Denise Trethaway**, and **Neile Weis** trimmed the grape vines.



We meet again on **Saturday, March 29** for a Cassina workday and will put in additional plantings to beautify the gardens for our May Garden Walk. Meanwhile, we continue to gather on Saturday mornings and ask that you join us. If you'd rather work at a more convenient time call **Martha Martin** (638-2588) or **Ruth Kolumber** (634-1272). The dollar weed and other emerging weeds need our constant attention. Thank you to our gardening members!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

ANNUAL PICNIC DATE CHANGE – Please note that the date for the Annual Picnic and Installation of Officers has been moved back one week to **Thursday, May 15**. Be sure to make this change on your calendar.



DOCENT SCHEDULE – Cabin tours are scheduled on the following dates:

March 3 – 1:30pm • March 10 – 1:30pm • March 17 – 1:30pm • March 31 – 1:30pm

Remember you are always welcome to come and help the docents. If you have guests, it's a good place to take them on your tour of the Island. **Claire Jorgensen**, Docent chair reports that 46 persons were in the Elderhostel tour group February 19th.

ST. SIMONS COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 10, home of Dee West, 127 Worthing Rd, 10:00 am

STATE CONVENTION - Reservations need to be made NOW for the Garden Club of Georgia Annual Convention in Savannah, April 15-17.

Registration forms are in the Spring 2008 *Garden Gateways*. The theme is "Ladies on the River" and events include a River Cruise, Youth Luncheon, Awards Banquet and Life Member Luncheon. Mark your calendars and plan to participate. April 1 is the deadline for registering.



REMINDER: The Membership Committee needs information regarding your time, talents and skills. Also, your Cassina dues are coming due. Please promptly fill out the enclosed Questionnaire and Dues Renewal form and return both with your check before April 10.

LOST AND FOUND – The following items have been found by Frances: (1) A camera case at the February luncheon; (2) Two black and silver earrings - one found at the cabins and one at Frances' house. The earrings have been lost at least a year.

HORTICULTURE TIPS - In February we pruned, planted and transplanted. The pruning of evergreens and summer shrubs should have been completed. Liriope and Mondo Grass may be cut or mowed before new growth appears. Take cuttings of favorite plants to root new plants. Sow seeds of hardy herbs such as dill and parsley.

Put out bedding plants after March 15th – our average last frost date. Should frost threaten your plants, Spanish moss is a readily available cozy covering. To take a camellia blossom to a friend or to a flower show, tuck the stem into a fresh grape for moisture.

Now that we have all completed our bed planting and pruning of trees and shrubs and with the magical date of March 15th soon upon us – finally it is time to set out the tempting array of bedding plants available in local nurseries. The planting area should be well prepared with your own good compost or peat moss with a transplant solution added. Purchase short, sturdy plants in 4” pots and cut through the root area with a sharp knife on 4 sides. You will have stronger, bushier plants if you can make yourself pinch off all blooms and buds when planting. Fertilize monthly.

March is a good month to skip the aerobics – bend and stretch to the music of the birds in your garden.



Plants growing in containers should be repotted or flushed with water to remove salt build up. Plants carried over from last season can be cut back and fertilized now. Bougainvillea likes to be pot bound and needs a low nitrogen fertilizer. Allamanda, Mandevilla and Hibiscus should be given full sun in early spring and partial shade in the heat of summer. Use a water soluble fertilizer at ¼ strength every 2 weeks.

Styrofoam packing peanuts work well as shards in the bottom of pots, making them much easier to move.

Chrysanthemums should be rooted and replanted or divided now. Space at 18” intervals, pinch back and use a transplant solution.

Fertilize shrubs, ground covers and vines with a general purposes fertilizer using 1 T per foot of height. Apply to the drip line and at least 6” away from the stem.

Azaleas may be fertilized at this time – repeat in May and July. Apply a dormant spray mixed with an insecticide to camellias, hollies and gardenias to prevent or treat scale.



RULES FOR LIFE – Live Simply, Love Generously, Serve Faithfully, Speak Truthfully, Pray Daily

Frances Allen