



December 2008



*24th Annual Christmas Tour of Homes
Bake Sale and Holiday Market*

Saturday, December 13

Tour of Homes – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*Tour 5 beautiful Island homes decked out in their holiday finery
and visit the Island Design and Architectural Center featuring
design-related demonstrations, and refreshments.*



Bake Sale & Holiday Market at the Cabins

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For your convenience, the Holiday Market will open to Cassina members at 8:30 a.m.

Tour Committee Prepares for 24th Annual Event

The Christmas Tour Committee lead by Chairman Claire Jorgensen has been working for almost one year to organize and produce the 2008 event. The success each year is due to the active participation of all of Cassina's members and is a special event of which we can all be very proud! Special appreciation is extended to the ladies shown below for their diligence, dedication and leadership. And a very special thank you to our Chairman who has inspired everyone to make this the best Christmas Tour ever!



Photo credit: Joanne Scott

Left - right: Sharon Flores, Susan Haley, Ladye Heisel, Sue Chambless, Leila Buchanan, Denise Trethaway, Marie Dodd, Kay Harrell, Becky Stephenson, Leslie Carlton, Elizabeth Freyer, Beverly Nash, M.J. Choate, Claire Jorgensen.
Not pictured: Sally Hawie, Joanne Scott, Sandy Storino.

Party for Homeowners

M. J. Choate planned a lovely afternoon gathering at the Cabins to express Cassina's appreciation to the homeowners who have graciously allowed their beautiful homes to be spotlighted on the December Tour of Homes. In addition to wine and sweet and savory delicacies, the homeowners were treated to a tour of the Cabins and were introduced to the history of Hamilton Plantation, Gascoigne Bluff and Cassina Garden Club through our award-winning video. Representing Cassina were M. J. Choate, Marie Dodd, Sharon Flores, Claire Jorgensen and Joanne Scott.



Left - right: Cameron Wicker and Tina Bostic of IDAC; Marie Dodd



Homeowners, Peggy Everett-Engle and Dr. John Engle

Dates to Remember

December 4	Board Meeting 4:00 p.m. Cassina Cabins
December 4-6	Festival of Trees Ballroom Retreat Clubhouse
December 13	Tour of Homes

November Meeting Highlights

The Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall was filled with fabulous orchids for the November meeting. Seventy-eight active and associate members were entranced as Gail Mathews of Live Oak Orchids in Savannah educated us on the care and feeding of these beautiful plants.



Delicious refreshments were prepared by the November hostesses lead by Chair Nancy Dobrenic, Lee Baxter, Caroline Fleetwood and Carolyn Lovell.

Cassina November and December Birthdays Celebrated

November and December birthdays were celebrated with Julie Spivey winning a fabulous Orchid from Live Oak Orchids for November and Barbara Murrah receiving an *Edward on St. Simons* original door decoration for December. **Remember, you must be present to win the drawing during your birthday month.**

January Field Trip

Another exciting adventure planned by our Field Trip committee awaits Cassina members and guests on Monday, January 12 or Tuesday, January 13 as we visit Little St. Simons Island. Select the day that works best for you. (Limited to 10-12 people per day.)

Highlights include:

- Round trip boat transportation from Hampton River Club Marina to and from Little St. Simons Island. Departing at 10:30 a.m. and returning by 4:30 p.m.
- A guided tour and interpretive program led by an experienced naturalist will allow you to view the Island's natural beauty from benches in the back of open trucks



- A hearty lunch of Low Country specialties prepared by the Island's chefs
- Seven miles of pristine private beach to explore and enjoy

Virtually untouched for centuries, Little St. Simons Island is a privately owned 10,000-acre barrier island. A rich and varied natural world, its pristine beaches, maritime forests, shimmering marshes and tidal creeks await your exploration. The cost for the trip is \$75. Contact Field Trip Chair, Catherine Wood for more information and to sign up. 634-8448 or catswood@mindspring.com.

Cassina Hosts Garden Club Council Meeting

The November meeting of the St. Simons Council of Garden Clubs was hosted by Sally Hawie of Cassina Garden Club. The bi-monthly meeting includes representatives of all of the garden clubs on St. Simons Island. This month's meeting included a presentation by Dana Pope, Director of Development and Membership of the St. Simons Land Trust. Dana's remarks focused on the new concrete hiking and biking path along Lawrence Road. Future plans along the path, which will extend 4.9 miles from the Sea Island Stables to the fork at Hampton Point include a multi-purpose playing field, park and a botanical garden. Cassina members attending the November meeting were Beth Downey, Caroline Fleetwood, Sharon Flores and Sally Hawie.



Left - right: Hostess, Sally Hawie, Cassina Life Member Beth Downey, Dana Pope of the Land Trust.

Horticultural Highlights On the Island

With the cooler weather we have had in November, December is the ideal time to transplant shrubs. Several weeks before transplanting, prune the roots by digging straight down with a spade all around the shrub about 12 inches from the trunk to generate new root hairs and reduce transplant shock. As with planting, dig a hole larger than the root ball, incorporate organic matter and set the plant even or just above its original soil level. Mulch and water well. Depending on the type and size of shrub, it is recommended that you prune back one-third of the transplanted shrub.

Martha Martin

Cassina members work diligently in the gardens each Saturday to weed, prune and plant. Kudos to our dedicated gardeners!



Garden Chair Martha Martin, in the center, gives encouragement to new members Liz DeMato, on left and Dottie Fielder, right.

Did You Know... *The first Cassina Tour of Homes was called the Christmas Show Case and was held on Saturday, December 14, 1985 from 1:00 till 5:00 p.m. Five homes were decorated for the holidays and open to the public. Tickets were priced at \$5.00, and the goal for money raised was "for the beautification of our Island as well as our slave cabins."*