

Cassina Garden Club
NEWSLETTER

Cassinagardenclub.org



December 2009

**25th Anniversary
Christmas Tour of Homes
and Bake Sale**

Saturday, December 13, 2009

Tour Hours 11:00 ~ 4:00



Hamilton Landing



Sea Palms



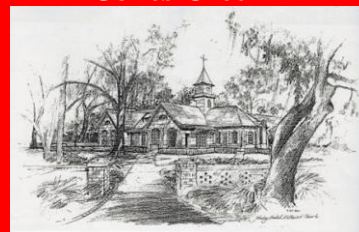
Jones Creek



The Commons



West Point



Wesley United Methodist

**Bake Sale at the Cassina Cabins
10:00 ~ 3:00**

November Meeting Highlights

Program Chair, Elizabeth Freyer, planned a particularly memorable program for November. Fraser Russell Baker, Elizabeth's longtime friend who is a direct descendent of plantation owners John Couper of Cannon's Point and William Page of Retreat enchanted and educated the members with her personal stories of her ancestors and little-known historical facts about the early history of St. Simons Island. Members of the Docent Committee were feverishly taking notes to add to their presentations at the Cabins. Pictured l-r; Elizabeth Freyer and Fraser Russell Baker.



Birthday Drawing Winner



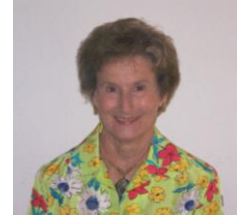
Congratulations to Sally Hawie and other members celebrating birthdays in November. Sally received a beautiful red amaryllis that was full of blooms. Remember, you must be present to win! December and January birthdays will be celebrated at our next meeting.

Addition to Our Library

Former president, Beth Downey donated "The Garden History of Georgia 1733 – 1933" to Cassina. This is a most valuable addition to our library and will be designated as *Reference Only*. We truly appreciate Beth's generous gift.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee comprised of Janis Rodriguez, Chair, Caroline Fleetwood and Joanne Scott presented their recommendation to the Board on November 5th for President-elect. Beverly Nash has accepted this position and will take office following the May picnic.



Beverly Nash

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-two members attended the November Board meeting and approved the following items:

- To accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee of Beverly Nash as President-elect.
- To contribute \$50 to the gardening efforts at St. Simons Elementary School per a request from Ruth Kolumber who is working with the 4th and 5th grade honor students to refurbish the Spanish Garden. This garden was designed and planted a number of years ago by Cassina.
- To contribute \$25 to the State of Georgia Roadside Beautification Wildflower Project.
- To clarify the Blast Email Policy; the Secretary will use the phrases "Community News" and "Cassina" in the subject line to differentiate between emails directly concerned with Cassina and those that are community related.

Tour Committee Prepares for 25th Annual Event

Celebrate Island plantation memories on the 25th annual Christmas Tour of Homes featuring five members' homes decorated with natural greenery reminiscent of the 1800's. Each home is located on the site of a former St. Simons Island plantation. Chair, Anne Aspinwall and her committee are ready for this exciting event scheduled for December 12th. Committee leaders include Susan Baltzell, Leslie Carlton, Anne Caswell, Sue Chambless, Pat Collins, Natalie Crane, Nancy Dobrenic, Elizabeth Freyer, Nan Fuller, Peggy Golden, Kay Harrell, Phillis Harrell, Jennifer Kuja, Janice Lamattina, Beverly Nash, Janis Rodriguez, Joanne Scott, Ginger Sifford, Becky Stephenson, Sandy Storino, Sara Taylor, Denise Trethaway and Betty White.



Head Hostess Committee:
 l-r: Pam Hamilton;
 Charlotte Dennis; Sally
 Hawie; Susan Haley;
 Sallie Sasser; Seated l-r:
 Becky Stephenson;
 Chair; Carole Ploeger.
 Not pictured: Gee Gee
 Adams; June Brown;
 Libby Hogan, Janice
 Lamattina.

Bake Sale Preparations

Sue Chambless and the Bake Sale committee offered innovative product and packaging ideas for members at the November meeting. The annual sale of Cassina members' baked items is always a sell-out and eagerly anticipated by Christmas Tour attendees. Pictured at left: Natalie Crane, Co-Chair; Louise Grady; Sue Chambless, Chair; and Caroline Fleetwood.



Greenery Needed

Betty Young and Snookie Collins display some of the beautiful greenery they have cut that will be used to decorate the Cabins and the homes of five Cassina members for the Tour. Be sure to contact Anne Aspinwall if you have greenery to share.



Horticultural Highlights

December is a month when most garden tasks have been completed, and you can enjoy decorating and preparing for the holidays.

Cold Weather: If a freeze is forecast, water well 24 hours before the freezing weather. Cover more sensitive plants to protect from frost. If plastic is used, it must be removed before the day warms up so that the plants will not be damaged. Do **not** leave sprinklers running during a freeze.

Citrus: The fruit of many of the citrus trees that grow in our area are changing color and are ready to be harvested. Many Satsuma oranges (tangerines), grapefruit, kumquats, and calamondins are ripe; and Meyer lemons are ready to be picked. Meyer lemons can be left on the tree longer than most citrus. The longer a Meyer lemon is on the tree, the sweeter it will be.

Lawns: Watch for brown patch fungus disease in lawns.

Trees and Shrubs: Late December is a good time to begin transplanting plants. Wait until the weather has turned cool, and plants are dormant. Hopefully plants were root pruned earlier in the year. Have the plants out of the ground as little time as possible and water well when planted. Do not fertilize plants when transplanted.

Bulbs: Tulips which were refrigerated earlier, may be planted now or as late as January. Paperwhites and other Narcissus tazetta may still be planted outdoors or planted in containers.

Poinsettias: Poinsettias should be placed in good light out of the way of drafts. Water well about twice a week. If you have broken stems or wish to use poinsettias as cut flowers, strip the leaves off the lower stem and place the cut stem in hot water for conditioning. After the danger of frost or freeze, the plants can be planted outside in a sunny protected area.

Annuals: Because of our unusually mild fall, many summer annuals are still blooming. It's not too late, however, to plant cool weather annuals such as snapdragons, petunias, pansies, lobelia, dianthus, and carnations.



Martha Martin

Cassina Garden Events

Twice each year the Cassina Garden Committee requests the help of all Cassina members to assist with the preparation of the gardens for two events. They are the December Tour of Homes and the May Garden Walk. On Saturday, October 31, the gardeners met to refresh the gardens with some color and exciting new Fall/Winter specimens. They weeded, turned over soil, planted and fertilized.

In preparation for the Fall planting this year, the committee visited Ace Garden Center on October 24. A garden center representative presented an overview of those plants which will bloom and thrive through the fall and winter season. The 14 gardeners discussed their choices for our Cassina gardens and made their purchases.

Pictured l-r: Ann Worthington, Snookie Collins, Sallie Sasser, Betty Young, Janis Rodriguez, Pamela Hamilton, Ladye Heisel, Martha Mooney and Mary Lynch.

