

Cassina Garden Club
NEWSLETTER

Cassinagardenclub.org



February 2009

Annual Anniversary Luncheon

Members and Guests

Thursday, February 12, 2009

St. William Catholic Church

11:00 a.m.

\$35 per person

Reply by February 4



Speaker

Linda Langston Copeland

Co-Author with Dr. Allan M. Armitage

Legends in the Garden
Who in the World is Nellie Stevens?

Book Signing following the Luncheon

A Natural Paradise... January Field Trip

Members and guests spent a fun-filled and educational day on Little St. Simons Island on January 12. Departing from the Hampton Dock on St. Simons Island, the group was met on arrival by naturalist Abby Sterling. Following a tour of the Hunting Lodge, the group boarded the “tour truck” for a guided tour of the Island. Exploring the North End



the group saw the amazing climax maritime forest – the oldest part of the Island.

Abby explained how the island was formed and how it compared to other Georgia barrier islands. A chocolate brown fallow deer, great horned owl, migrating birds and Indian middens were seen on the morning tour. Following lunch at the Hunting Lodge, the group went to the beach, stopping along the way to hike to view a majestic bald eagle sitting in the huge nest. Abby explained the eagle was sitting on eggs. Two chicks hatched in 2008 and the naturalists are hoping for the same this year. The visit to this secluded and serene island, filled with native flora and fauna was such a treat. Special thanks to Catherine Wood for organizing this amazing trip.



L-r: first row: Sharon Flores, Betty Young, Alice Barlow, Fred Barlow

Second row: Joanne Scott, Becky Tucker, Jennifer Kuja, Deana Davis, Liz DeMato

Board Notes



The January Board Meeting provided an opportunity for 42% of the Active membership to discuss issues that are important to the future of Cassina. Our Club is different from most garden clubs because we own property – both grounds and historic buildings. As owners, we have a responsibility to preserve and maintain our property – a huge responsibility that is reflected in our Mission Statement. Board members and former Tour Chairs were divided into discussion groups to generate ideas about how we move forward to meet our financial obligations to preserve and maintain our historic property. Only ¼ of our operating funds come from dues, so over the years, various money-making projects have been developed to fund the shortfall. At present, there are eight money-making projects with fewer than 90 Active members available to work on these projects. The discussion focused on the following questions related to the existing projects:

- Do they promote the Mission?
- Do they require too much effort?
- Do any NOT generate the benefits or income that we need?

The goal was to develop ideas about how we move forward. A summary will be presented at the February Board meeting.

NOTE MARCH MEETING CHANGE

The March Meeting, scheduled for March 12 has been changed to an **OPEN** meeting. This will be the final Open meeting this year.

Our speaker, landscape designer Alex Smith of Atlanta, was originally scheduled for April but requested a change to the March date. Please check the March Newsletter for the new meeting location.

January Meeting Spotlights Cassina Creativity

Fellowship Hall at the Lutheran Church was filled with beautiful plant material as three of Cassina's most talented floral designers worked their magic in teaching us to make pot et fleurs. Beth Downey, Jennifer Kuja and Catherine Wood shared their secrets to making long-lasting container gardens. Beth began the demonstration with plantings for a



container that she will place outside. The plumosus fern in the center added height and drama to the lovely composition.

Catherine Wood, right, demonstrated how to transform a Christmas indoor pot et fleur into one for all seasons. She removed poinsettias and spent foliage and replaced them with flowering plants and new foliage. Both Catherine and Beth recommended placing plants in the container in their original pots. Beth suggested placing smaller plants in a "baggie" with the seal at the top removed, and squeezing them in if the container becomes too full.



Jennifer Kuja focused on a composition that would be perfect for a small table. Using flowering plants and rosemary, she created a beautiful spring container complete with a lovely bow.

January Birthdays Celebrated at Meeting

Congratulations to our birthday drawing winner for January. Kay Harrell, who celebrated her birthday on January 11th, was the lucky recipient of a beautiful pot et fleur created by Catherine Wood.

Another very special January birthday was that of Thelma Montgomery. Thelma celebrated her 90th birthday on January 11. In honor of this wonderful milestone, Thelma was presented with the lovely basket arrangement created by Jennifer Kuja during the floral demonstration.



Dates to Remember

- January 28 –**
February 1 Southeastern Flower Show
 Atlanta, GA
- February 5 Board Meeting**
 10:00 p.m.; Synovus Bank
- February 12 Annual Luncheon**
 St. William Catholic Church
 11:00 a.m.
- February 18 Elderhostel Tour of Cabins**
 1:30 p.m.
- February 19-21**
State Flower Show
 Thomasville, GA
 Pebble Hill Plantation

New Plant Varieties for 2009

Martha Martin, Horticulture Chair

The 2009 Southern Living™ Plant Collection includes six new varieties of plants from Athens Select™ which should do well in our area. Athens Select™ is “a collection of heat and humidity tolerant plants, selected by Dr. Allan Armitage after being tested in his trial gardens at the University of Georgia. In addition to heat tolerance, plants are selected for their uniqueness, and they are virus-indexed to ensure superior plant quality and health.” These 2009 plants are listed below with the description from the Athens Select™ web site. To see more pictures of these plants go to www.athensselect.com/index.html.

Begonia Bonita Shea™ - *A compact, mound-shaped Begonia with dainty white to pink flowers borne over curled reddish green leaves with red undersides. Grows 6-10” and blooms spring until fall. Full sun to part shade. Zone 10-11 [This is the only shade plant in the collection.]*



Cuphea Plum Mist™ - *Two-tone flowers in light and dark lavender stand out nicely against the medium green foliage. An exceptionally free-flowering, well-balanced, low growing plant. Grows 10-12” and blooms spring until fall. Full sun. Zone 7b-11*

Heliotrope Azure Skies™ - *A low growing, spreading American native with light lavender flower clusters. Incredibly heat tolerant. Grows 12-14” and blooms spring until fall. Full sun. Zone 7-11*



Ruellia Ragin' Cajun™ - *Vivid red flowers and a low growth habit with wispy flower stems. A tough little plant that's easy to grow and holds up well through heat and humidity. Grows 12-14” and blooms spring until fall. Full sun. Zone 7b – 11*

Setcreasea Blue Sue™ - *Displays distinctive blue-tinged foliage with a handsome purple margin. Pink flowers make a wonderful contrast to the foliage. Grows 6-8” and blooms summer to fall. Full sun to part shade. Zone 7b – 11*

Scaevola 'Cajun Blue' PP#16312 - *An all-around, great performing scaevola that's more compact and earlier blooming than other varieties. Exceptional heat tolerance. Grows 8-10” and blooms spring until fall. Full sun. Zone 9-11*



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Cam Reimers who passed away on January 18th. Cam had been a dedicated member and devoted docent since joining Cassina in 1989. Ill health had kept her away from meetings in recent years.