

Cassina Garden Club

NEWSLETTER



September 2008



September Meeting...Excitement Under the Big Tent

Calling ALL Cassina Members ~ Actives and Associates
Mark your calendar for our first meeting of the 2008-09 Year

Date: Thursday, September 11

Location: Cassina Grounds ~ Under the Red Tent

Time: 9:30 - Refreshments

10:00 - Meeting

Program: "Our Patch of Ground"

Historian **Patricia Buie**, dressed in period attire as the chatelaine of Hamilton Plantation, will introduce us to the Hamiltons and discuss their impact on St. Simons Island and our beloved "patch" of the former plantation.

Patricia is an expert on Hamilton Plantation.

Hostess: Ann Martin, Chair; Jane Bowen, Leila Buchanan, Jennifer Kuja

Please join us as we celebrate our Legacy, meet our new members and enjoy seeing each other again after the long, hot summer.

Summer Docent Program Hosts More Than 300 Visitors

Docent Chair, Frances Allen reports that there was an increase in the number of summer visitors to the Cabins this year. Thanks to the efforts of Publicity Chair, Peggy Golden, weekly announcements in *The Brunswick News* alerted visitors and locals to the Wednesday morning tours. Eighteen docents braved the summer heat to share the history of our tabby cabins with more than 300 visitors. Special thanks to the following dedicated docents: Frances Allen, Sue Cansler, Leslie Carlton, Mary Carnathan, Anne Caswell, Pat Collins, Natalie Crane, Marie Dodd, Martha Jane Dodson, Ladye Heisel, Libby Hogan, Claire Jorgensen, Marcia Kester, Jennifer Kuja, Beverly Nash, Denise Trethaway, Michaela Waddington, Betty White.

Docent Program Training

For all members interested in training to serve as a Cabin Docent, two opportunities are available in September to observe our Docents at work – Monday, September 22nd and again on Monday, September 29th at 1:30 pm each week. Please contact Frances Allen for additional information. New members will receive Cabin orientation on September 18th at 10:00 am.

24th Annual Christmas Tour of Homes

Claire Jorgensen and her committee have been busy all summer developing plans for the 2008 Christmas Tour. This year's homes are some of the most beautiful ever, and the Tour promises to be a huge success. The date is set for Saturday, December 13th - a very important date for all Cassina members!

The first tour stop will be our Cabins. The Tea Cabin will become a festive Holiday Market and the Meeting Cabin will once again be the home of our famous Bake Sale. Then we have five beautiful St. Simons Island homes dressed up in Christmas finery plus a seventh stop at IDAC (Island Design and Architectural Center) located on Frederica Road.

Ticket-holders will enjoy hot cider and Christmas cookies at IDAC along with demonstrations throughout the day on topics related to home design as well as other treats.

All in all, an exciting day for our tour goes at a bargain price of \$25 per advance ticket and \$30 on tour day. Tour hours will be from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. Special prizes, which will be announced later, will be awarded to Cassina members

who sell the most tickets - beyond the two required for each active member.

If you have not been contacted yet, please join the party and volunteer early to serve as a room hostess on tour day. There will be three shifts at each house about 2½ hours each. At the same time, volunteer your husband to be a parking director. Make one call to either Ladye Heisel, Hostess Chairman, or Susan Haley, Parking Chairman. They need your help!

Other Committee members include:

Secretary	Leila Buchanan
Treasurer	Leslie Carlton
Bake Sale	Sue Chambless
Holiday Market	Becky Stephenson
Printing	Kay Harrell
Ticket Outlets	Sandy Storino
Posters	Joanne Scott
Signs	Beverly Nash
Home Selection	Marie Dodd
Home Descriptions	Elizabeth Freyer
Publicity	Denise Trethaway
IDAC Tour Stop	Sally Hawie
Homeowner's Party	M. J. Choate
Cassina President	Sharon Flores

Don't miss out on one of the most fun days of the Cassina year!

Oleander District Meeting

The Fall District Meeting will be held in Statesboro on October 17th, 2008. This is an important and informative Garden Club of Georgia event, and Cassina members are encouraged to attend. The registration deadline is October 5th, and registration forms will be available at the September meeting. Please notify Sharon Flores if you are available to attend.

Holiday Market Committee Needs Your Help



The Holiday Market Committee for the Christmas Tour of Homes has exciting plans for this year and is inviting Cassina members to become involved in the preparations. Please contact Becky Stephenson to let her know how you will help. (becstep@comcast.net) or 634-9024.

You may also volunteer at the September Meeting.

1. **Propose an item to sell.** Name of item to be made, supplies needed, approximate cost, instructions, time involved, etc. Deadline: **NOW**
2. **Donate** any type of Christmas ribbon, baskets, pretty flower containers, vases, plain floral straw wreaths, sea shells, pinecones, wire and wire picks, Christmas decorations to be used in greenery arrangements, etc. Deadline: **SEPTEMBER MEETING**
3. **Offer to furnish fresh greenery** to be used in fresh arrangements. (Holly, pine, green moss, clean magnolia leaves, berries, fur branches, cuttings from your yard, mistletoe, etc.). Deadline: **4 DAYS BEFORE TOUR**
4. **Offer to furnish dried hydrangeas** to use to decorate grapevine wreaths. Deadline: **OCTOBER**
5. **Donate items to decorate** glass Christmas ornaments, paper gift bags and gift tags such as sequins, glitter, ribbon, etc. Deadline: **BRING TO SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Thirteen New Members Join Cassina

Our New Member Luncheon/Orientation, organized by Leslie Carlton, will be held on September 3rd at the home of Elizabeth Freyer. We will welcome 13 new members:

Alice Barlow (Joanne Scott)
 Jimmie Boyd (Elizabeth Freyer)
 Barbara Bruce (Michaela Waddington)
 Liz DeMato (Leslie Carlton)
 Jennie Doyle (Nancy Acree)
 Dottie Fielder (Emily Swift)
 Libby Hogan (Emily Swift)

Cheri Leavy (Peggy Golden)
 Jennifer Leavy (Susan Haley)
 Barbara Murrah (Ladye Heisel)
 Carole Ploeger (Becky Stephenson)
 Janis Rodriguez (Marie Dodd)
 Ann Worthington (Michaela Waddington)

The sponsors, listed above in parentheses after the name of their new member, will provide the food for the luncheon. Orientation topics will include the Christmas Tour, our *Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Walk Weekend*, the Cassina Cookbook, the Cassina Gardens, the Docent Program and our Sponsor Guidelines, New Member Handbook and Yearbook.

The second half of our new member orientation will be held on September 18th. Our new members will be introduced to the membership at our meeting on September 11th and will be wearing name badges with a green ribbon. Please make a point of introducing yourselves and welcoming these interesting and talented ladies to Cassina!

Horticultural Highlights on the Island



Although our area may not get the fall color from changing leaves, in the next few months we will have plants that put on a wonderful display. The Confederate rose (*Hibiscus mutabilis*) will have its large double flowers that change from white to pink. Open areas near the marsh will show the pink mist of muhly grass and the white fluff of groundsel bush (eastern *Baccharis halimifolia*). The ordinary-looking shrub, Cassia, will be covered in brilliant yellow flowers; and the Goldenrain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) will flower in late summer and then display the Chinese-lantern-like seedpods. Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) is now showing vivid purple berries that will hold that color for many months.

In the area gardens, a variety of sages and rudbeckias will bloom, and mistflower (wild ageratum) will prove it is not a weed. Plus, many of our heat-weary annuals can be rejuvenated by a little pruning and fertilizer.

Martha Martin

Cassina Grape Harvest...It's Jelly Time

Frances Allen reports that the jelly making is awaiting the ripening of the grapes. Right now the muscadines on our arbor are hard and could be used in a slingshot. If you have an interest in making jelly with our muscadines, please contact Frances and she will set up a time to exercise our culinary skills. If you have any ½ pint size jelly jars that you could donate, please notify Frances. The Cassina jelly will be a great new addition to our *Signature Shop* at the May Garden Market.



Did You Know... *Cassina* - also known as yaupon, the Christmas berry tree, and as the North American tea plant - was found in common use as the source of a caffeine beverage among Indians from Virginia to Florida and west along the Gulf coast to the Rio Grande. It was reported at the time, that "none [of] the Indians but their great Men and Captains, who have been famous for their great Exploits of War and Noble Actions, are admitted to the use of this noble Bevaridge." Settlers in these regions prepared a tea known as the "Black Drink," "Black Drought," or dahoon, from the same plant. During the Civil War, when the South was under blockade so that supplies of coffee and tea were cut off, Cassina again became a popular beverage in the Confederacy. During and after World War I, when coffee prices soared, Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture launched projects to popularize Cassina as a substitute source of caffeine; Cassina-flavored ice cream and Cassina soft drinks as well as Cassina teas were marketed.