

Cassina Garden Club

NEWSLETTER



February 2006

“Creation . . . Conservation . . . Celebration Cassina’s Legacy”

78TH Annual Luncheon

This is our “annual” birthday party to honor all present and former Cassina Garden Club members and the community spirit and work exhibited by all. Please join us as we celebrate our 78th year! To make this a really celebratory occasion, we have invited members of all Glynn County Garden Clubs. A special invitation was mailed to each individual and reservations are already coming in.

Date – Thursday, Feb. 9, 2006, 11:30 am

Location – St. Williams Catholic Church

Food will be catered by Delaney’s Bistro for \$30 per member. Guests are invited for \$40 per person. Guest names should appear on your check for their reservation and nametag.

Because this is a catered luncheon, reservations are VERY important!

Your payment is your reservation. (No verbal reservations.) If you are assembling a table, please include all names for your table and one or more checks to cover the reservations.

Checks must be received by Feb 6 at:

Cassina Garden Club
P. O. Box 20191
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

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PROGRAM – James R. Cothran is a noted, award-winning landscape architect and author. His fields of expertise are the gardens and homes of the South. His latest book *“Historic Homes and Gardens of the Antebellum South”* will be available for purchase and autograph. Mr. Cothran is very involved with the Garden Club of Georgia; is managing partner of the architectural firm Robert and Company, Atlanta (he us the first landscape architect to lead this venerable firm, founded in 1917); is an adjunct professor at Georgia State University and the University of Georgia; and is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for his many accomplishments.

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| 9:30-10:30 am | Table centerpieces delivered to the Parish Hall |
| 11:30 am | Registration, Social Time, Centerpiece Competition |
| 11:45 am | Welcome remarks by President Marie Dodd
Inspiration and Invocation by Natalie Crane |
| 12 noon | Luncheon |
| 12:45 pm | Introduction of Speaker |
| 1:45 pm | Centerpiece Winners & Award for Tour Tickets sales – Kay Harrell |
| 2 pm | Adjourn |

CENTERPIECE COMPETITION

Oh, what fun it is to participate! The creativity of our members and the beauty of their centerpieces will enliven our luncheon. Each attendee will receive a ballot when you register. Make certain you view ALL the table centerpieces prior to sitting down for the luncheon. Kay Harrell will collect the ballots. They will be tallied while we lunch and the winners announced at the end of the luncheon.

A Comment on the Increased Price of the Luncheon: The decision to increase the price of the luncheon required great discussion at both our January Board and Regular meetings. A bit of history might help us understand the reasoning behind this decision:

Three years ago – at our last luncheon in the “old” Cloister, the meal was priced at \$25.00 and Cassina absorbed about \$0.50/person of the additional cost. Two years ago, a quote from the King and Prince for \$27.50 + tax & gratuity, caused us to move the luncheon to the Parish Hall at St. Williams to keep the charge to \$25.00/person. The actual cost turned out to be \$24.93. Last year, still at St. Williams, the charge for lunch remained \$25.00/person but it actually cost us \$26.96 so Cassina lost nearly \$2.00 per meal. Costs have continued to escalate. We must rent linens (no longer available at cost through St. Williams), china, glassware, etc. and pay a modest honorarium to our speaker. As a result, your Board reluctantly approved the \$30 per member charge and a \$40 guest fee. I hope this helps.

BOARD MEMBERS – Please Note: NEW TIME

The February Board Meeting will be held Thursday, February 2nd at 9:00 am in the Conference room at the SunTrust Bank, Sea Island Road at Frederica. All Committee Chairs are asked to attend. Please advise Marie of your plans at 638-4096.

FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE TOUR

Tour Treasurer Kay Harrell gave an accounting of the Tour financial status but final results cannot be made until one (1) Active Member (\$40) and four (4) Associate Members (@ \$20) PAY for their tour tickets. This is a membership requirement so if you are unsure, you are encouraged to call Kay at 634-0323 to learn if yours is an outstanding debt.

ELDERHOSTEL TOURS OF THE CABINS - DOCENTS NEEDED

Becky Stephenson has a schedule for six dates where Docents are needed. Please give her a call at 634-9024 to participate. New Members are encouraged to “earn their Docent’s stripes” by choosing a date.

SPONSORS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Please remember if you are sponsoring a new member, she must be invited and attend **TWO MEETINGS** before she can be accepted into membership. Remember that when we meet at the Cabins, guests are not permitted due to space limitations. Our February luncheon will be the last meeting this year that guests may attend.

“HERITAGE DAYS” at OGLETHORPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In cooperation with the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, Cassina is asked to provide two or three volunteers who will assist the children with the planting of herbs. It will only take a couple of hours on Friday, February 10, so if you are willing to volunteer for this community effort, call Marie, 638-4096. It’s fun!

INVITATION FROM THE ST. SIMONS ISLAND GARDEN COUNCIL

Cassina members are invited to attend a program of the SSI Garden Council that is being presented by the Hamilton Plantation Garden Club on the “Wild Garden Project”. This program will be presented at the home of Pat Thorpe (Hawkins Island) on Monday, February 13, at 9:30 am. The gardens of several homes in Epworth have been designated “Wild Gardens” because they have landscape designs that are specifically intended to attract birds and other wild life through their special plantings. The speaker will talk on what qualifies a garden for such designation. Please contact Ruth Kolumber, 634-1272, ruthdk@bellsouth.net to get your name on the attendee list, a necessity since Hawkins Island is gated.

GARDEN UPDATE by Frances Allen

We have a new well at the cabins! Drilled by Woodrow Sapp Co. They will be finishing the connections to the cabins this week. The water pressure is wonderful. Since the cabins are still on our own septic system, please do not pour anything down the commode that will harm our tank or leaching fields.

We have had a very mild winter and as a result, the pansies, snapdragons and petunias have faired well so far. Our garden design is a work in progress and we will see what will come back this spring. Some plants need to be moved around. We will continue to have the beds divided for weeding and maintenance. This has worked well – it is not a burden for anyone if you take care of your area on a regular basis. You may keep your same section. If you did not have a section, I will have a sign up sheet available at the Luncheon or just call me, 634-1410, and I will put your name down to reserve your plot.

It is still too early to turn the soil in the beds and prepare for the spring planting, but do check for weeds. I welcome suggestions that you may have for the design of the beds and around the cabins. We all have different ideas that need to be heard.

The plant I want to bring to your attention is the GRAND CRINUM (*Crinum asiaticum*). This is the huge lily in front of the grape arbor given to us by Denise Trethaway last year. The Crinum has evergreen foliage but will die back after a hard freeze. However, mulching over the neck of the bulbs in winter brings them back in spring. Growing 3 to 4 feet tall, Grand Crinum bears up to 50 fragrant, white flowers in a single cluster. The Grand Crinum cultivar is the largest and slowest variety to off-set. The mother plant throws off several hundred bulblets instead of seed to start new plants. These bulblets take several years to bloom but your patience will be rewarded. Crinums become showier with time, so there is no need to divide clumps, unless you want plants for other locations.