

*Cassina Garden Club*  
NEWSLETTER



March 2011

Calendar of Events

\*\*\*\*\*  
March 1, 2011; Cabin Tour  
1:30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*  
March 3, 2011; Board  
Meeting at Cabins 10 a.m.

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March 10, 2011; Monthly  
Meeting, Coastal Georgia  
Heritage Center, 9:30 a.m.  
Hospitality, 10 a.m.  
Meeting

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March 14, 2011; St. Simons  
Council Meeting, Lee  
Dillard's home 10 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*  
March 22, 2011; Cabin  
Tour 3 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*  
March 30, 2011; Cabin  
Tour 10:30 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*  
March 31, 2011; Callaway  
Garden Field Trip

\*\*\*\*\*  
April 26-28, 2011 Garden  
Club of Georgia Annual  
Convention in Athens

# March Meeting

## All Members

**“Eugene Lewis Historic Gardens on  
Hamilton Plantation”**

**Presented by Janis Rodriguez**



**March 10 ~ Coastal Georgia Historical Society  
Heritage Center**

**9:30 ~ Refreshments 10:00 ~ Meeting**

**Hostesses: Virginia Ellis, Caroline Fleetwood**

## February Luncheon

Our February luncheon was a great success. What a treat it was to be “Down by the Riverside” and to enjoy the beautiful setting at Epworth and all the spectacular floral decorations contributed by members and guests.



Dottie, Patricia Collins, Beverly Nash

One hundred forty attendees heard our guest speaker, **Patricia Collins**, as she brought 40+ years of work and developmental experience at Callaway Gardens to share. Her special perspective and pictures on the history of Callaway as well as the garden’s programs and plants gave new insight into this truly beautiful garden. Her presentation was a small taste of all the beauty and knowledge in store for club members who will journey there at the end of March on an overnight field trip to Callaway.

The photography contest and floral competition winners each added their own excitement to this very special yearly gathering. Thanks to all who were a part of making this a memorable day.

## Floral Arrangement Competition

As has become a tradition at our annual luncheon, members and guests contributed beautiful floral arrangements for each of our tables. Our theme of “Down by the Riverside” really inspired some outstanding floral displays. Decisions, Decisions, Decisions..... Great fun was had by all as members and guests voted for the winning arrangements. This year’s winners were: First Place: **Susan Haley**, Second Place: **Hillary Parker**, and Third Place: **Jennifer Broadus**.

Thank you to all who entered the 20 arrangements for the competition, and to Competition chairs: **Anne Caswell**, **Sara Taylor**, **Lee Dillard**. The arrangements and competition add so much to this festive occasion.

## 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-three members attended the February Board meeting and approved the following items:

- Standing rules change for membership application
- Additional charge of \$15 to members receiving monthly newsletter by mail effective June 1, 2011
- \$25 donation to GCG Roadside Beautification Project
- Sale of St. Simons Council raffle tickets for expenses of 2011 District meeting
- \$500 to Coastal Georgia Historical Society for storage materials to protect Cassina archival records



First Place Winner



Second Place Winner



Third Place Winner

## Garden Club of Georgia News

This year's Garden Club of Georgia Convention will be held April 26—28th in Athens. Registration deadline is April 10, 2011. Registration forms are available on-line at [www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org](http://www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org). The installation of **Sharon Flores** as the new District Director will be on the morning of April 27th and the Awards Banquet will be that same evening. Also as part of the convention, tours have been arranged for the State Headquarters as well as the State Botanical Gardens. If interested in attending, please contact **Beverly Nash**.

Two other Garden Club of Georgia events in our area that may be of interest to members are the following:

- \* Flower Show School—Millen, GA; March 1-3. Contact Jane Johnson at [Princejohnson@bellsouth.net](mailto:Princejohnson@bellsouth.net) for more information.
- \* South Georgia Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium, Tifton, GA; March 23. Contact at [www.nespal.org/wildflower](http://www.nespal.org/wildflower).

## Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Walk Juried Photography Competition

Eye-popping photography of beautiful flowers and gardens in the Golden Isles inspired entrants to submit 148 photographs for the 3rd annual *Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Walk* Photography Competition.

Winners were announced at the 83rd Annual Luncheon. Cassina member **Ann Worthington** was the first place winner with an array of ten lovely flowers. **Harlan Hambricht** won second place with a backlit image of an alstromeria flower. The winning photographer received a prize of \$150 and the photo will be featured on posters, programs, and all collateral material for the 2011 Garden Walk. Second place received \$75 in prize money. Both photographs will be showcased in the juried show April 19 through May 5 at the Left Bank Art Gallery on St. Simons Island as well as exhibited at the *Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Market*, May 7-8, in the historic Hamilton Plantation tabby slave cabins at Gascoigne Bluff.



l-r: Photography Competition winners Ann Worthington, Harlan Hambricht, Garden Walk Advisor, Sharon Flores

### Member Concerns

Frances Allen is convalescing at home.

Mimi Franklin is recovering from surgery.

Carolyn Lovell is recovering from a broken wrist.

Our sympathy to Snookie Collins regarding the loss of her son.

Please contact either Nan Fuller or Emily Swift about any member concerns.



Save your pull tabs and bring them to each meeting throughout the year!

## Yearly Board Meeting Planning Session

At their January meeting Cassina Board members once again this year devoted most of their time to reviewing the Mission of Cassina. They discussed our performance over the past year in each category and spent time brainstorming ideas to help enhance our efforts in the coming months. Many great ideas and projects were suggested as a result. We have compiled these comments and ideas for the membership. Copies will be available at our March meeting. If you would like to review these, please pick up a copy. They are full of suggestions and opportunities for members to serve and get involved. A great way to let us know of your interest or support of a particular project will be the membership survey given out this month. Please communicate your interest to us.

## Pull Tabs Reminder

Thanks to those of you who have brought tab tops for the Ronald McDonald project. We're off to a great start on this effort! Please remember to collect and bring all your tabs to the meeting on March 10th. Just look for the red and yellow McDonald's house or for **Susan Baltzell**.



**Don't forget to check out the Cassina Website. The award-winning website is now full of many new features and information to keep you up to date and in the know.**

## Georgia Heritage Day

Georgia Heritage Day is an annual event celebrated at Oglethorpe Point Elementary School with activities led by many varied groups from our area. Three Cassina Garden Club members participated and discussed with five First Grade classes the plants that grow in Georgia, particularly in our Coastal area, and the elements that are needed for the plants to grow such as water, light, and food. The Cassina members talked about the crops that were raised on the plantations during Colonial days. Different parts of plants were demonstrated using fresh produce.

The children were each given a paper cup which they filled with potting soil and green bean seeds. The cups had the children's names on them and were placed in an aluminum roasting pan, covered with a clear plastic lid, which created a miniature greenhouse. These were brought to the classrooms to be put into a sunny spot, watered, and cared for as the students watch them grow..

With Valentine's Day coming up, the children were also given another paper cup in which they placed a Pansy plant that they could take home to give to someone special.

The Cassina Garden Club members who presented this fun day for over 100 enthusiastic children were **Betty Davis, Ladye Heisel, and Louise Ufer**.



Back row l-r: Cassina Members Ladye Heisel, Louise Ufer, Betty Davis



## Tabby & Tallandsia Garden Walk Kicks off at Cassina Luncheon

With appropriate fanfare at the close of Cassina’s annual luncheon, **Sharon Flores** kicked off the Garden Walk activities with the announcement of the first and second place winners in the third annual Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Walk Juried Photography Competition. **Ann Worthington** was the first place winner, and our buddy and supporter **Harlan Hambright**, of H<sub>2</sub>O Creative Group, won second place. Ann’s photo will be featured on the 2011 Garden Walk posters and programs.

**Kay Harrell**, Garden Market Chair has been busy contacting Market vendors. Once all the vendor registrations are complete, Kay and her co-chair, **Marie Dodd** will arrange the tents around our Cassina property to create a wonderful Market for all to enjoy.

The Garden Walk Weekend’s presenting sponsors this year are **ACE Garden Center** for the Garden Walk and **SunTrust Bank** for the Garden Market. Garden Sponsors include **DeLoach/Sotheby’s International Real Estate: Adair Allen; Georgia Coast Realty: Klickie Aiken, Teri Moore, and Dee Wright; Hunter Maclean; Miller Photography; Sea Palms Realty: Ann Harrell and Ann McCann; and Signature Properties Group: Patsy Bryan, Julie Martin, Betsy Polhill.**

Co-Chairs of the 2011 Garden Walk are **Dottie Fielder** and **Janis Rodriguez**.

### By-Laws Review

In the last few years a number of issues have developed that indicated a need for review of the Cassina By-Laws. Last fall a group was asked to take on this responsibility.

Leslie Carlton was asked to head up this review, and her committee members have worked hard to do a thorough and insightful review of the Cassina By-Laws while considering the future needs of our club. Their review is almost complete and they will present a draft of the revised By-Laws to the Board in March.

Following the March membership meeting, the revised By-Laws will be made available to the Active membership so you will have adequate time to read them and be prepared to vote on acceptance of them at our April meeting.

Members serving on the By-Laws review committee are: **Leslie Carlton**, Chair, **Anne Aspinwall**, **Marie Dodd**, **Sharon Flores**, **Peggy Golden**, **Kay Harrell**, **Ruth Kolumber**, **Beverly Nash**, and **Denise Trethaway**.

### From Our Gardens

It’s time to wake up! All my plants have been sleeping for awhile, but now we are ready to rise and get all spruced up for the spring. The last two weeks of February you started on my winter garden clean-up. Cutting back and removing all the dead stuff really made a difference in how I look. But ... I still need lots of tender loving care. It’s time to get back to our regular Saturday fix-up time. Come on out! Your appointment time starts at 9 a.m. each Saturday.



Remember, I need all the help I can get so new members don’t forget about me. And you old garden club pros, what a great way for you to be involved. Besides making me look better, you will feel better from having paid me a visit. See you each Saturday morning!!

## Raffle to Benefit Oleander District Meeting

*Summer Breeze with Edward!* The St. Simons Council of Garden Clubs invites Cassina members and friends to join Edward Armstrong, St. Simons' own floral stylist extraordinaire, for a fabulous summer evening of fun and flowers. Edward will conduct a flower arranging class designed just for you and seven of your friends.

The excitement begins with professional floral tips from the master. With greenery and cut flowers from your garden and your favorite container, Edward will help you create a magical arrangement to take home. The evening ends with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as you and your friends celebrate your beautiful creations.

Purchase one or several \$10 raffle tickets for a chance at this magical evening. The funds raised will be used to produce the Oleander District meeting to be held on St. Simons Island in October.

### Details

Date: July 2011; day to be determined by raffle winner and Edward

Location: To be determined by Edward

Total Number of Guests: 8

Raffle Ticket: \$10 (Multiple tickets may be purchased.)

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres provided by Edward

Tickets available at Cassina Meetings

## Pottery At Glynn Art

Twelve Cassina Members attend "make your own pot" at Glynn Art.

Debbie Craig helps Anne Caswell put finishing touches on her pot.



Gardeners like to get their hands dirty. So it was no surprise that the enthusiastic group who attended the "make your own Pot" class at Glynn Art had a fun time! Everyone developed their own pot using many different designs and glazes. This was the last of this year's workshops.

The field trip to Callaway Gardens will be on March 31-April 1 and is **SOLD OUT!** Those attending will be receiving specific instructions on when and where to meet. However, anticipate an early morning departure on March 31 at 7:30 a.m. and returning around 9:00 p.m. on April 1. Dress comfortably and wear flat walking shoes.

## Birthday Winner



Alice Barlow birthday winner

Every month a drawing is held at the membership meeting to celebrate the birthdays for the month. (*Remember, you must be present to win!*) February's birthday winner was **Alice Barlow**. Happy Birthday to Alice and all the members with a February birthday.

## Cassina Newsletter

Editor	Janis Rodriguez
Publisher	Kay Harrell
Distribution	Beth Thrift
Photographers	Janis Rodriguez, Joanne Scott
Contributors	Beverly Nash, Sally Sasser Julie Spivey, Janice Lamattina, Janis Rodriguez, Sharon Flores, Leslie Carlton, Anne Aspinwall, Dottie Fielder, Louise Ufer, Susan Baltzell

## Black History Month Event

As part of Black History month, Cassina joined with the Friends of Harrington School to sponsor an event to highlight the African American history of our island. Starting at the cabins in the morning, visitors were able to view our historic tabby cabins and many of our docents were on hand to share the history of the cabins and the island. Also a big highlight of the morning was the African American Job Corps Chorus who entertained well over 100 visitors and club members.



Job Corps students perform at Cabins

The afternoon events were held on the grounds of the Harrington School. The St. Simons African American Coalition and Friends of Harrington School are working to raise funds to restore the school. Former students at this one-room grade school shared their experiences while attending school at Harrington.

General response to this event was more than we expected and provided a great opportunity to showcase our cabins and, hopefully, raise awareness for restoration efforts for saving this endangered African American Schoolhouse.

Many thanks to the following docents who helped make this such a successful undertaking— **Anne Aspinwall, Janis Rodriguez, Joanne Scott, Dottie Fielder, Sara Taylor, Mary Starr, Becky Yelverton, Beverly Nash, and Leslie Carlton.**

## Dues Time Again

Dues, membership notices, and a survey will be distributed at the March membership meeting. (Any invoices not picked up will be mailed.) Please remember that the 2011-12 dues must be paid by **April 14th**. Please note that to be eligible to change to Associate status, you need to have been an Active member in good standing for a minimum of 5 years.

The next Open meeting is April 14, 2011. We are very pleased to have 18 applications for new members. A huge thank you to all the sponsors and endorsers for proposing such a great group of ladies who are looking forward to becoming Active members.

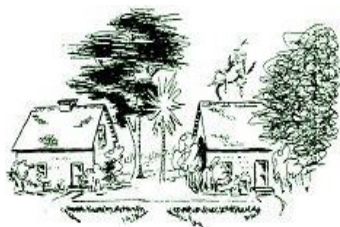
To clarify our application for membership requirements, the Board has approved the following change to our standing rules, page 71 in your Yearbook: (change/addition in blue)

Section III, A: A prospective member shall attend an open meeting as a guest of her sponsor. Subsequent to this first open meeting, the sponsor and prospective member will meet at the cabins with a representative of the Membership Committee to review the New Member Handbook and Sponsor Guidelines. At this time the prospective member may request and submit an application for membership. *Applications will be dated when they are received.* In addition to this, the prospective member and her sponsor must attend a second Open meeting, and the prospective member must serve as a volunteer in one of the Club's major fundraising projects, e.g. Tour Hostess, Garden Walk Docent, etc. to complete her application requirements. Attendance at the annual Cassina luncheon shall not count toward meeting attendance requirements for prospective members.

*The Membership committee will place a prospective member on the acceptance list on the date they have completed the above requirements and in the order that their application was received.*

Clarification is necessary since it is possible that prospective members may complete their requirements at the same time.

# March Gardening



## Plants and Shrubs

If you plan to do new planting of shrubs around your house this year, now is a good time to begin. Remember, dense shrubs should not be planted close to the foundation or siding or in front of your foundation vents. This can obstruct air flow around and beneath your home and can lead to moisture problems. Now is a good time to prune these dense shrubs and move them to another area.



As temperatures rise, it's time to clean up and cut back plants that have been burned by the cold. If you have hydrangeas, remember they do bloom on old growth so don't cut too severely. After cleanup and cutting back, put down fresh mulch or pine straw. This will help spruce up your yard while things begin the process of coming back for spring.

## Containers and Pots Outside

Many of our outside containers will need to be replanted after the cold. To start cleaning up and repotting your outside containers here are some good tips to help insure you get the results you desire.

For large pots, you can decrease the weight of the pot and also not have to use so much potting mixture by filling the bottom of the pot with either an upside down plastic pot or by using packing peanuts.

Plants need good potting mix. When purchasing, try picking up the bag. If it is light and fluffy, like moist sawdust, it's probably fine. If it feels heavy like wet dirt, keep looking. Never use garden soil or re-use potting mix. Plants will grow better and be less subject to plant disease if you use fresh potting mix. When you start your planting, blend in a slow release fertilizer.

Cover the top of your container with mulch. Wood mulch or rocks work well. This will reduce soil splash, conserve water and also give your container a nice appearance. Remember pots must have a drainage hole. Using a saucer can help with watering and help prevent staining of patio or deck.

When choosing plants for your containers, there is a basic formula for a good look. Choose a **THRILLER**: an upright, eye catcher as the main focus. Grab a **SPILLER**: a trailer plant to spill down the sides of your container. Finish with a **FILLER**: a plant that fills in by adding fullness and color. Choose a **THRILLER** if you want a single plant in your container.

Remember to know the water needs of each plant and take into consideration where the plant is located.

**We're on the web!**  
[www.cassinagardenclub.org](http://www.cassinagardenclub.org)

**2010-2011 Officers**

**President:**  
 Beverly Nash

**First Vice President:**  
 MJ Choate

**Second Vice President**  
 Dottie Fielder

**Recording Secretary**  
 Ann Worthington

**Corresponding Secretary**  
 Beth Thrift

**Treasurer**  
 Kay Harrell

**Assistant Treasurer**  
 Pam Hamilton

**Happy St Patrick's Day**