

Cassina Garden Club
NEWSLETTER

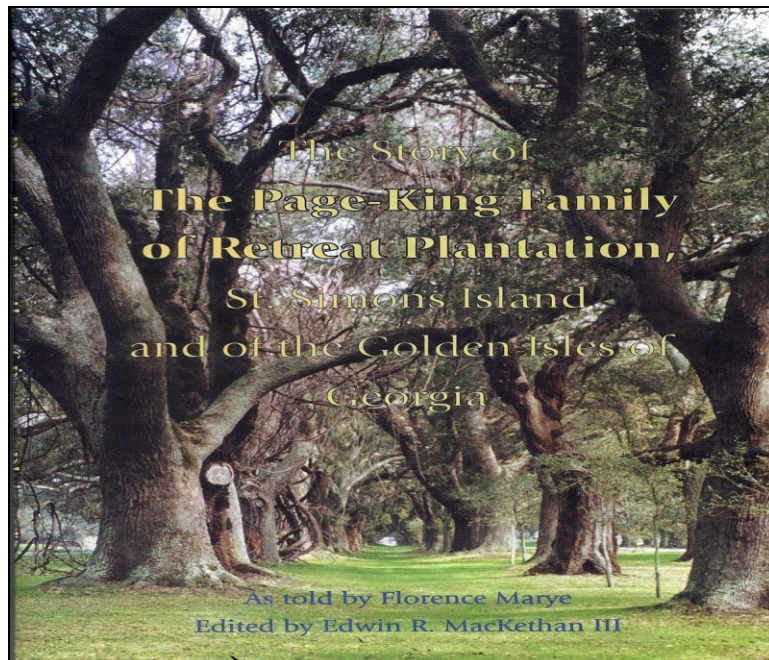


November 2011

November Meeting Active and Associate Members

***Note Date Change**

Edwin R. MacKethan III presents
“The Amazing History of Retreat Plantation”
Slide Presentation



***November 3 ~ Coastal Georgia**
Historical Society A.W. Jones Heritage Center
9:30 a.m. Hospitality ~ 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Hostesses: Sibby Gruber, Susie Salvatore
Becky Stephenson

Calendar of Events

- *****
- October 29, 2011: Fall Planting at Cabin Gardens 9:00 a.m.

- November 2, 2011: Cassina Board Meeting at Cabins 10:00 a.m.*

- November 3, 2011: Cassina Garden Club Meeting, Active and Associate Members at Historical Society Heritage Center 9:30 a.m. Hospitality 10:00 a.m. Meeting*.

- November 14, 2011: St. Simons Council of Garden Clubs Meeting.

- November 15, 2011: Field Trip to St. Ignatius Church and Gardens. Call Becky Yelverton for reservations.

- December 5, 2011: Clean cabins for Christmas Tour of Homes 9:00 a.m.

- *Note Date Change**

Oleander District Meeting



Cassina members at District Meeting

A record gathering of two hundred ninety members of the Garden Club of Georgia made the 53rd annual Oleander District meeting on St. Simons Island on October 11th a huge success. Hosted by the five clubs of the St. Simons Council of Garden Clubs, the meeting held at Epworth by the Sea attracted members from across the State. The honored guest was **Caroline Silcox**, President of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. The meeting was conducted by Oleander District Director, **Sharon Flores**.

Cassina members made huge contributions to the success of the meeting—from creating the *magical* centerpieces to serving as hostesses to directing guests to the various venues throughout the day. **Beverly Nash** and **Ruth Kolumber** led the floral centerpiece team, and **Jane Bangert** contributed hundreds of yards of ribbon for both the centerpieces and the eleven door prizes. **Ann Caswell**, **Anne Marie Dalis**, **Jane Rives** and **Sandy Storino** were in charge of the sale of **Ryan Gainey's** book, *The Weekly Weeder*, with proceeds benefiting the Oleander District. **Libby Hogan** and **Becky Stephenson** served as Timekeepers during the Business Session, and **Elizabeth Freyer** and **Ann Worthington** served as Tellers. **Libby Hogan** and **Jane Bangert** collected thousands of pull tabs that will be taken to the

Ronald McDonald House in Savannah. The sale of these aluminum tabs provide operating funds for this important non-profit. In addition, they accepted huge donations of underwear and socks for the Fig Leaf Project. These clothing items are desperately needed for patients at the State Hospital in Savannah.

Edward Armstrong's floral demonstration of *The Magic of Flowers* enthralled the audience. Cassina received two



Mary Lynch and Lee Dillard

District Awards. It was definitely a day of Magic for both Cassina and the Oleander District. Next year's District Meeting will be held in Vidalia on October 19th.

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.

Nineteen members attended the October Board meeting and approved the following items:

- Action taken to replace/repair benches around cabin grounds
- Permission granted for DAR to use cabins for meeting in May
- County property lease signed, fence approved and installed
- November meeting date changed *note on cover of newsletter
- Updates given on Christmas Tour of Homes
- Baked goods needed for Bake Sale



Don't forget, bring your pull tabs to the Meeting!

Cassina Wins Awards

Cassina Garden Club received two District Awards at the 53rd Oleander District Meeting held October 11th on St. Simons Island.

Cassina was awarded a certificate and framed GCG cross-stitched seal for the club with the most new members in 2011.

Cassina also received the District Award for the club that applied for and/or received the most NGC, Deep South and GCG awards in 2011. Congratulations Cassina members, these are your awards.

From the Gardens

Six Cassina members braved the rain and met with **Martha Martin** and **Jennifer Kuja** at ACE Garden Center on October 18th at 9:30 a.m. to learn about fall plants and planting. Plants were not purchased at that time, but **Wendy Owens** gave everyone ideas for selecting plants to add color to our gardens for fall and winter. The planting date will be Saturday, October 29th at 9 a.m., and everyone is encouraged to come help beautify our gardens. For more information contact **Martha Martin** or **Jennifer Kuja**.



Cassina members and Wendy at ACE

Member Concerns

Sympathy to **Anne Futch** on the loss of her husband.

Nan Fuller's husband is recovering from surgery.

Charlotte Dennis' husband is in the hospital for more chemo treatment.

Sympathy to **Leslie Carlton** and her husband **Mac** on the death of his mother.

Sallie Sasser's husband is at home recovering from pneumonia.

Glynda Garner's husband is at home after release from the burn center in Augusta.

Contact **Sue Chambless** 638-3901 regarding any member concerns.

Additional Announcements

Mark your calendars and join other Cassina members in helping with the following activities:

- **Sara Taylor** and **Barbara Murrah** need help cleaning the cabins in preparation for the **Christmas Tour of Homes**. Meet at the cabins on Monday, December 5th at 9 a.m., to dust, vacuum, and clean. With extra help the job is easy!
- More baked items are needed for our **Bake Sale**. Please sign up to help. The more items we have the more money we make. This is an easy project if everyone will donate an item. Contact **Sue Chambless**.

Curt Smith at October Meeting

Sixty-three active members, associate members and guests attended Cassina's October meeting held at the **Coastal Georgia Historical Society Heritage Center**. The October meeting was our first Open meeting of the year.

Curt Smith, Event Coordinator and Museum Store manager for the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, presented our program for October. Curt demonstrated how to take common roadside and backyard native flora to create Williamsburg decorations. He also educated us on the background of what makes an arrangement "Williamsburg". Everyone enjoyed watching Curt make holiday decorations inspired by Colonial Williamsburg.

Anne Aspinwall started our meeting with introductions of our guests. Committee Chairs gave reports on the Christmas Tour of Homes, Bake Sale, and upcoming events. Everyone was reminded of the date change for the November meeting. Please refer to the Calendar of Events for all important dates of Cassina activities.



Curt Smith shows Williamsburg wreath

Cassina's Coastal Cookery Cookbook



Betty Fendig and Gwen Mayberry.

Gwen is holding a photo of Major Mayberry.

His eggnog recipe is in Coastal Cookery.

In the 1930's wild game and fresh seafood were abundant on St. Simons Island. Good cooks were abundant, thus the creation of **Coastal Cookery** by the ladies of Cassina Garden Club. Over 70 years later, this cookbook is still very much a part of Cassina Garden Club and especially the Christmas Tour of Homes and Bake Sale. This year several Tour homes will offer treats made from recipes in the historic cookbook. Festive gift packages made up of the cookbooks and slave cabin ornaments will be sold for the special price of \$20.

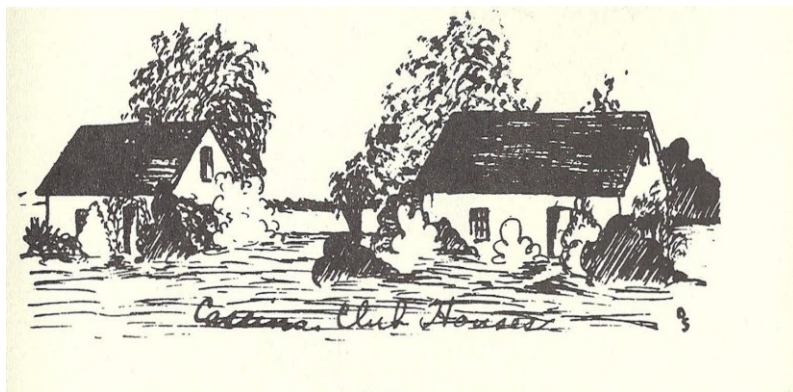
Recently several Cassina members met with family members of the **Coastal Cookery** contributors to talk about their memories of the cookbook, its recipes and the people that prepared them.

Betty Fendig spoke of her mother-in-law, **Emwyn**, who was instrumental in creating the cookbook and contributed numerous family recipes. **Betty** recalls Christmas tables laden with bowls of thick St. Simons Eggnog (page 240), tasty Cheese Dainties (page 236) and 4th of July picnics with Seashell Salad (page 155). Shrimp Mull Blythe Island was a favorite and found its way into the cookbook after **Emwyn** went to Blythe Island to watch **Judge Butts** make the stew. The **Judge** cooked without a recipe—just a pinch of this and a handful of that—so **Emwyn** watched and recorded the ingredients and approximate measurements. She experimented at home and the perfect instructions were created (page 60).

Jane Ledbetter, a current Cassina member, and niece of **Emwyn**, remembers that the Island was a “small place” when the cookbook was published. She remembers relatives and neighbors who watched after children as their own. There was always “plenty” for anyone who stopped by and bountiful tables during the holidays. **Jane** surmised that some of the recipes in **Coastal Cookery** likely came from housekeepers and cooks who were relatives of slaves from St. Simons plantations. Liver Cones (page 255) is just such a recipe. One write-up credits the housekeeper of **Mrs. Vera A. Majette**, a Cassina member and the first woman admitted to the Georgia Bar.

Gwen Mayberry recalled her father-in-law making an old family recipe—Thin Eggnog (page 241). **Major Mayberry's** Thin Eggnog was a Missouri concoction and quite different from thick southern eggnogs. However, the Cassina ladies loved it and persuaded the **Major** to be one of four men to contribute a recipe to the cookbook.

Coastal Cookery is a lesson in history as well as a lesson in southern cuisine. The recipes and ingredients reflect a different era. Bountiful tables are still shared with family and friends, and aromas and the tastes of traditional recipes bring back a flood of memories of past days. As **Coastal Cookery** shows us, good food and good times are ageless.



Christmas Tour of Homes & Bake Sale



The Christmas Tour tickets are ready and available for members at the November meeting. As in the past, active members will receive 2 tour tickets and will have the option to pick up additional tickets to sell to friends and family members. Please bring your checkbook to the November meeting to buy tickets for this year's festive tour!

A new feature for this year's Tour is the Quick Bites program. The goal of Quick Bites is to provide a list of eateries that can provide a yummy, quick lunch so Tourgoers and workers can get back to the Tour! These restaurants will offer speedy "Cassina Christmas Tour Specials" in addition to special pricing. Please plan to support these establishments that are supporting us. A list of these eateries will be provided at the November meeting and on Tour Day at the Cabins, the special interest stop Glynn Art and all Tour homes.

And don't forget the Bake Sale! Bring your favorite bake goods for sale and then purchase other members' specialties for nibbling during the Tour and for your freezer. Your family and guests will love these yummy bake goods and perhaps discover some new favorites. So remember to buy extras so you will not run out.

Saturday, December 10th will be a festive day for touring, eating and celebrating the Christmas season. Please get involved and join in the fun! Check out the Christmas Tour on Cassina's website.

Vendor Information Needed

Over the next six months, many of our Cassina members will attend various Markets, Festivals and Fairs all over the Southeast. Because of the normal turnover in vendors at these events, we are always on the lookout for additional vendors for our Garden Market. In 2012, the Cassina Garden Market will be held Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 (with set-up on Friday, May 4). We ask all our members when they attend these Markets, Festivals and Fairs to look for vendors that would be a suitable addition to our Garden Market. When you see such a candidate, please check whether they are potentially available for our dates and if so, obtain their business cards and give them to Kay Harrell or email them to Kay@Fairmarsh.com.

October Field Trip

On October 21st, Cassina members enjoyed the morning on Jekyll Island with experienced birder **Lydia Thompson**. The group had the opportunity to explore backyard habitats and large bird areas on Jekyll. Everyone left with more knowledge about birding and how to attract birds. The members extended the outing by enjoying lunch on Jekyll before returning home.

A Call for Greens

Fresh greens on mantles, doors and in arrangements are a trademark of the **Cassina Christmas Tour of Homes**. This year we need greens to adorn five lovely homes. We are particularly interested in obtaining holly, magnolia, yew, cedar and other evergreens as well as festive holiday berries.

If you have greens to donate, please call **Beverly Nash** or sign up at the November meeting. Place greens in buckets of water. Your buckets will be returned after the Tour. If you need assistance cutting your greens, please contact **Beverly**.

Neptune Garden Club Wreath Sale

The Neptune Garden club is selling Christmas wreaths and garland again this year. The fresh balsam fir wreaths from Vermont - 22 inch with a large red bow are \$25. A 12-inch wreath which can be used on a door but mainly for table top decoration is \$12. Three yard garland is \$35, and five yard garland is \$50. Delivery is November 30th. Contact **Sheri Bowen** 268-2022, **Nancy Ringeling** 634-8357 or **Sara Lanier** 638-2621

Cassina Goes High Tech



Use your Smartphone. Scan this image and it takes you to the Cassina Garden Club website. You must have a QR (Quick Response) Code reader app installed on your phone to use this. It is now easy to be "in the know."

Live Oaks Garden Club Poinsettia Sale

Once again the huge foil-covered potted Poinsettias are only \$15 and come in three colors (red, white or pink). Order deadline is November 21st and plants will be delivered December 2nd. Place your order today with your current Live Oaks Garden Club representative or with **Terri Jaensch** at 912-577-4596.

November Field Trip to St. Ignatius Church and Gardens



As you drive along Demere Road have you ever wondered about the beautiful **St. Ignatius Church** and its increasingly lovely gardens. Here is your opportunity to see them. We will meet at St. Ignatius on November 15th at 10:30 a.m. for a tour of the interior of the Church and then see the beautiful gardens and Stations of the Cross. Plan to have lunch at a local restaurant after the Tour. A \$5 donation to the church is requested. Sign up at the November meeting or call Becky Yelverton (638-0991) for reservations.

On January 10th we will be going to **Little St. Simons Island**. The cost is \$50 per person. This trip will be limited to 10 so be sure to sign up early. Sign up sheets will be at the November meeting for both field trips.

Birthday Winner



Ann Caswell October
birthday winner

Each month a drawing is held at the membership meeting to celebrate the birthdays for the month. October's birthday winner was member **Anne Caswell**. Happy Birthday to **Anne** and the other members celebrating a birthday in October. (*You must be present to win*). If you have an November birthday don't miss the membership meeting. You might be a birthday winner too!



**Don't forget to bring
your pull tabs
to the November meeting!**

Cassina Newsletter

Editor	Janis Rodriguez
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Distribution	Ann Worthington
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Contributors	Becky Yelverton, Lee Dillard Sue Chambless, Leslie Carlton Martha Martin, Sharon Flores

Island Autumn

Although our area may not have fall color from changing leaves, we have quite a wonderful show of color in November.

The Confederate Rose (*hibiscus mutabilis*) will display large, double, peony-like flowers which change from white to pink. Cassia (*senna bicapsularis*), a rangy ordinary-looking shrub for most of the year, will be covered in brilliant yellow flowers. Both of these plants are deciduous and come back every year.

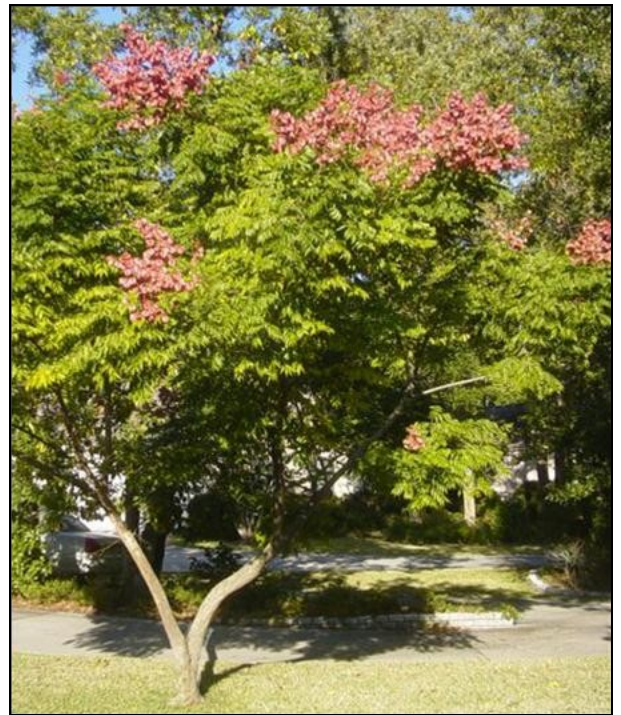
Open areas near the marsh show the pink mist of muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), a native grass that is now carried by many nurseries and comes in a variety of shades. Also in marshy areas, groundsel trees (eastern baccharis) are covered with a white fluff that makes the shrub seem to glow. The golden rain tree, which had yellow flowers in October, now has the reddish Chinese-lantern-like seed pods.

Beautyberry, another native, has displayed vivid purple berries since late September and will hold that color for many months. Pine cone ginger has sent up shoots with red “pine cones,” an interesting and colorful addition to many fall flower arrangements.

In area gardens, a variety of sages and rudbeckias will bloom, and mistflower (wild ageratum) will prove it is not a weed.



Confederate Rose and Cassia

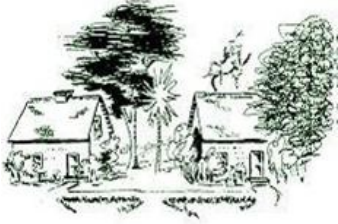


Golden Rain Tree with reddish seed pods



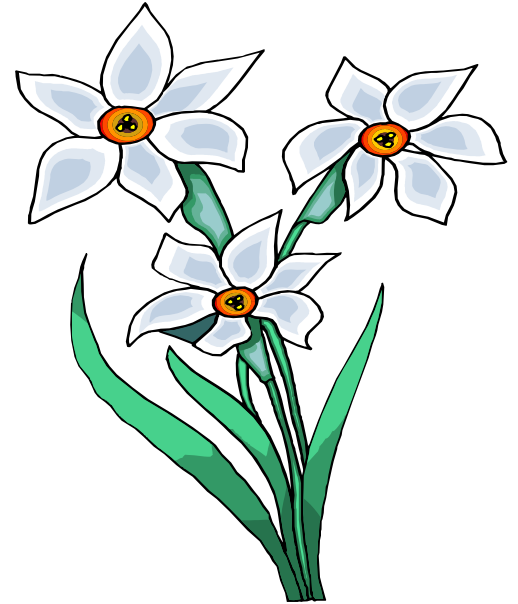
Groundsel Tree

Stop by the Cassina Gardens to enjoy some of these plants



November Gardening

November in our area is still a gardening month. You can plant many annuals for winter and early spring color, and early November is the perfect time to plant these. Annuals which do well include alyssum, carnations, calendula, dianthus, lobelia, nemesia, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, upright verbena, violas, and flowering cabbages and kale.



Many garden crops which do not survive our hot, humid summers thrive in our mild winters. Lettuces and Swiss chard as well as broccoli, cabbage, carrots, spinach, and collards will do well now, and some are quite decorative. You can still plant strawberries for an early spring harvest.

If you miss the spring bulbs that grow farther north, now is the time to buy tulips or other bulbs which need a longer chilling period. Put them in the refrigerator for eight weeks before planting them. Paperwhites and other Narcissus tazetta varieties can be planted directly in the ground for midwinter bloom.

If we have dry weather in November, water the lawn to keep it healthy. In cooler weather, the lawn needs to be watered no more than once per week with 3/4 inch of water. If we have rainy weather, watch your lawn for brown patch fungus disease. Brown patch causes a circular area of grass to die and needs to be treated with a fungicide.

Plant trees and shrubs now. Roots will have time to be established by spring. If you read your newsletter this month, email Janisemr@aol.com or call 638-9455 and leave a message for Janis that you read your November newsletter. She will place your name in the basket for the newsletter prize drawing at the November meeting.

We're on the web!

www.cassinagardenclub.org

2011-2012 Officers

President:

Anne Aspinwall

VP/President Elect:

Janis Rodriguez

Secretary

Ann Worthington

Treasurer

Kay Harrell

Assistant Treasurer

Pam Hamilton

Happy Thanksgiving!

