

Cassina Garden Club

NEWSLETTER



April, 2008

“Our Heritage ”.....“Our Future”

Meeting Date – Thursday, April 10th – 10 am

Meeting Place – Cassina’s Cabins

(ACTIVE MEMBERS ONLY)

Program – “The-Not-So-Secret Life of Bees”

Ted Dennard, owner of the Savannah Bee Company, will discuss the complexity of hives, making honey and the latest on the disappearance of honeybees.

Hostesses: Jean Russell, Chairman, Susan Baltzell, Wil Kampschmidt, Lee Watson

Pre-meeting social at **9:30 am.**



Remember to bring plants to share with your fellow Cassina gardeners.

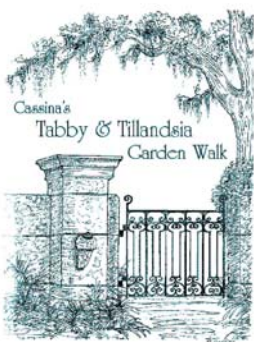
Board Meeting - Thursday, April 3 at 9:30 am at Cassina’s Meeting Cabin.

All Board Members and Standing Committee Chairs should attend.

Please advise Frances Allen, 634-1410 or tfin410@bellsouth.net if you cannot attend.

It is a busy time of the year for all. Spring has finally arrived, personal yards and gardens need tending. So do ours! Cassina gardens are needing final planting in anticipation of the Garden Walk – so ladies, every bit of assistance you can give is needed, necessary and essential.

The plantings in our own Cassina Garden will be **Saturday, March 29th**. Ruth and Martha have selected the plants and will lay out where they need to be. If you can’t make it Saturday, there is always something that you can do. (Pull moss from trees, attack dollar under the grape arbor and in Memorial Gardens.)



The GARDEN WALK committees have been busy. Docents for the gardens, Patrons, Posters, Tickets and Garden Market details are all going on in preparation for the first weekend in May. With the event on two days, you will have the opportunity to view the gardens, take friends with you and talk up the event. It was a huge success last year and we anticipate the same this year. Look for the latest publicity in the April issue of *Elegant Island Living*.

Tickets go on sale **April 1** at ACE Garden Center, Coldwell Banker Platinum Partners, G.J. Ford Bookshop, Pat’s Hallmark and St. Simons Drug Co.

Remember the Garden Walk Dates:

Lecture, Friday, May 2;

Walk, Saturday-Sunday, May 3-4

Garden Market, May 3-4 (Free, opens 1-2 hrs. before Walk)

Inside the cabins, it is Spring Cleaning time. Our glass panes have been repaired, but the windows now need washing. Ginger Sifford (638-4883) and Nan Fuller (638-8029) will need your help.

Last month's program with Anna Messer and Kelly Revels was well received. The plants that were arranged in the pots can be viewed on M.J. Choate's front porch. The rule to follow for making up your pots – THRILLER, FILLER, and SPILLER. We saw them use popcorn peanuts as part of the base with the soil, Spanish moss (Tillandsia) as cover material and trailing plants spilling over the edges to soften the look. Your patios can look really good if you utilize these tips.

A directional sign will be erected on Sea Island Road by the County to show the way to the HAMILTON PLANTATION – Tabby Slave Cabins.



Some Helpful Hints...

- Don't throw away water in which eggs are boiled. Use it to water houseplants. For it contains many needed minerals. I remember many years ago, my grandmother buried the eggshells in her garden...composting even then!
- Water geraniums with beer to make sensational plants.
- Pour leftover tea in the saucer of African violets.
- To get tall, narrow and other odd shaped containers sparkling clean; place small strips of unpeeled potatoes in the container, fill with vinegar and allow to stand overnight. Shake thoroughly and drain. Fill with soapsuds and shake again. Rinse well and allow to dry. Your container will really shine!!
- Castor Oil treatment chases moles. Prepare an emulsion of castor oil and liquid detergent in a blender – 2 oz oil to 1 oz of detergent. Pour into the mole run.



Kay Harrell has posted new pictures and announcements on our website.

Cassinagardenclub.org

Make it a habit to check out our activities.

Our Meeting Cabin houses our extensive library of over one hundred and twenty-five volumes that can be checked out by club members. When in the cabins, take a minute to look over this outstanding collection of garden club-related subjects.



The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. 80th Annual Convention will be held in Savannah on April 15-17, 2008. All of the information is in *Garden Gateways*. Michaela Waddington, Caroline Fleetwood, Sharon Flores and I will be attending the awards banquet. If you want to go, give me a call (634-1410).

ACE Garden Center's new building is now open. Please go by and visit and introduce yourself as a member of Cassina Garden club to Dawn Hart, the owner. Dawn has been a long-time major supporter of our Club, and ACE Garden Center is the Presenting Sponsor of the Garden Walk for the second consecutive year. It is important for us to support our wonderful corporate friends.

Michaela Waddington has written a wonderful poem about Cassina. Read, enjoy and celebrate *Near the Cassina Tree*.

Frances Allen

NEAR THE CASSINA TREE

What a very special place for me
is the land around this lovely tree.
I ponder all that did transpire
beneath her limbs which never tire.

More than two hundred years ago
Hamilton Plantation did flourish and grow.
Two tabby slave cabins are all that remain
of an era long gone many regard with disdain.

What joys and sorrows our cabins have known
while the sun beat down and winds have blown.
I imagine children singing songs - long forgotten,
while parents toiled hard planting acres of cotton.

The Frederica River flows just yards away
seeming to change color throughout the day.
I think of the history its murky waters hold -
stories of valor and cowardice would surely unfold.

First came Indians, then Spanish, English and more -
for so many lives have touched Frederica's shore.
Now sailboats and cruisers sail playfully by
where once canoes, dugouts and frigates did vie.

After the War, when the slaves were set free,
lumber men came seeking our sturdy oak tree.
And our cabins were home to tools of their trade,
saws, hammers, planks and surely a spade.

Nine ladies joined hands in nineteen twenty-eight
to claim the cabins and ensure their fate.
This is how CASSINA GARDEN CLUB came to be
and so appropriately named for our beloved tree.

By Michaela Waddington