

# Cassina Garden Club

## NEWSLETTER



September, 2007

“Our Heritage” ..... “Our Future”

Meeting Date:	Thursday, September 13 - at the Cabins
Program:	<b><i>Getting to Know You</i></b>
Time:	<b>9:30 am Social with New Members</b> <b>10:00 am Meeting</b>
Hostesses:	Sue Chambless, Chair, Sharon Flores, Bev Nash, Joanne Scott

After a summer of trips near or far, visits from family and friends or just surviving the heat, hope you all are ready and rarin' to go! As we get back into our Cassina year, there are several important things we need to remember:

Cassina is more than a Garden Club. We are contributors to our community. We are students of the environment. We are teachers of the young, and we are custodians of our heritage.

1. We are part of a larger group as well that includes the Island Council of Garden Clubs (5 clubs), the Oleander District and the 15,000 ladies in the Garden Club of Georgia - all dedicated to Preserving, Promoting and Protecting our environment.
2. There are interests for all members. Our gardens provide a learning experience for the community. Your Cabins afford an opportunity to impart history to all. For each of us, classes are available to learn more about flower arranging, garden design and horticulture.
3. We have fundraising events to involve the community, promote horticultural awareness and to enable us to protect the historic cabins.

You know that a puzzle is not complete if there are some pieces missing. Where do you fit in this puzzle? What can you contribute? What can you learn, and where can you help? YOU must make your desires and talents known!! YOU must make the effort. Please don't sit back and wait to be contacted. The rewards of participation are many. Committee chairs will ask for your assistance. Think about where you want to contribute.

The smallest good deed is better by far  
Than the grandest good intention.  
We'll never get much accomplished in life  
If our good deeds are only just mentioned.

*Frances Allen*

## **YEARBOOK**

The 2007-08 Yearbooks are ready to be distributed at our September meeting. Thanks to Kay Harrell for again producing the books. The following minor corrections should be made:

- Page 27 – November Meeting Date – Change to November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Lutheran Church and it will now be an “Open Meeting” rather than “Active Members Only”
  - Page 28 – March Meeting Location – Change to Cabins and it will now be an “Active Members Only” rather than an “Open Meeting”
  - Page 43 – Dean Overall ‘s new address – 12 Renegar Way #104A SSI
  - Pages 31 – 43 – Adelphia.net email addresses should be changed to Comcast.net
- Any additional changes should be sent to Frances Allen, Kay Harrell and Ladye Heisel.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Christmas Tour of Homes**

Bev Nash reports that our Christmas Tour of Homes is set for Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. This year’s tour will feature six beautiful St. Simons homes as well as our outstanding Bake Sale, headed again by Sue Chambless. Two added features this year include a stop at Marshes’ Edge with refreshments and a Christmas Market to be held in our Tea Cabin.

The October meeting will be a workshop to create items for our sale at the Christmas Market. More details and handouts will be provided at our September meeting, so you can start planning which activity you want to select to help us make the various items we will be selling. All of the Tour Chairmen are working hard, but they will need additional helpers for various jobs. Please volunteer for the areas that interest you.

### **Calendars**

Betty Davis will take orders at the September meeting for the 2008 Garden Club of Georgia Calendars. Two sizes are available, so please place your order with Betty.

### **Docents**

Special thanks to the following Docents who braved the heat to lead tours this summer: Sue Cansler, Pat Collins, Natalie Crane, Martha Jane Dodson, Sharon Flores, Ladye Heisel, Connie Herndon, Claire Jorgensen, Ruth Kolumber, Beverly Nash, Betty Thurston, Denise Trethaway and Betty White.

For all members interested in training to serve as a Docent to share the history of the Cabins and Hamilton Plantation, two opportunities exist for becoming familiar with our Docent Program. Elderhostel groups are scheduled to tour the Cabins on October 15th and November 5th at 1:30 pm. Trained Cassina Docents will conduct the tours.

### **Membership**

Co-chairs Leslie Carlton and Sharon Sowders reported that on August 9th, the New Member Orientation was held at the Cabins and at the home of Leslie Carlton. Nine new members joined Cassina this year: Anne Aspinwall (Betsy Thwaite), Snookie Collins (Pat Collins), Jacquie Goldman (Emily Swift), Jennifer Kuja (Claire Jorgensen), Janice Lamattina (Joanne Scott), Elizabeth Owen (Jean Russell), Louise Ufer (Betty Davis), Neile Weis (Kay Harrell), Catherine Wood (Sharon Flores).

Please welcome them at the September meeting. They will be easy to recognize because their name badges will have a yellow ribbon attached. Leslie and Sharon improved all member badges by switching from pin-on to hanging name badges.

## **ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup> STORYTELLING EVENT**

Elizabeth Freyer is requesting help in locating either a portable grill or a firepit-type container that could be used for our Halloween event at the Cabins. In addition, she asks that members save the heavier brown metal coat hangers and bring them to the first meeting.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – FLORAL ARRANGEMENT NEEDED**

As a part of the St. Simons Council of Garden Clubs, Cassina provides a floral arrangement for the St. Simons Library in September and March of each year. A volunteer is needed to make the arrangement for September. Please contact Frances Allen. Cassina members also offer assistance in the herb garden plot at Ft. Frederica.

## **OLEANDER DISTRICT MEETING**

Mark your calendars for the important Fall District meeting in Rincon, Georgia on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The registration deadline for this all-day meeting is October 5<sup>th</sup>. A registration form will be available at the September meeting.

## **JOIN A CASSINA GARDEN TEAM**

Ruth Kolumber reports that our gardens have survived a very hot summer thanks to our Saturday morning gardeners. We ARE gardeners and must commit ourselves to the proper maintenance of our landscaped areas. We have seen a lot of interest from visitors and received many favorable comments on our gardens; specifically because we are a garden club. The expectation is that what they see is not just a bunch of pretty flowers. So we ask again for your help. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting to enlist the cooperation of the membership. Our gardens are divided into several different work areas. We require teams of gardeners who will take responsibility for caring for each of these areas. Although a group usually works Saturday mornings, work can be done whenever one has some free time. Can you spare an hour of your time? Your garden co-chairs are Martha Martin and Ruth Kolumber.

## **GARDEN TIPS... *from Martha Martin***

### ***“Making Hydrangeas Blue”***

Hydrangeas with bloom colors that range from pink through blue and purple usually belong to the hydrangea cultivars known as mopheads and lacecaps. These types of hydrangeas have the interesting ability to change the color of their blooms based on the chemistry of the soil. Because it's the soil chemistry that determines the bloom color, the variety names given to these types of hydrangeas means very little when it comes to bloom color. For instance, 'Nikko Blue', 'Pretty in Pink', 'Forever Pink' and 'Blue Deckle', all have an almost an equal chance of blooming pink or blue, depending on the soil in which they are.

To encourage blue hydrangea flowers, grow the plant in soil that has a pH of 5.2-5.5. If your soil is more alkaline than this, you can lower the pH by watering around the plant with aluminum sulfate (2 Tbsp per gallon of water), taking care to ensure the soil is moist before application. If you prefer pink blooms, your hydrangea should be deprived of aluminum by growing it in an alkaline soil with a pH of 6.0-6.2. You can apply a high phosphorus fertilizer to further discourage the uptake of aluminum. To raise the pH of a naturally acidic soil, apply ground up, dolomitic limestone several times a year. If you want blue hydrangeas next year, start your soil preparation now.

*(This information comes from “Making Hydrangeas Blue” an article from the Gardeners Supply Company’s “Gardener’s Tips:”)*