Cabin Restoration Underway
Lydia Thompson – Guest Speaker

“From the Backyard to the Beach – Protecting Our Native Birds”

Lydia Thompson, naturalist, artist, writer, and researcher is the perfect person to take us on an armchair bird ramble. Our adventure will start in our own backyard where Lydia will show us how to attract birds. Later, we’ll venture beyond the yard to the marshes and beaches where Lydia will introduce us to birds that need this area and how we can help them.

Hostesses – Martha Martin, Nan Fuller, Elizabeth Powell & Tootsie Murray
Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make this year’s Christmas Tour of Homes successful!

It was such a fun Tour this year despite a leaky Market tent, a bit of fog and a missing canopy tent. Our Cassina Garden Club members were awesome. Each volunteer went above and beyond the call of duty, working tirelessly to ensure our tour was the talk of the town.

Our Tour posters were distributed throughout Georgia and North Florida thanks to Becky Stephenson and her team.

Ticket sales were driven by both Leslie Carlton, promoting sales via telephone and the Cassina website, and Janis Rodriguez ensuring our six ticket outlets were well stocked.

The stars of the 2014 Tour were the five wonderful homes on Sea Island secured by Anne Aspinwall. We were all amazed at each home’s beautiful Christmas decorations designed by Lee Dillard and her team. During this time, Liz DeMato, chairing the face of our Tour, was arming each docent with a detailed knowledge of their home and an unprecedented holiday spirit.

Phillis Harrell and Pat Collins took Arranging Christmas to a new level accenting the decorating team’s Christmas décor. In addition, Jennifer Broadus again had very successful Cookbook sales through locations at the Cloister, the 8th Street Cottage and the Cabins.

By Friday afternoon our bake sale was bursting at the seams with scrumptious cakes, pies, cookies and candies. At 4 o’clock we were ready for customers to buy these holiday delights and fill their freezers. The “Best Bake Sale in the Southeast” exceeded everyone’s expectations in both member contributions and revenues. A hearty thank you to Dale Anderson and June Brown for having met their goal by Saturday afternoon.

Joan Neely and Nan Weiss, with their tireless energy, organized the Christmas Market tent with docents prepping for the sale of our many creations! The Market opened on Friday at 2:00 PM to allow our Cassina members to browse and select items of interest. We opened to all visitors at 9:00 AM on Saturday the 6th. By 4:00 PM the shelves were almost empty and the cash box had been filled. Who would have anticipated the success created by our Market workshop elves? 

continued
From the President

The Christmas Tour of Sea Island Homes, Bake Sale, and Christmas Market on December 6th were simply over the top! Not even a leaky tent or a cold, foggy morning could squelch the excitement. I know you join me in congratulating Co-Chairs Gee Gee Adams and Jane Bangert on the successful day due to their leadership and never-failing enthusiasm during the months of preparation leading up to the big day. And many thanks to their committee members who worked long hours getting everything done on time. All our members worked as a team and contributed in many ways. Assistant Treasurer Leslie Carlton is still paying the bills but assures us that our profit will be very nice!

During the first week of January, Golden Isles residents will be receiving a letter from me announcing the Cabin Fever Capital Campaign and asking the community to get on the bandwagon and help us raise funds over the next few years to complete the restoration of our historic tabby slave cabins. The Club has already raised $100,000 through our fundraising events, grants, and donations. We are well on our way to achieving the goal of $400,000. At the January meeting we’ll give you some ideas about how you can help educate the public about our campaign. Upcoming events for the campaign are Second Sunday Concert at Bennie’s Red Barn on February 8 and the Slave Dwelling Project on the weekend of March 27-29. Save the dates on your calendar! More information will follow.

Happy New Year to you and your loved ones. 2015 promises to be a stellar year for Cassina Garden Club!

Dottie

More Christmas!

All members should be very pleased with the 2014 revenue generated by our Bake Sale, Christmas Market, Arranging Christmas, Cookbooks and tickets in support of the restoration of the Tabby Cabins.

We send a heartfelt thank you to all of you who contributed to the success of Cassina’s 30th Annual Christmas Tour of Homes.

Happy New Year!
Jane & Gee Gee

Above: From door to floor, and more, it was Christmas galore!
The cabins were very busy this fall. We had lots of visitors during 14 visits in September, October, November and December, including the visit from the Pilgrims and Indians from Frederica Academy, the Sea Oats Garden Club, a group from Epworth By The Sea, several walk-ins and a Roads Scholars group. During this time, we welcomed a total of 185 visitors, and received $135.00 in cabin sales, and $68.00 in donations, not including a generous donation to our Cabin Restoration Fund from the Sea Oats Garden Club.

The cabins looked fabulous for the Christmas Tour, thanks to decorations by Pat Collins and Jennifer Kuja. We welcomed 220 guests, with sales and donations totaling $53.00 in donations and $73.00 in merchandise sales.

Fifteen First Grade Pilgrims and Indians from Frederica Academy made their annual visit to the cabins in conjunction with their Thanksgiving Feast Day. Martha Armstrong, Mary Ellen Parkins, Helen Castrillo, and Elizabeth Powell led them through the story of the cabins and Hamilton Plantation, and they toured the Children’s Garden. Thanks to Elizabeth Powell for making adorable goodie bags for the children.

Docents’ Report

The Membership Committee suggests that the end of the year is a good time to record the names of the Cassina activities in which you have been involved this Fall. The Activity Page in your yearbook is the perfect place to make these notations. Recording this information now, while it is fresh in your mind, will help you remember your participation as well as help you plan for your future activities. This is purely for your use and is only a suggestion.

The Membership Committee congratulates all Cassina members on hosting another fun and festive Christmas Tour of Homes. Once again the Cassina Tour was an outstanding start to the holiday season. Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy 2015!

Submitted by Lee Dillard

Nancy Harper and Dale Anderson with Cathie Wilton in the Tea Cabin on Tour day.
Field Trip Coming – January 29!

Lucky Cassina members will visit a magnificent camellia garden on the Isle of Hope near Savannah on Thursday, January 29. Carpooling leaves the cabins at 9:00 am. We will tour a private garden which belonged to the grandparents of the current resident. The garden is filled with a multitude of beautiful, mature camellias. Lunch will follow the tour at a nearby restaurant. A $5.00 donation to purchase a gift card for the homeowner is requested of each member. To sign up contact Becky Yelverton - rcyelverton@gmail.com

Field Trip Co-Chairs – Becky Yelverton, Sibby Gruber, Elizabeth Le Sueur, Susie Salvatore, Jennifer Wilcoxon, & Jennifer Broadus

Sip & Shop at McLaughlin makes $$$

Cassina members enjoyed shopping at McLaughlin at the Shops of Sea Island on Nov. 21 from 2-5 pm and Cassina got 15% of the sales which totaled over $300! Sip & Shop is an ongoing program at McLaughlin to help non-profits raise money for their cause. Present that day among others were GeeGee Adams, Ruth Kolumber, Liz DeMato, Martha Armstrong & Nan Weiss.

Thomasville!

An Exclusive Cassina Overnight Excursion
April 28 & 29, 2015

Reservations limited to 40 Cassina members & guests!

It’s not too late to sign up!

This delightful trip has been planned to emphasize visits to beautiful gardens and historic homes.

Thomasville, GA, is a charming community known for its rich history and magnificent rose gardens. We’ll miss their annual Rose Festival by two days, but because of it, the roses will be at their best and we’ll miss all the crowds.

This tour will include visits to Pebble Hill Plantation, The Birdsong Nature Center, Thomasville Rose Garden, The Thomasville History Museum and the beautiful Victorian showplace – the Lapham-Patterson House. The journey home will include a stop in Valdosta, GA, to tour the Crescent House and Gardens. The trip is wonderfully priced at just $230 per person (double hotel room occupancy) and is all-inclusive except for one lunch. Single room accommodations also available for an additional $58.

Tour limited to just 40 Cassina members and guests.

Not signed up? Send your check for $230 to Cassina Treasurer, Sue Cansler, P.O. Box 20191, SSI, GA 31522. Already signed up? Send your remaining balance of $130 by January 31st! See our website for more details. All payments due by January 31, 2015.

Field Trip Co-Chairs – Jennifer Broadus & Jennifer Wilcoxon
Annual Daffodils Planting

**Daffodil Delight!**

Laughter and camaraderie were enjoyed by a few hardy souls who braved the cold December morning to plant 300 more daffodil bulbs in the field by the cabins for our Golden Days Project. Led by Chairman Neil Henry, the group consisted of Nancy Harper, Carol Cudahy, Janis Rodriguez, Martha Martin, Dottie Fielder, and Sandy Anderson. Working in small triangular plots meant that bumping bottoms was inevitable. In the spring everyone will get the chance to harvest the beautiful flowers and prepare arrangements to brighten the day of our former presidents and members who just need honoring. Proper Englishman that he is, Neil delighted the gardeners with the final stanza of William Wordsworth’s poem, “Daffodils”:

> For oft, when on my couch I lie  
> In vacant or in pensive mood,  
> They flash upon that inward eye  
> Which is the bliss of solitude;  
> And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
> And dances with the daffodils.

Our enthusiastic daffodil planters show off their best assets.

Cabin Fever Updates!

The Cabin Restoration capital campaign team (thanks to Jennifer Broadus’s creative talents and professionalism) has produced a beautiful, informative brochure describing Cabin Fever. This piece, which will be used as part of a 2015 direct mail campaign, provides an overview of the project: the need and the scope of work to be done.

On October 29, Cassina welcomed several members plus Honorary Chairs and the Leadership Committee to the cabins for a tour and informative talk by Tidewater, Inc. The guests were fascinated by the history that is being revealed and left with a big case of Cabin FEVER! Thank you to Dale Anderson, Anne Aspinwall, June Brown, Sue Chambless and Ruth Kolumber for treating our visitors to Cassina hospitality and wonderful hors d’oeuvres. Thank you to Joanne Scott for all the publicity shots.

Mark your calendars!! Cassina Garden Club will be hosting Joseph McGill of the Slave Dwelling Project at a “sleepover” in our cabins on Saturday, March 28.

A recent article in *Smithsonian Magazine* featured Mr. McGill and described his passion for bringing attention to the importance of preserving slave cabins and increasing understanding of this aspect of America’s history. Since 2010, he has slept in more than 60 cabins which once housed enslaved peoples. Now, the tabby slave cabins that Cassina has been maintaining and preserving for 82 years will join this group.

Look for the whole weekend of March 27, 28 and 29 to be filled with multiple fundraising events tied into Mr. McGill’s visit.

SECOND SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2015 BENEFITS CASSINA CABINS

Bennie’s Red Barn on Frederica Road will be the site on February 8 for a free concert and all-around good time benefiting Cassina’s Cabin Fever Campaign! Plan to come on out and help pass the bucket around for donations. We will be gathering some interesting goodies to raffle off. More details to follow; watch for information in email and your February Cassina Thymes.
Winter Gardening Tips from UGA

Gardeners who chose not to grow cool season crops may be getting restless as temperatures drop and the growing season comes to an end. Well, a gardener’s work is never done. Here are a few garden chores that can be accomplished over the next few months.

Now is a great time to test the soil. Developing and maintaining productive soils begins with soil testing. Whether it is for your lawn, flowerbed or vegetable garden, University of Georgia soil test results will reveal the soil’s actual nutrient status. Follow the test’s recommendations for ideal soil in your spring garden.

Compost leaves – Do you have an abundance of leaves on your property? Chop them up and add them to your garden as a mulch, or work them in to improve the soil’s organic matter. Unchopped or shredded leaves can also be used, but they tend to mat down and will not breakdown as rapidly. Leaves can also be added to your compost pile to provide a carbon element. Speaking of compost piles, work off some of those delicious holiday desserts by grabbing a shovel or pick and giving your compost pile a thorough turn. This will speed the decomposition process and add needed air and circulation to the pile.

THE CASSINA THYMES

The Cassina Thymes is published 10 times a year and is distributed to members around the 1st of the month via email and also by regular mail for those who request it. Articles must be submitted by the 15th of the month preceding the publication month. Please submit photos and articles to Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Broadus jenniferbroadus@broadus.com

Remember Ronald McDonald House

Ronald McDonald Houses collect pop tabs to raise money to support their valuable program. As big supporters of Ronald McDonald Houses this is an easy way for Cassina to help sick children and their families. Be sure to bring your pop tabs to our next membership meeting on January 8. Thank you!

Libby Hogan – Committee Chair
Note: We also collect single-use toiletry items for Ronald McDonald House families

The Gardens Committee

The Gardens committee and helpers meet at the cabins at 9:00 am every Saturday. We have had a few of the new members helping, but we always like to have more help and enjoy the companionship as well as the weeding. Please come and join us!

Betty Young

SAVE THE DATE – Feb 13!

Annual February Meeting & Luncheon

We are looking forward to a terrific luncheon next month on FRIDAY, February 13 at 11:00 a.m. It will be held at the Brunswick Country Club again this year and we are honored to have as our guest speaker the Director of the Georgia Botanical Gardens, Dr. Wilf Nichols. Luncheon invitations will be given out at the January meeting or mailed to our members who are not present at the January meeting. Remember that guests are welcome at our luncheon, but it does not count as an open meeting for prospective members. Once again we will have the table arrangement competition led by Dale Anderson, with the theme “Island Treasures.” Be sure to sign up for the competition at the January membership meeting. Information for the size of each arrangement will be announced at our next meeting as well. We are looking forward to a great turnout for this event. Hope to see you there!

June Brown – Event Chair

Member Concerns

Condolences to Judith Eff-Ogrady for the loss of her mother.
Condolences to Jean McKnight for the loss of her sister.
Have info to share? Contact Sandy Storino 634-1141 or Anne Brown 638-8189