

Cassina Garden Club

Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Walk

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Coastal Illustrated

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Cassina Garden Club's Second Annual Garden Walk Weekend celebrates the horticultural beauty of the St. Simons/Sea Island coastal area while offering an opportunity for visitors to explore and enjoy a select and seldom seen group of eight of the Islands most inspiring private gardens. The name of the tour was selected to recognize St. Simons Island's cultural heritage by spotlighting the tabby slave cabins, circa 1804, on historic Gascoigne Bluff and their magnificent setting among the ancient oaks covered with tillandsia, or Spanish moss. The cabins are maintained by Cassina Garden Club, Inc. Proceeds from the Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Walk Weekend are placed in a trust for the preservation and maintenance of the tabby cabins and the surrounding grounds.

The "theme" of this year's Garden Walk Weekend is "INSPIRATION," "EDUCATION," and "ENTERTAINMENT." From contemporary to traditional, formal to informal, the eight tour gardens offer INSPIRATION and ideas for

visitors of all ages who have varying levels of gardening expertise. EDUCATION will come in the form of a presentation by a guest speaker and by docent interaction with Garden Walk attendees. At 5:30 p.m. Friday evening, May 2nd, Steve Bender, well-known author, horticulturist and Senior Writer for Southern Living, will both educate and inspire with his talk on "Great Gardens, Great Gardeners" at St. Williams Church on St. Simons Island. During both days of the Garden Walk, Docents will be available in each garden to direct visitors' attention to and answer questions about unique plant material, hardscape and garden art. For visitors' ENTERTAINMENT and enjoyment, beautiful music as well as floral scents will waft through the air during the tour of one of the garden stops. Local musicians will provide a relaxing addition with harp, violin and other string ensembles. Another garden will feature local artists painting the inspiring landscapes.

The Garden Walk takes place Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 a.m. to

5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, 1:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$25 Walk Ticket (advance); \$30 Day of Tour Walk Ticket; \$25 Cassina Speaker; and \$150 for Patron Package that includes the Walk, Speaker and a Private Reception following Speaker presentation.

New this year is the Tabby & Tillandsia Garden Market, located under the tents at the tabby cabins on the banks of the Frederica River on both days of the Garden Walk. The Market will showcase a wide variety of excellent quality garden-related merchandise, including: plants, bulbs and herbs, garden and floral-related products and/or accessories for the home and garden, and botanical art, garden art and original designs for the home and garden.

To whet your appetite and give you a brief overview of what you will see on the Garden Walk, the descriptions and photos that follow highlight some of the special features of each garden.

The Co



Walk Committee #1: left: Kay Harrell, Garden Market; right: Chair; Alice Barlow, Patricia



Walk Committee #3: left to right: Janice Halderson, Betty Lou Schom, Alice Barlow, Elizabeth left to right sitting: Anne Aspinwa

The Speaker...

Steve Bender is a Senior Writer for *Southern Living* and has been with the magazine since 1983. He received a B.A. in History from Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland and a certificate in Ornamental Horticulture from the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland. Steve is a popular speaker and gives talks on a wide variety of gardening topics all over the country. His articles in *Southern Living*, which often poke fun at the foibles of gardeners, have won many writing awards. *Passalong Plants*, Steve's first book, was named the best-written garden book of 1994 by the Garden Writers Association of America. In 1996, he wrote *Callaway Gardens - Legacy of a Dream*, which chronicles the efforts of Cason and Virginia Callaway to transform played-out cotton fields in southeast Georgia into a sanctuary for native plants. In 1998, he edited the best-selling *Southern Living Garden Book*, which describes more than 5,000 plants suited for Southern gardens. Steve followed that up in 1999 with the *Southern Living Problem Solver*, which helps gardeners identify and control hundreds of common garden pests. The third book of the series, *The Southern Living Landscape Book*, deals with garden design for average homeowners. His latest work is a completely revised and updated edition of the *Southern Living Garden Book* that describes more than 7,000 plants.

Born in North Carolina and raised in Maryland, Steve makes his home in Hoover, Alabama, where he lives with his wife, Judy, and their son, Brian. He currently sits on the board of Aldridge Botanical Gardens in Hoover, Alabama. In 2005, the American Horticultural Society presented him with the prestigious Horticultural Communication Award, and in 2007, the Garden Writers Association awarded him the Gold Medal for magazine writing.



The Market



- Orchid
- Roses
- Bromel
- Native
- Perenn
- Garden Floor
- Longne
- Mosaic
- Hard-to