



Azalea Inn

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For Immediate Release ****Note: "Micheal" is spelled with the "e" before "a"**

Joy of the Heirloom Heritage Garden: An Endearing Feast for All Seasons and Senses – Intent on fashioning a year-around garden to compliment the Azalea Inn's turn-of-the-century charming persona, innkeepers Teresa and Micheal Jacobson are embellishing their historic district bed and breakfast mansion with heirloom garden botanicals. With elements of invigorating color, indigenous diversity, and informal style, the little known story of colonial Savannah Georgia's garden district is also reawakened.

SAVANNAH Georgia, October 31, 2005 –A love for old plants and an endearing Victorian mansion pressed new owners of the Azalea Inn to weave invigorating color, indigenous diversity, and informal style into an heirloom garden in historic Savannah, Georgia. Turn-of-the-century garden varieties deliver an enticing profusion of color year around for the couple's Queen Anne Italianate mansion located in the Forsyth Park neighborhood on Huntingdon Street.

I adore the fresh, imaginative turn-of-the-century character that these fresh gardens bring to our bed and breakfast inn," explains Micheal "Jake" Jacobson, an avid gardener. In 1995 the Huntingdon Street mansion was restored and opened as an historic bed and breakfast inn.

"Think of the difference that an exceptional necklace or tie can make when interesting colors draw attention away from whatever isn't quite right – such as broad shoulders or a long torso. Certainly, the creaks in our old mansion are elements which to some may seem 'not quite right.' However, what may seem 'not quite right' in these old buildings to some, to others they are appreciated as character elements. In our southern home's interiors the handsome wainscoating, carved woodwork around window facings and mantles, and in the vintage fireplace tiles are among the vintage attractions. However, when we add beautiful fresh cut flowers to a room, the character of this old mansion is appreciated even more," adds Teresa Jacobson. "Outdoors, gentle hours on the veranda or lazily enjoying a beverage on the sitting balconies are graciously enhanced by the beautiful heritage garden."

Intertwined in the great basking places for casual southern gentility are the outside living rooms at Azalea Inn. The enticing veranda porches, swimming pool courtyard and pond, Huntingdon Street sitting balconies and a reproduction garden swing offer hints of the romantic, easy-going atmosphere of simple indulgences that the Jacobson's are fashioning for their new acquisition.

The house dates from the later years of the 19th century, built by Captain Walter K. Coney, a champion yachting enthusiast with his "Little Walter," a prominent businessman, and an church officer at First Presbyterian Church. Captain Coney, along with his Huntingdon Street next door neighbor William B. Stillwell -- the first paying Savannah Electric residential customer --



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was a founding member of the Savannah Bank and Trust and Savannah Board of Trade. Mr. Coney was also a member of the Savannah Cotton Exchange on Factor's Walk, considered to be the "Wall Street of the South" at the time.

The southern botanicals compliment also a colonial birthright of the Victorian-era mansion (circa 1889). Through commissioned historical research, the Jacobson's have learned that the mansion resides on the colonial garden lands of Savannah Georgia's first settler, plots which were repurposed for new home construction, along with Forsyth Park (originally Forsyth Place) during the 1850s.

Not quite ready for nature photography, the newly planted gardens savored a week of rains from Hurricane Rita. The flora, shrubbery and trees includes Duc De Rohan Azalea, Red Ruffle Azalea, Duchess of Cypress Azalea, Shishi Dwarf Camellia, Cotton Candy Camellia, Sansangua Yuletide Camellia, Mystery Gardenia, Russelia Fire Cracker Bush, Thryallis, Japanese Maple, Jack Frost Ligustrum, Bradford Pear Tree, Variegated "Pink Lace" Hydrangea, Rose of Sharon, Tea Olive, Crepe Myrtle, Dogwood, and Mussaenda Incana (white wing).

Since creating an atmosphere of respectability is at the core of the master plan for the Jacobson's adventure with Azalea Inn, the heirloom garden unveils one milestone. "The couple's exemplary heritage gardens already showcase their devotion of combining the best of the past and the present," shares one long-time Savannah resident. Master gardener Anthony Attardi from Southern Heritage Design and Landscaping, LLC, is directing the revamp of the Inn's heritage gardens.

Recognized as one of the nation's largest historic districts, Savannah has preserved a proud history and has built upon its reputation as a *living museum*. Transitioning more of the *living museum* into the indoors of the garden district Azalea Inn, interiors are also being updated to deliver multiple levels of Savannah style and comforts -- "a seasoned, soothing, southern & sportive beautiful life ... even for a day."^(sm) Newly themed rooms include Forsyth Place, Live Oak Balcony, Huntington Gardens, and Chinaberry.

About Azalea Inn, a Colonial Savannah Gardens Bed and Breakfast Mansion

Within two walking blocks of Forsyth Park, the city's infamously verdant and captivating central park, the Azalea Inn's Italianate Queen Anne mansion is located on the colonial Savannah gardens lands (ca. 1733) of historic Savannah. Amid the breezy quietude of the Landmark Savannah Historic District's Huntingdon Street, relaxing southern comforts allure guests who seek a casual version of Savannah's charming style and hospitality. The historic inn's amenities include a southern U.S. cuisine full breakfast, courtyard garden pool, private parking, newly planted 19th century heritage garden, sociable rattan rockers under tree canopied balconies, and inviting porch verandahs. Each of the inn's 10 guest rooms features themed décor depicting Savannah's gardens, distinguished history, and fashionable lifestyle of the mansion's original owner, Captain Walter K. Coney. The Queen Anne Italianate urban manor (circa 1889), built on lands formerly designated as colonial gardening plots (ca. 1733 Georgia colonization), features original mantles and handsome craftsmanship from Savannah's Victorian era. The period was a time of the invention of the tabulating machine; Columbia phonograph; and changing attitudes about acceptable activities for



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women, which made sportswear popular for women, with such notable examples as the bicycling dress and the tennis dress acceptable. The mansion's original owner, a robust mercantile executive, Walter K. Coney – a champion yachtsman, Savannah Cotton Exchange member, Georgia Militia Captain, founding member of the Savannah Trade Association and Savannah Bank and Trust, was also a Confederate blockade runner. The beloved Captain Coney was affectionately mourned with many Savannah shops closed on the date of his funeral. At the end of the funeral Reverend Nisbet of First Presbyterian left his final thoughts on Walter Coney -- "In Life every man preaches his own funeral and builds his own monuments, so it has been with our friend." 217 East Huntingdon Street, Historic Savannah, Georgia USA 31401-5714. Toll Free 800-582-3823 (within the USA). Telephone 912-236-2707. Email info@azaleainn.com. Internet www.azaleainn.com