



Azalea.inn@comcast.net
217 East Huntingdon Street | Historic Savannah, Georgia USA 31401-5714
Telephone 912-236-2707 | Toll Free 800-582-3823
On the Internet www.azaleainn.com

Media Contact --
Sandy Traub
Spatior Storyline Marketing
Telephone 912-398-9828
straub@spatior.com

For Immediate Release

Artistic Heritage Gardens in Historic Savannah Take Root Through Water Conservation: Endearing Beauty to All the Senses, In All the Seasons at Azalea Inn and Gardens

A love of beautiful plants, the challenge of modern-day low-volume irrigation, and the endearing charm of a handsome Victorian mansion pressed new owners of the Azalea Inn and Gardens to weave a contemporary garden transformation into their Savannah bed and breakfast restoration plans. Today the parents of a Savannah College of Art and Design graduate share their own garden masterpiece amid the charming persona of their turn-of-the-century mansion.

February 17, 2007 [SAVANNAH, GEORGIA] – The vision begins with a vibrant tapestry of artful, heirloom botanical gardens displaying year-around color, all to complement the desired informal style of leisure at the Azalea Inn and Gardens in historic Savannah. What may not be so obvious in this garden vision, however, are the choices of indigenous plants and trees, and the contemporary water conservation implemented in the newly landscaped gardens in the historic district of beautiful Savannah, Georgia.

Today the vision is realized in the picture-perfect landscapes that reflect not only an artistic, vibrant masterpiece of year-around color, but wise water conservation at the Azalea Inn and Gardens. The innkeepers' garden vision complements their beautiful garden bed and breakfast, and enhances the story of the romantic inn's legacy -- one of being built on colonial garden lands of the newly arriving settlers from England and Europe beginning in 1733. Note: It is not far-fetched that in Savannah, one of the world's most popular planned cities, that most everything (including wise planning) would eventually find root in history.

Perfect Pairings of Interiors and Exteriors

Today the inviting gardens of innkeepers Teresa and Micheal "Jake" Jacobson feature the enterprising hard work and expertise of the low-volume irrigation specialist and his adventurous wife. While Savannah was already world-renown as one of the America's largest historic districts with a passionate citizenry working to preserve the city's proud history, built in part upon its reputation as a living museum, the Jacobson's enlisted themselves to recreate their portion of the masterpiece of Savannah's restoration.

At the time the couple purchased their historic bed and breakfast in downtown Savannah in 2005, one of their planned challenges was to research and implement gardens to complement an authentic turn-of-the-century character of the circa 1896 mansion. Transitioning more of the living museum into the indoors of the garden district Azalea Inn, interiors are also being



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updated to deliver multiple levels of Savannah style and comforts -- "a seasoned, soothing, southern and sportive beautiful life ... even for a day." Newly themed rooms include elements of Savannah's landscapes -- Forsyth Place (the original name of Forsyth Park), Live Oak Balcony, Huntingdon Gardens, and Chinaberry.

Quintessential Savannah Gardens

Authentic to the mansion's turn-of-the-century neighborhood, the inn's gardens were featured on the prestigious 2006 Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens. "I adore the fresh, imaginative character that our freshly planted gardens bring to our bed and breakfast inn," explains Micheal "Jake" Jacobson, an avid gardener and low volume irrigation specialist.

The Queen Anne Italianate mansion (ca. 1889) -- originally built for the family of the Civil War blockade runner and champion yachtsman, Captain Walter K. Coney with his "Little Walter" -- was restored and opened as an historic bed and breakfast inn in 1995. Captain Coney was also a member of the Savannah Cotton Exchange on Factors Walk, considered to be the "Wall Street of the South" at the time.

While Teresa Jacobson speaks of the preserved artisan character, a central theme of 'fresh and local' is recreated also in the culinary fare that Teresa plans for the extraordinary food and wine pairings and Southern New cuisine breakfasts. "Our guests appreciate the beautiful fresh cut flowers in their rooms, the walking cityscapes, and the living, breathing Savannah experience ... inside and outside. I believe guests love Azalea Inn and Gardens because the interiors and exteriors reflect a rich era of industrious families and adventurous living during simpler times," adds Teresa Jacobson.

Featured inside the inn are artisan wainscoting, carved woodworking around window facings, vintage fireplace mantles, and turn-of-the-century colorful ceramic tiles. While to critics the imperfections appear as flaws, for the millions who visit downtown Savannah, Georgia, the elements of character, history, heritage, hospitality and gardens are often at the core of the public's love affair with this beautiful city.

Laid-Back Basking Places

Intertwined in the great basking places for casual southern leisure are the outside living rooms at Azalea Inn. The genteel verandah porches, enticing swimming pool courtyard and pond, Huntingdon Street sitting balconies, and a garden swing offer hints of the romantic, easygoing atmosphere and simple indulgences found uptown Savannah bed and breakfast.



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Today the southern botanicals compliment the daisy-colored colonial birthright of the Victorian-era mansion. 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 that were repurposed for new home construction, along with Forsyth Park (originally Forsyth Place) during the 1850s.

Now ready for nature photography are the flora, shrubbery and trees, which include 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).

Master gardener Anthony Attardi from Southern Heritage Design and Landscaping, LLC, assisted Micheal Jacobson to revamp of the Inn's heritage gardens.

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

Within two walking blocks of Forsyth Park, the city's famously verdant and captivating central park, the Azalea Inn and Gardens' Italianate Queen Anne mansion is located on the colonial settler's 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 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



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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 azalea.inn@comcast.net Internet www.azaleainn.com

**Note: “Micheal” is spelled with the “e” before “a.” High-resolution photography is available and new high-resolution photography, by topic, may be provided upon request.