

Mepkin Abbey Garden Volunteer Newsletter

November 2014



Camellia in Luce Garden (Nelson Weaver)

Despite the fact that Fall had come, we still had some delightful occasions including the Sweet Grass being in bloom, clearing the river side of the Old Dorm, making the Mepkin Fruitcakes, and holding our Annual Fall Garden Volunteer Meeting.



Sweet Grass Blooming at the Columbarium



Old Dorm river side



Richard A and Ted making fruitcake



Fall Garden Volunteer Meeting ((Catherine (Karen's daughter), Wayne, Eric, Kay, and Karen))

Garden Updates

Store/Arbor:

Green Carolina cut back the ever-growing Wisteria from the Store roof and over the Magnolias. The Store continues to look like Filene's Basement as Advent and Christmas items are up and out! Get by and shop for a full selection.

St. Clare Walk:

St. Clare presented many beautiful faces this past month. The Lantana was blooming, as were the yellow native plants, and the Encore Azaleas went crazy. See for yourself:



Lantana



Encore Azaleas

The Cloister:

The Cloister continues to bloom with Basil, Russian Sage, Roses, and daisy-like Zinnias. The Lantana overflows in the pots as well, and the Mums add yellow and bronze highlights.



Zinnias in Cloister

The Orchard

The “Orchard” continues the march to the cooler seasons. That’s a treat for those of us who continue to haul cardboard and mulch to cover the ground as a weed preventer. Dottie has offered (again) to have Green Carolina weed the balance of the enclosure. I think we are ready to accept with thanks. You never appreciate how big a piece of ground is until you negotiate it on your hands and knees.

We harvested a “mess” of oriental persimmons this week. They seem to have ripened all at once. Father Joe wasn’t too excited to see the 4 boxes but ended up taking 3 in hope of selling some of them in the store. Persimmons like these sell for \$.75 to \$1.00 a piece in supermarkets and these have the extra benefit of having been grown on sacred ground. We took some to the Retreat Center for Father Guerric to share with his guests. Hope they like them enough to purchase more at the store.

Howard



Persimmons

Luce Garden:

The Luce three (Craig, Nelson and Russ) have outdone themselves! Look at the road to Luce Garden now. What a huge job! Thank you, thank you.



Road to Luce Gardens

Columbarium:

Excitement is in the air! The handrail for the steps will be installed in November! We continue to spend several days a week grooming the area. People continue to come

to look at Niches.

Retreat Center:

Here is the newest addition to the Retreat Center. Her name is Abbey and she came onto the Abbey property several months ago. She was very shy at first, but she was left food and water---and you know how hospitable the Monks are----. She was taken to the Vet for shots and has settled in very nicely. She certainly adds a flair.



Abbey

Old Dorm:

Good progress has been made on cleaning up the Old Dorm. Former steps were uncovered, brick-lined raised beds were discovered, shrubs were pruned and fed to get ready to fill in shrubs we have been given.



Steps Uncovered at The Old Dorm



Old Dorm beds

Library:

Things continue to hum at the CBL Library. Allan (photo below) faithfully comes each Tuesday to clean the inside, and has also cleaned off the mold on the outside. There is a noticeable difference. We have placed several additional wooden bookshelves to hold books that have been given, but not triaged (catalogued, EBay'd, or given to schools). Slowly but surely, the cardboard boxes and sacks in the corridor are disappearing! The new Volunteer, Julie, has finished the work on Bishop Thompson's gift to Mepkin of his Library. Thanks to everyone for being willing to pitch in and help!



Allan Cox

Odds and Ends:

The Garden Volunteers held their annual meeting (of course it was a meal!) and were astonished at the amount of work that had been accomplished. The Monks joined us for dessert again, we celebrated Father Kevin's birthday (a surprise)---and great fellowship time was had by all.



Len, Ursula, Father Kevin and Elaine, cake and candle



L to R: Nelson, Craig, Alexis, Jackson, Laura, and Margaret



Brothers Guerric and John greeting Volunteers



Nick, Roy and Brother Joseph

The Annual Making of the Fruitcakes has been done! You cannot imagine the hard labor it takes to produce all they do. If you have eaten their fruitcake, you can imagine cutting up all the ingredients, plus, how thick the dough must be (think tired arms), and then, packing the fruitcakes in the containers in which they are baked! The photos show them smiling----good helpers all!



Fran and Father Joe



Ted and Pam



Brother Vincent and Monastic Visitor wrapping fruitcakes

Mystery Photo:



This has to be my favorite photo this month! Abbot Stan as a fruitcake helper!

Many thanks to Howard for The Orchard Garden Report, Brother Anthony Maria, Father Jonas, Pam and Nelson for photographs, and to Langhorne for editing. Happy Thanksgiving to each of you. We have so much for which to be thankful---most of all sharing "the place" which is Mepkin. dottie