

Garden Updates

May arrived as did the hot weather. We did have some good rain, but mostly it was very hot, and so we spent many hours watering our new plantings. Items on our maintenance list included feeding the Hydrangeas and the lawns (along with pre-emergence), clipping spent blooms, and spraying to keep the ever growing weeds under control. The roses and the magnolias were a main feature for May.

Store:

The Visitors continue to come, especially to enjoy the Luce Garden, and our docents are staying busy with the tour groups. If you would like to help the docents or to help in the Store, please contact Angel at angel.franks3@gmail.com.



Hydrangeas at the Store

Cloister:

The daylilies are one of the features in the Cloister this month, along with the redone raised herb beds, the replenished raised vegetable beds, and the blooming mixed bed. It is a lovely sight.



Daylilies



Vegetable beds with tomatoes and basil



Mixed bed blooms in purple and yellow

Entry to the Church:

Last month we showed the hawthorns planted on the right side of the Church in full bloom. In May, we added mundo grass to edge the beds. I believe it gave the area a nice finish.





St. Benedict:

Miss Doris' roses continued to add to the beauty of the Church. Here is another arrangement using roses from the Rose bed at the farm gate.



Rose arrangement in the Church

The Orchard:

The Orchard looks a bit more like one as the plants get a bigger. I told Fr. Joe that we might have enough for a garnish this year but the plants do look very promising. Even the raspberries that are reportedly questionable in our climate zone look good. I sneaked one Tuesday and was pleasantly surprised at the taste. It wasn't quite ripe but that's the potential problem we have with being there one day a week. Dottie will ask Juan if he can keep an eye on the berries since they are always best at the peak of ripeness. There appear to be a bounty of figs but then again it looked like that last year and they never matured. You have to be a bit of an optimist to be a gardener!

Time will tell.

Howard

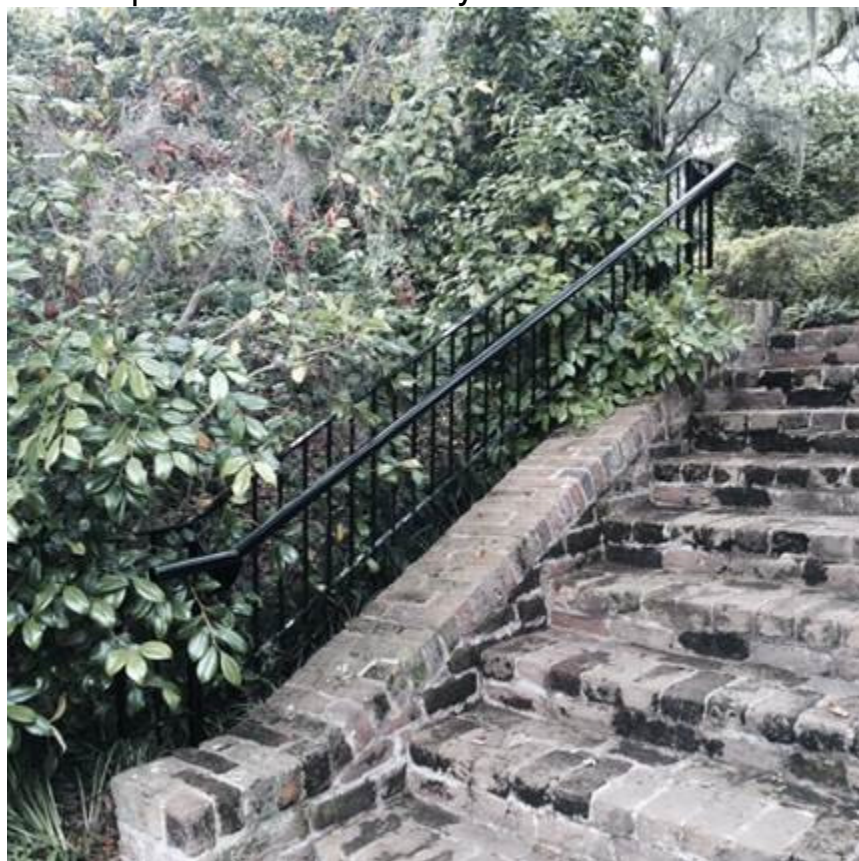
Dottie's note: I picked a bag of the raspberries yesterday, as well as a few blackberries and they are delicious! (had to be sure they were ripe.....). The blackberry bushes are laden with blackberries, not ready quite yet. It is a remarkable crop, seeing these guys pruned back, strung up, and re-mulched the entire area. Congratulations to the Orchard group!

Luce Garden:

The Luce crew continues with their weekly maintenance. It is a huge job to keep everything looking so good. The big news is that the rest of the railings have been installed and are so nice. Our thanks to Lee Walters for a job well done.



The steps down to Our Lady's Room



Lower steps from the Oak Room to the Ponds

Columbarium:

We will be replacing plants (Sweet Grass and Whirling Butterflies) in June. It has been hard to get plants in, but the River Oats are going strong, as are the ferns going down the steps.

Mystery Photo:



This was a type of caterpillar (?) we had not seen before. Does anyone know what it is called or even if it is a caterpillar?

Odds and Ends:



Redone Patio at Old Dorm

Last year several of our Volunteers began rehabbing the exterior of the Old Dorm: the vines, the weeds, the buried steps, etc. You have seen the progress in our

various newsletters. There was a patio at the end of the Old Dorm that needed both cleaning up and some nice outdoor furnishings so it could be used by the Postulants for their lessons, as well as for the enjoyment of the other Brothers. The patio has probably the best view of the Cooper River in all the property. Allan, our dedicated Library cleanup Volunteer, asked if he could help on some other projects, as he had the Library in such shape that it only took him an hour or two to clean each week. This is his next project. He now has been power washing the mud-dobbers off the ceiling of the corridor to this porch, as well as cleaning out light fixtures, etc. There is a space between the Old Dorm and the retaining wall that is full of debris. He is also going to tackle that for us. Thank you, Allan, for all your help and loyalty to our program. I understand that the Postulants are taking all their lessons out here now.

Many thanks to Howard for The Orchard Garden Report and to Langhorne for editing. The Abbot informs me that the Annual Volunteer Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 18th—so save the date! You will be receiving notice from the Abbot through the various Chairmen of your Volunteer area. Thank you for the many nice emails I receive each month, complementing our program. We have incredible Volunteers. Ursula and I cannot begin to let them know how much we all appreciate their work. The Brothers' smiles say it all! Until next month, peace. dottie