

Mepkin Abbey Garden Volunteer Newsletter

November 2015



Camellia in Luce Garden

Yes, it is the Newsletter again! I am trying to catch up and get it back out the first of the month! We have so many “irons in the fire” and I wanted all of you to know what is going on. November brings preparing for the Creche Festival at the head of the list. The Volunteers not only continue their maintaining of the Gardens, but it is time to change the pots (around 20-25 on the property) for the cooler weather, and, to complete projects that have been in the works that will add to the property, and time to prune the unruly.

Garden Updates:

The Store:

November is the main selling season for the Store, and it is packed full of new products, as well as the regular offerings. The ever so popular Fruitcakes are now on the shelves, along with Advent supplies and Christmas ornaments of every kind. Not only is the inside a delight (see photo below), but the outside is welcoming also.



St. Clare:

The Volunteers continue to groom St. Clare and cut down the plants that have bloomed and gone to sleep for the winter. Luckily, we have an array that bloom in November, and they are in their glory.



Blooming Leopard Plant



Blooming Aralia

Cloister:

The Breezeway at the Cloister is a hive of activity with display items already out and the trees coming soon. The beds here are also being prepared for cooler weather, the grasses being scheduled to be cut down, and the mixed bed is becoming a simple Hawthorn and Palmetto bed for the winter. The raised Herb beds have been mulched and the pots between them redone with Croton, Snaps, and Peppers. George has planted the cool weather lettuces in the Vegetable raised beds. We have cleared the very problematic bed across from Stephen's Garden and now have only trees there. The repair of the steps down into the Old Dorm is scheduled for after the Creche Festival, and we plan to mulch this area at present.

Howard's Orchard Report:

The orchard crew had a banner year for persimmons. Now we need to figure out what to do with them. George and I sent Father Joe some recipes but we may need to resort to selling some in the gift shop. There will be lots of exposure with all the folks coming to see the crèches.

We continue to deal with weeds but perhaps the cooler weather will give us some slack.

Howard

Luce Garden:

The Camellias in Luce have started coming out and are beautiful.



Camellias in Luce Garden

Columbarium:

The Columbarium is heavenly with the Sweet Grass in full bloom



Sweet Grass

The walks have been repaired and the ferns are awesome (thanks to Peter).



Ferns down the steps

Odds and Ends:

The Highlight of the Monastery this month was Postulant Robert becoming Novice Robert. Congratulations, Robert!



Brother Robert becoming a novice.



Brother Robert (formerly Brother Scott)

The Culvert Protectors are complete and installed! Susan Conant designed them for us and Ted Fiddie oversaw their production and installation. A big Thank You to both of them. As you can see, this is quite an improvement visually to our culvert areas.



New Culvert Protectors

The Garden Volunteers held their Annual Meeting and Lunch in November. Postponed by the rain, we finally gave up and just went inside. Ursula did her regular fabulous job, and Alan made catfish stew as an added treat on a cold, rainy day! Several Brothers joined us for dessert (and catfish stew!) Thank you to both for a good time.



Wayne and Ursula



Volunteers lined up for catfish stew from Alan



Dottie, Brother Martin, Father Jonas, Brother Robert

Another added plus to the day was that Langhorne not only joined us, but found a prospective Volunteer on the grounds and brought her to us. Her name is Sylvia Bras and she is relatively new to the area. She was impressed with Mepkin and wanted to find out how to be a part. I will picture her in the next Newsletter.

Many thanks to Howard for the Orchard Report, and to Langhorne for editing this issue. My appreciation also to Langhorne for the beautiful photos. Remember the Creche Festival—November 16-December 5, 2015. It will be a winner!

I leave you with this quote, “Jesus was always in wonder at nature, and that this connection helped Christ to invite others to find the message of the Gospel in the beauty of the world.” A Happy and Grateful Thanksgiving to each of you. dottie

