

Mepkin Abbey Garden Volunteer Newsletter

May 2016



Rose at Breakroom

April brought the most beautiful display of roses throughout the property. I hardly know where to begin... our garden duties this month included feeding and pruning all the Camellias and Azaleas on the property—which will take us through May to complete. The grass has started to grow with a vengeance and so in the areas we maintain we now have that added job. Also, with Volunteers taking holidays, it has been a real effort on Craig's part along with the help of several others, to keep up with the task. We continue to redo pots from the winter ones and also add new plants where we have lost materials.

Garden Updates

Store/St. Clare:

The Knock Out Roses are blooming like crazy at the store, and the Ferns, as well, are reappearing in mass along the path in St. Clare. We have added several Palmettos and Lantana to the beds and have increased the Leopard Plants. The French Hydrangeas are filling in nicely also.



Knock out Roses at Store

Cloister:

The grasses have come back in at the Cloister and the Daylilies are budding up. As you remember when the Daylilies die down in late summer, the Russian Sage blooms a bright purple and we have yellow butterflies galore. This month, thanks to Sylvia and her Dad, Walter, the Russian Sage was divided behind the Rose bed and spread throughout the Daylilies.



Daylilies in bud

The famous Stephen's Garden is in back of the Senior Wing. Brother Joe, an Irish Christian brother, who visits several times a year, brings an entire load of flowers with him and replants the garden for Bro Stephen. What an act of kindness! Here it is for

this year!





Brother Joe also redid the Sacred Heart Grotto several years ago. Here it is for 2016:



We will return to all these gardens when they have filled out in their splendor.

St. Benedict:

Here is the star of the month—Miss Doris and her Roses. I will let the photos do the talking.



Miss Doris with Sister Gretchen and Sister Sophie

The Orchard:

The orchard crew presses on. The weeds may be winning short term but we will continue our efforts.

I understand Dottie will include a picture of the blackberries in bloom. They really look promising. The Satsuma oranges were loaded with blooms as well. The citrus typically has a fruit drop or two so we won't get excited just yet.

I was removing suckers from the persimmons Tuesday and managed to pause in a fire ant mound. Of course I didn't realize my error until I felt the first bites. Horrible things! I declared war and spread Amdro around the trees as well as the orchard. Here's hoping.

Howard

Editor's Note:

For those of you that are unaware of how Blackberries develop, the following photos will be of interest.





Blooms to Fruit

Luce Garden:

The Luce Crew continues to amaze me. After the fabulous blooming of Azaleas, they have already fed the Camellias and Azaleas. Pam has joined them and is specializing in pruning. Russ continues to enlarge his area of cleaning up the Live Oak by cutting the Yupon Holly and spraying. Joe is cleaning the brick edging and Nelson has achieved his 750 hours! I neglect to tell you about Craig because he does it all and is a great help to me on other days.



Pam, new member of the Luce Crew

Retreat Center:

In May, the Retreat Center will present the following:

Retreat Exploring the Power of Story May 20 -23, 2016

As human beings and as Christians, we are people of story. As John Shea says, "We turn our pain into narrative so we can bear it; we turn our ecstasy into narrative so we can prolong it. We tell our stories to live." As humans we are hardwired to make meaning through narrative, and as Christians we are connected to the never ending story of redemption and salvation.

This retreat will outline basic themes of the Christian life such as calling, surrender, hope, struggle, resurrection, and prepare participants to tell corollary stories from their life. The objective is to witness how the story of faith is not merely recorded in the Bible but in our lives. When we share our story with fellow pilgrims on the Way, we discover our common story.

Facilitated by The Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor is the sixth bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. He is the author of two books: *To Dream as God Dreams: Sermons of Community, Conversion, and Hope* and *From Anger to Zion: An Alphabet of Faith*.

The suggested donation for this retreat is \$350 for weekdays and \$300 for weekends.

Because of the demand for this retreat a preregistration fee is required to assure a space. Please send \$200 to: Story Retreat, 1098 Mepkin Abbey Rd. Moncks Corner, SC 29461 (Make Check payable to Mepkin Abbey)

Columbarium:

The Columbarium was replanted with various shrubs and plants, and is a treat to walk through. A tree that had died was also replaced. Should you have an interest in burial in the Columbarium, please call Jim Rozier at 843-729-6508.



New mulch



Replacement tree and other plant materials

Odds and Ends:

Mormon Volunteers:

Sister Lelia has left us and Sister Gretchen has replaced her.



Sister Elizabeth (only here for one session) and Sister Gretchen

Additional Mormon Sisters from Goose Creek and Summerville continue to come and are now joined by the Costellos who are Senior Mormon Missionaries. Mormon Elder Anthony and Elder Bernard come regularly as clockwork and have been a great help with the mulch and other cleaning chores with Craig.

Another important event happened in April. Several Garden Volunteers requested we have an AED defibrillator at the Farm in the Breakroom. The Abbot graciously agreed to purchase one, provided lunch, and David (Nurse at Mepkin) gave a 4 hour CPR/AED training course to 27 Volunteers (14 Garden Volunteers; 13 Docents/Creche Volunteers). There are now AEDs in the Store, in the Church flower sacristy, as well as at the Breakroom at the Farm. A list of Certified CPR/AED persons has been compiled with days those certified are on the property. We hope we will never have to use this training, but I was amazed at the willingness of everyone to attend and be ready. With 8500 people in two weeks at the Creche Festival, it makes Mepkin ready to deal with this problem. David will offer a First Aid Training Class this Fall.



Sign on exterior of Breakroom



AED on left wall inside Breakroom

Mystery Photos:

Here are a few singular beauties on the property:



Wisteria at the Crossroads



Yellow Rose at the Breakroom



Bottlebrush (Kay Sappol)



Fringe Tree at the Crossroads (Kay Sappol)



Raspberries in bloom at the Orchard

Many thanks to Howard for the Orchard Report, to Father Jonas and Kay Sappol for the photos, and to Langhorne for editing this issue. I leave you this month with a wonderful photo that Father Jonas sent me of a newborn fawn he saw on the riverside of the Old Dorm. There is a new life at Mepkin. Please come see for yourself. Dottie



Newborn Fawn