

Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

July 2018



Lace Cap Hydrangea at Entry to St. Clare

June was a busy month, attending again to the care of the Azaleas and Camellias, etc. We have been moving the Daylilies to St. Benedict, thanks to Sylvia, and feeding the Roses and Gardenias, grooming the Holly Ferns of dead fronds, and, continuing to cut back the Mums has kept us busy. On the Walk to the Church, we are busy with much grooming of perennials, as well as with adding some additional Ajuga to the curved walk to replace the Mums that are dying out.

In July, we continue the constant maintenance with weeds - the rain trying to get ahead of us - and we continue the nightmare mowing to be kept up. We will be both removing spent blooms and pruning off Daylily seed pods. The Pineapple

Lilies, Beautyberries, Grasses, Native Hibiscus, and Spider Lilies are also blooming.

GARDEN UPDATES:

Store/ St. Clare:



The Roses in front of the Store have outdone themselves proud this year thanks to Karen for the wonderful care she puts in there.

Kathy, with help, has turned St. Clare Walk into a fairyland. These are her photos sent to me:



Agapanthus and Leopard Plants



French Hydrangeas



Jesus with Lambs Sculpture



Africa Lily bed and Renovated Papyrus



Leopard Plants at Bench

Cloister:

The drainage and washout problem in the Cloister in the mixed bed that has been a problem for years is now resolved. Our trusty men got into it and did a wonderful fix.



Drainage fix in mixed bed

Orchard:

We have had a rough month trying to control the weeds with the high temperatures and frequent rain. We've covered the same areas many times but the weeds seem to be tougher than we are.

Funny thing, we spread a good bit of our compost on the blueberries and figs in hopes of keeping them moist and providing some nutrients. What did we get but tomatoes! The accidental tomato crop has been our most plentiful so far.

The figs are starting to come in. I kept telling Enzo (new chef) that it would be next week for at least a month. I brought some Italian Honey Figs from home. Enzo is very creative and was going to combine them with other fruit for a great desert.

I had started a few of the fig plants with cuttings from home, and Craig has started some of Brother Joseph's figs. It won't be long until we are covered up. Maybe next week!

Howard

Luce Garden:

The daisies are wonderful in Luce as are the Native Hibiscus that are blooming. It is a magic place!



Daisies



Native Hibiscus

Columbarium:

The niches in the 2nd stage of the Columbarium have been installed! Now to get the temporary rye grass sodded and the pots put in!



Meanwhile, in the Ravine, the Canna are glorious!:



Canna blooming in the Ravine

Clermont Cemetery:

For some months now, Chuck has been vigorously working on cleaning up the Clermont Cemetery. Here are some "in progress" photos:





This has been a huge undertaking and we thank Chuck for his unending efforts.

Odds and Ends:

This month has been an exciting month for Volunteers. We have had a real reduction in people due to vacations, surgery, retirements, etc. Last month I reported on Margaret Hagood. Here she is!:



The icing on the cake was to return to find out the Institute had provided three more Volunteers to work in the Gardens.

Here they are:



Isaac, James, and Trish

They work Monday-Friday from 9 to 11 -- what a helping hand they have been.

Earlier in the month, we had another Retreatant who helped several days:



Melisse was quite a worker: working Tuesday - Thursday from 9 to 11. Here she is working on the riverside of the Old Dorm cleaning up the dead Fern Fronds and weeding the hill that buries the old steps. Wednesday she cleaned up

Inspiration Point at the Retreat Center and worked again on Thursday. We wish she lived nearer!

Good news and sad news:

We had a new Mormon Sister, Sister Sharon, join us this month. Unfortunately, the Sisters are being moved out of the area. The good news is that the Elders will be replacing them and we are thrilled to have those young men back!



Sister Sharon

Spotlight on a Volunteer

We do not have a Spotlight this month. We had many wonderful comments on Tim's very honest sharing with us last month. Hopefully, we can continue to get Volunteers to share their stories with us. Such a great group of people.

This issue is late this month due to an unexpected trip I had to the ICU with a blood problem. Everyone has stepped right up and taken over the Annual Volunteer Picnic for me. I will be limited in what I can do physically for a while, but you know I will enjoy riding around evaluating everything. Many thanks to Craig and Kathy for supplying photos, and to Langhorne for her wonderful editing each month. Remember the Annual Volunteer Picnic is AUGUST 11th this year. We have some new surprises in the gift bags!

"God gave humankind the privilege as well as the responsibility of caring for His Creation...show your respect for Him by dealing kindly with all...".

I so appreciate all the wonderful emails we receive concerning the Newsletter. Please feel free to make suggestions as to what we are missing. Being at Mepkin is a blessing to all of us. Come see us and join the fellowship. Contact Craig Clark at 843-709-8362 or

Mepkin.volunteer@gmail.com

Until next month, keep the faith--dottie.