

Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

September 2018



Lantana at Store

In July we seemed to need rowboats; in August it was Gators full of barrels of water! Somehow it has not balanced out! August found us deadheading Hydrangeas, starting to prune back Hydrangeas for next year, fertilizing perennials and Roses again, and keeping up deadheading both to keep them blooming. The Azaleas were freed of any vines and water shoots in an effort to keep them in good shape for next year. This month it is much the same, plus replacing materials in pots that have not been able to hold up in the terrific heat we have had. Our Volunteers have been loyal to a fault. They never complain—just keep on coming in soaking wet and drinking water.

The highlight of August was the Annual Volunteer Picnic (postponed from July to August because of the Institute going on in July). Father Jonas was wonderful to take these photos that follow.



Jamie and Dennis Nelson receiving 1000 hour Award. Jamie and Dennis are the couple who have headed up the wonderful huge wreath and other decorations for the Creche Festival. We are so grateful for the wonderful work they do each year with their team.



Julie Yeager receiving award



Monastic Visitor receiving award



Center table with Garden Volunteers







As is obvious, a good time was had by all. The Volunteers so appreciate the Brothers for honoring them in this way each year.

GARDEN UPDATES:

As we have devoted much space to the Volunteer Picnic, the Garden Updates will be abbreviated this month.

Cloister:

Here is another shot of the 10 Man Cottage Plumbago that is wonderful this year!



Orchard:

The orchard is coming along. The weeds got ahead of us while I was laid up with my broken shoulder. I hesitate to say that we are catching up but it does look that way.

We have to untangle the blueberries from the volunteer (not Tennessee) tomatoes and miscellaneous weeds. Jimmy Livingston apparently plants grass between his crop rows at Wasabi Farm to keep the weeds down. It might be easier for us to mow than to weed!

We had a very short (poor) fig crop. The plants look good but the figs sprouted mold and didn't mature. I think all the rain got to us. With all the new fig plants that Craig started and planted outside the fence a big year will be a really BIG year.

The persimmons are looking promising. Thankfully they mostly take care of themselves. We'll keep our fingers crossed.

Howard

See pictures of figs!



Mold on Figs

Luce Garden:

Luce Garden continues to be popular for weddings. In September there are already seven scheduled. The Volunteers who keep Luce looking five star are greatly appreciated. We would love to have additional Volunteers to work here and other areas. Contact Craig at Mepkin.volunteer@gmail.com or 843-709-8362.



The Cove at the Cooper River

Columbarium:

The Second Stage of the Columbarium is almost completed! Here you will see Three Oaks sodding the ground that was used during construction.



Sodding Columbarium in progress

St. Benedict:

St. Benedict is where the Columbarium offices are located. I have mentioned before that Sylvia had rescued the Daylilies from the Cloister where the Russian

Sage had taken over. She did such a wonderful job, here are the results. Donna, a temporary Volunteer we had for two weeks, pruned the espaliered trees behind the Daylilies.



St. Benedict

Odds and Ends:

Ever so often we have someone show up on a temporary basis to help us in the gardens. This past month we hit the jackpot. Donna Coomer was living here but was planning on moving soon to Myrtle Beach. She came everyday for two weeks and what a worker! We were so sad to see her leave us and told her we would love to have her anytime! Thank you, Donna, for all your hard work, great attitude, and all that you brought to our program. Everyone so enjoyed meeting and getting to know you. Come back soon!



Donna Coomer

Spotlight on a Volunteer

There is no Spotlight this month.

Many thanks to Father Jonas for the wonderful photos of the Volunteer Picnic. Also thanks to Howard for supplying the Orchard report each month, and to Langhorne for editing. I am happy to report that the Creche ladies are showing up on a regular basis, already getting set for the Creche Festival. The dates for 2018 are November 12-18 and then November 23-December 1. Registration will open in early October. Mark your calendars!

Until next month, dottie