

Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

October 2018



Beautyberry

What a month! The Abbey was prepared for the hurricane and everything poised for a hit, when lo! And behold! We were spared! Thanks be to God that our damage was minimal and the Brothers, although prepared, pretty much were able to maintain their regular schedule. I asked Craig and Father Jonas to take photos (I evacuated to Tennessee). The result:



There was plenty of debris to pick up but the Volunteers were able to maintain our schedule of feeding and pruning the Hydrangeas, removing the spent blooms and planting replacement plant materials. Watering, believe it or not, has taken time as the new plantings require tending. Blooming during this time has been the Beautyberry, Abelia, Ginger and Encore Azaleas.

GARDEN UPDATES:

Store:

The Store continued to be colorful with the Encore Azaleas and Knockout Roses plus the Lantana greeting our Visitors.



St. Clare:

The walk through St. Clare is cool and peaceful with the incredible fern and the Encore Azaleas in full bloom. The Elephant Ears lend a spot of interest as do the Papyrus.



Blooming Encore Azaleas

Cloister:

The main feature in the Cloister this month is the Russian Sage. It is blooming like crazy and we are awaiting the yellow butterflies that usually flutter around the blooms.





Russian Sage

Orchard:

The orchard continues to sprout weeds and Norm and I continue trying to get ahead of them. For some strange reason we seem to be gaining.

We have been planning with Craig a plan to convert to an electric fence. Our 7' plastic fence has seen better days. I visualize deer waiting outside the fence for the next hole to open up. Luckily there are plenty of acorns and other forage but we had better get ready for Spring.

We were out last week weed eating around the persimmons. We also put out some Amdro in hopes of getting rid of the fire ants before we begin to harvest. I think we will start picking next week for the folks who like firm fruit. Thankfully most of our trees are non astringent varieties so firm fruit is an option.

Howard



Green Persimmons (will turn bright orange when ripe)

St. Benedict:

We really miss Miss Doris at St. Benedict! The climbing Roses cry out for her! Despite all, the garden looks good as you can see.



St. Benedict

Columbarium:

The sod is in and things are looking very nice. The Wooden Sculpture beds with their various grasses have been a maintenance problem as the grasses got

larger and larger. They were constantly falling over and looking unkept. Craig decided to take them out and replace them with some color. We are a project in progress. We have planted several dozen Black-Eyed Susan (a native plant) and should have quite a show next summer. We have left the Sweet Grass which should be blooming soon.



New Black-Eyed Susan bed

At the niches, we will also be changing out the Clematis in pots to Holly in the next weeks. The Clematis will go to the Green House for rehabilitation. Hopefully the pyramidal Holly will give a holiday feel for the winter. Stay tuned.

Secular Cemetery:

The Secular Cemetery is an area not many people see or know about. It has special friends of the Abbey buried there and it is an area we keep groomed. It is an area of calm and serenity. Many thanks to those Volunteers who keep it in good order.



Secular Cemetery

Odds and Ends:

Throughout the grounds, there are various statues that add so much to those walking the grounds or sitting and contemplating where they are. Craig took these beautiful photographs and I want to share them with you.







Many thanks to Howard for supplying the Orchard report each month, and to Langhorne for editing. Remember that registration for a time slot for the Creche Festival opens in October. The Creche Festival is from November 12-18 and November 23-December 1.

We continue to need additional Volunteers. We work from Monday-Thursdays from 8:30-11:30. I promise you will get more from working at this holy place than the energy you will expend. Contact Craig Clark at mepkin.volunteers@gmail.com or 843-709-8362.

“Life is a series of new beginnings.” (Joan Chittister) Like the cycles of nature, we are in constant change. Let us seek new experiences and perhaps come to a new beginning. Come see us! Blessings to all, dottie

