

Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

December 2018



Creche Festival Wreath

November was all about the Creche Festival: including the preparations, the execution and the presentation. As usual, it was a feast for the heart as well as the eyes. The theme being sheep this year, Mepkin had a herd of sheep throughout the property. This month, the main feature of the Newsletter will be photos. Enjoy! For those of you away, I wish you had been here!

Turning into the Entrance into Mepkin:



Meeting the Golf Cart team to Parking:

These tireless men lead the Visitors in their cars to the Parking Area and bring them back to the Visitor's Center so they can check in and start the tour. After the Visitors complete the tour and shopping, they return them to their cars.



Arriving at the Reception Center, checking in with Father Gueric (and Abbey), and, walking through St. Clare:





Sheep, sheep and more sheep:





On the Walk to the Church:





Arriving at the Breezeway:



The sheep above was something! Made of spark plugs!

Coming into the Cloister:



And now, The Creche Show:



Creche with Monks:

monk with bread

Fr. Joe

monk with mushroom

Br. Anthony Maria

monk with sunflower

Fr. Gueric

monk with redbirds

Br. M. Joseph

monk in white with staff	Fr. Stan
monk with bicycle	Br. Stephen
monk with walker	Fr. Christian
monk with umbrella	Br. John
monk feeding rabbit	Br. Paul
monk driving tractor	Br. Robert
monk holding book of psalms	Fr. Kevin







Other Garden Areas:



Sacred Heart Grotto



Church



First Camellias



Camellia in Luce Garden



Tea Olive at St. Bernard

Orchard:

The Orchard Crew (Norm and I) took 2 peach baskets of Satsuma Oranges to the kitchen last week. You may remember that we had one tree produce a great deal of fruit and the other none. We were going to erect some protection around the citrus before the pending cold snap. Amazingly we may have at least another 1-2 baskets still hanging.

Craig brought us some corrugated panels that we were able to stand up with reinforcing rods as anchors and PVC pipe up the side of the panels. We overlapped the panels and ran tubing around the enclosure. We hope these will require less maintenance than our previous cardboard creations. We put lights inside each enclosure and have enlisted aid to turn the lights on as needed. They look good so far. With a bit of refinement we might be set (knock on wood).

We have a lot of persimmons to harvest. We have taken some to the crèche golf cart crew as a token of appreciation. We will be busy this coming week. If you need any for your stockings come see us.

Howard

Odds and Ends:



On November 11, 2018, former Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. presented Fr. Stan the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest honor given to one of its citizens. The award, given by Governor Henry McMaster, was presented to Fr. Stan at one of the monastery's Founders' Day events.

Congratulations to Father Stan who has been awarded the Order of the Palmetto. For Father Stan's remarks to the Monks, please go to the Website www.mepkinabbey.org.

Many thanks to the Volunteers who came one Saturday to knock out the remaining mulch areas that are not blown. Craig was kind enough to fix lunch for everyone.



Front l to r: Margaret and her two girls, Virginia and Mary Margaret

Back: l to r: Gail, Jackson, Ed, Howard, Dan, Sylvia and Kathy

Thank you, thank you again for this extra service!

Abbot Stan approved a repair of the Greenhouses in the Fall. The work has begun and here is a photo of Greenhouse #1 without its roof.



My thanks to Father Jonas and Craig for the photos, to Father Kevin for the photo of the Monk's Creche with identifications. This issue would not have been possible without them! My thanks also to Howard, for the Orchard Report and to Langhorne for editing.

A peaceful Advent to each of you as we prepare for God's greatest gift, His Son, the Christ Child. May your hearts be stilled to be ready for the wonder of Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you. dottie