

Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

July 2019



Agapanthus in Columbarium

June has been a scorcher, although we got a few days of rain the end of the month. Although June maintenance was second to watering, we prevailed. July means cutting back the mums for the last time, fertilizing the Hydrangeas, Daylilies, Roses, and Gardenias again, and continuing to remove spent blooms in all areas.

As you will see in photographs, we have Crepe Myrtles, Daylilies, Native Hibiscus, Agapanthus and Lantana blooming. Several new pots have appeared around Mepkin, and, the Basil bed has gone crazy -- even Enzo (the chef) has said it was too much! As you know, everything grows at Mepkin!

GARDEN UPDATES:

Store:

Currently, we are featuring Native Hibiscus at the Store entrance for a nominal amount. This money goes to defray the cost of the Gardens. Like everything else in the Greenhouse, every seed came up! There are several

new beds of the Hibiscus (near the Luce Ponds and by the Columbarium), plus we're expanding the Hibiscus bed in Luce Garden.



Native Red Hibiscus at Orchard Fence

Walk to the Church:

The road to the Abbey intersects at the Walk to the Church and St. Clare. At this point we have placed a new blooming pot.



New blooming pot on the road to the Abbey

Cloister:

The blooming feature in the Cloister are the beautiful Crepe Myrtles by the Monk's left entry into the Church. Remember that we had them pruned back last year, now they are back in full force again.



Crepe Myrtles

We divided the new Bromeliads into pots, and have taken them to the corner by the raised beds for the Monks to enjoy on their walk to the Refectory. Our hope is to get them to bloom there.



Bromeliad pots with Lemon Grass pot

Father Gueric continues to use blooms for the Church arrangements and one is more stunning than another. Look for yourself:



Hydrangea Arrangement

Sacred Heart Grotto:

Here is an update on the Sacred Heart Grotto that Brother Joe plants each year. It is coming along nicely with a large Plumbago Pot and planted Coleus of various colors. Thank you, Joe, for doing this every year.



Sacred Heart Grotto

Orchard:

The orchard is going great guns but unfortunately that's mainly the weeds. We spend most of our time weeding and not make much progress. Part of the problem is that the soil is very fertile.

We are trying something new. Craig brought the zero turn mower into the orchard and mowed everything he could safely reach. We kept our eyes on the irrigation tubing and finished with another mower lifting the tubing and mowing underneath. We will still have to weed around the fruit trees but if this works it should give us some extra time for other projects.

I may get trained on the zero mover but am apprehensive about the irrigation tubing. I will be much slower than Craig.

Our next crop will be the figs. They are scattered around the property so we will need to keep up as they ripen. YUM !

Howard

Luce Garden:

**As ever, Luce Garden is a place of peace and calm.
It is also a wonder with the overload of Hydrangea blooms.**



Luce Garden looking towards Room One





The daisies are also in bloom.



Daisies

Cloister:

An update on the entry to the Cloister-- the Black-eyed Susans are up and starting to bloom!



Black-eyed Susans at Entry

On top of the niches we have several blooming pots also.



St. Benedict:

All have enjoyed the Daylily bed that Sylvia moved from the Cloister last Fall. It has transferred well and the blooms have repeated for several weeks.



Daylilies

Odds and Ends:

New Volunteers:

Lucky for us, we have a new Mormon Volunteer to feature this month. Welcome to Marcus and thank you for joining us!



Marcus

We also have a new couple, Alysee and Phil Turner, who have joined us. We will have a photo next month. Welcome to both of you. We so appreciate the time you are giving us.

My thanks to Howard for the Orchard Report and to Langhorne for editing.

This fall or winter, there will be repairs made to the Church. When I read the following from Msgr. James Murphy, Rector Emeritus of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament and former associate publisher of the Catholic Herald, I knew I wanted to share it with you.

“The essence of Cistercian architecture is its simplicity. Conceived as a reaction to the multiplicity of sculptured images in the Cluniac monasteries of France....St. Bernard of Clairvaux promoted an austere architectural style that avoided color and image in order to focus on light, uncluttered space and harmonious proportions. The idea was to express the mystery of God—oneness, beauty, truth-in-stone and thus to assist the Monks and the Visitors on retreat in achieving contemplation.” Need I say more than to look at the Mepkin style?

**Happy July 4th! We are so blessed to live in America. God bless America,
dottie**