

## **Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter**

**June 2020**



### **Pineapple Guava in Cloister**

**The Mepkin Garden Volunteers were allowed back into the Monastery grounds on Monday, May 4th. Craig, the Director of Grounds and Gardens, Capps and his mowing crew and three Volunteers are working Monday, Wednesday and Friday on all areas except anything beyond the Business Office. They are to arrive at 8:30, have their temperature taken by the medical people (currently the Volunteer takes his/her temperature at home) and passes through to work until 11:30**

**We are not near the monastic areas and will not be for some time. Other good news from Craig is that those volunteers working (now a full compliment) are slowly catching up. The public, a few cars at a time to maintain social distancing, has been allowed to enter the property, but only to visit the gardens and the Abbey story. No tours are being given at this time. Volunteers are taking temperatures of the public at the Gate.**

**This month the Volunteers will be feeding the Azaleas and Camellias, fertilizing the Hydrangeas, Roses and Day Lilies and pruning any flowering shrubs as they have bloomed out. Of course, of first order is getting things weeded, pruned and groomed on the grounds since we were gone. Blooming are Roses, Magnolias, Iris, Dwarf Gardenia, Easter Lilies, Dianthus and Pittosporum.**

**Updates on the Gardens:**

**Store and St. Clare:**

**The Store is open now on Tuesday through Saturday from 9-4. Three persons at a time may enter and must wear masks.**

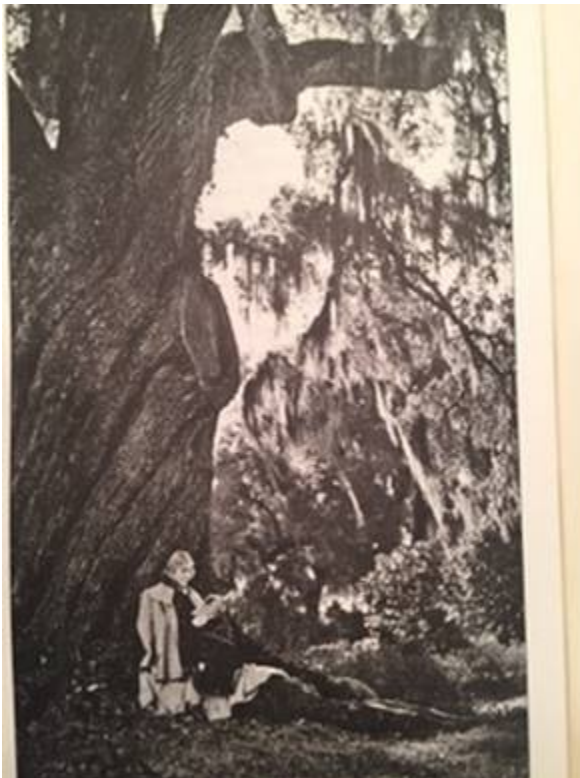
**Here are the Dwarf Gardenias blooming in St. Clare:**



**Note the bee on the Gardenia**

**Luce Garden:**

**Last month we reported the damage to the twisted Live Oak at Luce Garden. Greg was nice enough to share this photo of Mrs. Luce reading under it a long time ago.**



**Clare Boothe Luce under the twisted Live Oak at Luce Garden**

**Breezeway:**



**Dwarf Gardenias**

**Cloister:**



**Hummingbird at feeder in Cloister**



**Mother's Day in the Church**



**Glads where they were raised in the beds in the Cloister**



**Easter Lilies from our gardens**



**Lily bed in front of the Administration Building**

**Each year we have been saving and replanting the Easter Lilies that Fr. Gueric uses in the Church at Easter. They normally are not blooming at Easter (those at Easter are forced to bloom), but bloom at this time. As you can see, they are quite lovely.**

**Nearby, on the Walk to the Church:**



**Dianthus blooming**

**Orchard:**



**Orchard before Volunteers**



**Orchard after first clean up**

**Norm and I had the second visit to Mepkin today. We were able to cut the heavy grass around the persimmons. The field had been bush hogged but thankfully they left a good margin around the trees. We found dead branches and a lot of budding fruit.**

**The strawberries came and went during our absence but the black berries and blueberries look very promising.**

**We pruned the figs some months ago and now there are lots of fruit, fruit that we will be better able to reach. We heavily pruned Brother Joseph's tree by**

**the gator barn. We should be able to pick without a ladder.**

**Always more to do. We hope our schedule will let us catch up. There I go thinking unrealistically.**

**We had to repair the electric fence again. Someone is breaking the insulators 3 down today. Fortunately replacement are inexpensive and we are getting adept at replacement.**

**Howard**

**Odds and Ends:**

**Bittersweet news: Our Garden Volunteer, Elaine Dennis, went to God on May 9<sup>th</sup> after several years with cancer. She taught us all how to walk this final journey with her sweet smile and unwavering faith. We will miss you, Elaine. God speed.**





**Sylvia and Elaine on one of her last visits with us.**

**We hope to send her off in style in the Columbarium when permitted to do so.**

**My thanks to Howard for the Orchard Report, to Father Jonas, Father Kevin and Greg for the photographs.**

**I want to recommend a fabulous article on the Mepkin Website by Father Joseph Kerrigan, “Goaltenders in an Uncertain Contest”. He also has Part 1 of a 2 Part article titled, “Mushrooms are Us: “Mycelial Possibilities for Monasteries and Pandemics.” Further, there is a wonderful poem by Father Gueric. [www.mepkinabbey.org](http://www.mepkinabbey.org) .**

**I hope to be able to be back in June. Continue to keep safe, wash your hands and distance.**

**“All things require a particular kind of care, and move on. We offer our care and attention in this particular season, this particular moment, doing what is placed before us to do, with simple courage and no small faith.” Sabbath by Wayne Muller**

**Keep the faith, dottie**

**As a late addition, you will find details about the death of Father Richard.**





Father Richard McGuire, O.C.S.O

Born: June 22, 1926  
Omaha, Nebraska

Entered Mepkin: January 2, 1952

Solemn Profession: April 29, 1954

Ordained a priest: March 13, 1957

Born into eternal life: May 24

May 24, 2020

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord.

Shortly after midnight, Father Richard Mc Quire, O.C.S.O., died at Mepkin Abbey. His death came a little more than a week after he fell and broke his leg. He had been taken to the hospital and came home to us but with his frail health could not regain his strength. Father Richard was 94 years old. On January 2, 1952 he had travelled from Nebraska to enter Mepkin Abbey.

Over the years, he had served the community in many ways, among them were sacristan, Prior for a good number of years and then in 1994 he was named chaplain to our sisters in Ecuador at Our Lady of Hope in Esmeraldas. He fulfilled that service for 25 years providing for the spiritual needs of the sisters and teaching classes in their program of formation for the many new women who entered through that time.

Father Richard returned to Mepkin in November of 2018 due to poor health. He was assigned a room in the Senior wing of the monastery and lived there until his death. In the last few weeks of his life he was cared for by Brother Juan Fahrner and Brother Paul DeWeese. He had fallen and broken his leg and was hospitalized for surgery to repair the break. On returning to the monastery, he was quarantined with the two monks as caregivers to safeguard the community against Covid-19, in case he might have contracted the virus while in the hospital.

He died peacefully in the quiet of the night on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord.

