

Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

July 2020



Close up of Agapanthus

June brought the heat and humidity. Luckily, we have had a fair amount of rain and everything looks very green! It is great to be back at Mepkin and working in the gardens. You can imagine the job that was ahead when we returned. As the saying goes, “Nature loves a void!” I returned recently and was really impressed with all that had been accomplished in the areas to which we are limited. Mepkin continues its vigilance during the Coronavirus pandemic, which is nice for me as I have four risk factors! Everyone is respecting distancing, wearing masks and taking their temperatures before they come. We miss throwing a hand up as we pass the Monks, but it is necessary to keep them safe.

This month we will be continuing to feed the Hydrangeas, Roses, Daisies, Crepe Myrtles and Gardenias. We are vigilant in removing spent blooms, so that the bulbs and perennials keep their strength. Blooming at present in the areas in which we work are the Hydrangeas, Lantana, Agapanthus, Crepe Myrtles, Daisies and Daylilies.

Updates on the Gardens:

I assume you are aware that where we work stops at the Business Office, Walk to the Church, the Cloister and the Church, so I am unable to report or take photos of those areas to keep us all safe. I will not have photos of those areas.

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. A Docent or Postulant stays at the gate to take the temperature of anyone who wants to visit. Allowed are a few cars at a time and for a limit of one hour. There are still no tours nor services at the Church for visitors.



The store has Lantana and Hydrangeas blooming as well as Yarrow. Angel tells me there are lots of new products there. Here are some examples:



A wonderful Baby Gifts corner



Artistic ware shelves



Wonderful selection of books

Come and pay a visit and shop!

St. Clare:

Thank Goodness Kathy is back and St. Clare is humming again!



Lace-cap Hydrangea at entry to St. Clare



The beautiful banks of Fern have returned again



Hopefully you can make out the purple Agapanthus that is blooming and I caught Kathy at a working moment!

Cloister:

The raised beds in the Cloister have been planted by Enzo the Chef. They are beautiful to behold: tomatoes, basil, lemon grass, cone flowers and glads.



Raised beds (Father Jonas)



Sago Palm bloom (Father Jonas)

Retreat Center:

Because of the pandemic, the Retreat Center is still not able to have Retreatants. Their on-line retreats are doing well and you can go to the Mepkin website to sign on and see what is offered. www.mepkinabbey.org.



As you can see, the Crepe Myrtles are just starting to bloom.

Columbarium:

Left sculpture:



The wooden sculptures at the entrance of the Columbarium continue to be of great interest.



Do you remember we mass planted Blackeyed Susan here last year and they were an amazing sight when all were blooming? They have returned and are just starting to bloom.

Right sculpture:



The Tea Rose we planted here, replacing the grasses that were a constant maintenance problem, are doing very well. We are trying all the time to work smarter with limited time and volunteers.

The spotlight is on the Agapanthus this month. Look how beautiful they are along the path to the niches.



Luce Garden:

Two months ago, I included photos of the damage the tornado did to the Twisted Live Oak. Here it is today. Hopefully an arborist can do something.



Twisted Live Oak at Luce

Despite this tragedy, Luce continues to be a place of serenity.



Our Lady continues to watch over all of us.

Orchard:

The rain has really gotten the grass and of course weeds in high gear. Norm and I have been mowing around the persimmon trees so we will be able to find them as the season goes on. Actually we are cutting a buffer around the trees to protect them from bush hog mowing.

We have lots of figs on the trees. We pruned them when they were dormant so it would be easier to pick. It's looking very promising for several varieties.

We will continue to fertilize the blueberries and perhaps plant more as they are available.

We're hoping for a better way to irrigate the orchard. My mowing has made a mess of the ground lines. An aerial system (out of my reach) would do the trick. For now we have had plenty of rain.

Howard



Figs are fruiting up!!!

St. Benedict:

The Columbarium Office has been spectacular. The Daylily bed has kept its promise to be awesome. Our thanks to Sylvia for moving these from the

Cloister and watching over them.



Daylily bed





Left side of St. Benedict entry. You can see the heavy laden figs inside the brick fence. Yum!!



Yarrow in bloom. (That is my granddaughter, Margaret, who drove me back and has volunteered at Mepkin since she was a little girl.)

My thanks to Howard for the Orchard Report, to Sylvia and Father Jonas for the photographs. Keep on distancing, washing your hands and staying safe. See you next month! dottie

“When I spend any time at all in nature, I open up, I rekindle a relationship with the natural world. I lose my sense of neediness, and the world opens herself to me. After a while, I feel there is nothing I am seeking, nothing I need..”
Wayne Muller, Sabbath