

## **Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter**

**August 2020**



### **Native Hibiscus in bloom in Luce Garden**

**Has it been hot enough for you? And what happened to all that rain? Yes, it is summer and we are roasting! Reminding everyone to keep hydrated and take breaks.**

**This month we will be continuing to remove spent blooms, deadhead and prune the Hydrangeas (which have been gorgeous), pull vines and paint with brush killer, and fertilize the perennials and Roses. Blooming at present in the areas in which we work are the Hydrangeas, Lantana, Agapanthus, Daylilies, Hibiscus and Lantana.**

### **Updates on the Gardens:**

#### **Store and St. Clare:**

**Last month, I featured all the wonderful products Angel has at the Store. I understand they will have Christmas products, so remember to support the Store whenever you can. The Virus has really cut into any income of the Monastery. With a limit on people in the Store, no Retreatants and the Mushroom Operation at a minimum, the Abbey needs our support. First and foremost, safety is the watchword during this Pandemic, but US Mail is still running and they do have some products on line. One of the recent new product is the cut firewood. Fruitcakes and Dried Mushroom are available by**

**mail.**



**Firewood bundles for sale at the Store**

**St. Clare:**

**Walking through St. Clare in this heat is one of the more pleasurable places. The ferns we featured last month make me feel cool as well as the many mature trees. This month I came up one of our interesting species: the Pomegranate! Here you see a photo of a forming one (we saw the blossom earlier). People often ask me what it is!**





**A new feature in St Claire is the Yellow Ginger we were given that has been put in. Very interesting blossom and they should spread.**



**Ginger in St. Clare**

**Walk to the Church:**

**Each Easter, Father Guerric decorates the Church with Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas. You have seen the Easter Lilly bed and now I bring you the bed of**



**Hydrangeas we have nourished into a bed as you leave St. Clare.**



**Hydrangea from Easters over the years**

**Walk to the Church:**

**A bit of color brightens the Walk to the Church (which is still in construction on the interior). Note how Father Guerric used these in an arrangement for the Church!**



**Walk to the Church**



**Arrangement in the Church**

**Cloister:**

**As we approach the Breezeway, we have two new statues given by Gerald Griffin Hogan and Katherine Hogan of Charleston and Kiawah Island. The sculptor was Dom Hubert Van Zeller. Father Zeller was a famous Benedictine Monk of Downside Abbey in England and a friend of the Hogan family. Quite a nice addition to the niches outside the Administration Offices. To read more about this gift, please go to the Mepkin website, [www.mepkinabbey.org](http://www.mepkinabbey.org).**





**Blessed Mary**



**St. Joseph**

## **The Cloister:**

**Once again, the Plumbago provides color to the Cloister at the 10 man cottage. The white azaleas there have bloomed and been pruned to keep them in scale.**



## **Plumbago**

**A new addition to the Cloister is the statue of the Blessed Mother.**





## **Blessed Virgin Mother**

**The statue was donated by the family of Brother Juan to honor his Solemn Vows to be taken soon.**

### **Retreat Center:**

**Go on line ([www.mepkinabbey.org](http://www.mepkinabbey.org)) to see the July and August online retreats and lectures. The Creche Festival for 2020 has been cancelled because of the pandemic.**

### **Orchard:**

**Howard will resume reporting on the Orchard next month. Presently, Norm and Howard have been mowing around the Persimmon trees to have access to their fruit soon.**



### **Persimmons ripening**

### **Luce Garden:**

**The main feature this month in Luce Garden are the beautiful Daisies and Native Hibiscus. They return year after year to give color and pleasure to the garden.**





**Daisies and Native Hibiscus**

**Columbarium:**

**A new look at the entrance pots are two of these flowering Abelia.**



**Flowering Abelia with Mundo**

**I am so lucky to be working with Ann, a wonderful Volunteer, who designed**

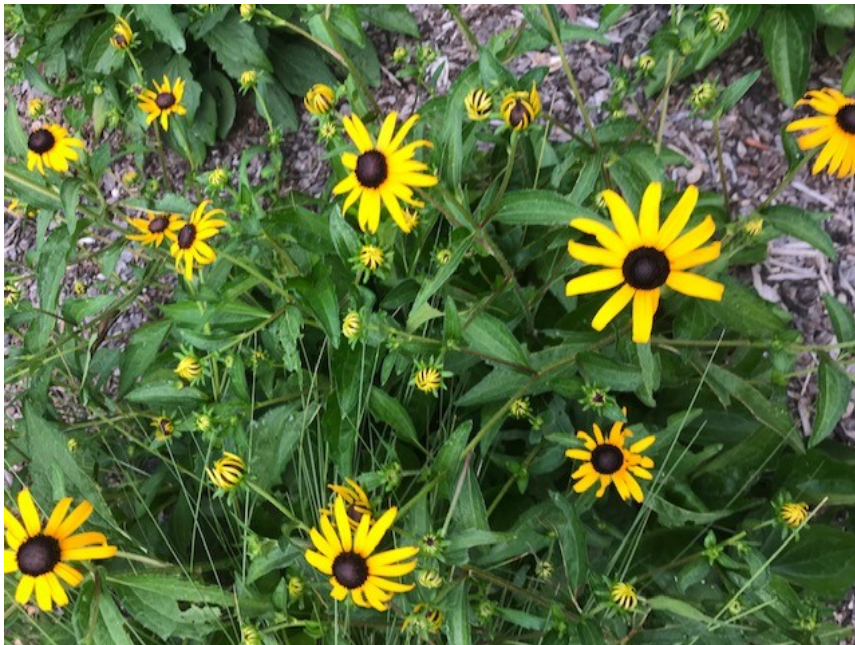


these pots and is a workhorse in the Greenhouse. She has been a great gift to me.

The feature in the Columbarium this month are the fabulous Black Eyed Susan that we planted over a year ago. They have certainly lived up to their promise.



**Blackeyed Susan**



**Close up Black Eyed Susan**

Another beautiful spot is at the other end of the Columbarium where the African Lilies have spread and are blooming.





**African Lilies**

**Odds and Ends:**



**The Monks at services in the “Church” in the CBL Library**

**“Work has begun on the inside of the monastic church following the completion of the recent extensive outdoor renovations. The work indoors consists of painting, repairing the floor, putting in a new air conditioning system, a new sound system, and alarm, among other things. This work necessitates the monks leaving the church for next few months and relocating the recitation of the Divine Office and the celebration of the Eucharist to the**

**library. Needless to say, the monks will continue to pray with the same enthusiasm, and we particularly remember all the friends of the monastery and workers who cannot be with us at this time. They are all in our prayers”...from Mepkin website.**

**I mentioned the Greenhouse where Ann is working with me. Our main mission this month was to get it cleared of all the plants that had not been put out while we were away. Because of the shortage of labor with watering and the heat, we are staging them near the Greenhouse, so they can be easily taken care of.**



**Plants be held at Greenhouse.**

**These are all materials that we reuse. This month, you have seen the new Columbarium pots, all from materials we had. These larger shrubs, we hope to use in the Memorial Arbor. We are great at recycling and rehabbing materials for the gardens.**

**It is with great regret that I share the news that Craig Clark, our Director of Grounds and Gardens, has resigned. We wish him great success in his future endeavors. I personally enjoyed working with him, first as a Volunteer and then in training for eight years.**

**Father Joe Tedesco, Superior, has announced that Mepkin has hired Dennis Nelson to manage the grounds and gardens. Dennis has been involved with Mepkin for years with his wife, Jamie-who makes the enormous wreath each year for the Christmas holidays. I will have a more complete report in the September Newsletter.**

**My thanks to Father Jonas for the photo of the arrangement in the Church.**



**“...much of the rhythm of a garden is a mirror for the rhythm of our own lives. Gardeners need to have patience, persistence, and humility. You have to select plants that are suited to your soil and your climate, to be open to what will thrive, rather than to impose your plant vision on the environment. You need to choose what you can maintain.” Kreis Beall, The Great Blue Hills of God. Isn't that true of life also?**

**Keep safe, count your blessings and appreciate what you have, dottie**