

Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

December 2020



First Camellia Bloom in Luce Garden

As November progressed, the Volunteers continued their work in preparing for the winter. The Memorial Arbor was installed (see more information later in this issue) and we continued the clean up needed. The Camellias were just starting to open buds and the first wave of Azaleas were budding up.



Camellia budded up in Luce Garden

As I mentioned before, the berry production was very heavy, which usually forebodes a cold winter.



Nandina berries

In December the same preparations of preparing for winter will continue, so this month, we will not be visiting individual gardens, but enjoying the blooms of what is contributing to the beauty of “the place.” In addition, I would like to share the maturing of the gardens of St. Clare. It is very satisfying to install, further develop gardens and still be around to see them mature.

St. Clare is a case in point. From the Ferns, to the False Arelia, to the Farfugium (Tractor Seat), the Elephant Ears and the Papyrus , we have watched them multiply and cover more ground. Remember these plants when we talk about the new Memorial Garden. Here they are in their glory:



Ferns



Arelia Eligantissimo



Farfugium (TractorSeat) in bloom



Elephant Ears



Papyrus

A garden is everchanging, which makes it another living element.



**In another area, this was a first for me, seeing the Fatsia blooming up close
Orchard:**

The orchard had a bit of activity. I picked about 20 oranges for the kitchen and brought in persimmons from my garden. I had a couple of ripe fruit on the verge of being too soft. They were for Dottie but little did I know that she had left the day before. I'm afraid we will be having freezing weather next week so I will likely be having a harvest at home. A couple of our volunteers who thought they were not fond of persimmons changed their minds after sampling the red colored ripe fruit.

Last week we found one broken insulator and three others that were knocked off the fence posts. There was no evidence of who or what did the damage. Dennis bought a game camera to help us determine the culprits. I have an idea that deer hit the wire running without realizing the fence is there.

Now to figure out how we will protect the citrus from the cold.

Howard

Institute for Regenerative Agriculture:

From Jimmy:

We are growing 7 top turnip greens. It's an old heirloom green first recorded in 1830. It's been gone for years but we are growing some in a greenhouse. We sold our first pick this week and already have more orders. It's going to Charleston restaurants.

Also our Mepkin garden is growing beautifully. We had army worms attacking but we stopped them organically.

We expect to begin planting for spring mid December and plant through March. We will have another plant sale this spring. We hope to grow vegetable starter plants along with some flowers.

Our farmers are working every day on the garden. They have been providing lots of vegetables and greens for the brothers.



Greens



Radishes



Lettuces



I love this photo Jimmy sent. Only on holy ground, would an Easter Lily appear out of nowhere. Are these garden photos wonderful or what? Jimmy, please keep them coming!

Odds and Ends:

Three very exciting announcements:

First:



St. Francis Retreat Center Re-Opening on a Limited Basis in December

Please go to www.mepkinabbey.org for more details

Second:

The Memorial Arbor was installed the first week In November. First the catch basins were installed to correct the drainage problem, and the water source hook up. The site was “evened” up and then planted. Here are some of the

photos:



Trenching the water line to the soaker system



Laying out the plants and trees



Entry Sign with old restored Mepkin sign in background



Entry



Restored Old Mepkin Sign

The Arbor planting will be completed in the Spring. One of our plants chosen, the Furfugium (Tractor Seat-refer back to photo in St. Clare), had crop failure from two suppliers. Also the color plants will be added in the Spring. As I mentioned, the design is evident but as it matures, it should be a place of peace and beauty.

I promised information about memorials that can be purchased. Please see forms I have included at the end of the Newsletter.

Third:

We have yet another new Volunteer! Leslie Wingenfield! I have not received a photo of her, but will put it in the Newsletter when I receive one. To Volunteer: contact Dennis Nelson at 843-830-9349 or by email at MepkinAbbeyVolunteers@gmail.com

Thanks to Howard and Jimmy for their reports. My thanks to Sylvia and Father Jonas for the photos. We cannot thank Dennis enough for the restoration of the old sign. It is such a star this new area of the Abbey.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving. We are now in the midst of Advent, culminating in God's greatest gift, His Son Jesus Christ. Enjoy your preparations, practice distancing and masks so everyone will be safe. See you in the New Year. Dottie



Father Guerric's Arrangements

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Memorial Arbor Brick Order Form

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Mepkin Abbey invites you to add a brick to our Memorial Arbor. For each donation of \$100, one 4"x 8" red brick will be ordered and arrive with centered, all caps, black lettering. There is room on each brick for three lines and eighteen spaces (common engraving: "IN LOVING MEMORY OF...").

The proceeds from each brick will go directly to maintaining the Gardens and grounds of the Monastery. Opportunities are also available to donate money for a Grove of Trees and Bench memorials.

Mepkin Abbey reserves the right to approve all engraved messages.

Yes, we'd like to reserve a permanent brick.

Letter

our brick as follows in character grid below:

Form and Payment must both be received before we can place your order.

If you have any questions, please email MepkinAbbeyGardenVolunteers@gmail.com

Memorial Tree Order Form

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Mepkin Abbey invites you to add a Name to our Memorial Arbor by a donation of \$1225 which will provide trees and shrubs for the Arbor and Gardens of Mepkin.

A brick will be placed at the Memorial Arbor in their honor.

Each brick has room for 3 lines with 18 characters (spaces count as characters).

(common engraving: "IN LOVING MEMORY OF...)

Mepkin Abbey reserves the right to approve all engraved messages.

Yes, we would like to reserve a Grove of Trees.

Form

and Payment must both be received before we can place your order.

If you have any questions, please email MepkinAbbeyGardenVolunteers@gmail.com

Memorial Bench Order Form

Mepkin Abbey invites you to add a bench to the Memorial Arbor and to the Gardens of Mepkin. For each donation of \$1000 an all Teak Wood Bench will be ordered and arrive with all caps lettering carved into the top rail of the back rest. There is room for up to 50 characters (spaces count as characters).

(common engraving: "IN LOVING MEMORY OF...")

Mepkin Abbey reserves the right to approve all carved messages.

Yes, we would like to reserve a bench.

—

personalized message on line above

(Provide

Form and Payment must both be received before we can place your order.

If you have any questions, please email MepkinAbbeyGardenVolunteers@gmail.com