

## Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

March 2021



**Cherry Blossoms**



**Camellias still in bloom.**

**February chores got done and the Greenhouse is exploding with product for the Greenhouse Sale March 20<sup>th</sup>. NOTE: this date has been changed from the information I gave you last month.**

**This month, we will be feeding the spring-flowering bulbs as they begin to grow, prune the spring-blooming shrubs after they bloom and mulch the broad leafed evergreens. Prescribed burning of the fields has been accomplished. This is the month we fertilize the Hydrangeas with 10-10-10 or 12-4-8. The Daylilies will get a meal of 10-10-10 or 14-14-14. Herbs will be put in the herb raised beds.**

**Garden Updates:**

**Store:**



**Camellias at Entry to Store**

**Angel reports the Store has two items with really good sale prices**

**These are 40% off!**



**The sachets are 40% off but not the candles**

**New featured item are the children's books:**



**Children's Book Section**

**St. Clare:**

**In St. Clare, the bulbs are popping up.**



**Note the bulbs in the foreground**

**Luce Garden:**

**Things are quiet at Luce while the Camellias finish blooming and the first wave of Azaleas bud up.**





## **Orchard:**

**Not much to do as a result of the recent cold weather. Our wrapped citrus has held up well and shows no sign of damage. The wrap Dennis brought in protected the plants nicely. In past years, we used bedsheets under beach umbrellas with lots and lots of wire ties to hold things together.**

**I mowed this week, watching out for extension wires. Some pruning of the persimmons made things look a bit lighter. Time will tell.**

**We have a new black and white cat that showed up. We'll see how next week shapes up weather wise and maybe pick up branches I took off persimmons.**

**Hope everyone stays well,**

**Howard**



**Prescribed burn in the fields**

**Regenerative Agricultural Institute:**

**We're preparing for the plant sale beginning in March. Things are really coming together. The farmers are understanding the process of seed to fruit farming using organic methods. It's a beautiful thing.**

**We have been given the shared use of a new (to us) tractor. We were given the go ahead to prepare land to plant. We're doing our best to prep it for spring planting. We'll put in a small area for vegetables and seed cover crop on the future farm area. Spring is upon us. Jimmy**



**Work in the Greenhouse**





**Product in the front of the Greenhouse**



**Shared Tractor**

**Greenhouse:**

**A lot of hours have gone into preparing for the Greenhouse plant sale on March 20<sup>th</sup>. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SELL. Please contact Dennis at 843-830-9349 or by email at [MepkinAbbeyVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:MepkinAbbeyVolunteers@gmail.com)**

**Dennis, John and Howard made this “hanging” rack for the Greenhouse to store further product for the Sale. Many thanks from those who work there!**





**Jamie, Dennis and Volunteers have been working on Saturdays. Here is Carolyn Guerry and her grandson, Mason Gaskins volunteering.**



## Spring Plant Sale

Date: March 20, 2021

Time: 9:00 to 2:00

Location: Columbarium office under the Oaks

Parking: Parking lot past the gift shop ( follow the signs )

Speakers: Mepkin Archivist-Robert Macdonald to talk on the history of Mepkin Abbey, Dwight Williams-Entomologist on insects, & Vivian Whorley Landscape Consultant on native plants, along with friends from Murrells Inlet with their ukuleles.

Offered plants:

Coleus, Zinnias, Coreopsis, Snapdragons, Lambs Ear, Setcreasea, Grasses, Gourds, Swedish ivy, Purple wandering Jew, Bridal veil, Spider plants, Pothos, Cosmos, Creeping jenny, Poppys, Vinca, Artemisia, Potatoe vine, Wire vine, Lamium, dish gardens and various succulents all grown at Mepkin Abbey.

COVID compliant outdoor event. Bring a chair. Masks are encouraged. Plan on spending the day with us and visit our gardens and gift shop.

**Odds and Ends:**



**Brother Jophan became a Novice and will be known as Brother Ambrose  
Please see Mepkin Website ([www.mepkinabbey.org](http://www.mepkinabbey.org)) for particulars.**

**I am so pleased to announce we have another new Volunteer. His name is  
David Britt and he comes with George Clark. Welcome, David, and thank you,  
George, for bringing him to join our fellowship.**



**Tool Room:**

**This is a new upgrade to our tool room. Dennis, Chuck and Greg took a rainy day and this was the result:**



**A big thank you to these guys for making this room more useable.**

**During this season of Lent, I got out my trusty book, “Simplifying The Soul” by Paula Huston. It gives you a themed chore each week to renew your spirit by simplifying. The first week is simplifying your space: such as cleaning out a drawer, cleaning a dirty corner, giving something away, setting up a place of prayer. The second week is simplifying the use of money, and so forth down to simplifying the schedule and relationships. It reminded me of why our souls are filled by working at Mepkin. The simplicity, the Monks in their routines and even the grounds-with their simple cycles of life make us feel like we are “coming home.” This Lent, think about your work at Mepkin and encourage others to join us in this “renewal”.**

**To Volunteer: contact Dennis Nelson at 843-830-9349 or by email at [MepkinAbbeyVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:MepkinAbbeyVolunteers@gmail.com)**

**Thanks to Howard and Jimmy for their reports. Thanks to Jamie, Jimmy, Father Jonas, Leslie and Dennis for photographs. This brings me to announce that**



**one of our Volunteers, Leslie Wingenfield, will be taking over producing the Mepkin Newsletter each month. It is time for me to step back. I am not here as much as before and at 81 years, it is time to pass the torch. Leslie and I have worked on this issue together and she took much of the requested photos. I wish her the deep pleasure I have had in producing this newsletter and communicating with all you readers. I will still be Volunteering in the gardens at Mepkin. Many blessings, dottie**



**Arrangement by Father Gueric**