



Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

May 2021



What a beautiful entrance to welcome our visitors

Monthly Maintenance

The garden volunteers have added new plantings to the Gift Shop area and planted the refurbished Cross at the entrance to the breezeway. Teams have been working in the greenhouse on potted plants for the gardens, as well as for future sales. The labyrinth has been raked and prepped for future plant growth. We will continue to cleanup the camelias and azaleas post bloom. It's time to begin pinching back the Mums. The Hydrangeas need to be fertilized with 10-10-10 or 12-4-8.

Gift Shop

Need a gift for Mother's Day or a special birthday? The Gift Shop has you covered as they are running a 40% off sale on Easter figurines and they still have a selection of the discontinued angel figurines also at 40% off. Also, each weekend they will be having a 25% off sale with items changing each weekend. Stop by and check them out for great savings and supporting the store!



Angel figurines on sale



Easter figurines on sale

St. Clare



A lovely deep purple Iris in St. Clare



During spring break from school, Jack and Owen Kelly (sons of volunteer Lisa Kelly) helped pick up magnolia pods. They were great helpers! Lisa's parents and aunt, who were visiting from PA, also lent a helping hand in raking leaves around the gift shop.

Four Corners



Coleus from the plant sale was planted around the statue of Christ



The fringe tree in full bloom



The purple wisteria at Four Corners



The Labyrinth after the burn and clean up. Ready for the flowers to start blooming!

Luce Gardens



The azaleas in bloom by the Luce headstones.



The final blooms of the camelia trees by Luce Gardens. What I found interesting about this tree is it has a combination of red and white flowers. The petals on the ground look like confetti.



Cloister



Refurbished Cross





Iris and snap dragons in bloom

Orchard



Blueberries in the orchard



Figs in the corridor

It was a great day at Mepkin. I pruned the figs in the orchard courtyard. The courtyard had the most figs since they were protected by trees. Figs usually have two crops of fruit if the climate is correct. We had a good start of buds that were lost when we had the frost. You really have to almost guess the last frost, but hopefully we will have more figs later. The citrus looks good. I wish I had taken some pictures of all those flowers that are now buds.

I didn't get a chance to head the persimmons in the square behind the barns. Maybe next week.

Howard

Columbarium

There was an assortment of beautiful Easter flowers placed at the Columbarium by loved ones. The arrangement below really stood out.



Memorial Arbor

Now that Dottie is back, she has been working with Green Carolina on planting Plumbago, Lantana, and Guara to fill in the Memorial Arbor. These plants will add some beautiful color to the arbor when in bloom. Below are some pictures of their progress.





Agriculture Regenerative Institute

The team is maintaining what they currently have and finishing up their program.

Abbey News

Denise Bell is Mepkin's latest resident, who will be at Mepkin for a month, working on her dissertation in the library. She is writing on the habits and practices of flourishing African American pastors. Denise is a regional minister in Georgia in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination. During her month in the monastery, she is hoping to complete the first draft of her dissertation. We welcome her warmly and wish her every blessing on her work.



Denise Bell

Volunteers



Linda Chiappone

Linda Chiappone has been a retired teacher for 2 years. She moved to Charleston last year to be closer to her son and daughter-in-law. Linda had been looking for a place to volunteer and after one visit to Mepkin Abbey, she knew she had found that place. Welcome Linda!

Moore Botanical Gardens Visit

On Thursday, April 29th, a group of 24 Mepkin volunteers and guests toured the Moore Botanical Gardens in Lake City. We had a beautiful morning for our informative tour and enjoyed the stunning foliage, water features, and sculptures. Between the photos Sharon shared with me and the ones I took, it was tough to decide which ones to include. The gardens are open limited hours and they also offer classes and events. You can go to their website by clicking [here](#) to sign up for their newsletter to keep informed of events and activities.



This truck belonged to the present owner's great-grandfather and was repurposed into a fountain. There are plants and Spanish moss in the seat of the truck.



Flowers in front of old living quarters.



The food produced by the vegetable garden is used by the owner, as well as donated to local charities. The wood used for the trellis' is from the property and created by one of the workers.



This metal fern was created by a local artisan and is a backdrop for their Bog Garden. Other items from this artisan will be on sale at their plant sale on May 15th.



The pond and waterfall behind the main house.



The gardener's created various themed rooms around the property and used plants such as the Bald Cypress 'Pee Vee Minaret' to create living walls.



This topiary was designed by Pearl Fryar. You can find out more about Pearl and his topiary garden in Bishopville, SC, by clicking [here](#).

Did You Know?

Brownswood Nursery recently published an article on how to attract more butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees based on plants. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Pollinator-Gardening Tip: Plant a variety of flowering plants so that pollinators will have a nectar source available from the very beginning of Spring until late into the Fall.

Clemson Extension Horticulture Program is hosting a free webinar on May 13, 2021 at 12:00 PM on warm season vegetables. Whether starting a garden for the first time or if you are an experienced gardener, this webinar is for you! Horticulture Agent Jackie Jordan will be going through some tips and tricks for warm season vegetables. Click [here](#) to register.

Check This Out

One of my morning routines is to scroll through my Instagram feed with a cup of tea. I follow a lot of gardeners and one of my favorites is Claus Dalby. He's located in Denmark which explains why his feed features so many stunning bulbs and he is heralded as the 'Scandinavian Martha Stewart'. Claus does have a website, but the text is all in Danish with no English translation, so if you want to watch his videos and are not on Instagram, search for him on YouTube. He has some great tutorials. Below are two Instagram photos which totally capture 'Spring'.



CLAUSDALBY
Posts



clausdalby
Risskov, Aarhus, Denmark



clausdalby
Risskov, Aarhus, Denmark



Garden Inspiration



Blossoming columns of jasmine in Charleston. The smell was heavenly!

To be overcome by the fragrance of flowers is a delectable form of defeat.

~ Beverly Nichols

I thought the quote for May was appropriate as this past Sunday we were walking around downtown Charleston and everywhere we went, we could smell jasmine. I love the sweet smell of it and the small white blossoms are so delicate.

Special Thanks To

Thank you to Dottie, Sylvia, Dennis, Sharon, and Howard for sending me pictures. If you have pictures, articles, or any other information to share with our group, please forward to me at Iwing17@aol.com.

Leslie