



## Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

July 2021

### Monthly Maintenance

July is when insects are starting to appear, so they need to be treated. In addition, with all the rain we have been having, the plants need to be inspected for any diseases (black spot is prevalent on my roses from all the rain and humidity). This will be the last time to pinch back the chrysanthemums for them to have full blooms in the fall. We also need to deadhead hydrangeas and any other flowering plants. The day lily seed pods will need to be cut off. It is also time to fertilize the hydrangeas, day lilies, roses, crepe myrtles, and gardenias.

### Gift Shop

The weekend sales are still being held in July at the Gift Shop. The discounted Willow figurines, sachets, and Easter close out items are still on sale in the store.



*The beautiful flowers and cheery banner definitely 'Welcome' our visitors.*



*A stunning planter arrangement created by Jamie and the greenhouse team.*



*A loaded wagon of plants from the greenhouse team for sale at the entrance to St. Clare's Walk.*



## St. Clare's Walk



*A close up of a Lanarth White Macrophylla Hydrangea Bloom*



*Lanarth White Macrophylla Hydrangea Bush*

## Luce Gardens

Most of May was really dry, but the frequent storms in June made up for the lack of rain from the prior month. The good news is we did not need to be as diligent in watering the plants as Mother Nature took care of it for us. The bad news is we lost a huge tree by the pond. Fortunately, it was not located near a building and nobody was injured.





## Cloister



*Purple Coneflowers*



*Blue Plumbago*



*Ferns and lilies beneath a smiling sun*



*Special garlic*





*New Sago Palm sprouts*

## Memorial Garden



*The area in front of the Mepkin sign is filling in nicely.*



*The lantana and plumbago in bloom.*



## Orchard

Dennis and I made a trip to Orangeburg to meet Steve and Jamie Katzberg. Steve worked for NASA for 42 years as a PhD Electrical Engineer. They moved back to their birthplace, South Carolina.

Steve's hobby was to develop a citrus that will survive in our climate. The citrus will also be valuable for a variety of edible uses. The Katzberg's visited Mepkin several times and felt the Abbey would be an ideal place for his plants. We brought 19 plants of 4 different varieties that are now in the greenhouse until we determine an outdoors place to plant them.

Citrus was tried for many years but failed in cold weather. This may be the answer.  
Howard



*Steve and Jamie Katzberg with citrus*

A huge thank you to the Katzberg's for their donation to our Abbey orchard and for the knowledge they provided on these plants.



*The 19 donated citrus plants from the Katzberg's in the greenhouse.*



*Scarlet Lily*





*Assorted lilies in shades of yellow, orange, and red.*

## **Columbarium**



*A solitary magnolia bud on a tree near the Columbarium.*



*White agapanthus near the Columbarium bench.*

## **Greenhouse**

The weekend warriors have been busy propagating plants for the Fall Plant Sale. A special thanks to Jamie, Lori, Mrs. Anne, Sharon, Nori, and Fran for all their help. Also, the greenhouse team is loving the electrical updates Jack has made in keeping the greenhouse cooler and the news lights in the tool room. Below are pictures of the plants the team is working on for the upcoming sale.







Dennis recently made a bench for the greenhouse team to use for propagating plants. It even comes on wheels to make it easy to move around the greenhouse! Great job, Dennis!



*Dennis and the new bench*



*Recently updated landscaping at the volunteer shed is loved by the hummingbirds.*

## **Creche Festival**

After having to cancel last year's event due to COVID, Mepkin Abbey will be holding their Creche Festival this year! The dates for the event are Monday, November 15 thru Saturday, December 4. Volunteers are needed to assist with the following: parking, gift shop, exhibit, food, and docents. Please reach out to Angel at [angel.franks3@gmail.com](mailto:angel.franks3@gmail.com) to sign up or receive additional information. More information on the Festival will be included in future newsletters as details are finalized.



## Abbey News

The laundry room, as well as the exercise room, have recently been renovated.



*Renovated laundry room*



*Renovated exercise room*

## Dragonflies Everywhere!!

Most of the pictures for this issue were taken on June 23rd and the Abbey and Farm were covered in dragonflies that day. Here are some random pictures of them covering the wall at the volunteer shed, on a pipe in the cloister, sitting on top of the corn stalks, and yes, that is one on my hand as I tried to take a picture of the hydrangeas at the gift shop (not an easy feat to take a picture and not disturb it!). You may need to enlarge some of the photos to see them.







## Did You Know?

Now is the time of year to start deadheading plants. Here is a trick so you don't spread any diseases among your plants. Fill a spray bottle with Isopropyl Alcohol and thoroughly spray your clippers after using on each plant – it is much easier than using an alcohol pad or a cloth to clean them. To make it even handier, find a small spray bottle that can fit in your pocket to spray your blades between plants.

## Garden Inspiration

The earth laughs in flowers.

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## Check This Out

Sharon Santoni's Instagram feed is filled with pictures of her amazing home in France and the stunning gardens which surround it. This picture of her potager reminded me of the gardens we saw at Moore Farms with the woven wood railings.



## Special Thanks To

Thank you to Dennis, Jamie, Sylvia, Father Joe, Father Gerard, Angel, Kathy, and Howard for their contribution to the July newsletter.

Also, sending out prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery to one of our volunteers, Mary Ludlow.

Have a happy and safe Fourth of July!

Leslie