



Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

August 2021

Monthly Maintenance

During August we will deadhead the Crepe Myrtle blooms and continue to deadhead the hydrangeas. One article I read stated if you wanted your hydrangeas to rebloom during the season to deadhead by August 1. We are also pruning hydrangeas around the gift shop and removing dead stalks. It's also time to pull vines (watch out for poison ivy) and paint with brush killer. It's also time to fertilize the perennials and roses and remove any spent blooms.

NOTE: I've received some feedback that the Monthly Maintenance section is a helpful reminder for readers on when they should do things around their own garden. I'm looking to put together some type of calendar and am reaching out to our readers for recommendations. If you have any thoughts, please reach out. Thank you!



Crepe Myrtle along the drive to Luce Gardens

Creche Festival

Jackie Perevosnik and Amy Williams reached out with more information on the Creche Festival. This year the theme is 'Bethlehem Within' and at the end of the displays, Fr Guerric plans to have a contemplative area setup with reflective postings. More information on the displays to come. All unvaccinated volunteers and guests will be asked to wear masks, especially inside.

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to the following individuals:

- Jackie Perevosnik (jperevosnik@gmail.com) - scheduling of the volunteers along the crèche display
- Angel Franks (angel.franks3@gmail.com) - store schedule
- Mike Yeager(mikeyaeger@aol.com) - golf carts schedule

We will once again have a volunteer sitting with Fr Guerric at check-in to take credit card donations. If you are interested in this position, please reach out to Jackie so she can organize a training session if needed.

Below are the Festival dates:

- Monday, Nov 15th thru Sunday, Nov 21st --- First 7 days of Festival. Volunteers are needed from 9 AM to 4 PM. (Half days are also possible)
- Monday, Nov 22nd thru Thursday, Nov 25th --- Break for Thanksgiving (and mid-Festival rest)
- Friday, Nov 26th thru Saturday, Dec 4th --- Final 9 days of the 2021 Crèche Festival

Gift Shop

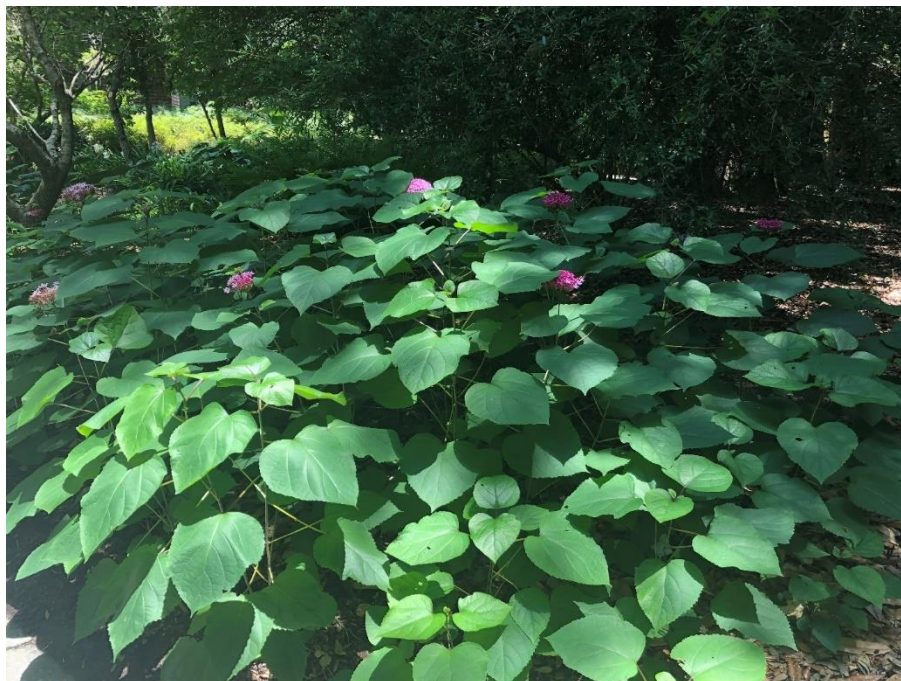


Colorful lantana along the walkway



The newly pruned Gift Shop entrance

St. Clare's Walk



Pink blooms peeking out from the foliage



Ferns along the shaded walkway

Luce Gardens



A sunny patch of Black-eyed Susans



Angelic white flowers of daisies and hibiscus



A close up of a white hibiscus near the Luce Gardens Gate



White lilies blooming by the pond

Cloister



Cleaning up the trees by the Cloister



Fluffy white oakleaf hydrangea

Orchard



Dennis got a trimming mower to use in the orchard. The DR high wheel mower cuts with nylon strips anchored to a rotating ball that rests on the ground. The DR cuts very well and parallels with the high mowers that we used for years. The orchard looks very good when the weeds are beaten down.



Some of the fruit is coming along well. There are plenty of oranges although they are small now. The trees will drop some of its fruit and the oranges should get larger.



We have lots of figs that are growing slowly. The birds are enjoying them. The huge fig that is adjacent to the gator barn is referred to as Brother Joseph's fig. It has lots of small figs that are very tasty.



Close up of persimmons



The persimmons near the chicken barns are loaded, despite broken branches and lots of suckers at the base. We have a beautiful persimmon that George Neil graded and planted. The fruit will be delicious when it is completely ripe. When ripe, the fruit is very soft and almost transparent with a gelatinous center. It should yield a great pudding or cake and maybe some experimenting this fall. Who knows!
Howard



Pink hibiscus bloom



Red hibiscus bloom

Volunteers

Mepkin Abbey held their Volunteer luncheon on Saturday, July 17. In addition to a delicious chicken buffet lunch, recognition was given to volunteers for hours of service. This luncheon and awards ceremony included volunteers for the Garden, Creche Festival, Docents, Gift Shop, Fruit Cake Prep, as well as other needed projects.

The following individuals received awards:

- 1000 Hours – Gold Pin and Plaque – Kathy Mitchell and Ed Filipkoski
- 750 Hours – Blue Pin - Chuck Dolsey, Mary Ludlow
- 300 Hours – Red pin – John Kadlecik, Paul Meyer, Dennis Nelson
- 150 Hours – Green Pin – Ann Dawson, Jamie Nelson, Donna Meyer
- 50 Hours – Black Pin – Lisa Kelly, Leslie Wingenfield, George Clark
- Two very special Recognitions: Dottie Roddy at over 7500 Hours and Ursula Wells at over 5000 Hours.



Mepkin volunteers at the luncheon



Kathy Mitchell receiving her 1000 hour plaque from Fr. Joe



Ed Filipkoski receiving his 1000 hour plaque from Fr. Joe

Did You Know?

Now that we're in the thick of the dog days of summer, Brownswood Nursery has put together a list of plants, both sun and shade, which can tolerate the heat. Click [here](#) to read the article.

The Charleston Horticultural Society is once again offering in person classes. To see the summer workshop schedule for August, click [here](#).

Check This Out

At one time or another we've all been told to view something from a different perspective. Jeffrey Milstein is a US photographer who has taken that wisdom to heart and is known worldwide for his aerial photographs of global landmarks. The photo below from his Instagram account is of the Parterre du Midi at Versailles. Even though I've walked the gardens there a few years ago, I never truly appreciated the garden design until I've viewed it from this perspective. Maybe we can get some ideas from this for the Labyrinth?



On a lighter note...We have two bird feeders in our backyard which have been taken over by the neighborhood squirrel. While we don't mind sharing with the squirrel, he's not the most welcome visitor as he tends to be greedy with the sunflower seeds, keeps knocking over the one birdfeeder and spilling seeds all over, as well as clawing up our newly installed trellis for our jasmine. I saw this video on Facebook on one way to keep the squirrels from getting to the bird feeders. I haven't tried it yet, but just watching it makes me laugh. Since this is a Facebook video, you can only view if you have a Facebook account. Click [here](#) and I hope it makes you laugh too!

Garden Inspiration

The cherry tomato is a wonderful invention, producing, as it does, a satisfactorily explosive squish when bitten.

~ Miss Manners

This quote spoke to me as this is the first year I've had a cherry tomato plant. I bought it a few months ago from the greenhouse sale and there's nothing like biting into a warm tomato picked off the vine.

Special Thanks To

Thank you to Howard, Sylvia, and Jackie for their pictures and content for the newsletter.

Leslie



And one last picture...I snapped this last week as I was heading back to the farm. We had to stop early that day due to a storm and I was taken by the beauty of the peachy yellow rose against a backdrop of rusted metal. If you look around, you can find beauty anywhere.