



Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

September 2021

Monthly Maintenance

Even though the temperatures outside don't reflect it, fall will soon be here and that means prepping for next year. It's time to begin to divide the perennials that are crowded and plant spring flowering bulbs from September thru December. Winter annuals need to be sorted out from late September thru November. If it's not too hot, the Camellias should be sprayed for scale. Fertilize the Daylilies with 10-10-10 or 14-14-14. Shasta Daisies should be divided. Remove any spent blooms on flowers and shrubs.

For a comprehensive September to do list, click [here](#) to see an HGTV slideshow of tasks.



One of the farm cats hiding in the plants

St. Clare's Walk



Ginger



Brazilian Star

Columbarium



Spiky lavender colored American Germander in front of the Columbarium Office



Construction is now underway for the new Columbarium section

Luce Gardens



A calming and serene view from Luce Gardens

Cloister



A blooming Surprise Lily



A potted pink Azalea



Colorful Gerber Daisies

Orchard



The picture of the almost orange color fruit is a persimmon, the first in the field behind the gator barn. We have plenty more, but we will need to watch them before our critter friends beat us to them.



These are the citrus plants that have been modified to stand the cold. They have been kept in the greenhouse up to now. There were some scale insects on them which made some leaves fall. Dennis had sprayed a pesticide and I followed up a week later with an all-season oil. Now we will see how they fare in the outdoors.

Howard

Fall Plant Sale

First Annual Mepkin Abbey Garden Volunteers Fall Plant Sale

Date: Saturday, October 6, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

No rain date planned

Location: Columbarium office under the Oaks

Creche Parking lot past the gift shop (Bob Yaeger)

Speakers: Mepkin Archivist-Robert Macdonald to talk on the history of Mepkin Abbey

Dwight Williams-Entomologist and Retired Director of Cypress Gardens answering Insect questions

Entertainment: The Charleston Hot Shots - bluegrass-style music, featuring ukuleles and a variety of string instruments. (This is the same band from the Spring Sale.)

Tentative Food Vendors:

Diddy's Donuts and Coffee

Trey Mitchum lemonade and Popcorn (local vendor)

We will be selling Various Ornamental Fall plants, dish gardens, pumpkins, and succulents all grown at Mepkin Abbey.

Additional items for sale: Compost, Mushrooms, Corn Stalks donated by Harry Dupree, and a plant Fall themed raffle

The outdoor event will be COVID compliant. Masks and social distancing are encouraged.

All posts on social media will be centered around spending the day with us and visiting our gardens and gift shop.

Below are photos of some of the plants which will be included in the Fall Sale.





Succulents in the greenhouse

Memorial Garden



Lantana blooming in the Memorial Garden

Farmer's Market

Below are a few pictures of vegetable plants that will be coming in September. We will have two varieties of kale, broccoli, two varieties of Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, cabbage and three varieties of lettuce, as well as some herbs.

We will have the first batch of plants for sale on Saturday, September 11th, at the Farmer's Market from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. A reminder will be posted on Facebook.





Super Moon Pumpkin



Kale and Broccoli Seedlings

Abbey News

Below is a nice picture of our two smiling Monastic residents, Henry Chen and Ben Brandt. They are with us for several months to deepen their spirituality as they live our monastic life.



Henry Chen & Ben Brandt



A double rainbow over the monastery



Another photo of the double rainbow arching above the crosses



Fr. Guerric created this gorgeous flower arrangement from Mepkin in-campus blooms

Creche Festival

There are still an abundance of open times and positions waiting to be filled for the Creche Festival. Don't forget, you can also sign up to volunteer for half days. Jackie Perevosnik and Amy Williams will gladly work you into the schedule the times you are available to volunteer. Also, for any new volunteers, there will be an orientation meeting held in early November (date TDB) to provide on-the-job training, as well as lots of in person support.

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.

As many of you know, the CDC recently released updated information regarding wearing a facemask. In light of the new requirements, Mepkin has reinstated a facemask policy.

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

- Jackie (jperevosnik@gmail.com) - scheduling of the volunteers along the crèche display
- Angel (angel.franks3@gmail.com) - store schedule
- Mike (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

Did You Know?

Native plants are especially valuable as they are naturally adapted to thrive in our region with minimal attention, provide solutions to common issues found in Lowcountry landscapes, and provide food and shelter for region-specific insects and wildlife.

Click [here](#) to find out more about 15 plants which are native to the Lowcountry.

Watering my plants is a perpetual source of frustration for me. I'm either overwatering some plants or underwatering others. And as luck would have it, once I give them a good watering, Mother Nature decides to rain! Below are 5 steps on watering provided by Gardener's Supply.

1. **Water the entire root zone.** For young seedlings, this might mean a daily watering until the soil is moist to the depth of an inch or two. For shrubs, this could be a deep soaking to moisten soil down 12" or more.
2. **Apply water slowly.** When you dump water onto the soil, much of it runs off onto the surrounding area. A soaker hose or drip system is an ideal way to give plants a slow, deep drink. Alternately, set your hose nozzle to a slow drizzle.
3. **Save daily sprinkles for newly seeded areas.** Larger seedlings, established plants, and lawns do best with a deep soaking once or twice a week. Deep, infrequent watering encourages deep roots – in contrast to light sprinkles that encourage shallow, drought-prone roots.
4. **Check soil moisture.** Poke your finger into the soil to determine where it's moist. Or dig in with a trowel, taking care not to damage roots. Don't assume if a plant is wilted that the soil is dry. If plants get too much water and the roots don't get enough oxygen, they can wilt and die.
5. **Containers need more water.** Plants growing in containers will need much more frequent watering than in-ground plants. Check small containers daily, as well as those made from porous materials, such as terra cotta. Self-watering planters help provide consistent moisture as long as you keep water in the reservoir.

Click [here](#) for more information on watering your plants.

Garden Inspiration

The work of a garden bears visible fruits – in a world where most of our labours seem suspiciously meaningless.

~ Pam Brown

I thought this was a great quote for this time of year when vegetable gardeners are harvesting their crops and for flower gardeners, there's seeds to start harvesting to sow for next year.

Special Thanks To

Thank you to Howard, Jamie, Dennis, Sylvia, Johnna, and Fr. Gerard for their contributions, photos, and videos for this month's newsletter. Between vacation and rain days, I wasn't at the Abbey much in August and was worried there would be little content for the newsletter, but at the last minute, I received a ton of photos, so I appreciate everyone pitching in. Sorry I couldn't include them all!

Leslie

The Snake vs. The Hummingbird

Life at the Abbey is not all rainbows and flowers and sometimes you need to recognize nature for what it is. Fr. Gerard sent me these photos of a snake catching and eating a hummingbird while it was at the bird feeder. If these types of images bother you, please don't scroll any further. I was amazed at the speed and dexterity of the snake, especially given how fast hummingbirds are. As sad as I feel for the poor hummingbird, it's unfortunately the 'Circle of Life'. He also sent me a video, but it is too large to send as an email attachment, so you will be spared viewing the snake swallowing the bird (I have to admit, it was fascinating to watch).

I spoke with Fr. Gerard today and he said this was not a one-time occurrence with the snake. He had seen him there a few times before trying to catch dinner and was lucky to have his iPad with him when the snake succeeded this time. The snake even came back to the feeder the next day.





