



Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

October 2021

Monthly Maintenance

Fall is here and now is the time to plant any new or transplanted trees and shrubs. Liquid iron should be applied to the hydrangeas. Continue to remove any spent blooms from the flowering plants. Divide crowded perennials, such as daylilies. Plant cool season herbs.



Capps on his new mower

A few weeks' ago, I was walking in front of the gift shop and caught that sweet fragrant smell of the tea olives. It brought a huge smile to my face as it is one of my favorite scents of the South. I typically associate this smell with 'winter' and didn't realize they would start blooming so early. The three trees in my garden haven't started blooming yet, but they are very small compared to the ones at Mepkin. Breathing in their intoxicating scent each week will be a huge joy the next few months!



Fragrant tea olive blooms

Gift Shop

Volunteers are needed from Monday, October 11th, thru Saturday, October 16th, to assist the Gift Shop in getting set up for Christmas. Please contact Angel at angel.franks3@gmail.com if you can help.

During the month of October, the gift shop is running a **25% off** sale on all jewelry and garden flags.



Brightly colored beaded bracelets



Assorted jewels



The hydrangea garden flag beside one late season bloom

St. Clare's Walk



Three colors of azaleas in bloom along St. Clare's Walk

Luce Gardens

These pictures of the bridal arch and Luce Cemetery were taken in early September. The temperatures were starting to get a little cooler, the birds were chirping, and there was a stillness to the air as I walked around the Gardens.





Camelias starting to bloom by the Luce Cemetery gate

Labyrinth

The Labyrinth is usually a sea of green with an occasional pop of color, but this week it was ablaze in sunny yellow. This is the time of year it shines, and it literally does from the yellow sunflowers.





Orchard



Howard in the persimmon tree with a full bucket behind him on the ground



A bountiful persimmon tree



Norm carrying a partial bucket of persimmons



A cornucopia of fruit from the orchard trees (figs and persimmons)

Columbarium



Continued progress on the new Columbarium section



Red Spider Lilies blooming in front of the Columbarium brick wall

Farmer's Market

Thank you to those who have stopped by and purchased plants for your fall garden. The Facebook page will be updated as new plants are available for sale. As you can see below, there are still plenty of vegetable plants and compost available for sale!



Fall Plant Sale Is Coming Soon!

Mepkin Abbey Garden Volunteers Fall Plant Sale-open to the public

Date: Saturday, October 9, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: Columbarium office under the Oaks

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

Speakers: Mepkin Archivist-Robert Macdonald to speak on the history of Mepkin; Vivian Whorley-landscape Consultant on native plants; Dwight Williams-entomologist answering questions regarding insects; along with our friends from Summerville, The Charleston Hot Shots, with their ukuleles.

Fall Food Vendors:

- Diddy's Donuts & Coffee
- Mitchum's Lemonade
- Mora Mora Ice cream

Offered plants:

Mums, Snapdragons, Lambs Ear, Collector Grasses, Swedish ivy, Bolivian Jew, Silver Plectranthus, Rudbeckia, Spider plants, Creeping Jenny, Vinca Vine, Potatoe vine, Wire vine, Alternanthera, Ferns, Ornamental Cabbages and Kale, Pansies, Alyssum, Dish Gardens, and various succulents all grown at Mepkin Abbey.

Fall themed basket valued at \$125.00. Buy tickets \$1 each or 12 for \$10

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

Save the Facebook link below to stay updated on the sale:

<https://www.facebook.com/Mepkinabbeystore1098/videos/1750515991811129/>

Thank you to our new volunteer, Barb Misner, for donating this beautiful gift basket to be raffled off at the plant sale.



Fall plant sale raffle basket

Creche Festival – Volunteers Still Needed!

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 Gueric 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

Abbey News

A special thanks to David and JoAnn Ensor who donated the two wooden benches shown below. David created these benches, located outside the Administrative Offices, from a Mepkin tree which had fallen several years ago.





Did You Know?

Gardeners are a group who like to share, whether it be cuttings, seeds, or plain old advice, and our neighborhood is no exception. One of our more accomplished gardeners, Kim Busk, has created a neighborhood Facebook page where we share both photos and knowledge and she is very generous with both. She recently posted information on how to harvest and store seeds, included the link on her source. Click [here](#) to learn more tips on seed harvesting.

Clemson has two free online Zoom classes coming up you may be interested in attending. The first is Native Micro Prairie Gardening. I had no idea what this meant, but here is the description. Are you tired of your boring old lawn and landscape? Want to attract beneficial insects and birds to your yard? Learn how to grow a native micro prairie in a quarter-acre yard or larger with Jordan Franklin, Clemson Extension Horticulture Agent as he presents "**Native Micro Prairie Gardening**". Click [here](#) to register.

The second class has a more straight-forward title. Paul Thompson, Clemson Extension Horticulture Agent, will present "**Before You Buy: Learn How to Pick Out a Healthy Plant**" to help you (and your wallet!) find success in your future landscaping endeavors. Click [here](#) to register for this class.

Gardeners Supply recently published 5 reasons why you should plant in the fall. They are:

1. Air temperatures are cooling which places less stress on plants compared to summer's extreme heat.
2. Even as air cools, soil stays warm, providing ideal conditions for optimal root growth.

3. In many regions, autumn brings rainy weather, keeping plant roots moist.
4. Because top growth is slowing and entering its dormant phase, plants can direct their energy to robust root growth.
5. Spring is a busy time for gardeners! Fall offers more time to research plant options, select varieties, and get plants in the ground.

Tips for Successful Fall Planting:

- Aim to get plants in the ground at least six weeks before ground freezes. In all but the coldest regions, you can plant up until early November.
- Apply a 2-3" layer of organic mulch around plants, keeping it several inches from the stems or trunk. This conserves moisture and helps prevent winter freeze-thaw cycles that can stress plants.
- Water plants as needed to keep the soil moist to the depth of the root ball, continuing to water until the ground freezes.
- Be patient. You won't see much, if any, growth in fall and growth may be somewhat slow to start in spring compared to more established plants.

Check This Out

For the October newsletter, I thought a picture of pumpkins would be fitting. It took a while to go through my Instagram accounts to find one as most of them are still showing blooming flowers. FloretFlower's account shows stunning flowers and arrangements, but I liked their large display of pumpkins ready for carving and decorating.



Garden Inspiration

I've been spending a lot of time outside the past two weeks. While on vacation last week, we went for daily walks and admired the foliage and greenery (this has become a new

habit since becoming a Mepkin volunteer). The temperatures at home this week have been extremely pleasant and after a week break, it's catch-up time in my yard, as well as at Mepkin. I thought this was a fitting quote for this time of year.

I am spending delightful afternoons in my garden, watching everything living around me. As I grow older, I feel everything departing, and I love everything with more passion.

~ Emile Zola

Do you feel the same way?

Special Thanks To

Thank you to Howard, Angel, Dennis, Johnna and Sylvia for pictures and content for this newsletter.

While walking through St. Clare's one morning, I happened upon a few huge spider webs and since Halloween is right around the corner, I was hoping to include some pics in this newsletter, but unfortunately spider webs in the early morning do not photograph very well. That got me to thinking about Halloween decorations and how this walkway has its own natural haunting spooky beauty with the moss hanging down, the spiders suspended in their webs, and the branches of the oak trees looking like mangled fingers.

Leslie