



Mepkin Abbey Garden Newsletter

November 2021

Monthly Maintenance

The garden team is working hard to get Mepkin ready for the Creche Festival. In addition to Festival planting prep, the gardeners will also do general cleanup, such as raking leaves, turning over beds, protecting plants with mulch, and cutting back dead limbs. Roses can be planted now and fertilized. Any crowded perennials should be divided. After Mums have bloomed, cut them back to 5" to the ground. Hold off on pruning shrubs until the dead of winter. Spray 2-4D, broadleaf weed killer in the grass to kill any clover.



The sun filtering through the oak trees on a fall morning



The Monastery stands tall behind the daisies

Gift Shop

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the gift shop. Angel and her team have been busy decorating the store for the Creche Festival and the Christmas holidays. Volunteers are still needed in the store for the Creche Festival. They are looking for help with bagging purchases, restocking shelves, and assisting customers with their purchases. Please contact Angel at angel.franks3@gmail.com if you can help.



Bins of sparkling holiday ornaments waiting to be hung on the Christmas trees



A tabletop Christmas tree surrounded by beautiful angels



If you could not make the Plant Sale, the gift shop has succulent dish gardens for sale



Sharon Landis and Barb Misner planting spring bulbs in front of the gift shop

St. Clare's Walk

Despite it being fall, there are still several blooms to be found in the gardens.



Berberis (Mahonia)



Yellow Ginger Lily

Labyrinth



The morning sun glows on the last of the sunflowers in the Labyrinth. This picture was taken at the beginning of October. The Labyrinth is now back to green, with some white plumes.

Orchard

We have had lots of ripe fruit: figs, persimmons, and oranges. I have been picking what I can and visit Fr Gueric to stock the retreat table. This week the table was loaded with homemade cakes, as well as other fruit. There will be lots to choose from.

I then stopped at the kitchen to see if Enzo could use some fruit. He was glad to see the oranges but has had more than enough persimmons. He was a sport though and took some more.

There were persimmons for the volunteers, some of whom haven't tried them before. Most people like the persimmons firm, rather than gelatinous. George Neil planted a different tree that is not edible until it is ripe but excellent when it is. The birds got more of them than we did.

Dennis plans to relocate the potted citrus inside the orchard. You may remember the plants came from Orangeburg, where they were developed to be cold tolerant and make good marmalade.

I wondered when the cool weather would come, but here it is.
Howard



Oranges almost ripe bending the branches

Volunteer Luncheon

The oak trees provided the perfect setting for the garden volunteers' annual luncheon on Wednesday, October 6. We also got a sneak preview of the plant sale as the team was mid-stream getting things set up for the event which was held on the following Saturday. It was a little touch and go on the weather, but fortunately, the rain held out and we were able to dine outdoors. Following the luncheon, a group met at the Columbarium in tribute to Elaine Dennis, a recently passed garden volunteer.



Karen Roberts and Dotty Roddy



Volunteers enjoyed an al fresco BBQ lunch

Volunteers

My apologies, but I have been very lax in getting photos of our new volunteers for the newsletter. Fortunately for me, a lot of them were at the plant sale.



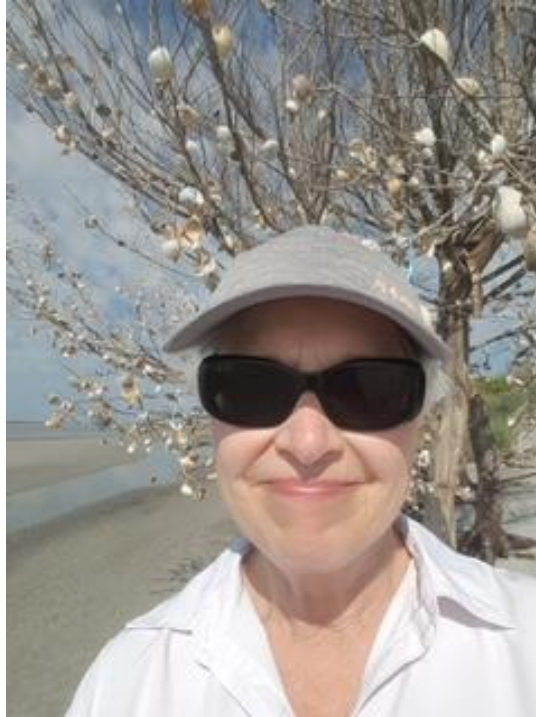
LuAnn Kern and Linda Chiappone



Lori and Jack Thompson



Al Ivester



Barb Misner

Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market is fully stocked with herb and vegetable plants. They are hoping to have English daisies available for Creche.





Fall Plant Sale

The day of the Fall Plant Sale started off cloudy, but the sun broke through the clouds to provide a beautiful day. It was another successful event at Mepkin.



The welcome sign and sales desk



Succulent dish gardens



The large variety of plants for sale



Hanging baskets and other plants

A huge thank you to our speakers and entertainment who graciously gave of their time and talents for our plant sale.



Dwight Williams, Entomologist, captivating two young fans with bug tales



Vivian Whorley, landscape Consultant on native plants



The Charleston Hot Shots, with their ukuleles



Mepkin Archivist-Robert Macdonald speaking on the history of Mepkin

Creche Festival – Volunteers Still Needed!

A few open times and positions are still available for the Creche Festival. You can volunteer a half day and Jackie Perevosnik and Amy Williams will gladly work you into the schedule the times you are available to volunteer. For new volunteers, there will be an orientation meeting held on Saturday, November 13, at 10:00 AM in the Refectory. Attendance is not mandatory.

Please note the Covid safety guidelines from Mepkin on the event: ***Consultation with our Public Health Advisers assures us that it is safe to hold this event if we insist that adult participants must be vaccinated; all participants, adults and children, must wear masks.***

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

- Jackie (jperevosnik@gmail.com) - scheduling of the volunteers along the 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 Gueric 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 Festival



Fresh plantings in preparation for the Creche Festival

Abbey News

Below is a picture of the recently cut down tree outside of St. Peter's.



Check This Out

This greenhouse is owned by the woman who runs the *plaids.and.poppies* Instagram account. Wouldn't you like to kick back in this fall decorated greenhouse with a warm cup of tea? *Sigh...*



potagerblog



Did You Know?

In a recent study, the number of breeding birds in the US and Canada has dropped by nearly 30% (or 3 billion birds) since 1970. Click [here](#) to learn more about steps you can take to save the songbirds.

Garden Inspiration

For in the true nature of things, if we will rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver.

~ Martin Luther

Special Thanks To

Thank you to Howard, Jamie, Lisa, Barb, Fr. Gerald, Fr. Joe, Johnna, and Sharon for pictures and content for this newsletter.

Leslie



Yikes!!