



NEWS SEPTEMBER 2012



GARDEN WORK BEGINS!

Kathy Tanner reports that on Saturday, September 15, fifteen volunteers gave a total of 88 hours. They got the right side of the bridge area cleaned up, the ground tilled and fertilized, put cardboard and mulch down in the garden space at the East end of the Bridge. This work provides enhancement for the soil, as well as weed barriers to protect the planting.



Among the native plants to go on both sides of the path at the East end is the Weeping Bald Cypress (above). The Gardens Committees have selected an array of other native plants and plan to have the area bordered by low split-rail fences made of locust logs generously donated by Jerry Nelson. *[More about Jerry later]* There will also be benches and lighting. The work will be completed in stages with planting planned for the early weeks of October.



TWO WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Sandra Nelson tells us there are many ways for volunteers to help. **#1 - The next major work day is planned for Tuesday, October 2** to do some of the planting and maybe begin building our split-rail

fences along the walkway. Please mark that day on your calendar if you are able to help. There will be other times, weather permitting, between now and then that we will put down more cardboard and mulch. Again, watch for emails with more specific dates and times.

#2 - Kitchen Compost As our planting gets underway on the East end of the Bridge, we will be using an assortment of soil amendments in the form of compost. In addition to leaf and mushroom compost, we can use kitchen wastes from our homes such as coffee grounds, egg shells, banana and vegetable peelings and scraps. All of you can help with this by collecting and saving these items for us (please, NO meat or bones). You can keep a small bucket or coffee can with lid in your kitchen for this purpose. It makes it easy to remember and very convenient. When it gets full, transfer the contents to a larger bucket with a **tight** fitting lid that you may wish to keep outside. Then, allow it to set and keep repeating the process until we are ready to plant. This will add much needed and 'free' nutrients to our planting beds.



THE FRANKLIN TREE

The garden plan for the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge includes the Franklin tree seen above. Sometimes called the lost camellia, the Franklin has also been cited as the "first" rare plant in America. Originally found in Georgia in 1765, it had disappeared entirely from the wild by the early 1800's. The tree exists today because John Bartram, a Pennsylvania Quaker farmer, and his son collected plants and seeds from the Georgia trees. Bartram was an early American botanist and horticulturist who established the country's first botanical garden. The Franklin tree blooms with large fragrant white flowers from late summer until frost, even when its foliage turns red.

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IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

One of the best things about this project is the way the community is coming together to make it happen. We have mentioned quite a few folks in past newsletters who have assisted us in various ways. It seems that each week brings someone else we want to thank for stepping up to help.

As noted above, **Jerry Nelson** donated locust logs for the creation of our split-rail fences. Jerry and his wife, Robin, operate Nelson Knoll Farms in Polk County. You've probably seen their buffalo from the highway, but you might not know the extent of their operation. Their product line includes not just bison meat, but handmade soaps, hides and, as their website says, "All things bison." They offer tours, too. Be sure to take a look at their website at: www.nelsonknollfarms.com. Thank You, Jerry!

Joining us as a new donor and advisor is **Ron Hoover of Plant Wise Solutions**. He met with Kathy Tanner and Sandra Nelson and they say: "He educated and inspired us on so many levels. Best of all, he cares about what we are doing on the Bridge and wants to help. Ron mostly deals with eco native plants with an emphasis on those native to this particular area. He knows all the botanical names (and can even pronounce them) and the history/origin of everything."

Ron and his wife Janet specialize in environmentally-friendly practices and procedures. You can find Ron's website at: www.plantwisesolutions.com. Thank you, Ron!

"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden...But though an old man, I am but a young gardener."
~Thomas Jefferson



Our Vision for the Future

We keep our vision for the future (as imagined above) in mind as we work literally from the ground up. We also remind ourselves continually of our mission:

To design, create and maintain a flowering pedestrian bridge across the Rocky Broad River and the walkways at both ends of the bridge for the joy and benefit of all who come our way.



WHAT YOU SEE NOW

Chuck Watkins oversaw the milling of the Bridge surface, that smoothing process we mentioned in last month's newsletter. The piles at the West end of the Bridge are the results of that process and we will find a good use for that material. The next major step on the bridge itself will be the installation of the membrane that will go in before planters can be constructed across

the span.

Mulch is piled up for use in the East end beds and you will see other items appear during the process, including the pavers that will take the walkway across the bridge, pipes to manage the drainage, bricks to celebrate the Founding Members and stone for the development of the planters.



WHO WE ARE

If you know anyone who should be added to our newsletter, please contact Lee Armstrong Lumpkin at: leearmstrong@carolina.rr.com. Questions and suggestions are welcomed by all Lake Lure Flowering board members: Bill Miller, Chair; Charlene Efirid, Vice Chair; Kathy Tanner, Secretary; Janet Walters, Treasurer; Sandra Nelson, Melanie Greenway, Charles Yelton, Christine Cosmus, Lee Armstrong Lumpkin, Linda Turner and Chuck Watkins.



Above photo is clethra alnifolia, also known as summersweet plant or pepper bush, one of the native plants chosen for our gardens.