





LAKE LURE FLOWERING BRIDGE


NEWS


FEBRUARY 2012

 What might our Rocky Broad River Bridge look like as a garden? The rendering above is just one imagining of what we might see in the future. (Our thanks to Heather Johnson of The Creative Stack for this flowering image from a photo by Mike Lumpkin.)

 As the number of supporters for this community project grows, we continue to work with our consultants from Cardno and Landcare Innovations to develop our vision of the bridge gardens and to plan for an ecologically responsible design that will serve the Hickory Nut Gorge and our visitors for decades to come.

 The board of the Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is also meeting with Clint Calhoun (Town of Lake Lure Environment Management Officer). Clint and Travis Smith (Smith Environmental and Educational Consulting) have spent valuable time with us discussing the protection of the riparian zone (extending 25 feet from river's edge). They are also advising us on plant selection with a goal to focus on native plants and avoid invasive species. We are grateful for their knowledge.

 Just a few of the plants that might grace our bridge are rhododendron, hydrangea, sweetshrub, azaleas, roses, blueberry and viburnum. These are just a few of the species listed in Clint Calhoun's *Native Plant Recommendations for Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure*. Also available for your use on the Town's website is a list of the exotic species, including invasives that can create problems.

 As mentioned in earlier newsletters, the deadline for founding members whose donation of \$100 entitles them to a brick on the walkway has been extended to June 30, 2012. We hope for the support of the entire community with any donation of dollars, appropriate plants, or service as volunteers. For more information, go to our website: www.lakelurefloweringbridge.com.

Confronted with the vision of a beautiful garden, we see something beautiful about ourselves, as a part of nature.
--Jeff Cox