






NEWS JULY 2012



 **Native Plants on the Bridge** The photo above of *Cosmic Eye Coreopsis* is just one of many native plants that our gardening committees are considering for our Flowering Bridge gardens. Our enthusiastic researchers have traveled all over Western North Carolina, talking with experts and taking hundreds of photographs, seeking the best ideas to make our gardens both beautiful and educational. We thank many for their help in our search, including: Jamie Oxley at Meadowbrook Farms and We Du Natives in Marion, and Painters Nursery in Old Fort. We are also grateful to folks at Wing Haven Gardens in Charlotte and the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville who hosted research visits. We are always thankful for Clint Calhoun's expertise.

 **What's Happening Now** Even as the search for native plants is underway, Sandra Nelson and Chuck Horton (Gorge Gardener) are fostering plants already donated to install this fall when these searing summer days are behind us. This week soil samples will be taken from the east end of the Bridge for analysis, since this will be the focus of our initial planting. Our development team continues to seek funding for the work ahead of us.

 **How You Can Donate** We are grateful with sincere thanks to those who stepped up to become Founders. Their names are on our website. We have a grant from an anonymous donor to match your donation. For each dollar

you give up to the grant total, the donor gives an additional dollar. All donations are tax deductible. A donation form is available on our website:


www.lakelurefloweringbridge.com

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Photo above is one of the natives being considered. It's called Joe-Pye Weed or, sometimes, Queen of the Meadow.

 **Get Involved** Let us know of sources for planting materials such as topsoil, compost, mulch, landscape rocks, wood (preferably locust wood) for a split rail fence to accentuate the area. We welcome and appreciate donations of these materials or the funds to assist in their purchase. Contact friends and neighbors who would like to be involved and have them contact one of the Board members.

It would be great if some of you might consider leading small groups in specialty plantings such as herbs, ferns, shrubs, trees, perennials, etc. For the most part, we will be looking to limit our choices to native plants that will do well in the environment we have to work with.

 **Stay Tuned** for coming news on other ways you can be involved. Keep those shovels, spades and trowels sharpened and ready to put to work making our Bridge bloom.

"A native plant species is one that occurs naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem, and habitat without direct or indirect human actions." -- Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee