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Left to right: Tom McKay, Joe Satrape, Peter O'Leary and Woody Turner present a check to representatives of the Friends of the LLFB Sandra Nelson, Janet Walters, Susie Ellis and Bill Miller. (Photo by Valerie Hoffman)

## NEWS JULY 2013



### GARDEN ILLUMINATION

Visitors to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge can now stroll through the gardens at dusk and after in the glow of our beautiful and historic garden lamp. We told you last month that the concrete lamppost donated by Jane Melton once stood in front of the old Lake Lure School. Now the lamp above, beautifully restored by LLFB Board Chair Bill Miller, sheds its light along our pathway for all to enjoy. More walkway illumination is planned. If you would like to sponsor additional lighting in our garden, please contact us at [llfb@bellsouth.net](mailto:llfb@bellsouth.net).

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge has been recognized as a **Certified Wildlife Habitat** by the National Wildlife Federation.

### HICKORY NUT GORGE FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO BRIDGE

The Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation has awarded a matching grant to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge to support our ongoing development.

The matching grant is tied to a partnership between the two organizations this spring. In May, members of the Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge were asked to partner with the Foundation during the Community Impact Awards gala honoring Lake Lure residents Ed and Kay Dittmer.

The Friends of the Bridge were invited to provide and sell the centerpieces for the evening. But what we did not know, was that if we sold all of the centerpieces, the board of directors for the Foundation had voted to match funds raised with an equal amount. This unique partnership raised \$800 for the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge - \$400 from what they raised and the match of \$400 from the HNG Foundation.

"This type of project, which was the unique idea from one of our board members, is exactly the kind of partnering that we love to do," said Foundation Board Chair Joe Satrape. "It wasn't about centerpieces for our gala event as much as it was about two organizations becoming stronger by working together."

Founded in 2005 by local residents, The **Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation (HNGF)** is an endowment fund under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. The HNGF provides charitable grants for the people and communities in the Gorge and beyond. It provides such grants through direct contributions received from donors. Those contributions are never spent, only invested. The earnings from the contributions make the grants possible. For more information contact Board Chair Joe Satrape at [educate4hq@aol.com](mailto:educate4hq@aol.com)

[Thanks to Valerie Hoffman for this article.]

🌻 **CAROLINA MOON  
WELCOMES BRIDGE  
VISITORS**



On any day but Sunday, visitors to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge can stroll through the gardens and stop in to meet Carole McKay (left) in her new coffee shop, located just behind the realty office of Pinnacle Sotheby's. Carole and husband Tom

were among the early supporters of the LLFB and now graciously welcome garden visitors to share their parking lot and their newly opened **Carolina Moon** shop.

With a touch of humor, the sign outside says: "Our hours are seasonal. We open at 7:30 am; a little earlier if we can't sleep, a little later if we can. We close the coffee cafe at 5pm. We stay open until 7pm on Fridays and Saturdays from mid-June through Labor Day or thereabouts. We are closed on Sunday. We hibernate January-March."

In addition to drinks and snacks, Carolina Moon displays the work of local artists and has gifts for sale. We thank the McKays for their support and wish them well in their new endeavor.



**Inviting morning light spills over the bridge.**  
[Photo by Mike Lumpkin]

**Mark Your Calendar for the official GRAND OPENING AND DEDICATION OF THE BRIDGE Saturday, October 19. More details to come as they are available in future newsletters, on the website and on Facebook.**

🌻 **THANKS TO THE TOWN OF  
LAKE LURE FOR OUR NEW  
CAMERAS**

Our sincere appreciation to the Town of Lake Lure for its help with the installation of security cameras in the Flowering Bridge gardens. Special thanks goes to Acting Police Chief Sean



Humphries for his quick response to our request for cameras at each end of the bridge. [Photo by Sandra Nelson]

🌻 **PICTURES WORTH A  
THOUSAND WORDS**



**The beauty of the gardens, clockwise from top left above: bee balm or monarda, day lily, canna, phlox.**  
[Photos by Mike Lumpkin]



## THANKS TO TIM TURNER FOR GARDEN MAPPING

Without a lot of help from our friends we would not be growing the bridge gardens as well as we are. One way in which we are adding to the enjoyment of the gardens is by mapping the individual beds on the bridge. Amy Wald provided the handcrafted holders in which the maps will provide specific information for visitors about what is seen in each bed. Tim Turner has agreed to create our maps for us.

Tim is President of WNC Professional Engineers & Surveyors with offices in the Lake Lure Arcade. He and his wife Debbie are the well-known restaurateurs whose Lake Lure Smokehouse barbecue and other vittles are local favorites. During the summer they bring in great music groups to pick and sing on Saturday evenings.



## MORE FOLKS TO THANK

One of the greatest gifts of this endeavor is the way people just keep coming up with ways to be part of the gardens. Richard Ammons, a local man who grew up in Rutherfordton, has shared his knowledge and donated 12 beautiful daylilies to the planters. Sherry, Bob and Max at the Hickory Nut have given us several perennials for the gardens. Among them are Juncus curly grass, Shasta daisies, tickseed, and blanket flower. Our sincere thanks to both Richard and the Hickory Nut team.



Daisies glow in the sun. [Photo by Mike Lumpkin]



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. How did the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge come about?** When a new highway bridge was built across the Rocky Broad River in 2010, the 1925 bridge was scheduled for demolition. Instead, the State of North

Carolina gave it to the Town of Lake Lure with the \$120,000 that had been budgeted for demolition now designated to be used specifically for its long-term care. Local resident Bill Miller had the idea that the old bridge could be turned into a garden, so he gathered other like-minded people together to form the volunteer-driven Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge (FLLFB). Bill now chairs the Friends organization.

**Q. Who designed the gardens?** Selected through a Request for Proposal process, Cardno, a landscape architectural firm, designed an initial plan for the layout and infrastructure of the gardens on the bridge and at either end. Through its Board of Directors, the FLLFB spent over two years organizing, planning and preparing the bridge for planting on April 6, 2013. Subsequently, the FLLFB Gardens Committee created original designs for the beds themselves, emphasizing native plants.

**Q. How are the gardens funded?** FLLFB is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Donations of both money and time have created the gardens from the ground up. The Town of Lake Lure has granted awards to FLLFB from the bridge's long-term care fund. Because of the generosity of the community, volunteers have developed the project for less than a third of the original cost estimate of \$350,000. Ongoing garden maintenance will be funded by donations as well.

**Q. What is planned for the future?** More gardens on the West End. The board has agreed upon a design for more gardens and pathways to extend from the west end of the bridge to Boys Camp Road. As funds become available that area will be developed. Also in our plans are lamps on the bridge reminiscent of those that were part of its original design, as well as planter boxes for the outside of the bridge.

**Q. How can I be involved?** Donate and/or volunteer. Volunteers help every week as we maintain the gardens. Contact us through our website if you want to volunteer to help. As we complete the last stage of the gardens at the west end of the bridge, we need new members of the Friends. A donation of any amount makes you a Friend. A donation of \$200 or more entitles you to a Pathfinders engraved brick in the west end gardens. (More about Pathfinders below.)

**Q. Can I buy a brick?** Yes, there is a new opportunity. If you make a donation of \$200 or more, you can request an engraved brick to be placed in the west end gardens as they are developed. We are calling this fundraising effort the Pathfinders bricks. You can find the forms and full information about Pathfinders on our website at: [www.lakelurefloweringbridge.com](http://www.lakelurefloweringbridge.com).