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NEWS **September 2013**

OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING FESTIVITIES OCTOBER 19



Welcome to the Bridge [Photo by Mike Lumpkin]

The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge gardens have welcomed visitors since April, but the official Grand Opening and Dedication of the bridge is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th. Scheduled activities for that day include guided tours of the gardens with docents, as well as exhibits and items for sale from the Lake Lure Artists in an adjacent shaded grove. Beginning at 4:30 that afternoon, ceremonies will include remarks from Peter Loewer, Vice President of the Botanical Gardens at Asheville and from Nick Tennyson, Deputy Secretary of Support and Acting DMV Commissioner, representing NCDOT. There will be music and light refreshments and children can participate in a scavenger hunt. The traditional ribbon-cutting will feature a garland of flowers. As dusk approaches, the lights, including bridge lamps reminiscent of those originally on the bridge in 1925 will illuminate the gardens.

OUR NEW POTTING SHED IS SITTING PRETTY IN THE WEST GARDENS



Practical and pretty [Photo by Mike Lumpkin]

Once again donations and volunteers answered the need and our new potting shed took root in the West Gardens. The building, purchased locally, was set in place on a concrete pad, then surrounded with its own garden bed. The new shed allows volunteers to keep tools and equipment close at hand. The building's metal roof is reminiscent of the red roofs that have been part of Lake Lure's architecture since the community was founded.

CHILDREN'S GARDEN COLORING BOOK AT GRAND OPENING



Thanks to SALLY TANNER's artistry, the first 100 children to come to the Grand Opening will receive a free coloring book featuring drawings of flowers. Sally drew the irises above from a photo made in our gardens. THANK YOU, SALLY!

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: MARY ANN SILVEY

The heart of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge's success is its corps of volunteers. This month, our shining star among those dedicated souls is **MARY ANN SILVEY**.

Mary Ann says she feels lucky to have lived her life in the beauty of western North Carolina's mountains. She grew up in Asheville and spent summers in Lake Lure. Her parents bought land from the Girl's Camp in 1947 and retreated there during the summers to avoid polio epidemics. Be sure to ask for some of Mary Ann's stories about growing up in this area.

Mary Ann's love of gardening began in childhood. She remembers walks in the woods with her mother, "looking for wild flowers, making ink from pokeberries and making mud pies at the lake shore." Her family enjoyed movies in an open air theatre behind what is now the Lake Lure Smokehouse.



After finishing college, Mary Ann married, and had three sons and one daughter who spent weekends and summers in Lake Lure, participating in the Lake Lure Ski Club. Mary Ann now has 9 grandchildren.

A very busy lady, Mary Ann is a member of the Lake Lure Town Council and an active gardener on her Lake Lure property. Her second hobby, creating unique braided rugs handmade from colorful wool fabric and teaching others this craft, led to meeting Bill Silvey at an art exhibit where he was showing his coin banks made from hardwoods and vintage post office box doors. They were married three years ago on the 4th of July.

Garden Co-Chair Sandra Nelson says of Mary Ann: "Mary Ann graciously shares her expertise and time. In addition to working many hours in the gardens, she routinely stops by just to check on things. I am certain she has no idea what peace of mind the rest of us enjoy just knowing she is there."

We gratefully say: **THANK YOU, MARY ANN!**

[Photo by Kathy Tanner]

LAKE LURE SMOKEHOUSE

LLFB TEE SHIRTS AND CAR TAGS FOR DONORS



Thanks to **DEBBIE AND TIM TURNER** our Lake Lure Flowering Bridge tee shirts and car tags are being offered for donations to LLFB at the Lake Lure Smokehouse. Quantities are limited, so be sure to stop by to get yours. It's a great way to support the Bridge. Because these were donated, all proceeds go to preserve, develop and maintain the Bridge. For a \$20 donation you can get a tee and a \$15 donation gets you a logo plate for your car.

We owe our gratitude, too, to Tim Turner for his surveying help in planning the West Gardens. After helping us with the planter maps in the Bridge Gardens, he stepped up to assist yet again as he and Debbie offered to show off our logo items in the Smokehouse.

OTTER CREEK BLOGGER SHOWS OFF THE BRIDGE

Hats off to **VANN HELMS** (pictured at right) of nearby Otter Creek. His lovely pictorial blog, blueridgeimpressions.com, recently featured the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge with some really gorgeous photographs as well as an interesting historical perspective. To quote

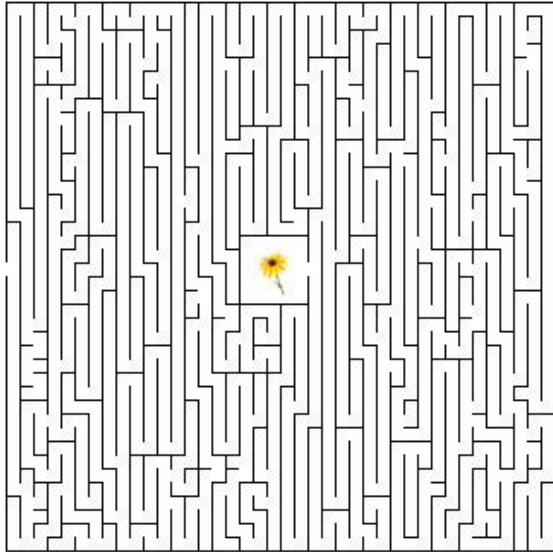


Vann, a visit to the LLFB inspired this poetic description: "You'll be treated to a rare collection of colorful flowers and plants, and, in the process, you'll see a preserved historic bridge that deserved to live." Vann provides some very nice geographical information with the photos, pointing readers to several of our surrounding mountains by name. Thanks, Vann, for enjoying your visit and sharing it with others in such an captivating way.



Kids' Corner

FIND YOUR WAY TO THE FLOWER IN THE CENTER OF OUR GARDEN MAZE



FALL AND WINTER PLANS FOR THE GARDENS

The Garden Design Planning Group (Garden Committee Co-Chairs Sandra Nelson and Kathy Tanner, Terry Ashley, Maryann Brown and Susie Ellis) has been working on the design for fall and winter in the gardens. We sent out a letter recently asking for specific donations of both plants and decorative items.



The group is excited about making our gardens a treat through all four seasons of the year. Highlights include plans for the Songbird, Hummingbird and Butterfly garden where an array of colorful bird houses will welcome our feathered friends.

There will be winter vegetation with berries for the birds.

The Tropical Garden will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland of Evergreens. While the tropics will winter indoors, evergreens will sparkle with lights and holiday trimming in season.

In other areas, the gardens will celebrate the seasons with climate-friendly plantings (such as Lenten roses, winterberry and heather). Decorative items will be chosen to reflect the various holidays as they approach and special lighting displays will brighten the longer hours of darkness that winter brings.



THE CULINARY HERBS IN OUR GARDENS SPICE UP RECIPES

Our herb garden contains four different groups of herbs--medicinal, fragrant, ornamental and culinary.



Among the culinary plants are basil and oregano, both recommended for a favorite recipe that will be nice as cooler weather comes. The recipe below was published in *We Eat Better Than Y'all Do*, a cookbook created by Betsy Bramlett whose husband Mark Rudisill (left) is remembered by donors with a planter on the bridge balustrade. Like many familiar

culinary concoctions, this one has been passed from one cook to another. Mark credited this easy-to-make soup recipe to his good friend from bachelor days, Louie Pape.

LOUIE'S BROCCOLI SOUP

Ingredients: 2 packages chopped frozen broccoli, 1/2 cup milk, 2 cans cream of chicken soup, 2 cups whipping cream, 2 chicken bouillon cubes, Dash of oregano, sweet basil, salt and pepper.

Drain broccoli and keep liquid. Add milk to make 2 cups liquid. Mix broccoli, condensed soup, spices and 1/2 cup liquid in blender for 30 seconds. Throw into pot. Add whipped cream and rest of liquid. Heat, but do not boil.



LAMPS FOR THE BRIDGE OFFER NEW DONOR OPPORTUNITIES

Coming soon are new lamps that will be attached to the bridge to provide additional illumination for the pathway through the garden beds. Reminiscent of those that were on the bridge when it was constructed in 1925, these lamps will rise above the balustrades on both sides.



plants. [See photo above]

With installation of the lamps comes a new donor opportunity. Donors giving \$200 to support the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge may request acknowledgement for providing the hayracks that will encircle each lamppost and allow for display of

If you are interested in donating toward these lamppost planters, please contact a member of the Board or send a message on our website at www.lakelurefloweringbridge.com