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NEWS November 2013



Fairy Garden Volunteer Crew

FAIRY GARDENS ADD MAGIC IN COLDER WEATHER

When Kathy Tanner invites you to a party, wear your jeans, bring gloves and prepare to have a good time. You might find yourself digging in the dirt OR even creating fairy gardens. Those are the gardenscapes in miniature that now adorn the beds previously hosting North Carolina Wildflowers of the Year. A willing group of volunteers responded to the call and met at the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge to create these tiny magical scenes for our visitors to share and enjoy. The fairy gardens are now a favorite subject for photographers, delighting and inspiring other creative people to go home and

make their own fairy gardens. This is a great way to get children started as gardeners, too.

[Photos Below by Saundra Nelson]



Created by Amy Wald



Created by Kathy Tanner



Created by Victoria Booth

[Click here for more photos on our Facebook page.](#)

 **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH:
VERYLE LYNN COX**

Her story as told by Veryle Lynn: The question we all get asked: "What brought you to Lake Lure?", I can only answer, "The Hand of God." We moved here in 1990 from the Chicago area, and we have loved the freedom to explore our interests.

My vocation and avocation is art. I studied art in college at Idaho State University, at The Royal Academy of Art in Brussels, Belgium, (when Blaine's job took us there for five years), at The Naguib Classical Sculpture Studio in Chicago, and at Penland School in North Carolina. I taught art in high school and chaired the art department for several years.



[Photo by Blaine Cox]

Presently my studio is in our home, and my focus is on art pottery and iconography. My liturgical vessels and icons are in many churches and private collections. Locally my work can be seen at Seven Sisters Gallery in Black Mountain, The Esmeralda Inn, and Carolina Moon. My work can be seen by appointment in my studio.

My husband Blaine and I have two daughters who live in Georgia with their husbands and our six grandchildren.

From the very first time I heard Bill Miller speak about the Flowering Bridge at the town council meeting four years ago, that inward nudge said, "Wow! I want to help with that!" Fast forward four years, and as I pull (minuscule) weeds and greet visitors on the bridge, I see the deeper results of our efforts. Thanks to The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge, citizens from around the lake and from the county are working together to bring beauty and to give our historic bridge new life.

When I see visitors enter the gardens, I see them slow down, drop their cares, smile and become renewed. This wonderful cycle of creativity feeds my own work. I give thanks for living in a beautiful place that fosters the love of beauty in its citizens.

In this season of thanks, we are grateful for donors, volunteers and all those who support the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge.

 **UNIQUE HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS
COMMEMORATING THE BRIDGE
ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

Once again, Veryle Lynn Cox is donating her time and talent to create the 2013 LLFB holiday ornament seen here.



For a donation to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge of \$25, these one-of-a-kind handmade ornaments are available. Our quantity is limited, so if you want to obtain one for your tree or as a gift, contact Sandra Nelson at csnelson38@bellsouth.net or by phone at (828) 625-1065. [Photo above from the artist]

 **THIS MONTH'S GARDEN PLANT:
BEAUTYBERRY SHRUB**

By Maryann Brown

Disease, bugs and deer don't like it but I do. *Callicarpa Americana* (Beautyberry) shrub has to be in the top ten of my favorite plants and I have hundreds of favorite plants. [Photo by Mike Lumpkin]



Callicarpa, Greek for beautiful fruit, will bounce back with vigor and loads of berries even when cut to the ground by runaway riding mowers and it will survive severe drought and neglect. This American native grows from Virginia to Florida and west to Texas in woodlands and roadside ditches. It has lovely light green egg shaped leaves and pink/white flowers followed by clusters of berries in the fall that remain on the stems after the leaves are gone, providing food for birds. The more common varieties have bright eye-catching magenta fruit and a more rare variety, *Lactea* has beautiful white berries. Every garden should have this beautiful plant. If you are garden challenged, this is the plant for you. If you are a master gardener, you probably already have one. Beautyberry is hard to resist once you have seen one full of berries. You can find more information on beautyberry varieties on these great websites:

[Click Here...](#) or [Click Here](#)

2014 CALENDARS AVAILABLE



If you haven't yet acquired your 2014 Lake Lure Flowering Bridge calendar, a limited number are still available for a donation of \$15 each. These were a big hit at our Grand Opening and make great gifts. Call **Charlene Efird at (828) 231-5503** to find out how to take advantage

of this opportunity. *[Calendar photos by Mike Lumpkin]*

BUSINESS SALUTE TO GERARD STUVE CAKE DECORATIONS

Guests at the Grand Opening and Dedication were treated to an amazing cake created by Gerard Stuve for the occasion. The top of the cake is now on display at the Lake Lure Visitor Center.

We are thankful for his talent and asked him to share his story with us.

Gerard's story: I was born near Detroit, MI. In 2008 my family and I retired to Old Fort, North Carolina, to enjoy the gentler way of life and the beauty of the area.

I began decorating cakes in my mother's kitchen, but my love for art started many years earlier. In kindergarten, I couldn't wait to show my parents the picture I had done using tempera paints!! Then and there, I knew I wanted to be an artist. At 20 I studied cake decorating for a year and a half. After studying acrylic painting, where I learned the principles of color mixing, I applied these to my use of color on my cakes. My focus is on acute attention to detail in my decorating.

When I visited the Flowering Bridge in Lake Lure, I immediately felt a kinship with the creators. It is obvious that we all shared the same philosophy in producing art that would linger in others' memories. I'm so pleased to have had a part in the Grand Opening ceremonies of what I'm sure will be a favorite tourist destination in the state.



DESTINED FOR DEMOLITION, LLFB IS NOW A DESTINATION

Bill Miller, our own Chair of the Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge, tells the story of this community success as only he can. Bill (and beautiful video of the bridge) can be seen in an interview airing this month across North Carolina on Time-Warner Cable. You can access the video on YouTube [by clicking here...](#)



HOLIDAY LIGHTING TRANSFORMS THE GARDENS INTO A WINTER WONDERLAND

Once again, the call went out. This time volunteers gathered to transform our gardens into a winter wonderland. Despite the cold and a stiff wind blowing down the gorge, we made magic. By day, visitors enjoy whimsical decorations--wreathes, garlands and even Santa's elves. By night, the gardens glow with lights from one end to the other. See our "Five gold rings" and take a walk under the arch with its icicle lights. Stroll past the fairy gardens with their bows and sparkles over to the west gardens to see the elves and our giant playful pooch. There's something to see with each step taken.



Even as the work was being done, a couple from Hickory came to see what changes had been made since they came to see the "pumpkin people." They brought friends with them, too.



[Holiday photos by Mike Lumpkin]

Thanks to everyone who helps keep the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge a place visitors want to see again and again.

[Click here for more photos on our Facebook page.](#)

*Come let us be thankful
and share the beauty of this place
and the joy we find
in a community of giving hearts.*



*May your travels be safe,
your Thanksgiving happy
and your holidays merry and bright.*