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NEWS January 2014

*"Every gardener knows under the cloak of winter lies a miracle . . . a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dreams."
- Barbara Winkler*



WITH THE NEW YEAR COMES NEW CHALLENGE AND NEW PROMISE

As we begin this new year we look to our supporters once again for your volunteer efforts and your financial support as we plan for spring planting and renewal of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge for the visitors who will enjoy the gardens in warmer weather.

The generosity has begun with the donation of daffodil bulbs from Diane and Chuck Merrick. These are already in the ground and we look forward to their bright faces rising as early as March. Above are some of last year's blooms.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: GENEVIEVE BEACH

We are pleased to recognize Genevieve Beach as our Volunteer of the Month. She has worked on the project from the beginning. Here is her story in her own words:

My husband and I moved to our little cabin on the lake in November, 1994. We moved from the Low Country of South Carolina. Robert died of cancer in June 2003 and against the advice of my children I choose to remain in



Lure.

I grew up on a farm. My mother always planted a vegetable garden and a flower garden. I did not enjoy picking cotton but I did like a nice tan so I choose to help with the yard work. I especially enjoyed seeing what happens to a tiny seed planted in good soil, given tender loving care, sunshine, food and water. When I heard that some folks in our town were talking about turning our old bridge into a flowering one it piqued my interest. I had no idea how this could happen but I knew that I wanted to help and find out.

Through volunteering to help I have learned so much about horticulture and also had the opportunity to share some plants out of my yard, Chelone (Turtlehead) and Sanguinaria (Blood Root). I have enjoyed every minute as a member of a team working to turn an old bridge into a work of art. Meeting all of the new friends I have through this endeavor is an extra bonus.



HELP OUR PLANT SALE: DONATE GARDEN ITEMS

The Garden Committee is looking ahead to the Spring Plant Sale on the Bridge scheduled for Saturday, April 19. In addition to the plants and shrubs that will be offered, we would like to include donated items such as gently used garden tools, utensils, accessories, decor and books on plants and gardening. If you have any of these items that you would like to donate to support the LLFB, please contact by email for directions or drop off as follows:

Kathy Tanner at kathyt3@gmail.com (329 Holmes Road-can leave in carport)
Charlene Efird at charlenelakelure@bellsouth.net (408 Boys Camp Road)
Mary Ann Brown at mdbrown01@bellsouth.net (115 Apple Meadow Court)



BUSINESS SALUTE TO PAINTERS GREENHOUSE



This month we salute Painters Greenhouse in Old Fort, a staunch supporter of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge from its beginnings. Their story is one of continuity and service to Western North Carolina.

Painters is a family-owned and operated business that takes pride in offering home-grown, high quality plants at affordable prices. They produce nearly all their plants from start to finish in an environmentally-friendly establishment and sell them directly to customers.

Painters has become known for its wide variety of plants at competitive prices, with ongoing sales. They have 800 species of potted perennials, edibles, aquatics, succulents & cacti, shrubs & trees, natives, container gardens, hanging baskets, ferns, indoor plants and more.

Following the change in ownership in 2010, their selection has expanded with over 200 new varieties. In addition they have added to their calendar of events and educational programs (read more on the Painters Greenhouse website at <http://www.paintersgreenhouse.com/>). You can sign up on the website for their email list to receive updates and growing advice.

Painters Annual Herb Festival has become widely known for showcasing an ensemble of talented local artisans and musicians while offering a large selection of discounted herbs. See their website for this and other events.

Painters in Old Fort is a 35-minute drive from Asheville, Morganton or Lake Lure, and about 20 minutes from Marion and Black Mountain.



*Snowy Balustrade
LLFB -
January
2014
(more photos
next page)*



NORTH CAROLINA WILDFLOWERS OF THE YEAR

Two of the beds on the bridge feature plants that have been chosen as NC Wildflowers of the year. Each year since 1982 one plant is chosen to represent native plants, selected by a collaboration of the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Garden Club of North Carolina. (Photo at right is the Black-eyed Susan, chosen in 1988.)



This is a conservation project designed to promote attractive plants native to the Southeast. To receive a brochure and seeds of the current North Carolina Wildflower of the Year Hoary Skullcap (*Scutellaria incana* var. *punctata*), send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: 2014 NCWFOY, North Carolina Botanical Garden Campus Box 3375, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375 For more information, see the website at: [NC Wildflower of the Year](#)



THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS



A popular new novel by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, *The Language of Flowers*, builds an intriguing story around what flowers are said to represent. It was a custom in the Victorian era to give flowers to send a message. We continue this practice today as we send red

roses to signify love on Valentine's Day.

According to tradition, the white rose signifies purity and innocence, thus is popular in bridal bouquets. Pansies got their name from the French word for thought, *pensée*, thus they are believed by some to be a symbol of remembrance.

In a poem later put to music by English composer Edward Elgar, American botanist and poet James Gates Percival wrote: "*Then gather a wreath from the garden bowers, And tell the wish of thy heart in flowers.*" As Valentine's Day approaches, it might be fun to find the meaning of flowers to create a special bouquet for a loved one.

Like us on Facebook and visit our website at: www.lakelurefloweringbridge.com to donate.



Photos by Mike Lumpkin