



PO Box 125 Lake Lure NC 28746  
Contact: leearmstrong16@gmail.com

## NEWS February 2014

*"Love is like a beautiful flower which I may not touch, but whose fragrance makes the garden a place of delight just the same." - Helen Keller*

In this month that celebrates love, we celebrate the love our community has lavished on the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. From those who have put a dollar into our donation box to those who have generously committed larger donations, we thank you. To those who have steadfastly volunteered their time week after week, month after month, know that your work has earned the gratitude of locals and visitors alike. For all those who have become Friends of the Bridge, we salute you! We hope that you will continue to support this garden that is itself a tribute to the beauty of the Hickory Nut Gorge. Encourage your friends to join us if they have not already done so.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19**

**Spring Plant & Garden Items Sale  
at the Bridge**

**MONDAY, MAY 19**

**Annual Meeting of Friends of the Lake Lure  
Flowering Bridge  
at Lake Lure Town Hall**



### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: JANET WALTERS

We are happy to recognize Janet Walters as our Volunteer of the Month. Janet has been an integral part of the bridge from the start. She tells her story below.




My husband Jim and I moved to Lake Lure in May of 2010 and have loved living in this magnificent valley. In early 2011, when I heard discussion about the possibility that the old bridge over the Broad River might be saved, I attended the initial gathering at Town Hall where Bill Miller presented his vision. From that moment on, I have been captivated by the idea of a meandering walkway across the bridge bordered by beds of colorful flowers. At a subsequent meeting, I volunteered to be Treasurer on the newly created board of directors and have served in that position ever since.



Jim and I worked on a number of developmental projects including clearing of the East end, installation of the cement and liners that water proofed the interiors of the raised stone flower beds and filling the beds with soil. Together we have participated in many of the planting, fundraising and clean up events. We were chosen to be the organizers for the Grand Opening of the Flowering Bridge on 19 October 2013, and were responsible for coordinating guest speakers, featured activities and the formal ceremony. I created one of the pumpkin people for the fall gardens and a fairy garden to grace the North Carolina Wild Flower gardens during the winter months.

Our greatest pleasure has been in taking visiting friends and relatives to walk the bridge and share our excitement and love of this remarkable community project. [The Walters donated the birdhouse shown above. Photo by Sandra Nelson.]

 **BUSINESS SALUTE:  
CHIMNEY ROCK  
BARK AND TWIG**

This month we recognize the generosity of Amy Wald of Chimney Rock Bark and Twig. Amy built the frames for our planter maps, made and donated our shed sign, and gave us our garden



[Photo by Sandra Nelson.]

dog, whom we call Waldo (above). Amy also joined in the creative fun with pumpkin people and fairy gardens. Amy's story in her own words is below.

*I began creating rustic furniture in 1998 after searching for furnishings for my new log home in Chimney Rock. Though I found wonderful pieces, none seemed to "fit." They were either beyond my budget or were what I considered to be "elegant rustic" when I wanted "mountain rustic" furniture and accessories. Unable to find anything that met my criteria, the only way I could have the furniture I desired was to make it myself.*



*My husband and I hike our property to select and gather the twigs for my creations. I implement joinery and finishing techniques that will make my pieces last a lifetime (or longer). Chimney Rock Bark and Twig offers high quality rustic furniture and home accessories at affordable prices. These are handmade originals; no two are alike. I use an antique or new base for each piece. I can also create custom cabinet fronts for kitchens, baths, or furniture pieces. All pieces are created with well-dried materials and are sealed by hand to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the bark and twigs.*

*I love what I do, take pride in it and enjoy sharing my work with those who desire to live with original, unique and handmade works of art. I currently sell my work at art shows, in several North Carolina galleries, as well as by commission.*

 **WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW  
ABOUT WHAT YOU SEE**

As we stroll through the gardens, the plants and blooms entice us with their beauty. It's fun to know more about them, so we share here a few thoughts about the beautiful pineapple sage (*salvia elegans*) that graced our herb garden in 2013.



Native to Mexico and Guatemala, this herb gives us the abundant red blooms that brighten a garden, but also attract hummingbirds and butterflies. It smells good, too. Try crushing a leaf under your nose and you'll understand how it got its name.

This herb is edible and often used either to make tea or as a garnish in drinks, such as piña coladas. Some cooks use it in summer salads. A quick search on the Internet will find many recipes in which this herb is used to add its unique flavor to meats and even corn fritters.

 **Kids' Corner**

Thanks to Susie Ellis for this month's Word Finder that we call "Spring is on the Way"

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G	I	D	V	Y	E	E	L	E	T	Q	A
R	T	Z	V	M	A	N	A	Y	F	L	D
N	A	I	H	T	R	O	W	E	G	D	E
R	P	U	B	P	R	H	C	M	H	S	I

azalea	goldenrod
button bush	honeysuckle
daffodil	lamb's ear
dogwood	pansey
edgeworthia	viburnum