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NEWS



March 2014

March Plant Fact: The shamrock, beloved national symbol of Ireland, is said to have been chosen by St. Patrick because of its three leaves, symbolic of the Trinity. Believed by some to ward off snakes and scorpions, it is a member of the clover family.



COME TO THE SPRING PLANT SALE SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH



You're invited to our Spring Plant Sale Saturday, April 19. In addition to plants, there will be garden decor items for sale, too, 8 a.m.

till 3 p.m. on the west end of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. Our volunteers have potted hundreds of plants from our gardens and other local gardens and nurseries.

This is an important fundraising project for the Friends of LLFB. We depend on funds raised from buyers and donors to nurture the gardens to keep them blooming with beauty.

This year's sale includes annuals, shrubs and perennials highlighting plants that are growing in our gardens, like the sage, red salvia and stevia pictured above in the herb garden. A pre-sale order form is sent with this newsletter. Contact: kathyt3@gmail.com.



Photo by Danny Holland



LAMPS RETURN TO THE BRIDGE BALUSTRADE

The bridge lamps are back! After many years without this illumination, these tall, graceful lamps rise above the Rocky Broad River again, reminiscent of those on the bridge when it was built in 1925. Thanks to all who made this possible and **special thanks to Charlie Yelton and Chuck Watkins** for their leadership on this part of our project.



SAY HELLO TO NEW PLANTS IN OUR GARDENS



In each of our garden beds on the Bridge and in the east and west gardens this year, we'll be adding at least one new plant. These will be identified with a "Say Hello" sign so that visitors can see what's new while enjoying many favorites from last year. One of the first "hello" plants is the green rose seen above.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: TERRY ASHLEY

We salute Terry Ashley this month for his unflagging dedication to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. As a volunteer, Terry brings his expert advice, as well as hours of work both in the gardens and in his greenhouse where he winters plants for us. Here's more about Terry in his own words:



I started with the LLFB group in the Fall of 2012. Since I have been in the horticultural field for almost 30 years now, it was an easy fit. I have enjoyed helping getting things planned, planted and cared for. The fellowship with like-minded people is just wonderful and a smile and "thank you" from visitors is very rewarding.

I started out my personal journey with horticulture in the maintenance end of it, working myself up to a detail foreman before going into business for myself. My business progressed from maintenance and landscaping to growing and selling at Farmer's Markets. For much of the last 14 years, I supplemented my business income by working for an interior plant company, taking care of plants in airports, malls, offices and hospitals. It has been a wonderful journey in the short time of interacting with the LLFB, knowing that we are helping to beautify a little corner of the world and add smiles and joy to other people's journeys, also.



SPECIAL ORDER PLANTS NOW TILL APRIL 13TH

You can actually get ahead of the April 19th plant sale by pre-ordering plants with the information and plant order form attachments that are sent with this newsletter. We thank the businesses that help us provide these plants. They are Linda's Plants, Big Frog, Painters Greenhouse, Hawks Ridge Wholesale, New Moon Wholesale and Prairie Native Nursery. Their collaboration is a valuable partnership that assists in our fundraising success. See our website: lakelurefloweringbridge.com for more.



PLANT NOTE



Among the many joys of our spring gardens is the *pushkinia*, a perennial bulb of the lily family. It is also called striped squill or siberian squill. Though it has a delicate beauty, it is a hardy plant that grows four to six inches high and tolerates light shade. It got its name from the Russian botanist Count Apollos Apollosovich Mussin-Pushkin.



MARCH BUSINESS SALUTE: LINDA'S PLANTS

(From Sandra Nelson) When asked where we get our popular and beautiful plants for the LLFB, the garden design committee is always eager to share our sources. There are many in this area who have supported the flowering bridge project through donations, discounts, materials and expert advice.

Linda's Plants of Hendersonville is one of



our favorites. [See Kathy Tanner shopping there last year in this photo by Sandra Nelson.] Owned and operated by the same family

since 1984, Linda's provides beautiful annuals, vegetables, shrubs, and perennials. The family includes Joel and Lamonda McCraw and mom, Linda. One employee, Rosemary, might as well be family as she has been there for the past 13 years. They actually grow their plants on site from seed and cuttings.

Linda's Plants is located in their own apple orchard just 4 miles east of Hendersonville off Hwy 64 at 308 Stepp Acres Lane. They will officially open for business around April 1. But if you just can't wait, go ahead and stop in to see what they have. Tell them the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge team sent you.

LIKE Friends of the LLFB on Facebook



LLFB FEATURED IN *CAROLINA COUNTRY* MAGAZINE



More people will see the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge as it is featured in the April issue of *Carolina Country* magazine, a monthly consumer magazine reaching more than 650,000 families, businesses and farms across North Carolina. This magazine is

distributed by subscription to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

If you don't receive this magazine in the mail, you can see the April issue at CarolinaCountry.com on the Internet. *Carolina Country* reports a readership of more than 1.6 million.

In addition to the full-page article devoted to the LLFB, we are featured on the magazine's cover as one of our state's adventures to be savored.



Southeast U.S. native Beautyberry-Photo by Mike Lumpkin



NATIVES AND INVASIVES: THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU PLANT

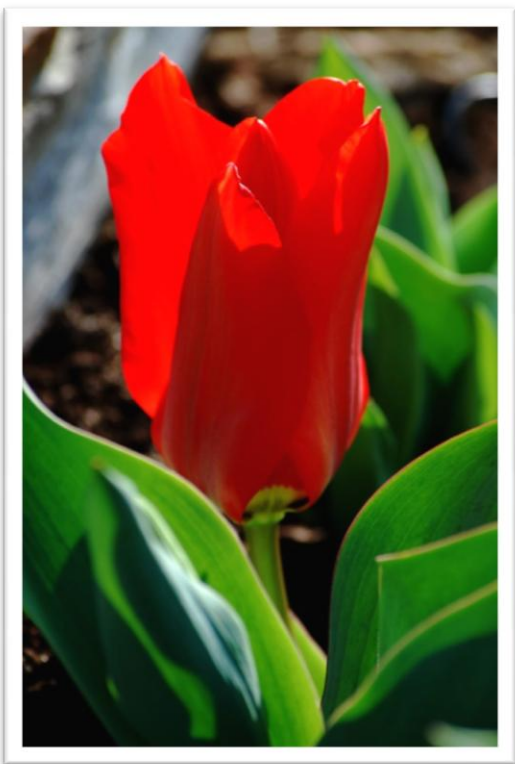
Before you design and plan your landscaping and gardens in the Gorge, it helps to learn what works best here and what to avoid. This knowledge can save money and protect our natural beauty.



Fortunately we have a good local information source that we turned to when planning the LLFB gardens. Clint Calhoun is Environmental Management Officer for the Town of Lake Lure. His office has produced resources that are available by request, such as the brochure, *Native Plant Recommendations for Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure*.

As a lifelong resident of our area and a botanist, Clint can steer you in the right direction so that your property plan both works for you and complies with local ordinances designed to protect the health of our natural environment. Contact Clint at Lake Lure Town Hall or email him at: eco@townoflakelure.com.

"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden...But though an old man, I am but a young gardener."
- Thomas Jefferson



Promise of Spring - Photo by Mike Lumpkin