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NEWS MAY 2014



FRIENDS OF LLFB HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge held the 2014 annual meeting May 19. We began with a dessert social, including coffee provided by Carolina Moon. The business meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Miller who recapped the story of this community project thus far. He and other board members shared past achievements and future plans, as well as financial information. We want the entire community to understand our organization thoroughly and with transparency. There were door prizes and an opportunity for new volunteers to sign up to become part of the ongoing maintenance and development of the gardens. Shannon Baldwin shared a draft plan for a proposed pedestrian bridge with the group.

Please let us know if a June meeting would fit your schedule better. We want to involve as many residents as possible in this annual gathering.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: KATHY TANNER

One of the founders that met in 2011 to begin the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge, Kathy Tanner is a now a member of the board and co-chair of the garden committee and the garden design group. No one gives more care and volunteer hours to the beautification and upkeep of the gardens than our Kathy. We tease that she keeps a sleeping bag in the shed, but that is untrue.



Kathy's story: *I grew up in Rock Hill, SC and Burlington, NC. I attended UNC Chapel Hill, where I met my husband Kenneth, graduated with a MA in Early Childhood Education and taught second grade.*

I learned a lot of my gardening from Kenneth's mom, Cathy Tanner, an incredible gardener and cook. I began with a shady little cottage garden at our first little house in Charlotte. Kenneth and I have 2 lovely daughters, Katie, 26, who lives in Greenville, SC, and Sally, 23, who lives in Denver, CO.

I learned a love of volunteering and giving from my mother. As our girls were growing up, I was a stay-at-home mom and community volunteer, at Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary as gardener, docent, creator of the Children's Programs, and President of the Wing Haven Society Board of Directors. I was a member of the Junior League of Charlotte, chaired committees, and served as Human Resources Vice President. I also volunteered at the girl's school, Charlotte Latin, and at the United States Pony Club as we all loved owning and riding horses. For 20 years we have had a small farm in Waxhaw, NC and had our horses at home.

We are so excited to be moving permanently to Lake Lure now. Kenneth grew up in Rutherfordton and on Lake Lure so he is thrilled to be coming home and I am so in love with this area it already feels like home. We are just finishing our barn here and the horses will be on highway 108 and we will be one happy family together again!

I just completed my Master Gardener class through the Rutherford County Extension Office and look forward to the new opportunity that this offers. It is an incredible experience with serious gardeners from all over the county. The Flowering Bridge prompted me to do this.

The Flowering Bridge has been such a rewarding, delightful, creative project. The volunteers are so much fun and visitors make us all grin from ear to ear every day. We go to work and relive the beauty of the garden every time through the eyes of people who are seeing it for the first time. The future is bright with opportunities, color, and imagination. ~ Thank you, Kathy, for all you do!



COMMUNITY DONOR OF THE MONTH: JEAN HAGMANN



We are very fortunate to have many generous businesses and artists in our area who give their support to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. This month we salute and thank Jean Hagmann, a talented local artist pictured above with the yellow benches in the west gardens which she decorated with flowers at our request. [Photo by Cheryl Taylor]

Jean's story: I was born and raised in Salem and Lynn, Massachusetts but have since lived around the U.S., including in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arizona, New Jersey, Florida and now, N. Carolina.

My father was French so I attended a French grammar school taught by Sisters from Canada. I started learning French in kindergarten into college where I decided to major in French and minor in Spanish. I have been teaching both languages for the past 20 years at both the high school and middle school levels in Minnesota, Florida and N. Carolina.

I have been married to Tom Hagmann for 25 years. I now have three married daughters, two step-sons and three young grandchildren.

From the time I was a young girl, I have always enjoyed art. When I was in my twenties, a neighbor invited me to take watercolor lessons from a woman in town. I decided to join her and have enjoyed watercoloring ever since.

After moving to Lake Lure during the summer of 2010, I joined the Lake Lure Artists. I enjoy getting together with the other artists because they inspire me to paint.

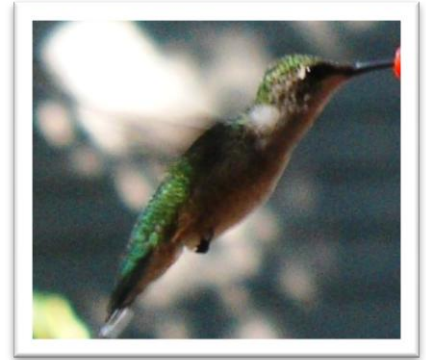
When I was asked to paint a design on the yellow bench and chairs on the Flowering Bridge, I was very flattered and thrilled to do so. I especially enjoy painting flowers so I decided to paint a variety of flowers in different colors as my design.

Besides watercoloring, I also enjoy playing the piano, dancing with the Lake Lure Cloggers and taking walks with my husband and Boston Terrier, Scooby.



HUMMINGBIRDS RETURN TO NORTH CAROLINA

As ruby-throated hummingbirds return to North Carolina from Southern Mexico and Central America, you can help them refuel after their long trip of more than 2000 miles. They will seek nectar in red tubular flowers. Many of the plants that attract them are

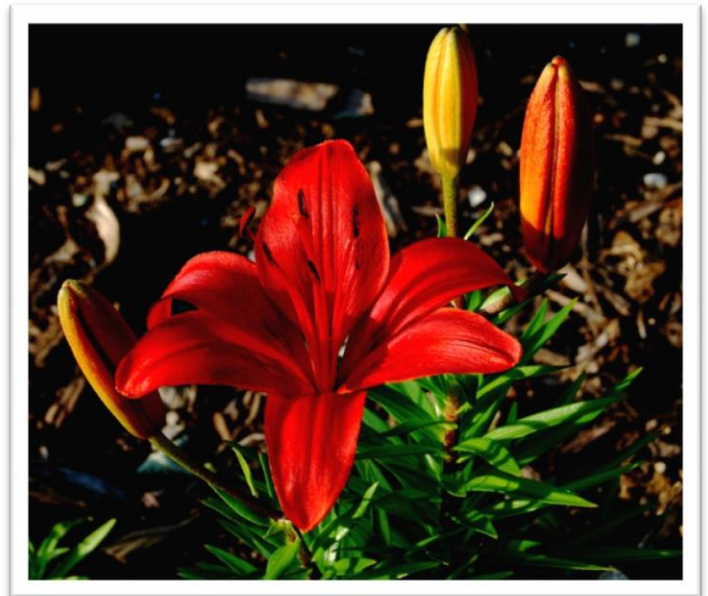


in our LLFB gardens. These include: red buckeye, red salvia, coral honeysuckle, native million bells, native columbine, lupine, foxglove, red hot poker, catmint, verbena, weigela, pineapple sage, buddleia, fire bush, and hyssop.

Did You Know?



With no tail wind or head wind, a ruby-throated hummingbird is said to fly at about 27 miles per hour. At this speed, the 500-mile flight across the Gulf of Mexico would take more than 18 hours. No wonder they need sustenance to recharge when they arrive in our backyards!



May blooms in the bridge gardens. Hummingbirds are attracted to red blossoms.

BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE IN OUR GARDENS NOW

You may notice butterflies fluttering among the plants in our gardens these days. They are attracted to the flowers there, of course, but did you know they also seek water as they move about? They slake their thirst in the edges of mud puddles rather than deeper ponds. Because their wings are delicate, they need to be able to light where their wings are not caught in the surface tension of water. You can find more information about "butterfly puddling ponds" on a special sign in the butterfly garden on the bridge.



*"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."
- Maya Angelou*



HAPPENINGS IN THE GORGE

As the saying goes, "we're all in this together." So we are joining with other groups to help spread community news throughout the Hickory Nut Gorge. Note these upcoming events:

Tuesday, June 3, 5:30-7:30PM - HNG Chamber after-hours event at April's Boutique in Chimney Rock Village. The event, Chamber Re-Charge, offers business owners and community members an opportunity to network, recharge their energy, enjoy live music, and a chance to win cash! To register, go to:

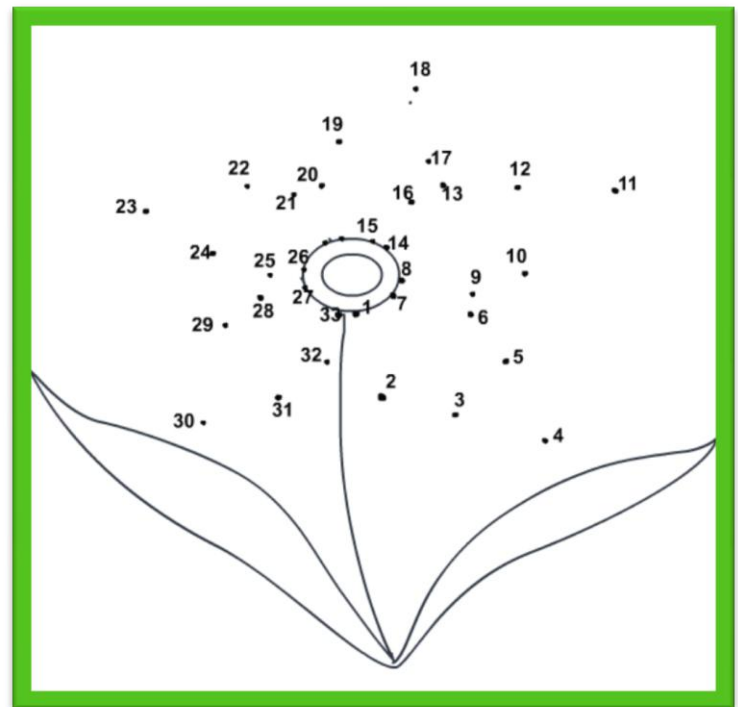
[Chamber Re-Charge](#)

Thursday, June 12, 6:30-8:30PM - Music Thursday with Grits & Soul at the Gathering Place in Chimney Rock Village. Americana "soulgrass" - steeped in country twang & drenched in Mississippi soul & blues. And, the Lake Lure Cloggers!

Sunday, June 22, 9:00AM-Noon - Riverwalk Invasive Plant Cleanup organized by Weed Action Coalition of Hickory Nut Gorge and Friends of Hickory Nut Gorge. Meet at Medina's. Bring water, a snack or lunch if you want to eat by the river, closed toed shoes, pants and a long sleeve shirt and sunscreen. We will remove non-native invasive plants such as privet, kudzu, and Japanese knotweed along the Rocky Broad River. We will cut and apply herbicide to medium and large species and hand pull smaller ones. All debris will need to be bagged. A safety briefing will be held beforehand to go over why invasives are bad, what exactly we will be doing, and how to stay safe while we do it. All equipment provided.

Kid's Korner

Daffy Dot-to-Dot from Susie Ellis



[All photos by Mike Lumpkin unless otherwise credited]