

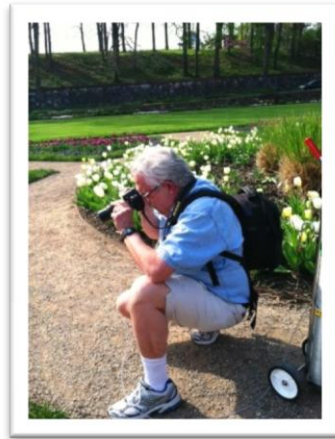


PO Box 125 Lake Lure NC 28746
Contact: leearmstrong16@gmail.com

NEWS JUNE 2014



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: MIKE LUMPKIN



Thanks to our Garden Co-Chair Sandra Nelson for an introduction to our June volunteer of the month: From the very inception of the Flowering Bridge project, there has been a handsome, convivial presence on hand to capture the essence of the work, camaraderie, joy, and dedication of all those involved. Mike Lumpkin has been there with his camera, framing and snapping each and

every picture with an eye for the unusual and beautiful in the gardens and among the workers and visitors who frequent them. We credit Mike with helping to give the LLFB the recognition it deserves. And now, we attempt to give back to Mike the love and appreciation he deserves. Thank you, Mike.

Mike's story in his own words:

I was an Army brat who ended up calling Clarksville, TN home. After a few years of a stop and go college career I joined the army myself, and that's where I first studied photography, if only briefly, at the Defense Information School. I spent about two and a half years in South Korea working for American Forces Radio and Television and took lots of pictures there and in Europe and Asia after I finished my three-year enlistment.

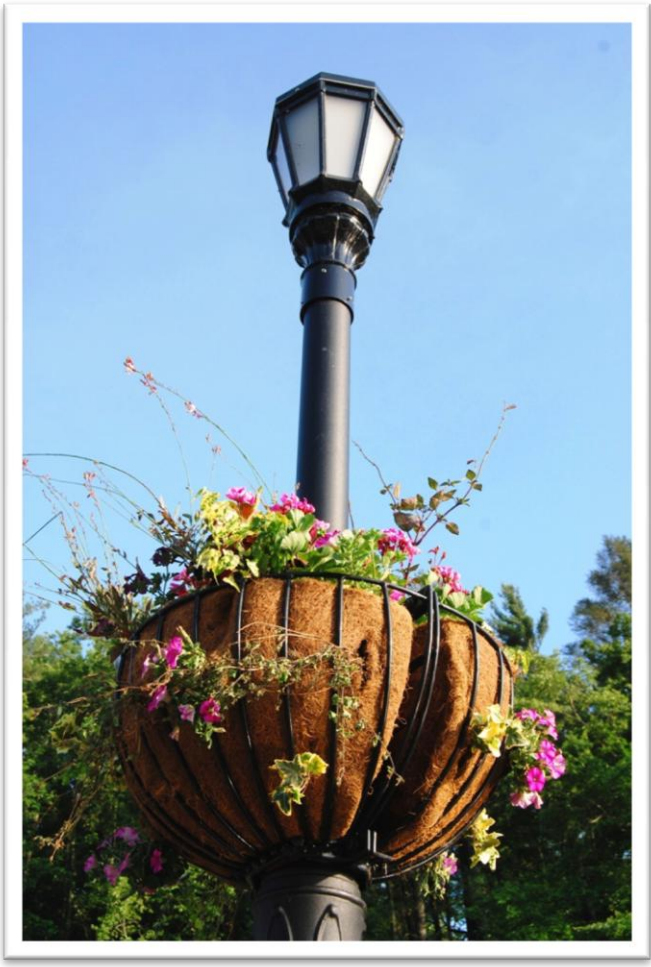
After I returned to the states I earned a degree in communications from UT Knoxville and went to work as a reporter/photographer at a TV station in Chattanooga.

I met and married Lee Armstrong in Chattanooga, where we worked at the same TV station. Later we moved to Dallas, TX and worked at different stations. That's where I left the TV news business and went to work for a company that makes software for broadcast newsrooms - so I didn't escape TV news entirely. For 21 years I installed computer systems in TV newsrooms around the world and taught journalists how to use the software. (In the process I learned enough about computers to make it possible for me to help with the Flowering Bridge website and our Facebook presence.) When I retired Lee gave me a new camera, and I've been trying to master it ever since.



We discovered Lake Lure in 2003 when we were both still working. Our house here was a weekend getaway from Charlotte then. Since retirement we spend a lot more time at the lake, but still live part time in Charlotte next door to our son and daughter-in-law.

I remember going to that first community meeting in 2011 and learning about plans for what became the Lake



[Photo by Mike Lumpkin]



DREAMS DO COME TRUE

As each new addition to the bridge gardens appears, from the smallest budding bloom to a lamp reflecting the bridge's history or a basket of flowers rising toward the sky, we see our dreams for this place coming true. Our mission is to **design, create and maintain a flowering pedestrian bridge across the Broad River ... for the joy and benefit of all who come our way.** Visitors tell us every day of the joy it brings.

Lure Flowering Bridge. Lee and I both loved the idea and wanted to help any way we could even though neither of us is a gardener. I took pictures of the old Bridge #7 that cold February day as the group walked across it and thought about what it might be. I've been photographing the bridge and its people ever since, and it's been a great pleasure.

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE MONTH: THE HICKORY NUT

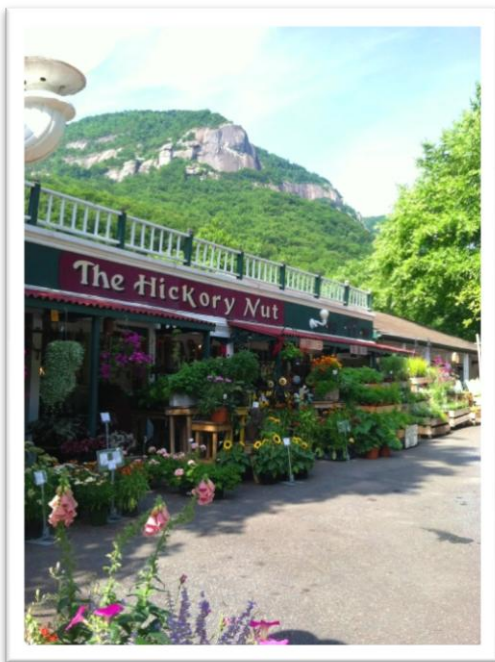
LLFB is happy to express our gratitude this month for the support of the partners who own and operate the Hickory Nut. We have worked with them since the early days of the LLFB, buying their plants and enjoying timely and gracious donations. In addition to the numerous plants

for our gardens and our plant sales, Shari, Bob and Max have given us a birdhouse that's in the East Garden and the yellow bench in the West Garden.

In business here for 17 years, the three Hickory Nut principals met in South Florida and have been growing herbs for 35 years, 21 of those as partners. They moved their business from Loxahatchee to the Hickory Nut Gorge and have been finding new ways to pursue their gardening ever since.

They now have a four-acre nursery near Worlds Edge Road and participate in three tailgate markets regularly -- Thursdays in Flat Rock behind the Wrinkled Egg 3-6pm, Fridays in downtown Saluda 3:30-6:30pm, and on Saturdays on King Street in Hendersonville 9am-Noon. They raise 90% of the plants they sell, attend horticultural shows and sell to the Hendersonville Co-op. They also have 200 chickens and sell eggs and have now had their kitchen certified to produce their salsa for sale.

At the Hickory Nut location on the river, you'll find all sorts of items for sale in addition to the plants, including rustic furniture they make. You might meet their furry assistants, too -- Sofee the cat and Sarah the Irish Setter-Golden Retriever mix. Drop by 7 days a week, 11am-6pm, browse the treasures and say hello.



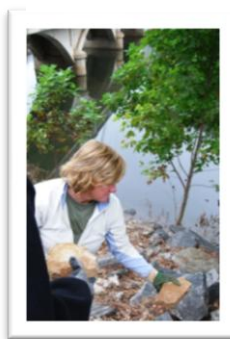
TOUR GROUPS ENJOY OUR GARDENS



[Photo by Alice Garrard]

On June 10, a tour group representing the Cabarrus Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and the Cabarrus Senior Photo Club (photo above) enjoyed a tour of the LLFB with docents Terry Ashley and Kathy Tanner. Thanks to Alice Garrard and Danny Holland, our Education Committee co-chairs, more tour groups are finding their way to the LLFB. Visitors can always enjoy and learn about the bridge gardens on their own, aided by the signage and maps provided. By contacting us through our website, Facebook or this newsletter, groups who want a docent-guided tour can arrange a date. While there is no charge, we do ask for a small donation from those wishing to have their tours guided by one of our knowledgeable volunteers.

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER FEATURES KATHY TANNER AND LLFB



Thanks to one of our founding supporters, John Anderson, also a contributor to the *Charlotte Observer*, the LLFB was featured in a story about our own Kathy Tanner's move from Waxhaw to Lake Lure full-time. News of our progress continues to spread far and wide. Here's a link to the article online:

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/06/17/4975014/flowering-bridge-has-touch-of.html#.U6FrhbZN3wI>

 **WHAT VISITORS ARE SAYING
ABOUT THE LAKE LURE
FLOWERING BRIDGE**

In case you've missed them, we share here excerpts from just a few comments made via our visitor books, website, Facebook page, newsletter and Trip Advisor.



- *"Such a lovely garden! Thanks to all who were part of making it a reality."* ~ MSO, Houston, TX
- *"I just overheard a little girl say, 'Wow! This is butterfly heaven.'" ~ CBT*
- *"Charming! Thank you very much."* ~ EY, Ukraine
- *"Great use of an old resource."* ~ S&D, Land O' Lakes, FL
- *"On the way to Chimney Rock we turned around when we saw all the flowers. Beautiful*

place with so many cute features." ~ PF, Leipzig, Germany.

- *"Loved the way they have made something delightful out of an old bridge. ~ Joyce C*
- *"It's very nice! Super" ~ FL, France*
- *"I am a huge fan of the Lake Lure area. I planned a nice romantic evening at the Lake Lure Inn, located just minutes away from the bridge. I proposed to my girlfriend on the Flowering Bridge, so it is very sentimental to me. " ~ Greg O, Centerville, Ohio*
- *"Just wanted to take this opportunity to tell you how much we enjoyed walking through your Lake Lure Flowering Bridge Gardens. Everything was just beautiful and you had to look so carefully to take it all in." ~ Ellen & Al Bernstein*



Willy the Potman now greets visitors in the Chimney Rock end of the gardens. This creative touch was a gift from our Lake Lure Flowering Bridge neighbor, Patsy Cook of Four Seasons Cottages.

 **GARDEN HIGHLIGHT:
NORTH CAROLINA
WILDFLOWERS OF THE YEAR**



Green-head Coneflower
NC Wildflower of the Year 1995
[Photo by Mike Lumpkin]

Two of the garden beds on the LLFB feature North Carolina Wildflowers of the Year. Our collection of these wildflowers is one of the state's largest.

The Wildflower of the Year program is co-sponsored by the North Carolina Botanical Garden at UNC-Chapel Hill and the Garden Club of North Carolina to promote the use of native plants in the home garden. Each year since 1982, a showy native perennial has been chosen and tens of thousands of gardeners have received the seeds of that wildflower. To receive a brochure and seeds of the current North Carolina Wildflower of the Year (available in mid- to late-February) send a self-addressed, stamped business-letter envelope to 2014 NCWFOY, North Carolina Botanical Garden, Campus Box 3375, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27599. For more information and to view a list of the past thirty-three years of the North Carolina Wildflower of the Year, visit the Garden's website: ncbg.unc.edu

See our website at
www.lakelurefloweringbridge.com



"The earth laughs in flowers."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson