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NEWS  **SEPTEMBER 2014**



This photo from LLFB Chair Bill Miller is one he calls "A Bridge for All Ages." The children are his grandchildren and a friend, all of whom see the wonder and magic in our garden over water.

 **LLFB IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION**

The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge has joined with more than 500 other public gardens throughout the U.S. as a member of the American Public Gardens Association. The purpose of the APGA is advancement and diffusion of a knowledge and love of plants. Its diverse members include parks, botanical gardens, college campuses, cemeteries, zoos and others, supporting each other through sharing information and ideas to better serve visitors. Members are in all 50 states, as well as Canada and many other countries.

 **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: GENEVA MATTEIS**

We are delighted to honor Geneva Matteis as our Volunteer of the Month for September. In Saundra Nelson's words: *As blessed as the Flowering Bridge is to have so many wonderful volunteers, some year round, others part of the year, we are especially blessed to have ones who are knowledgeable and dedicated to the sometimes dirty and sweaty work it requires. What strikes me most about Geneva is, she's all this but somehow manages to always smile and look beautiful, too!* [Photo by Saundra Nelson]



Geneva's Story in her own words:

I have always been interested in gardening. My Dad raised a vegetable garden big enough to carry us through the seasons until next garden time. My least favorite job helping him was hoeing corn.

Mom always had a colorful flower garden which I loved. I guess growing "things" rubbed off on me. I cannot imagine living without planting something and caring for it.

I live in Florida part of the year in a condo so my gardening is basically limited to containers. (I do sneak a plant in the ground now and then.) However, it is here on my little piece of the Carolina mountains that I get to satisfy my "need" to play in the dirt.

A neighbor, Lynn Lang, invited me to come to the bridge and help out earlier this summer and I am so happy she did. Besides enjoying gardening on the Bridge, I have found a wonderful group of new friends. Thanks, Lynn!



"Scarlet blossoms are the fiery glow in Nature's palette."

~ Anonymous [Photo by Mike Lumpkin]



The green-headed coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*) is native to North Carolina. [Photo by Mike Lumpkin]

FRIENDS OF HNG REINFORCE BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

The mission of the Friends of the Hickory Nut Gorge (FHNG) is to "advocate for the natural beauty, biodiversity and wildlife habitat, along with the ecological health and integrity of Hickory Nut Gorge." In their most recent meeting, Bill Jones of Carolina Natives Nursery shared his expertise about the value of native plants and the need to avoid invasive plants when gardening.

- Native plants are environmentally friendly, requiring no pesticides.
- They promote biodiversity while replacing invasive plants.
- Because they adapted over time to local climate and conditions, they are hardy.
- They help to restore ecosystems and provide food and shelter for native wildlife

FHNG meets on the third Wednesday each month at the Lake Lure Inn at 6:00 PM. If you are interested in joining to participate and learn, the next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 15. Nina Veveto of Monarch Rescue will discuss creating Monarch butterfly habitat.

For more information, go to [Friends of Hickory Nut Gorge](#) or see them on Facebook.

WE SALUTE PARTON LUMBER COMPANY FOR ITS SUPPORT

The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge thrives in the gracious environment of an embracing and nurturing community. Our thanks to Parton Lumber Company in Rutherfordton for their generous and helpful support in the development and continuing maintenance of the LLFB Gardens. Founded in 1948, Parton Lumber is now owned and managed by the family's third generation, brothers Patrick and Furman Parton.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE FLOWERING BRIDGE

PLANTER PRESENTATIONS

- (11am on the bridge; cancelled if it rains)
Sept. 30 - Songbird, Hummingbird, & Butterfly Garden (Lynn Lang)
October 7 - Wildflower Gardens (Kathy Tanner, Marta Campbell)
October 14 - Whimsical Garden (Saundra Nelson)

GARDEN TALK

- (11am on the bridge; if it rains, meet at Town Hall)
October 10 - How to Prepare Your Garden for Winter (Mary Ann Brown)

WORKSHOPS

- (Both begin at 10am; bring your own materials)
October 15 - Pumpkin People (Kathy Tanner)
October 29 - Fairy Gardens (Lynn Lang)



Fairy garden from 2013. Come create your own October 29!
[Photo by Saundra Nelson]

LLFB FEATURED IN RUTHERFORD TRAVEL GUIDE

The Official 2014-2015 Rutherford County Travel Guide is available with the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge featured. Take a look for yourself with this link: [Rutherford County Travel Guide](#).

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