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NEWS



January 2015

Thanks to Janet Walters Welcome New Board Members Linda Turner and Marily Floyd

Changes come with each new year. The Friends of Lake Lure Flowering Bridge board has changes to note as 2015 gets under way. Janet Walters is leaving the board after serving as our first Treasurer. Linda Turner joins us as Treasurer and Marily Floyd joins us to fill an open board position.



Janet was actively engaged from LLFB's beginning and has served with loyalty and integrity. She insured that our funds are handled with diligence and best stewardship practices, including

outside auditing and strict adherence to appropriate policies. As she steps back from Board service, she assures us she will continue to volunteer in the gardens. **Hats off to Janet with our gratitude for laying a firm foundation for us. She is a true Friend of LLFB.**

Janet and her husband Jim have both been active volunteers, so we're lucky they will be part of the continuing development of the gardens.

Linda Turner assumes the Treasurer's position, becoming a voting Board member from her previous role as an ex-officio board advisor. We are thrilled to have Linda's wisdom and experience. She and her husband Woody have been active volunteer leaders in the Hickory Nut Gorge since they retired here in 2002. Linda has served as a member of the Lake



Lure Town Council (2007-2011) and is now a member of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Town's Land Asset Management Task Force.

Linda says: *Woody and I enjoy golf (he's SO much better than I am), and I enjoy ringing and singing with the Chapel choirs. Volunteering at the Library and the Rutherford County Humane Society Thrift Shop bring me pleasure and a great opportunity to meet new people.*



We welcome new Board member Marily Floyd who has devoted many hours to the LLFB gardens as a volunteer. *[Marily also describes herself as "camera shy," so she's represented by the garden hat at right rather than by a photo of herself.]* She and her husband have been residents of Lake Lure since 1999. She describes herself as "a nature nut" who loves everything about our "paradise of beauty" in the Hickory Nut Gorge. Marily now joins our Board as chair of the Membership Committee. We look forward to having her energy and enthusiasm on the Board.

Marily says: *We discovered Lake Lure on a family timeshare vacation exchange in 1988. We were living in Greensboro and couldn't find soul who had even heard of Lake Lure. One week in heaven and we knew we would end up here eventually.*

I love to work (plant, weed, deadhead, etc) on the Bridge and welcome/answer questions for visitors. They all have one thing in common...they leave with a smile on their face and usually with a promise to come back. The Flowering Bridge is a WIN for everybody. Does it get better than that? The LLFB folks are a special breed, and I am honored to be a part of that team. As you can see I'd rather talk about the Bridge than me!

When winter comes, it brings a beauty all its own.

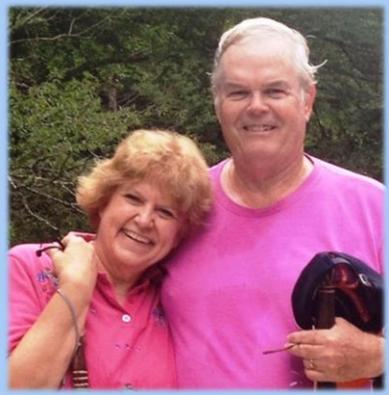


Alice Garrard recently shared an Arthur Ashe quote that seems appropriate to the story of the LLFB:

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."



Volunteers of the Month: Bill and Paige Massey



We happily honor Bill and Paige Massey as our Volunteers of the Month. Gardens Co-chair Sandra Nelson says: "Whenever a new volunteer joins our team on the LLFB, we are always excited, especially

when they are enthusiastic and bring new energy and ideas. Sometimes we get double the luck and receive more 'bang for our buck' when it's a married couple. This is the case with Bill and Paige Massey. They are such fun people to get to know and work with."

Paige tells their story: *Bill and I have loved the Lake Lure area for over 30 years! An introduction at the South Florida Fair enticed Bill, a native Floridian, to visit and buy property in 1978 and we have been enraptured ever since. We were just visitors until we retired as teachers after 37 years and found a more permanent place in Lake Lure in 2012.*

We have both shared a love for growing a variety of plants from fruits and vegetables to orchids, hibiscus, and frangipani but mainly in tropical settings. We have experimented with hydroponics and created garden railroads, but we were still eager to learn more. North Carolina plants were quite different from those familiar to us.

As we were getting settled we became totally mesmerized by the Bridge project as it took shape and we so much wanted to help but we were still coming and going from Florida. When we finally met the Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge we found ourselves surrounded with such an amazing group of people. We were impressed with their knowledge, energy, and the time taken to create a timeless masterpiece of beauty to enrich everyone that shared it as a visitor or volunteer. We were struck by the possibility of creating breathtaking beauty anywhere, even on a historic bridge others thought had passed its usefulness and needed to be demolished.

Knowing we had so much to learn, we asked if we could volunteer. Much to our amazement we were told yes and were introduced to the most wonderful group of friends. We feel totally blessed to have been able share in some small way in the creation of such a place of wonder, magic and beauty which is the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge.



Get Your LLFB Auto Plate

You can get a Lake Lure Flowering Bridge vehicle plate for your car for a donation of just \$10.



Help spread the word about our special place wherever you drive. To order, email us at llfb@bellsouth.net.



Ideas for Your Garden

One of the comments we hear often as visitors enjoy the bridge gardens is "I could use that idea in my garden at home." There are, of course, great tips on how to help plants grow, but those extra touches are the "the icing on the cake."



We recently shared a link on our Facebook page from local artist and LLFB volunteer Veryle Lynn Cox. She found a wonderful article about how to repurpose old doors in gardens, adding shape and color highlights, at Plant Care Today's website. Take a look at their creative

ideas at PLANTCARETODAY.COM.

We now have more than 1100 followers on our Friends of Lake Lure Flowering Bridge Facebook page. If you are not one of them, please join us to keep up with developments on the LLFB.



2015 LLFB Calendars Available



As we fast approach February, a few copies of the 2015 LLFB calendars are still available. Now you can

have a beautiful calendar to enjoy our blooms all year long for a just a \$10 donation. Contact Janet Walters via email at gullahgal@gmail.com.



"January is the quietest month in the garden. ... But just because it looks quiet doesn't mean that nothing is happening. The soil, open to the sky, absorbs the pure rainfall while microorganisms convert tilled-under fodder into usable nutrients for the next crop of plants. The feasting earthworms tunnel along, aerating the soil and preparing it to welcome the seeds and bare roots to come."

~ Rosalie Muller Wright

The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge has been recognized as a *Certified Wildlife Habitat* by the National Wildlife Federation. LLFB is a member of the American Public Gardens Association.