



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

NEWS March 2015

ORDER YOUR SPRING PLANTS BY APRIL 20TH AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF LLFB



You're invited to order from our Spring Plant Sale until Monday, April 20. **This year all sales will be pre-paid using the forms accompanying this newsletter.** Order info is also available on our website and at several locations in the Hickory Nut Gorge.

In addition to the funds we raise at this sale, your new or renewed membership helps insure that our gardens continue to flourish. This year we are offering shrubs, perennials and vines, highlighting plants that are growing in our gardens, like the pineapple sage (*pictured top right*) in the herb garden. In addition, you can order the multi-floral containers we've had each year. A small quantity of those will also be available on our **pickup date, Saturday, May 2**. They will make wonderful Mother's Day presents. Questions? Contact Marily Floyd via email at mountain.floyd@gmail.com.

This is an important fundraising project for the Friends of LLFB. Join now or renew your membership in the Friends when you pick up your plants and receive a free packet of zinnia seeds. Whatever you can donate is both needed and appreciated. Even if you don't buy plants you can join now or renew your membership online at LakeLureFloweringBridge or with a check to: Friends of LLFB at PO Box 125, Lake Lure NC 28746.

Among the many plants on our list for the plant sale are pineapple sage and azaleas. We've heard many compliments about the pineapple sage (*salvia elegans*) in our gardens. A late season bloomer, the brilliant red color of pineapple sage attracts hummingbirds.



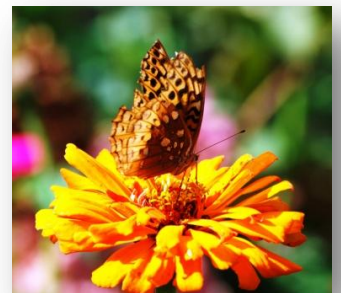
This plant got its name because when you touch it the scent of pineapple stays with you.

Azaleas are favorites in gardens throughout our area. Classified in the genus *Rhododendron*, they are sometimes called "the royalty of the garden." There are at least 26 species of azaleas native to North America. In addition to their beauty, azaleas will also attract both hummingbirds and butterflies to your garden.



NEW FLOWER BEDS TO BLOOM IN THE WEST GARDENS

You can see the beginning of new beds on the Chimney Rock end of the gardens. The swale between the bridges is now home not only to our fishing boat garden, but soon zinnias will appear in beds designed to delight both garden guests and passing motorists. Our Garden Design team of volunteers shows their creativity once again with their use of color and symmetry. One bed, in the shape of the familiar ribbon that is a tribute to women with breast cancer, will be filled with pink zinnias. An added joy with zinnias is evident above-- they are butterfly magnets!





VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: LEE ARMSTRONG LUMPKIN

Thanks to Kathy Tanner for this very kind introduction: Lee is one of those people who has a smile every time you see her. She could be bending over weeding or planting at the bridge, or concentrating on the computer she uses to weave her word magic. Her sweetness is infectious, making you want to just pull up a chair and visit. We at the Flowering Bridge have been very fortunate that she shares her time and talent with us (not to mention her very talented husband and photographer!). In a very quiet and understated way, Lee has helped to make the Flowering Bridge come into many households and publications. Thank you, Lee, for your dedication, time, intelligence and talent!



Lee's story: I love gardens, but have very limited gardening skills. I grew up with the scent of my mother's gardenias at our doorstep and the tastes from my father's vegetable garden gracing our supper table. Sadly, I didn't inherit their green thumbs. Now I find myself in the company of the wonderful gardeners who have brought the vision of a blooming bridge to life.

Born in Atlanta, I was raised in other Southern places where my father was assigned in his work with the US Postal Service. We returned to Atlanta when I entered high school. That's where a love of writing took hold and I knew I wanted to go to journalism school. After some fits and starts, I graduated from Georgia State University and began a 39-year career in editorial and television work, ending as a VP/General Manager for TV stations in Charlotte. I am blessed with a great partner, my husband Mike, and a wonderful son, Michael, whose talented wife, Heather, designed the LLFB logo.

Mike and I were looking for a vacation home in the mountains in 2003 and saw a sign for Lake Lure on Highway 74. We followed NC 9 until we saw the lake stretched out before us and fell in love with it. We found our home off Boys Camp Road and spent at least two weekends a month here until we retired in 2007. Now we pop back and forth between the lake and Charlotte regularly when we're not traveling elsewhere.

When we heard about the idea of turning a bridge into a garden, we were charmed by the concept and were hooked at the first meeting. Since then we've volunteered to dig a little, carry some rocks, and put the monthly newsletter together. Mike has taken hundreds of pictures and spread the word on our website and Facebook. I tell

anyone whose ear I can bend that this is the best community project I've ever seen. My respect for the accomplishments of our volunteers is immense and my joy in the friends we've made deepens day by day. This is more than a bridge and more than a garden; it is a living definition of community. The writer Clare Ansberry said it well: "Gardens and flowers have a way of bringing people together, drawing them from their homes." (From The Women of Troy Hill)



Our gardens are a great place to meet the nicest people while getting great exercise and enjoying the satisfaction of digging in the earth and creating beauty. Thanks Nancy, Kathy, Hayward, Susie, Danny, Alice, Lee, Aileen and Patrick for a good day's work, fun and laughter. [Photo by Mike Lumpkin]



Kids' Korner

from Susie Ellis

WORD FIND - SPRING IS HERE!

S	H	G	W	P	G	M	O	W	T	G	X	I	A	S
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B	T	D	L	Y	E	X	M	I	H	T	O	S	K	A
W	Y	Q	I	F	N	B	Y	Y	R	T	D	L	E	
S	N	O	W	D	R	O	P	S	C	E	M	K	N	L
B	P	M	Y	H	P	E	R	I	R	O	I	D	T	A
U	I	S	S	X	Y	O	T	I	Q	N	J	A	W	Z
Z	S	K	S	D	F	A	A	T	H	K	K	F	P	A
Z	U	J	U	R	O	W	C	B	U	F	N	F	L	Q
U	X	D	P	Z	O	O	M	I	I	B	W	O	E	N
T	U	L	I	P	S	B	W	R	N	M	J	D	P	O
K	R	V	Z	G	D	P	I	G	F	T	E	I	P	S
P	V	L	Y	V	S	S	M	N	O	Y	H	L	R	X
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AZALEAS
BUTTERFLIES
CROCUS
DAFFODIL
DOGWOOD
FORSYTHIA
GREEN
HYACINTHS

IRIS
PRIMROSE
PUSSYWILLOW
ROBIN
SNOWDROPS
TULIPS
WISTERIA