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NEWS   **April 2015**

 **PICK UP YOUR PLANTS
 THIS SATURDAY, MAY 2
 10:00AM - 4:00 PM**

Thanks to everyone who supported the bridge by ordering from this year's LLFB Plant Sale. You can pick up your plants at the Chimney Rock end of the Bridge Saturday from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM. **Late to the party? A handful of plants is available for sale or we can take some orders.**



 **OUR BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE
 NOW FEATURED IN
 OUR STATE MAGAZINE**



Readers across North Carolina and beyond are reading about the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge in the May 2015 issue of *Our State* magazine. The article (on page 30) about our "bloomin' bridge" is a terrific

tribute to the achievement of our volunteers. These dedicated folks have created and continue to maintain our "Gateway to Somewhere Beautiful." Thanks to all who are bringing our vision both to those who visit here and those who are learning about us from afar.

 **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH:
 MARILY FLOYD**

We are delighted to honor Marily Floyd as this month's Volunteer of the Month. She has been a committed and tireless volunteer in the gardens, then joined our Board recently and volunteered to chair the annual LLFB Plant Sale. Whatever the task, she brings her wisdom, enthusiasm, energy and an inspirational joy with her. Marily's story: We discovered Lake Lure on a family timeshare vacation exchange in 1988. We were living in Greensboro and after one week in the heaven that is Lake Lure, we knew we would end up here eventually. We even looked at a few lots off dirt roads toward the end of that convincing week of incredible mountain beauty, wildlife and a lake that does lure you back again and again.



We came back almost every year after that first visit and in 1997 we finally bought a lot we had looked at 1988. (The dirt road had been paved and the for sale signs were shiny and new and so was the lot price!) We built a house in Apple Valley Forest and moved here permanently in 1999, as soon as our younger child started college. We plan to be here for many moons!

I am a nature nut... gardening, walking, hiking, out on the lake... just not enough time to do everything. When Sandra asked if I wanted to work on the Flowering Bridge, it wasn't a decision, it was a calling. This area is a paradise of beauty every season, and the Flowering Bridge is a perfect example, as well as a tremendous asset for this area. The Bridge itself is such an incredible bonding agent. It bonds the entire Hickory Nut Gorge community. It bonds every visitor that just HAS to stop and walk this unbelievable trail of 12 gardens. And all the people who tend these gardens and all of their needs are ALL VOLUNTEERS. The plants and necessary supplies are financed with donations. 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. Often they will thank me for my work, but I quickly smile and ask if they can call "playing in the dirt" in all this beauty "work"? 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 part of the team.





COMING SOON: A UNIQUE MURAL TO GRACE OUR GARDENS



Thanks to an idea brought forward by Veryle Lynn Cox, then brainstormed by our Garden Design team and the talents of local artists, yet another innovation is coming to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge gardens. First volunteers were asked to help find used doors that could be repurposed. Then a small group stepped up to paint and seal the doors. **Veryle Lynn Cox** and **Amy Wald** graciously agreed to create a mural across 5 doors, sketching out a "paint-by-number" scene.



Next a painting party was held in the Chimney Rock Fire Department building. Members of the Lake Lure Artists Club and LLFB volunteers came together to begin filling in the design. The process continues with a

plan to install this unique piece in the gardens soon. Keep an eye out for our garden mural. *[Photos of volunteer painters from Alice Garrard and Kathy Tanner.]*



LLFB INFORMATION NOW IN VISITOR CENTERS ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA

Thanks to a generous donor who chooses to remain anonymous, the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge rack cards have been sent to North Carolina Visitor Centers across the state. We have already had requests to send more cards to a couple of the locations.



LAKE LURE FLOWERING BRIDGE
P.O. BOX 125
LAKE LURE, NC 28746

SPECIAL MESSAGE



**FROM
FRIENDS OF LAKE LURE
FLOWERING BRIDGE
CHAIRMAN BILL MILLER**

Dear Friends,

It is an exciting time around our Flowering Bridge. The gardens are exploding with color, new plants are going in the beds, mulch is being spread and LLFB Friends volunteers are hard at work amidst growing crowds of visitors. Our story was featured in the May issue of *Our State Magazine* and it is bringing in people from all over NC.

At the same time we are preparing to open our Sensory Garden for the Blind and Visually Impaired in June. This project, done in partnership with Lake Lure Lions Club, will be the first of its kind in the Carolinas and will bring in hundreds of visually impaired persons to enjoy the "Gateway to Somewhere Beautiful." Thanks to a special gift from Dr. Troy Tevis and Tri-City Optometric Eye Care, all visitors to the gardens this summer will be able to enjoy a guided tour on their personal cell phones. We are also working with the Town of Lake Lure to expand the gardens on the west end of the bridge.

Obviously, all this cannot happen without a lot of volunteer help. We can all be proud of the fact that this amazing, widely admired beautification project was designed, built and is maintained totally by community volunteers. It speaks so highly of the great people here. However, we need many more Friends of the Bridge to give a couple of hours a week to help in the gardens. We work every Tuesday and Thursday. Will you please consider joining the Garden Team as we prepare the gardens for an estimated 35,000 visitors this year? Being there working among and visiting with our guests will bless you and them.

Finally, we all know that plants and gardens are expensive. We also know that the Flowering Bridge is run totally on voluntary donations. Visitor donations last year were excellent, but our development goals for this year cannot be reached without additional financial support from The Friends of LLFB. If you have not already done so, I hope that you will consider making a special tax deductible donation and renewing your membership as a Friend of the Bridge for 2015.

As one visitor wrote last fall: "Beautiful! Absolutely stunning! Thanks for all the work you put into it!" Last year thousands of people from 32 countries enjoyed the same experience. Will you help to continue the blessings with a little volunteer time and financial support? Please send your donation to the address in the box on this page. Your gift will be deeply appreciated and wisely used.

Let's keep growing,
Bill Miller