



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

## NEWS June 2015

From Flag Day on June 14 through Independence Day on July 4,  
we celebrate our country in its 239th year.



### THANKS FOR MAKING OUR GARDEN GATHERING A GREAT SUCCESS



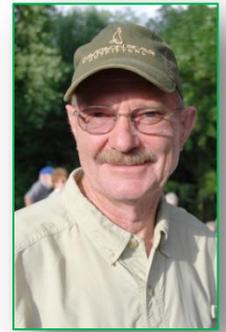
Bill Miller with artist Amy Drum

When our Membership Chair Marily Floyd turned the annual meeting of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge into a garden party, friends came to enjoy an evening under the trees with a cool breeze and only a drop or two of rain. The emphasis of our gathering was to honor our volunteers and we did. Everyone enjoyed the delicious snacks provided, including the amazing zinnia-decorated cake from Gerard Stuvé. We were surprised with a gift from artist Amy Drum who brought us a barn quilt representing the bridge. [Learn more about Amy later in this newsletter.] LLFB Board Chair Bill Miller engaged the younger members of the group in a scavenger hunt through the gardens and shared plans for the gardens with the group. [More photos on page 3.] We are developing an audio tour with special emphasis on the needs of visually impaired visitors who come to experience the LLFB as a sensory garden.



### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: BOBBY LANG

We are delighted to honor Bobby Lang as our Volunteer of the Month for June. Kathy Tanner says, "Bobby has been a fabulous new member of the Infrastructure team. He has joined in with everything from watering, to irrigation, to installing doors and caring for plants." *Bobby's Story* (as told by wife Lynn): Bobby was born in Winter Haven, FL. While attending Winter Haven High School he discovered his love for the sport of high school track.



He was rewarded with a scholarship to the University of Florida (UF), where he excelled as a middle distance runner. During his third year at the university, he joined the National Guard. After basic training, he came back to Winter Haven, met his future wife Lynn on a blind date, then went back to UF to finish his degree.

Beginning as a young man of 12, he spent his summers working for his dad's irrigation company, specializing in orange grove irrigation design and installation of turbine pumps. After graduating from UF, he came back to Winter Haven to work at Grower's Service Company with his dad. When his dad retired, Bobby took over the business and eventually became sole owner. He retired in 2013. Ag Services Company bought his business and still retains his expertise to design plans for irrigation installation.

He has been an avid fisherman, fly fishing in salt and fresh water, enjoys wood working and now is a volunteer at the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. He has thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with the great volunteers.



Bobby and his wife Lynn (also an LLFB volunteer) have been married for 44 years. They have three daughters and three grandsons, all living in Florida. Bobby and Lynn have had a home in the Bat Cave area for 8 years. The

home was purchased for a vacation place, but since retiring they now spend a glorious six months of the year here. They love having family come to visit and explore this beautiful area, their home in the Hickory Nut Gorge.

## TRIP ADVISOR AWARDS LLFB FOR EXCELLENCE



★★★★★ Our Lake Lure Flowering Bridge has been awarded a Trip Advisor 2015 five-star Certificate of Excellence. This welcome news comes as no surprise

after reading some of the responses we find in our guest books. Truly the "Gateway to Somewhere Beautiful" continues to be enjoyed by many, including people from all 50 states and many other countries.

## GARDEN DECOR WORKSHOP

Visitors to the LLFB gardens often ask about the decorative items tucked in among the plants. Recently some of our regular volunteers (after working several hours on the gardens) took a trip with artist Veryle Lynn Cox to Edneyville to pick out some concrete garden pieces that they might add to their own gardens. An impromptu workshop followed in which Veryle Lynn then led them through the process of treating their pieces for longer outdoor life. As Marily Floyd reports, the group picked out items that were "inexpensive, but HEAVY" and it was "just another amazing day on the bridge."



## LLFB GROUP TOURS



We are hosting garden clubs, church groups, retirement communities and others for tours of the bridge gardens. If you know a group that wants a tour, contact our Education Committee leaders, Alice Garrard or Danny Holland. You can email your request to [alicegrrrd@gmail.com](mailto:alicegrrrd@gmail.com) or [dbholland@bellsouth.net](mailto:dbholland@bellsouth.net). Be sure to include any specific needs your group might have. Tours are free. Donations are always welcome.

LIKE US ON [FACEBOOK](#).

## MEET AMY DRUM OUR BARN QUILT DONOR

The Friends of Lake Lure Flowering Bridge were both surprised and grateful by the surprise delivery of our very own barn quilt from artist Amy Drum. Her vision of the bridge shows a large blossom surrounded by the iconic balusters of the LLFB.



Amy tells us that Deborah Thompson is the lady who initiated the presentation of our barn quilt. Deborah is an event planner who lives in Gerton. Her sister, florist Cathy Hawkins, asked Amy to paint the barn quilt for LLFB. We welcomed Amy and Deborah to our garden party and deeply appreciate the gift of the barn quilt to be displayed in our gardens.

Amy founded Rutherford County Barn Quilts. She has been painting barn quilts for almost 4 years and also teaches workshops. She has started Rutherford County's first barn quilt trail in her hometown of Cliffside where her art studio is located. Her vision is to spread these barn quilts throughout important places in Rutherford County that matter. Amy says, "The bridge is definitely one of those places."

## CELEBRATE THE FOURTH WITH FIREWORKS ON FRIDAY, JULY 3RD

Celebrate the birth of our country from two of the best vantage points in Western North Carolina--Morse Park and the Lake Lure Beach in downtown Lake Lure.

The family-friendly celebration starts at 5 p.m. on Friday, July 3, 2015 and is open to the public. *Fireworks begin around 9 p.m. The Beach will close at 6 p.m. and reopen free to the public for viewing the fireworks show at 8*



*p.m.* This annual event is sponsored and presented by the Chamber of Hickory Nut Gorge, the Town of Lake Lure, and Chimney Rock Village.

The Chamber will be selling baked goods and snack food next to the Welcome Center. There will also be ice cream, snow cones, funnel cakes for sale in the food court in front of the Arcade building across from the beach. Bring your blanket, chairs, family, and friends for a fun evening in Lake Lure. The event is free, however, sale items help the community provide the yearly fireworks show at no charge to the public.



 **SCENES FROM THE GARDEN PARTY**

Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy our 2015 Annual Meeting and Garden Party. It was a joyous evening to celebrate the gardens and especially the volunteers who keep the beauty growing!

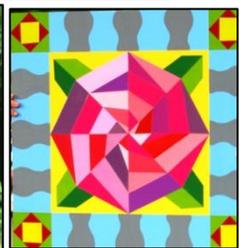
 **VOLUNTEER WITH LLFB**

Each day visitors enjoy scenes like the one above as the mountains above and waters below are a backdrop to a myriad of blooms. What keeps the bridge gardens looking so beautiful? OUR VOLUNTEERS! Join us and find the joy of digging in the dirt with friends. Come to the bridge any Tuesday or Thursday around 10:00 AM. To be added to our volunteer corps and receive advance notice of volunteer activities, contact Garden Chair Kathy Tanner at [kathyt3@gmail.com](mailto:kathyt3@gmail.com).



 **PUT ON YOUR HAWAIIAN SHIRT AND YOUR GRASS SKIRT!**

The Chamber of Hickory Nut Gorge invites you to an authentic Hawaiian beach luau on the shore of Lake Lure, **July 15 from 7-10PM** at the Lake Lure Beach. They are calling it a "Lurau" (Lake Lure + Luau). The cost is \$30 for adults, \$15 for children 12 and under. A giant Hawaiian food buffet featuring Hawaiian-style pulled pork, chicken and baked fish. Entertainment by The Big Kahuna Hawaiian DJ and the He'olina Leo Ka Ke Aloha Dance Troupe performing and teaching traditional hula dancing. Go to the HNG Chamber [website](#) for more information.



"A garden to walk in and immensity to dream in... what more could he ask? A few flowers at his feet and above him the stars."



~Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

Thanks to Mike Lumpkin for most of our photos!