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**THANK YOU FOR THE MANY WAYS
 YOU HELPED
 OUR LLFB GARDENS
 BLOOM AND GROW IN 2015**

We are extremely grateful for the support of our 2015 donors. As you will see in the items below, donations are made in many different ways. All donations are welcome. They provide the money needed to buy plants and fertilizer and all the many other things needed to keep the gardens beautiful and healthy. Both cash and in-kind donations show the engagement of our community in this venture as well as the appreciation of so many who enjoy walking the path and breathing in the beauty.

The largest category of cash gifts came from anonymous folks who put more than \$7,600 in our donation boxes. Those gifts included a couple of very special ones.



One donor left 27 brand new \$2 bills wrapped in an envelope that said "for a new donation box so the money doesn't get wet!" We make every effort to keep those boxes dry, but at times the wind and rain do get into the boxes. No worries, we are happy to dry off any wet cash!

A couple from Savannah, Georgia, made a donation and left the note below.

"November 21, 2015 -- The cash included with this note was given to me by two people for the purpose of sowing into my future.

I have kept this tucked away until God showed me where to sow it. Recently, after reading Isaiah 32, I was prompted by verse 20 that here in Lake Lure was that place. But where exactly in Lake Lure?

We arrived last night for another visit here. When I awoke, this garden was specifically in my heart as the place to plant this financial seed. Please receive this from us knowing that God has His fingerprints on it."

Another gift brought more than \$6000 in cash and in-kind donations, our Treasurer Linda Turner says, from "an angel." Memorial donations totaled more than \$2200. Garden clubs and church groups contributed \$325 in appreciation for guided tours through the gardens. Donations to honor loved ones added up to \$850, including some paying tribute to the joy brought by canine companions. Artist Amy Drum designed and donated the unique barn quilt that adorns our garden shed. Some donors contributed funds for plants needed for specific gardens. As always, volunteers gave their valuable time and efforts. (continued Page 2)

NEWS ❄️ **JANUARY 2016**



Undaunted by the snow, this heather shows off its cheerful blooms on a frosty January day.
 [Photo by Alice Garrard]



The big snow came and covered the Hickory Nut Gorge and our LLFB with a glorious white blanket.
 [Photo by Blaine Cox]

(Thank You continued) The Pathfinder Brick program



continues to be a favorite way that donors can support the gardens, as

well as to share positive ideas or acknowledge family and friends. This program will continue to be an option and new bricks are being laid along the pathways in the West End gardens as an ongoing process.

Sincerest thanks to all those who joined the Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge in 2015. We look forward to working with you in 2016 and hope that you will continue to share your care and generosity to keep the gardens blooming and growing. [Photo by Alice Garrard]

LLFB FEATURED IN FLORIDA MAGAZINE

Thanks to Lynn Lang for letting us know about the recognition for the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge in *Polk Life*, a magazine published in Polk County, FL. The gardens were featured with other Hickory Nut Gorge attractions in the magazine's December 2015 travel section.



Can spring be far away?



[Photo by Mike Lumpkin]

"To create a garden is to search for a better world. In our effort to improve on nature, we are guided by a vision of paradise. Whether the result is a horticultural masterpiece or only a modest vegetable patch, it is based on the expectation of a glorious future. This hope for the future is at the heart of all gardening." ~ Marina Schinz



OUR 2015 LLFB DONORS

Our salute to 2015 donors includes those whose names have been gathered as they have contributed in many ways--dollars, hours, in-kind support--in calendar year 2015. We are grateful for their kindness and faith in us. Local donors are identified with HNG for Hickory Nut Gorge. **Our apologies for any inadvertent omissions.** -- Molly Aiken, Huntersville, NC; Ken & Jill Aldhizer, Savannah, GA; Terry Ashley, HNG; Eleanor Bails, HNG; Genevieve Beach, HNG; Big Frog Nursery, Columbus, NC; Elizabeth Boone, Columbus, NC; Mary Ann Brown, HNG; Kimberly Buckwalter, Atlanta, GA; Bob Cameron, HNG; Marta Campbell, HNG; Linda & Joe Carter, HNG; Susan Chandler, Matthews, NC; Mitsi Chorak, HNG; Sheila Clendenning; Pat & Jim Cook, HNG; Blaine & Veryle Lynn Cox, HNG; DC Construction Associates, Inc., Boca Raton, FL; Meg Dillard, Columbia, SC; Amy Drum, Cliffside, NC; Edith Edwards, Rutherfordton, NC; Marcia Eisenbrown, Galena, OH; Susie & Charlie Ellis, HNG; Jonathan & Jaleh Estes, Hillsborough, NC; Edith Evans, HNG; Marily & Jerry Floyd, HNG; Alice Garrard & Danny Holland, HNG; Pat Grulke, Fort Myers, FL; Charles Hailey, Greenville, SC; Hawksridge Farms, Hickory, NC; The Hickory Nut; HNG; Lucy Jean Hoover, Bonneau, SC; Pam & Bob Keith, HNG; Kinsman Wholesale Company, Pipersville, PA; K.Van Bourgondien & Sons, Cleves, OH; Land O'Sky Garden Club, Hendersonville, NC; Carol Lang, Boca Raton, FL; Lynn & Bobby Lang, HNG; Lebanon United Methodist Women, Mill Spring, NC; Linda's Plants, Edneyville, NC; Lee Armstrong & Mike Lumpkin, HNG; Willie Mae Lumpkin, Brentwood, TN; Jane Lundell, Houston, TX; Silvia Mariani, HNG; Alexander & Julia Marshall, Charleston, SC; Charles & Bradford Marshall, Charleston, SC; Bill & Paige Massey, HNG; Master Gardener Group of Gaston County, Gastonia, NC; Cecile Masters-Webb, Hendersonville, NC; Geneva Matteis, HNG; Joan & Roger McDaniel, Ypsilanti, MI; Agnes M. McGinty, Aiken, SC; Anne Mercer, Rutherfordton, NC; Diane and Chuck Merrick, Bluffton, SC; Bill & Ellie Miller, HNG; John Moore, HNG; Gretchen Morris, Columbus, NC; Bill & Vickie Morse, Manassas, VA; Sandra Nelson, HNG; Nancy & Heyward Nettles, HNG; New Moon Nursery, Bridgeton, NJ; North Carolina Farms, Indian Trail, NC; Painters Greenhouse, Old Fort, NC; Prairie Nursery, Westfield, WI; Mike & Sharlin Quest, Arden, NC; Lesley & Daniel Rife, Bartow, FL; Beverly Robinson, Palm Springs, FL; Rutherfordton Lions Club, Rutherfordton, NC; Peggy Schwartz, Fort Myers, FL; Mary Ann Silvey, HNG; Pat Smith, Fort Myers Beach, FL; Anne Sprague, Raleigh, NC; Sandra StClair, Matthews, NC; (Cont. next page)



(Donors List Continued) Jim & Patti Stewart, Mill Spring, NC; Nancy & Richard Stone, Boonton, NJ; Kathy & Kenneth Tanner, HNG; The Garden Lovers Club, Claremont, NC; Transylvania Garden Club, Hendersonville, NC; Tri-City Optometrics, Forest City, NC; Dari Tritt, HNG; Linda & Woody Turner, HNG; Carol Vargas, Lewisburg, PA; John H. Vining, Tryon, NC; Amy Wald, HNG; Jim & Janet Walters, HNG; Chuck & Joselyn Watkins, HNG; Donna Watkins, HNG; Penny & Linda Gledura Watkins, HNG; Charles & Emily Yelton, HNG.

LLFB BIDS FAREWELL TO VOLUNTEER SILVIA MARIANI



LLFB volunteers met at the Old Rock Cafe on January 28 to say goodbye to Silvia Mariani who is moving to Houston. Silvia was saluted as Volunteer of the Month in October of last year. She has endeared herself to all who have worked with her in the bridge

gardens. Silvia's good cheer and willing spirit will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in Texas.

[Photos by Marily Floyd]

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?

There is an easy way to do something special for this Valentine's Day.

This year, say "I love you" by donating \$200 to



the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge and getting a brick to be placed in the West End gardens with an engraved message that will endure for years to come. Go to our website, select the Donate tab, follow directions at the bottom of the page and honor your sweetheart with a Pathfinder Brick to be etched with the message of your choice (maximum 3 lines of 13 characters each).

DREAMING OF SPRING

For those who are wishing for spring's warmer days, the photos below provide memories of garden days past and dreams of those yet to come.



[Photos by Mike Lumpkin]

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