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NEWS MAY 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 AT 11:00 AM

OFFICIAL DEDICATION OF LLFB SENSORY TRAIL.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14 AT 10:00 AM

CONTAINER GARDENING WITH HERBS WORKSHOP

Led by Master Gardener and herb guru Charlotte Gardner.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28 AT 11:00 AM

STENCILED GARDEN MARKERS WORKSHOP

Led by bridge volunteer and experienced stenciling teacher Eleanor Bails

FUTURE WORKSHOPS (more info to come)

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| JULY 12 | (10AM) MAKE & TAKE GARDEN ART |
| AUGUST 23 | PLANT PROPAGATION |
| SEPTEMBER 3 | (2PM) MONARCH BUTTERFLY UPDATE WITH TAG & RELEASE OF BUTTERFLIES |
| SEPTEMBER 13 | FALL GARDENING WITH HERBS |
| SEPTEMBER 27 | PRUNING PRESENTATION AT TOWN HALL |
| OCTOBER 11 | PREPARING YOUR GARDEN FOR WINTER |
| OCTOBER 18 | RETURN OF THE PUMPKIN PEOPLE! |
| OCTOBER 25 | COMPOSTING, INCLUDING COMPOSTING WITH WORMS |
| NOVEMBER 8 | FAIRY GARDENS |

In case of rain, workshops will be held in Lake Lure Town Hall. For more information, call Alice Garrard at (828) 625-2450.

LLFB SENSORY TRAIL OFFICIAL OPENING & DEDICATION SATURDAY, JUNE 4 AT 11:00 AM

You are invited to attend the Official Opening and Dedication of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge Sensory Trail Saturday, June 4, at 11:00 AM. After many months of planning and work the gardens now include plants and other features designed to provide a multi-sensory experience for visually impaired visitors. In collaboration with the Lake Lure Lions Club, a new Welcome Terrace encourages visitors to dip their fingers into the Helen Keller fountain, then begin an audio tour of the gardens on their mobile phones. The audio tour, sponsored by Dr. Troy Tevis of Tri-City Optometric Eye Clinic in Rutherfordton, includes both general information and specifics about the sensory features. [Audio technology by OnCell]



YOUNG VISITORS LEARN ABOUT THE GARDENS WITH OUR SCAVENGER HUNT



Volunteer Lynn Lang helps a visiting family walk through the scavenger hunt for children. [Photo by Alice Garrard]

"A football helmet can cover your head. Have you ever seen one in a flowerbed?" This is just one of the questions in a clever approach to helping youngsters enjoy our gardens. Thanks to the creative efforts of LLFB volunteer Paige Massey, children can now engage in a scavenger hunt as they follow the path through the gardens. The scavenger hunt was first given out to kids by our volunteers during the Chimney Rock Earth Day celebration. Copies of the scavenger hunt are available at both ends of the bridge in the information mailboxes.

**VICTORIA GLENN GALLMAN
REMEMBERED AT LLFB**



When Kathy Tanner's mother, Vicky Gallman, passed away in 2015, friends created a fund in her memory to place a fountain in the LLFB gardens. Recently this beautiful feature was installed near the locust bench in the Historic Lamp garden overlooking the river. Kathy has chaired our Garden

Committee as a member of the LLFB Board since its inception. She felt her mother would have loved this tribute. Kathy's memory of her mother: *She loved gardening and bird watching and had a pet wild squirrel she named Skippy that they fed and watched every day. She lived on Lake Wylie in South Carolina. Growing up, we had a little cabin on the lake and spent many happy times there. She and my father retired there in 1990. She loved the Flowering Bridge, though due to her illness, was never able to come see it. She saw many pictures and videos I gave her and she gave me many ideas that I shared with everyone. She knew how much the bridge and all of our bridge friends mean to our family. We are so grateful to our friends for the gift of a fountain in Mom's memory. Her favorite color was blue like her beautiful eyes!*

The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization relying solely on volunteers and donations. To donate, go to <http://lakelurefloweringbridge.org/donate/>



"If you build it, they will come." The Rutherfordton Garden Club came to see the beauty created by our volunteers and we have the picture to prove it. [Photo by Alice Garrard]

**LLFB INFORMATION NOW IN
VISITOR CENTERS ACROSS
NORTH CAROLINA**

The summer travel season is almost here and our message has gone out across the state. Thanks to anonymous donors, our 2016 Lake Lure Flowering Bridge brochures have been sent to North Carolina Visitor Centers. Visitor numbers to the LLFB in past years have been estimated at 30-35,000. We hope to see many more this year.



KOKEDAMA WORKSHOP



Master gardener and LLFB volunteer Lynn Lang led one of our free workshops on May 10th. It drew an interested group of gardeners to learn how to create Kokedama (moss-ball) planters, a traditional Japanese garden art form that has been practiced for centuries. It was a fun experience that resulted in some unique planters for participants to enjoy at home. [Photos by Alice Garrard]



A TIP OF OUR HATS

Our thanks go out to Char Lenishmidt for generous donations of Green Screen, the product that protects our gardens from becoming a smorgasbord for deer and other wildlife. She is the local representative for ordering Green Screen. She can be reached at charleenle@yahoo.com or (828)625-5201.

GARDENING IN THE MOUNTAINS

Master gardener Mary Ann Brown led a well-attended workshop she called "You're Gardening in the Mountains Now" earlier in May. She designed her talk around the idea that those new to our area might benefit from her experience in adapting to gardening here when she relocated from Virginia. **Thanks, Mary Ann,** for the advice below, shared to help all of us be more successful gardeners here.



Mountain Characteristics: Mountains create shade. Are you on the north side of a mountain or in a valley between two mountains? Take into account elevation and wind. Is your soil moist, dry, rocky, sandy clay, hard clay, flat or sloped.? How close to water are you? The sun comes up later in the mountains and sets earlier so there are fewer sunlight hours. Here in the Hickory Nut Gorge we are in an isothermal belt. [Editor's Note: The winters are a little warmer and the summers a little cooler than surrounding areas.]

During Your First Year Gardening Here: Wait - Do not plant. (If you can't wait to plant, then plant annuals. Save the perennials and shrubs for next year.) ~ If it's a new home, you have a blank slate. In an older home, wait to see what comes up. Do you like the plants? Can you identify them? ~ Keep a notebook. ~ Start thinking about what you want your garden to look like. ~ Start to save pictures, make a booklet of styles and plants that appeal to you. ~ Visit arboretums, garden centers and neighbors' gardens - make it a fun family outing. ~ Talk to pros at garden centers about best performing plants. ~ Take this time to do hardscapes, large rocks or bring in soil if you need it. ~ Trim up or remove trees to create more light if you are in the woods. ~ Do you have voles or moles? Get rid of them, if you can, before you plant. ~ What is the deer pattern in your neighborhood/property? Start discouraging them from crossing your property.

In Your Notebook: Place house in property and note north, south, east and west. Place buildings, gardens. ~ Study the sun from sun up to sun set for all seasons, note how many hours in each area. ~ From which direction does the wind come in each season and at what times of the day? ~ Will you need to add a windbreak if you get strong winds? (Wind can be more damaging to plants than cold.) ~ Check water flow across property during heavy rain. Do you need to fix drainage problems or add irrigation? ~ How does the elevation affect your temps? ~ Are there any microclimates in your yard? ~ What have you learned about the Isothermal belt and how it affects your gardening?

Gardening in Your Second Year: You now know where your best light is or have made areas for planting or corrected problems. ~ You should have improved soil or know what kind of elements you are dealing with and can now choose the appropriate plants. ~ Plant shrubs and trees and perennials.

SPRING IN THE GARDENS



[Photo by Alice Garrard]



[Photo by Mike Lumpkin]