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NEWS

JUNE 2016

CALENDAR OF FREE PUBLIC EVENTS

- JULY 12** 10:00AM "MAKE & TAKE" GARDEN ART
Painted pots and fairy wands: the perfect combo. Led by volunteers Mitsi Chorak and Paige Massey
- JULY 26** 10:00AM BATTLING (BAD) BUGS AND DISEASES IN THE GARDEN
Led by Hannah Bundy, Assistant Agriculture Agent, Rutherford County
- AUGUST 9** DRIP IRRIGATION
- AUGUST 23** PLANT PROPAGATION
- SEPTEMBER 3** MONARCH BUTTERFLY UPDATE
**2:00 PM WITH TAG & RELEASE OF BUTTERFLIES
- SEPTEMBER 13** FALL GARDENING WITH HERBS
- SEPTEMBER 17** MAKING FEEDERS & NESTING MATERIALS FOR BIRDS (RAIN DATE SEPT. 24)
- SEPTEMBER 27** PRUNING PRESENTATION AT LAKE LURE TOWN HALL
- OCTOBER 11** PREPARING YOUR GARDEN FOR WINTER
- OCTOBER 18** RETURN OF THE PUMPKIN PEOPLE!
- OCTOBER 25** COMPOSTING, INCLUDING COMPOSTING WITH WORMS
- NOVEMBER 15** FAIRY GARDENS
- NOVEMBER 29** CREATION OF MOSAIC GAZING BALLS

Unless otherwise indicated, classes will be held at 10:00 AM in the Outdoor Classroom at the west (Chimney Rock) end of the bridge. In case of rain, they will be held in the Community Hall at Lake Lure Town Hall. For more information, call Alice Garrard or Danny Holland at (828) 625-2540.

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LLFB SENSORY TRAIL OPENS WITH CELL PHONE AUDIO TOUR



Officiating at the official ribbon cutting to open the trail are (left to right) Mary Ellen Jones, Rick Malick, Shana (Rick's guide dog), Penny Watkins, Kim Owen and Bill Miller, Chair of the LLFB Board. Mary Ellen, Penny and Bill are members of the Lake Lure Lions Club. Rick and Kim are from the McCune Center Black Mountain Lions Club.

Hickory Nut Gorge residents gathered to celebrate the opening of the LLFB Sensory Trail and cell phone audio tour on Saturday, June 4th. The Lake Lure Lions Club, donors of the Helen Keller fountain on the new Welcome Terrace, joined in the festivities along with a number of visually-impaired guests, including some from the McCune Center in Black Mountain. It was a beautiful breezy day to inaugurate new features in our gardens that we hope will contribute to our visitors' enjoyment.

MERRY MINSTRELS SHARE THEIR DULCIMER MUSIC AT THE BRIDGE

Visitors enjoying the gardens on Saturday, June 11, got a special treat as the Merry Minstrels from



Asheville played their lap dulcimers in a free performance. The group meets weekly to practice and play together and like to

find unique locations for their gatherings. We were delighted that they contacted us to ask if they could play in our gardens and, of course, enthusiastically responded with a "yes." Their musical repertoire for the morning was chosen with the setting in mind and included some old familiar tunes. Thank you again, ladies!

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE GARDENS: SAY HELLO PLANTS

Throughout the gardens, visitors find little signs that introduce interesting plants with the salutation "Say Hello." These plants, highlighted for their unique qualities and sometimes colorful histories, include descriptions researched and written by our volunteers. This month we share here two of our "Say Hello" plants.



By the fence in the River Overlook Garden, you will see the lovely Bronze Dutch Clover (*Trifolium repens Atropurpureum*). Its description, provided by volunteer Eleanor Bails-
This small versatile perennial (zones 4-8) can be grown in full sun-part shade as a groundcover, an accent plant in containers or focal foliage in a fairy garden. Its reddish-bronze leaves edged in green and topped with pom-pom flowers in summer look attractive early spring-early winter in this climate zone. [Photo from Eleanor Bails]

You can find Clary Sage (*Salvia Sclarea*) in the Herb Garden with these words on its sign--"Hello, my name is Clary Sage! I am a beautiful and very unusual biennial or short lived perennial herb native to the Northern Mediterranean. My velvety heart-shaped leaves give you a clue that I am a mellow,



uplifting and heart-warming kind of gal! My leaves and flowers have been used throughout history as an antidepressant and aphrodisiac, as I support hormonal balance and emotional as well as spiritual clarity. My other talents include antibacterial properties and my oils have often been used topically to cleanse wounds, as well as in an eye wash that is reputed to brighten eyes and improve vision! I don't like to brag, but my oils are also used in a wide range of products to enhance and stabilize as well as increase the longevity of their fragrances. All of this, plus I put on a show stopping mass of purple, pink, and white tinged blooms that last for weeks!!! What more could a gal ask for! [Description from Charlotte Gardner.]



Unless otherwise noted, photos by Mike Lumpkin.

NOT ALL OUR VISITORS ARE PEOPLE

An estimated 30,000-35,000 visitors enjoy our gardens each year, but those numbers only account for the humans. Not included in the official estimates are the dogs and birds, the butterflies and bees or the often-noted lizards that our volunteers are asked to identify. They are usually anoles, like the one at right photographed in our gardens by Alice Garrard.



The Carolina anole is also called the green anole, American anole, or the red-throated anole as it will sometimes flare the dewlap in its neck as a bright red bubble. This display might be done to attract a mate or intimidate a predator.

Anoles are attracted to the gardens to feast on insects and grasses to be found there. Solitary creatures, these little ones come from eggs left to hatch in the sun and care for themselves from birth.



The Helen Keller Fountain on the LLFB Welcome Terrace, donated by the Lake Lure Lions Club.

THANK YOU TO 2016 DONORS

We are grateful for support from many donors thus far in 2016. Moving toward further development on the Chimney Rock end of the gardens, we appreciate each gift that helps bring our vision to life.

Our thanks to these donors: John & Erin Anderson, Waxhaw, NC; Yvonne Anderson, Lake Lure, NC; Laurie Andrews, Kingsport, TN; Ronald & Nancy Atchley, Palm Beach Gardens, FL; Barbara Bagwell, Lake Lure, NC; Myrlie Barrier, Rutherfordton, NC; Genevieve Beach, Lake Lure, NC; Kaye Benedum, Lake Lure, NC;



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WATCH US GROW



Keep an eye on development of the Chimney Rock end of the gardens. In this photo (left) from Kathy Tanner, volunteers began putting in footers for an arbor that will grace the continuation of

the pathway toward Boys Camp Road.