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NEWS AUGUST 2016

CALENDAR OF FREE PUBLIC EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER 3** MONARCH BUTTERFLY UPDATE
 **2:00 PM WITH TAG & RELEASE OF BUTTERFLIES
 Led by Joyce Pearsall, Conservation Specialist, Monarchwatch.org
- SEPTEMBER 13** FALL CONTAINER GARDENING WITH
 HERBS AND VEGETABLES
 Led by LLFB volunteer and master gardener Charlotte Gardner
- SEPTEMBER 17** DEMO: MAKING FEEDERS & NESTING
 MATERIALS FOR BIRDS (RAIN DATE SEPT. 24)
 Led by LLFB volunteers Lynn Lang and Eleanor Bails
- SEPTEMBER 27** PRUNING PRESENTATION
 AT LAKE LURE TOWN HALL
 Led by pruning expert and master gardener Jean Boles
- 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** MAKE A MOSAIC GAZING BALL FOR
 YOUR YARD OR GARDEN

****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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WE WELCOME MONARCH BUTTERFLIES AS THEY MIGRATE

Thanks to garden volunteer Lynn Lang who, as Kathy Tanner said in sending us these photos, "made it happen" for the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge to now be an official Monarch Way Station! Monarchs fly 2,500 miles from their summer habitats in the eastern United States to the Oyamel fir trees of Mexico. What does it take to provide the right environment for migrating Monarchs? *Lynn's Report:* LLFB volunteers Mitsi Chorak and Lynn Lang



attended an educational program about creating Monarch habitats at Pacolet Conservancy. The program speaker was conservation specialist Joyce Pearsall, representing Monarchwatch, a nonprofit education, conservation, and research program focusing on the monarch butterfly. The information about Joyce and Monarchwatch was given to Alice Garrard, our Education Co-Chair. She has scheduled Joyce for a monarch tag and release program on the LLFB on September 3rd at 2:00 pm. Kathy Tanner, volunteer coordinator, contacted Monarchwatch to order the comprehensive application to certify the Bridge as a monarch way station by providing nectar and the milkweed plant, the host for the monarch butterfly larvae. By planting the milkweed throughout the gardens. LLFB can contribute significantly to monarch conservation. Once the Bridge received the certification, it was placed on the international monarch way station registry.



A sign designating the Bridge as a monarch way station has been placed at each end of the Bridge. The sign shows the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Each fall, monarch butterflies migrate to Mexico and California and hopefully pass through our area, stopping at the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge for all to enjoy as they sip the nectar and lay their eggs. Thanks to all who worked on getting this done!

🌻 SAY HELLO PLANTS ARE GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

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 more of our "Say Hello" plants. **SONGBIRD, HUMMINGBIRD AND BUTTERFLY GARDEN:** The Hummingbird Vine, also known as the Cypress Vine is a member of the Morning Glory family. It produces bright red tubular blossoms that attract hummingbirds. It is considered an annual in colder climates. Thanks to Lynn Lang, volunteer chair for this garden.



Hummingbird Vine, also known as the Cypress Vine is a member of the Morning Glory family. It produces bright red tubular blossoms that attract hummingbirds. It is considered an annual in colder climates. Thanks to Lynn Lang, volunteer chair for this garden.

NORTH CAROLINA WILDFLOWER GARDEN: Each year since 1972 the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Garden Club of North Carolina select a wildflower as NC Wildflower of the Year. For 2016 the choice is the Northern Rattlesnake Master, now on view in our gardens. Somewhat unusual as a garden flower, this yucca-like plant, a member of the carrot family, is also known as button snake-root. Its flowers are spiny balls, light green in color. Its common name comes from early 18th century accounts of Native Americans applying a root preparation on their hands and arms to protect them while handling rattlesnakes and also brewing a root tea to use as rattlesnake antivenin. It can become a drought-resistant perennial in the right conditions. Kathy Tanner is volunteer chair for this garden.



These Eastern Tiger Swallowtails stopped for a happy meal on our sunflowers. [Photo by Kathy Tanner]

🌻 LLFB CHAIR SPEAKS AT TEDX TRYON SEPTEMBER 10 AT 9AM

Lynn Carnes reports that Bill Miller, Chair of the Friends of Lake Lure Flowering Bridge will tell our story at Tedx Tryon on Saturday, September 10, The event kicks off at 9:00 AM at the Tryon Fine Arts Center. Cost per ticket is \$60, which includes a farm-to-table lunch, 10 speakers and several entertainers. Just a few tickets left. Tedx Tryon describes itself as "a community conversation exploring the people, places and experiences that shape our lives." This is the second annual Tryon/Foothills event, promising "dynamic speakers, performers and local thought leaders." For more information, see their website [Tedx Tryon](http://www.tedxtryon.com)



🌻 WEST END DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES GROWING



Volunteers put soil into the arbor and atrium on the Chimney Rock end of the gardens this month. [Photo from Kathy Tanner]



Volunteers Marily Floyd, Danny Holland, Kathy Tanner, Heyward Nettles and Bill Massey border the new beds with rocks to hold the soil. [Photo from Lynn Lang]

BIRDS LOVE OUR GARDENS

In last month's issue we highlighted some of the butterflies that visit our gardens. This month we feature just a couple of the birds that might be seen flying by on any given day.



Great Blue Herons are often spotted and heard around Lake Lure. You might hear the distinctive croak of a heron as it flies

over our gardens between the river and the lake. Great Blues are very large wading birds, some as tall as 4½ feet with wing spans that can be as wide as 6½ feet. They usually hunt by wading in shallow water, standing still until fish or other prey like frogs or snakes come close enough to catch with a quick snap of their beaks. Less often they will hunt and feed on small field mammals. Nests are usually in trees 20-60' above ground or water; sometimes in low shrubs, sometimes on ground (on predator-free islands), sometimes well above 100' in trees. The nest (built mostly by females, with material gathered mostly by males) is a platform of sticks, sometimes quite large. Both parents feed the young birds that fly on their own when they are about 60 days old.

The brilliant *Northern Cardinal* was designated the North Carolina state bird in 1943. The bright red of the male is easily spotted all across the state, including in the Hickory Nut Gorge. The female, shown here, is equally prevalent in our area, though her beautiful, but less vibrant coloring might camouflage her among the trees and shrubs. Adults feed on insects, spiders, wild fruits and berries and the seeds of weeds. They are frequent visitors at home feeders, preferring to perch while eating. The species is said to "mate for life."



"In order to see birds it is necessary to become a part of the silence." ~ Robert Lynd

NEW HOMES FOR WOOD DUCKS IN OUR GARDENS



Thanks to Lou Chorak, shown above with Susie Ellis and Kathy Tanner, for building three nesting boxes for wood ducks for the bridge gardens. They are now installed along the banks below the bridge. [Photo from Alice Garrard]

Anoles
frolicking
in the garden
[Photo from
Marilyn
Floyd]



Volunteer Debbie Clark adds her special touch to the miniature garden behind the fountain. [Photo from Alice Garrard]

 Unless otherwise noted, photos by Mike Lumpkin.