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## NEWS SEPTEMBER 2016

### CALENDAR OF FREE PUBLIC EVENTS

- 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.**

### LLFB SENSORY TRAIL FEATURED IN RUTHERFORD WEEKLY



Thanks to Penny Watkins of the Lake Lure Lions Club, LLFB's Sensory Trail is featured in the current edition of the Rutherford Weekly. Free copies are available throughout the county.

Penny sets the tone with this quote from a visitor: "I never felt so many butterflies in my life." Our thanks also to the Sensory Trail cell phone tour sponsor, Dr. Troy Tevis of Tri-City Optometric for his generosity. [Photo from Rutherford Weekly]

### GIFTS THAT KEEP US GROWING



If you are wondering what to give the friend or family member who has everything, remember him/her with a donation to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. Your tax-deductible gift will be acknowledged by us with a note to let your friend/loved one know of your donation. Going forward, we will note both your name and the recipient's name in our newsletter and other donor recognition that will be displayed in the gardens in coming months. **Reminder--**a donation of \$200 or more makes you a Pathfinder and we will place a commemorative brick (etched with words of your choice) on the garden path. [Editor's Note: Our family's go-to gift for my husband and me is now a donation to LLFB and we love it!] [DONATE HERE](#)

### SEE HOW OUR GARDENS GROW



Progress continues in development of the Chimney Rock end of the LLFB gardens. The first arbor is coming together leading to the atrium. These elements of iron and native woods are designed to fit appropriately into the natural beauty of the Hickory Nut Gorge. Local artisans Steve Sane and Robert Yellico are lending their talents and expertise to create this added space to the gardens. With careful attention to budgets each element is added as we have the funds to support its building. [Photo from Susie Ellis]

## LLFB EDUCATION COMMITTEE KEEPS THE BRIDGE BUZZING

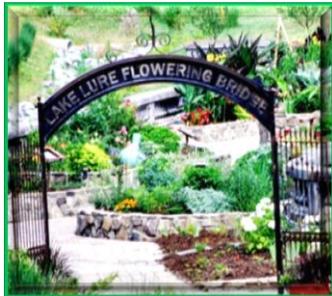


Danny Holland, Alice Garrard and Eleanor Bails review plans for free workshops open to the public. [Photo from Alice Garrard]

Wonder who puts together our workshops? The LLFB Education Committee does that and more. Chaired by Board members Alice Garrard and Danny Holland, this busy group includes Paige and Bill Massey, Charlotte Gardner and Mitsi Chorak. Adjunct members Eleanor Bails, Lynn Lang and Debbie Clark are helping with planning for the 2017 Lake Lure Arts and Crafts Fair. They meet regularly to plan and schedule free workshops at the bridge. In addition, they host LLFB tours for garden clubs, master gardener groups, church groups, retirement communities and, most recently, a 52-person travel club from Anderson, SC. They also distribute brochures and post flyers about bridge activities. Join them at crafts parties at Town Hall (back entrance) on October 5 and November 5, 10am-1pm. The October gathering will create fairy wands.

## TAR HEEL TRAVELER TELLS THE LLFB STORY IN VIDEO

Thanks to LLFB Board Chair Bill Miller and Garden Chair Kathy Tanner for their excellent storytelling talents in the Tar Heel Traveler's video about the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. WRAL-TV reporter Scott Mason brought the story to air on the Raleigh station's newscast September 15th. Currently it is available on the WRAL-TV website. You can access the video with this link: [LLFB ON TAR HEEL TRAVELER](#)



## MIGRATING MONARCHS



Cheers to volunteer Lynn Lang for the following report on the success of our Monarch Way Station plantings. "There is a lot of excitement as we see Monarchs on the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge.



The volunteers have been waiting for the Monarch butterflies to come through the area on their yearly migration south to Mexico and Florida. They have planted milkweed plants amongst the flowers on the Bridge in anticipation of the Monarchs' arrival. We noticed the first few around the first of September and they are still coming through laying their eggs. They only lay their eggs on the milkweed plant, as it is the only host plant for the monarch butterfly caterpillar to eat. The caterpillars will eat, then when they are ready, they will usually move to a higher spot to begin forming their chrysalis. When the butterfly emerges, it will continue on its migration. The last count was at least 30+ caterpillars on the milkweed plants. The Bridge has recently been classified as a Monarch Way Station recognizing that the LLFB is contributing to Monarch conservation by providing milkweed and nectar plants for their continued survival." Thanks to Lynn for guiding the Monarch Way Station project. Thanks to Debbie Clark for the Monarch caterpillar photo.

## THANKS TO LAKE LURE COFFEE



The newly established Lake Lure Coffee in the Lake Lure Arcade is providing its coffee grounds for the enhancement of many of our plants that love a more acidic soil. Once a week we collect the grounds and add them to our soil. Already many of our azaleas, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, and hibiscus are looking much more vibrant. This gift was one that the coffee shop reached out to us to give as a service to the community and satisfy their desire to contribute to the Bridge's gardens! [Article by Paige Massey]

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## ✿ MAKING FEEDERS AND NESTING MATERIALS FOR BIRDS

Visitors to the bridge were treated to a program given by Volunteers Eleanor Bails and Lynn Lang on how to bring birds to your yard with easy to make bird feeders and how to provide nesting materials you can find in your home and yard.

✿ Eleanor demonstrated how to make a pine cone feeder using peanut butter and birdseed (for peanut allergies use lard). She also made a feeder from a plastic bottle with wooden spoons for perches.



✿ Lynn made a bird feeding wreath decorated with oranges, peanut butter cookies with birdseed, moss, raw peanuts, and seed heads from spent flowers. In addition, examples of nesting materials such as string, mosses, animal hair, twigs, and leaves

were placed in a hanging suet feeder. There also was an educational board on examples of different types of materials the birds use to construct their nests.

Instructional materials were printed and available to take home. [Photos from Lynn Lang]

## ✿ FLOWERING BRIDGE ORNAMENTS AVAILABLE SOON

From Lake Lure artist and LLFB volunteer Veryle Lynn Cox (who provided this photo)--

*Since this is the last year of making the Christmas ornaments for the Bridge, I am offering to make individual ornaments from the past four years to fill out the set of five ornaments. The 2016 ornament is being made right now and will be*



*ready in several weeks for volunteers to come work on them in my studio. They will be the same price as last year, \$25. **The ones from prior years must be pre-ordered.** Orders will be handled by Marta Campbell. Please email her -- [marta.campbell2@gmail.com](mailto:marta.campbell2@gmail.com).*



The thrill of having Monarch butterflies in our gardens comes from their beautiful coloring and their story of mass migration.

The monarch that emerges from its chrysalis this fall in our gardens will travel as much as 3000 miles and make only one round trip. When next year's winter migration begins, several generations will have lived and died. Somehow these great grandchildren know the way, and follow the same routes their ancestors took – sometimes even returning to the same tree.



Mitsi Chorak, Kathy Tanner and Geneva Matteis toured Bullington Gardens in Hendersonville recently. This is one of many trips that let our volunteers gather ideas from other nearby gardens. [Photo from Lynn Lang]

✿ Unless otherwise noted, photos by Mike Lumpkin

# **BATTLING BUGS AND DISEASES IN THE GARDEN**

Throughout the year our LLFB Education Committee, co-chaired by Alice Garrard and Danny Holland, organizes special free programs to help gardeners in our area. Below are notes from one such program, led by Hannah Bundy, Assistant Agriculture Agent, Rutherford County. It is a great primer on "Battling Bad Bugs and Diseases in the Garden." We offer this now with the suggestion that you print this page and keep it handy for spring as you plant your new garden.

## PREVENT HARMFUL INSECTS AND DISEASES WITH THESE MEASURES

- Use peripheral trap crops to attract pests to them instead of your high value species. (Research trap crops online to find out which techniques work best for your specific plants.)
- Keep your plants and soil healthy. This is the secret to success.
- Plant species that are pollinator friendly and attract beneficial insects.
- Don't over-fertilize with nitrogen; use a variety and make sure to include the micronutrients.
- Diversify your garden. Plant plants with different pests and diseases from one another.
- Plant resistant varieties when available.
- Research your plants and the pests and diseases that affect them. Learn what to scout for and how to prevent an outbreak from happening by learning their tell-tale signs.
- Maintain sanitized equipment and keep the area under your plants free of debris with mulch to prevent weeds.
- Check your plants when you get them from the nursery as often diseases are brought to the garden from the source.
- Water the soil, not the foliage. Many viral and bacterial infections spread through water on wet leaves.

## WAYS TO TREAT WHEN PREVENTION DOESN'T WORK

- Introduce beneficial insects that are predators of your pests.
- Physically shake the bugs off the plant, squish them or catch them in a jar of soapy water.
- Use natural remedies such as neem oil and spinosad (for fire ants), or baking soda solutions made of baking soda, vegetable oil, liquid soap and one gallon of water (spray on a few and check for burning).

- Rotate your crops the next season with plants from different families.
- Solarize your soil to kill harmful nematodes (only if absolutely necessary).
- Stay away from Round-up. It does nothing to enhance your garden's health.
- Make a schedule of when pests in your area are active and when you need to treat for them. For example, treat for Japanese beetles in the early spring while they are still grubs.
- Remove any diseased foliage and prune to increase airflow and prevent foliage from touching.
- Copper-based fungicides can be used to prevent fungal sores from germinating.
- Actinovate can be used preventatively to control bacterial diseases.

## BENEFICIAL INSECTS IN THE GARDEN

Some of the insects that can benefit your garden and the pests they help eliminate (in parentheses) are below.

ASSASSIN BUGS (Japanese beetles, aphids, caterpillars, leafhoppers), LADY BEETLES (aphids, mites), BIG-EYED BUGS (spider mites, thrips, aphids), DAMSEL BUGS (aphids, leafhoppers, mites and caterpillars), PARASITIC WRAPS (larvae consume caterpillars, aphids or insect eggs), LACEWINGS (as many as 600 aphid species), PREDACEOUS STINK BUGS (caterpillars as nymphs and adults), SOLDIER BEETLES (aphids, caterpillars, mites, grasshopper eggs and small beetles), syrphid flies (larvae eat aphids), MINUTE PIRATE BUGS (thrips, spider mites, aphids and other small insects).



The green lacewing can be a helpful predator aiding in removing aphids from your garden [Stock photo]