



## NEWS



November 2016

### OUR THANKSGIVING GRATITUDE FOR AMAZING FIREFIGHTERS

Fire broke out at Party Rock above Lake Lure on November 5th and spread through the dry forest rapidly, threatening homes as it gathered momentum. Days became weeks with homes evacuated and hundreds of firefighters coming in to contain the fire as best they could in difficult conditions. The Town of Lake Lure limited public access to facilitate responders and set up a command center for firefighters. The Village of Chimney Rock was closed.

Lying across the Rocky Broad River between Lake Lure and Chimney Rock, the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is still blooming, not threatened by the fire. With access limited, volunteers were allowed in sporadically to water the gardens. [At left-volunteers Danny Holland, Alice Garrard, Tom Gorman, Kathy Tanner and Connor. Note smoke in



background. Photo by Jim Cook]

We who live in and love this beautiful area owe a debt of gratitude to firefighters, both locals and those who have come from as far away as Alaska. With indefatigable stamina and courage they evacuated people from areas of risk and saved homes.

Due to the severity of the drought and the tons of fallen leaves, forecasts indicate caution, at least until some substantial rain arrives in the area. Meanwhile we appreciate those fighting the fires and the overwhelming support of communities all around us providing needed supplies for evacuated families as well as the firefighters. Thanks also to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to provide meals and places to rest for the firefighters.

### FAREWELL TO BILL MILLER FOUNDING CHAIR FRIENDS OF THE BRIDGE



Bill and Ellie Miller were given a beautiful hand-painted gourd with the thanks of the LLFB Board.

As the Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge volunteers gathered to celebrate another beautiful season in the gardens, we also paid tribute to our departing chairperson, Bill Miller. Bill and his wife, Ellie, are moving to the Charlotte area to be nearer their children.

It was Bill's idea to turn the decommissioned Historic Bridge #7 into a garden. He told the story well in a recent TED Talk. You can see it here: [Bridge to Somewhere Beautiful](#). Since his idea was embraced by community volunteers, his leadership has brought the dream to life. Donors and willing hands built and tended the gardens while Bill continued to speak to



groups about the project, gathering financial support and taking the story with him wherever he traveled. He was a champion in generating support for the Sensory Trail for the Visually Impaired that was created in partnership with the Lake Lure Lions, along with the mobile phone audio tour. All along he, too, has invested "sweat equity" into the gardens, taking his turn digging in the dirt. [Photo left by Alice Garrard]

Bill is quick to give credit to others for bringing his vision to life. We who have benefited from his idea are grateful and will think of him as we continue to enjoy the beauty of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge gardens. We wish him happy days ahead with the hope that he and Ellie will visit often from their new home in the Charlotte area. *Thank you and good luck but not goodbye, Bill!*

## FAIRY GARDENS BRING WHIMSY BACK TO THE LLFB

Driven indoors by high winds on November 10th, volunteers gathered to create this year's fairy gardens. Undaunted by the Party Rock fire burning on the ridge above the lake, they created their magical miniature displays. Look carefully to appreciate all the details. [Photos by Alice Garrard]



Heyward Nettles creates a miniature garden for the birds with tiny birdhouses in a repurposed crate.

Mitsi Chorak's treehouse creation that she calls "Spirit Garden" comes with its own tiny ladders and a tiny girl swinging inside.



"Foot Loose" by Alice Garrard uses a boot as the perfect spot for a happy couple in the garden, complete with a couple of dogs as company. Is that Alice and Danny among the flowers?

More photos available next page and on [Facebook](#).

## LLFB HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE



LLFB volunteer Marta Campbell is graciously taking responsibility for the orders for this year's holiday ornament designed by Veryle Lynn Cox. Marta tells me there are limited numbers left, so place your order today. Each ornament is available for a \$25 donation. Also available are ornaments from earlier years if you need them for your collection. Contact Marta with your order via email at [marta.campbell2@gmail.com](mailto:marta.campbell2@gmail.com). [Photo from Blaine Cox]

## THANKS TO AMY WALD FOR A HAPPY ADDITION TO THE SECRET GARDEN



When asked about her burlap dog's name, Amy said she had not named it, but suggested that since it's made of burlap, maybe it's a lap dog. Dog lovers know that no dog is too large to believe it is a lap dog. [Photo by Alice Garrard]

## PLEASE BRING STRINGS OF WHITE LIGHTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



It's almost time to light the gardens for the holidays and **we need more strings of white lights and white icicle lights.** Please bring your lights to a garden volunteer or drop them at the potting shed at the Chimney Rock end of the bridge. Let's set the gardens aglow for the happiest holidays ever!



Lynn Lang's "Tea Time" envisions a garden in a tea cup.

## MORE FAIRY GARDEN PHOTOS



Danny Holland's "Village on the Half Shell" includes a cottage, a tiny bridge and a dog--always close to Danny's heart.

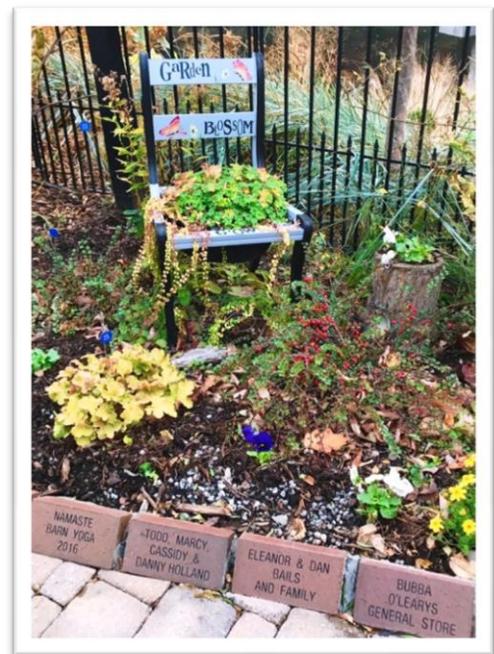


Whimsy abounds in Marily Floyd's "Basket Case"

## BE A PATHFINDER



Gnomes come to play in Kathy Tanner's "Flying High," a garden in a bird cage floating above the bridge.



Newly placed in November, these Pathfinder bricks carry donors' messages. Your message can be part of the path.

[Donate and be a Pathfinder.](#)

*All photos this page from Alice Garrard. Other photos this issue from Mike Lumpkin.*