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NEWS December 2016

WE WISH YOU PEACE AND HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR



As the gardens rest in the winter months, we are reminded of the quiet joys of this season. It is a quieter time of year, perhaps one of reflection seated on a

bench overlooking the Broad River below. Some plants take on their winter mantles, braving the chilly temperatures and cold wind that whistles down the Hickory Nut Gorge. Garden volunteers have taken other plants to the protection of shelter until warmer weather returns. While we enjoy these still nights, lights guide visitors along the garden path, offering their twinkling beauty where the flowers of spring will bloom again soon.



As one year ends and another begins, we wish you peace and happiness. We thank all those who have supported the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. Whether you are a donor, a volunteer or a visitor, we are glad you are part of our community garden, these plots of earth tended with care to give new life to an old bridge. We hope you will come often in the new year and find joy in the beauty here. [Photos above by Alice Garrard]

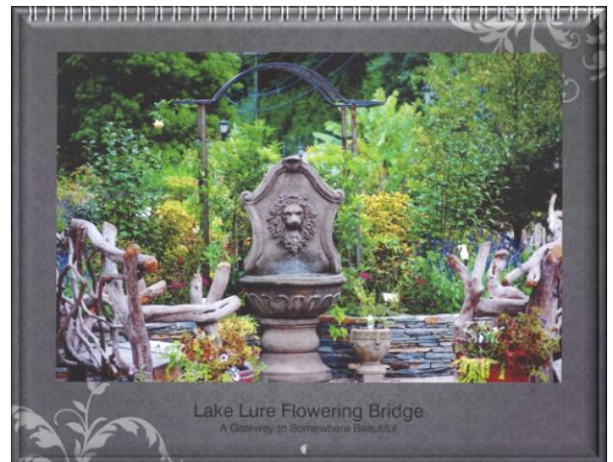
BOUQUETS TO 2016 FRIENDS OF LLFB WHO MADE MAJOR GIFTS

Throughout the year we are grateful for the many people and businesses who provide support to the LLFB. In truth, we can never fully express our gratitude for the



gracious and thoughtful support from donors large and small. We fear that our lists are never complete as so many kindnesses are shown "on the fly" as needs arise, thus documentation might be lacking. Some generous givers ask for no public acknowledgement at all. Nonetheless, we feel a true debt of gratitude to those who have made major gifts. Among those we thank for their significant contributions in 2016 are these: Fairfield Mountains Chapel, Foothills Daylily Society, Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation, Lions Club of Lake Lure and Dr. Troy Tevis of Tri-City Optometric. More 2016 gifts will be honored in our January issue.

LLFB HOLIDAY 2017 CALENDARS ARE STILL AVAILABLE



The 2017 Lake Lure Flowering Bridge calendar is available. A donation of \$15 will bring the beauties of the bridge gardens home all year long. Several locations in the Hickory Nut Gorge have them in limited supply, including April's Boutique, Bubba O'Leary's, Hair Therapy, the Lake Lure Diner, the Lake Lure Salon and Spa, and Medina's Village Bistro. For more information, contact Marily Floyd via email at mountain.floyd@gmail.com.

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These are the elves who decorated the gardens for the season, left to right: Janet Walter, Alice Garrard, Nancy Nettles, Kathy Tanner, Katie Tanner, Heyward Nettles, Eleanor Beals, Danny Holland, Lynn Lang and Mitsi Chorak. [Photo from Lynn Lang]

HONORING LOCAL PARTY ROCK FIREFIGHTERS SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Local public and private organizations are gathering at Rumbling Bald Resort at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, January 21 to honor local fire departments for their role in the battle to contain the recent Party Rock Fire. Organizers are calling it the *Party Rock Fire Thank You Celebration and Fundraiser*. The event will also recognize several businesses, volunteers and others who "went above and beyond" in responding to the challenges of the 25+ days the wildfire raged. Plans include a cocktail reception, heavy hors d'oeuvres, time for special recognition and entertainment.

This is a free event and all are welcome to attend, however space is limited so you are asked to RSVP for the Jan. 21st event, by calling 828-694-3016 by Jan. 16th. The groups putting together this event are Rumbling Bald Resort, its Homeowners' Association, the Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation, the municipalities of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock Village, Lake Lure Classical Academy (LLCA), and the Chamber of Hickory Nut Gorge. LLCA will also host a Chili Cook-Off earlier in the day.



Even before the fire was fully contained, representatives from several organizations began talking about a way to honor and support local firefighters and others who gave so much during the fire. It is in that spirit that the community is coming together to raise funds for local fire departments.

The Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation will manage the funds raised, ensuring that all contributions go to the "Party Rock Fire Thank You Fund" for local fire departments

Donations are tax-deductible and should be made to the Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. There are three ways to give: (1) directly at the Party Rock Fire Recovery Celebration at Rumbling Bald Resort on January 21; (2) online, anytime at the Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation's website at [Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation](http://HickoryNutGorgeFoundation.com) (3) By mail to The Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation, PO Box 783, Lake Lure, NC 28746. For specific questions related to financial contributions, contact Jack Barton at 704-578-5507, or by email at jkbarton@me.com.

"Firefighters save more than homes. They save hearts, memories and dreams." ~ Unknown

NEW YEAR'S DAY LAKE LURE POLAR PLUNGE

Take the Lake Lure Polar Plunge. This year the event will be held New Year's Day at the Lake Lure Inn & Spa Pool. It promises to be a "rambunctious time with a bunch of crazy-dressed fun folks," according to the HNG Chamber. Registration is scheduled from 10:00-11:30 AM with Polar Plungers jumping into the pool at Noon. There is a \$20 fee to enter. No advance registration is available. Prizes will be awarded, including for the participant who traveled furthest, as well as oldest and youngest. Have fun dressing up and maybe you will win the \$100 first prize. Stay afterward by the fire for hot chocolate, music and fun.



DONATE \$200 TO LLFB AND BE A PATHFINDER

Pathfinder bricks carry donors' messages. Your message can be part of the path through the LLFB gardens. By filling out the form on our website, you can dedicate your brick to a loved one or share a sentiment for visitors to contemplate like the one above. Once your donation and form are received, it may take 30-60 days to be etched and installed. We ask your patience as we attempt to be good stewards of donated funds and seek the best possible prices for the work that needs to be done. You can donate by downloading the forms and returning them with your check for \$200 to LLFB, P.O. Box 125, Lake Lure, NC 28746. [Donate and be a Pathfinder.](#)



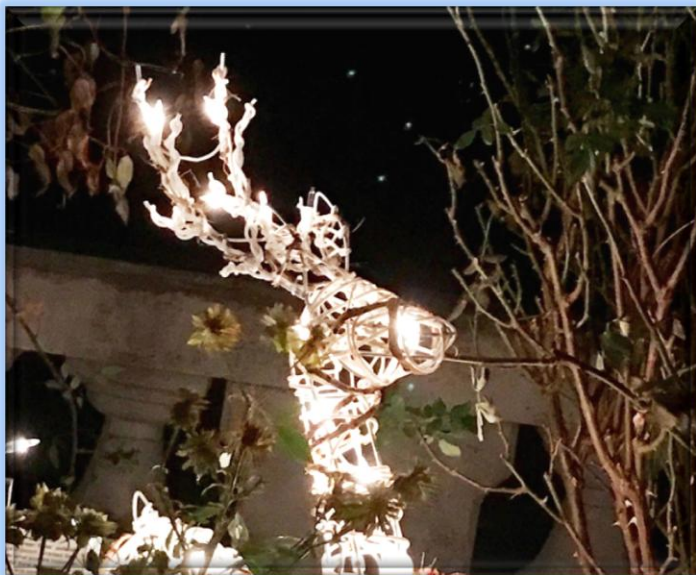


THOUGHTS AND SIGHTS OF WINTER

"At Christmas I no more desire a rose than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth; But like of each thing that in season grows." ~ William Shakespeare



"In winter skies, stars shine brighter, their light traveling across the galaxy, reminding us that our Earth is part of a wondrous universe." ~ Unknown



[Photos above by Alice Garrard]



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



A reminder above of how 2016 began with Blaine Cox's photo of the snow covered bridge gardens in January. We look forward in anticipation of the year ahead and whatever it may bring.

[Photos not otherwise attributed by Mike Lumpkin]