



P.O. Box 125, Lake Lure, NC 28746
Contact: leearmstrong16@gmail.com

NEWS



APRIL 2017

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING FREE WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

- May 6** **SATURDAY, 11:00 AM**
LLFB GARDEN PARTY
Behind East Gardens in the Grove - next to Carolina Moon parking
- May 9** Drip Irrigation, led by master gardener and LLFB volunteer Bill Massey
- May 16** Planted Chairs Workshop, led by master gardener and LLFB volunteer Lynn Lang
- May 23** Often-asked Questions on the LLFB, answered by master gardener and chair of the LLFB Garden Design Committee, Kathy Tanner
- May 27-29** **SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY**
LAKE LURE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL ~ Visit our booth!
- June 13** Nature Walk in Rumbling Bald with area naturalist Clint Calhoun
- June 27** Soil Testing and Amending, led by Polk County Extension Agent Scott Welborn

****Unless otherwise indicated, workshops 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.**



The snowdrop and primrose our woodlands adorn, and violets bathe in the wet o' the morn.
- Robert Burns

WE INVITE ONE AND ALL - COME TO OUR GARDEN PARTY SATURDAY, MAY 6 AT 11:00 AM



Join us for the 2017 LLFB ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY ON SATURDAY, MAY 6, BEGINNING AT 11:00 AM behind the East Gardens next to Carolina Moon parking. We will celebrate our volunteers and the achievements of the past year and look forward to the future together. It's the weekend before Mother's Day and we'll have some wonderful blooming gifts and other surprises you can purchase for that occasion along with free yummy refreshments and lots of fun. Bring the kids for a scavenger hunt.

VOLUNTEERS TELL THE LLFB STORY DURING EARTH DAY FESTIVITIES IN CHIMNEY ROCK



[Photo by Alice Garrard]

LLFB was well represented in Chimney Rock during the Earth Day festivities April 22nd. Our able volunteers provided information about our gardens, and our calendar of activities for 2017, as well as gardening in the Hickory Nut Gorge. They also provided some special activities for children and were on hand throughout the day to answer questions. Thanks to Chimney Rock State Park for their leadership in the Earth Day celebration.

Like us on [Facebook](#) ~ More than 2300 do!

TALKING ROSES AT THE BRIDGE WITH STEVE EARNEST



On April 11, local rosarian Steve Earnest, who also is director of security at Rumbling Bald, talked about growing roses to twenty people on the Flowering Bridge. According to Steve, in Zone 7a, where we live, the last frost is typically April 15, and afterward it's time to start feeding the roses and preparing them for their close-ups.

He uses a mixture of slow-release organic fertilizer, alfalfa pellets, coffee grounds, horse manure, and a pinch of chemical fertilizer to promote growth and blooms. (Rose fertilizers generally have a ratio of 3-2-1 -- nitrogen to phosphorus to potash -- and coffee, alfalfa, and horse manure have similar ratios.) Steve then spreads compost on top of the dirt around the rose and mixes it into the soil. This year he used mushroom compost. In addition, he puts a pinch of Epsom Salts in the soil by each rose in the spring and early summer.



For more information, Steve recommends the American Rose Society's comprehensive guide to growing roses,

http://www.rose.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/RoseHills-Booklet_FINAL.2.pdf, and Paul Zimmerman's video on training a climbing rose,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rf7F5qhChFM>.

Also check out Steve's garden page on Facebook: The Rose, Flower and Veggie Gardener's Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/133676416801690/>

[Reported and Photographed by Alice Garrard]

~

Rosarian: A person with expertise or a special interest in the cultivation of roses.



LLFB VOLUNTEERS TAKE A FIELD TRIP TO LEARN



Director Jeff Chandler welcomes bridge volunteers to the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center in Mills River, NC.

Thanks to Rutherford County Extension Agent John Vining for organizing a special learning event for LLFB volunteers and friends. On April 5th the group toured the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River.

Faculty and staff, from the North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Natural Resources, conduct research and extension programs for the departments of Applied Ecology, Entomology, Forestry, Horticultural Science, Plant Pathology, and Soil Science. The Center also houses the administrative offices for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service West and North-Central Districts.

The Center conducts applied research, and develops and implements extension programs related to agriculture, the environment, family, and community. The goal is to help the people of western North Carolina improve their lives. Our LLFB group explored the Tissue Culture Lab and the Research Apple Orchard and learned about plant breeding.

For more info, click: [Mountain Horticultural Center](#) [In photo above, volunteers Danny Holland and Mitsi Chorak scrutinize a hydrangea tissue culture. Photos from Alice Garrard]



"Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer." ~ Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

 **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY GRADUATED MASTER GARDENERS**



Cheers to Eleanor Bails, Mitsi Chorak, Marily Floyd and Sharon Beeckler. They are the four most recent LLFB volunteers to complete the rigorous program of Master Gardener classes. Congratulations to each of you. We are so proud of your achievement.

Under the guidance and direction of Cooperative Extension agents, volunteers complete a 40-hour training program, pass an examination, and complete at least a 40-hour internship. To remain active in the program volunteers must log a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer time and a minimum of 12 hours of continuing education each year.

To learn more about the Master Gardener program, go to [NC Master Gardeners](http://www.ncmastergardeners.org)



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MAY 13

SPRINGGO FEST IN CHIMNEY ROCK

- 7:00 AM Pancake Breakfast
- 11:00 AM Parade (LLFB volunteers ride and toss out seed packets)
- 2:00PM Cow Pie Bingo Winner Announced
- 5:30 PM Dinner served followed by the Rutherford County Symphony at The Gathering Place at Meliski Park and Recycled Garden Art Auction

SATURDAY-MONDAY, MAY 27-29

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL Across from the Lake Lure Beach

THURSDAY, JUNE 22 6:00-8:00 PM

MUSIC AT THE GATHERING PLACE Lake Lure Cloggers and a Live Band (TBA)



[California Poppies and other photos this page by Alice Garrard]



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

<http://lakelurefloweringbridge.org/donate/>