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NEWS JUNE 2017

🌻 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING FREE WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

- August 8** Vertical Gardening--led by LLFB volunteer Debbie Clark
- August 22** Planting to Attract Birds, Not Bears--led by garden guru Mary Ann Brown
- September 13** ****Wednesday - Lake Lure Town Hall**
Monarch Butterfly Migration
- September 26** Tussy Mussy Workshop--led by LLFB volunteers Paige Massey and Lynn Lang
- October 10** Build a Rock Wall--led by Tom Gorman
- October 17** Return of the Pumpkin People*
- October 24** Hands-on Pruning Class--led by Debbie Clark
- November 7** Fairy Garden Workshop*
****At Lake Lure Town Hall**
- November 28** Wreath, Garland and Swag Making

*These workshops may require additional materials.

**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.

🌻 OUR STATE BRINGS TRAVELERS TO LAKE LURE AND THE LLFB



Look who's coming to Lake Lure and the Flowering Bridge! This ad appears in the July issue of *Our State* magazine, inviting readers to join a tour of the NC mountains that includes a visit to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge and several destinations in our area in mid-August.

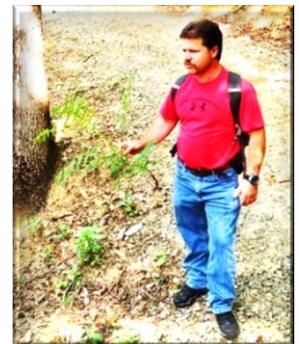
🌻 OUR OWN AMY WALD WINS BEST OF SHOW IN FESTIVAL



It comes as no surprise to us that Chimney Rock artist Amy Wald is a winner. She has shared her talents with the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge from our beginnings, most recently creating our temporary Giving Tree. Now she has been acknowledged by the Dahlonega Art and Wine Festival for her work, acclaimed as "Best of Show" for her unique rustic wood creations.

🌻 LLFB FRIENDS TAKE A HIKE AND LEARN FROM THE PROS

LLFB volunteers and friends, eager to learn from the experts, gathered June 13th at Rumbling Bald to take a nature walk to the boulder field off Boys Camp Road. Clint Calhoun (at right), an experienced naturalist who serves as the Town of Lake Lure's Environmental Management Officer, led the hike. On June 27 Scott Wellborn, Polk County extension agent, led our group in a session about soil testing and amending.



The walk included a look at both native and non-native plants, some of which are invasive and detrimental to the bounteous natural resources in the Gorge. In the photo above from Blaine Cox, Clint points out the invasive Tree of Heaven (*ailanthus* or sky tree), widespread locally. Originating in China, this tall-growth shade species was unfortunately imported years ago before air-conditioning was widely available. It spreads above and below ground all too easily, threatening native species.

🌻 **THANKS TO ALL
WHO PARTICIPATED WITH US IN THE
LAKE LURE ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL**

The Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival, which supports Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach, has been around since 1980 and features only handmade items. This year Friends of the Flowering Bridge had a booth



for the first time as the only nonprofit in the spring show. We held monthly crafts parties starting last October, creating everything from fairy wands and garden markers for plant containers to teacup bird feeders. We were grateful for the donation of original art by local artists Veryle Lynn Cox and Amy Wald.



Our participation was a successful fundraising event for the bridge, despite the unexpected "micro-burst" of wind and rain that destroyed more than half of the 80 tents in the show the second day of the three-day festival. We were fortunate that only our



tent was damaged and that we were able to help our neighboring artisans who weren't so lucky salvage what they could.

Preparing for the festival gave our volunteers who love to craft as much as garden an outlet for their creativity. It also gave friends in the area who don't garden a way to support the bridge and enjoy fellowship with our fun-loving volunteers. Hosting in our booth gave us a chance to tell visitors about our beautiful bridge and encourage them to see it during their stay. It also gave festival goers the chance to take home some whimsical garden art and ornaments similar to those they've admired on the bridge.

Volunteers who took part in the festival met recently to discuss our experience and decide if we want to commit to the time and effort required to do so again. The answer was a resounding "yes," and the bridge will be take part again next year at the October 2018 festival. In the meantime, we'll be offering some remaining crafts on the bridge through July and will plan more crafts parties for late fall and winter. Join us!



[Thanks to Alice Garrard for this article and photos.]

🌻 **BELATED TIP OF THE HAT** 🎩

Some volunteers who were valuable helpers during the Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival were inadvertently left out of our list last month. Eleanor Bails reminds us that we owe thanks to Lou Chorak, Heyward Nettles and Linda Turner. We appreciate all of you!



We have a new LLFB nursery, a special spot to nurture our babies from seeds or starter plants. The idea for this tiny garden came from volunteers. The baby bed was donated by Chuck and Diane Merrick and the pottery was made and donated by Veryle Lynn Cox. [This photo and one below from Alice Garrard.]



Take a moment or two to rest on the clever new seat made and donated by Amy Wald. Three chairs became one as a colorful bench near the Welcome Terrace. Thanks, Amy!

 **ALAMANCE MASTER GARDENERS
VISIT LLFB**



The Master Gardeners Club of Alamance County took a tour of the LLFB on June 28th. Volunteers Kathy Tanner, Bill and Paige Massey and Lynn Lang acted as docents for the group and answered their questions about the gardens. We find that gardeners from all over the country are hearing about the LLFB and coming to see it for themselves. [Thanks to Kathy Tanner for the photo above.]

Like us on [Facebook](#) - 2,421 have!



**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
ANY DONATION IS APPRECIATED.**

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



Thanks to Alice Garrard for picture above of the glorious sunflower, colorful wind spinner and zinnias . The gardens are full of delights this summer.

 **GET YOUR HULA ON AT
THE 2017 LAKE LURAU JULY 15TH**

Get on your Hawaiian shirt or muumuu and come to Lake Lure Beach Saturday July 15, 6-10PM for the 2017 Lake Lurau to benefit the Hickory Nut Gorge Chamber of Commerce. A generous buffet with slow-roast pulled pork, chicken and baked fish is yours for just \$30 in advance for adults and teens, \$10 for children or add \$5 to these prices at the gate. Enjoy the Pig Parade and music by The Big Kahuna Hawaiian DJ. The Spirit of Polynesia Dance Troupe will perform and teach traditional Hawaiian hula dancing. Along with the cash bar, the Lurau offers plenty of fun Hawaiian activities for the kids and young at heart. For more information, go to <http://hickorynutchamber.org>



Alice Garrard's picture of coneflowers looks like a painting.