SO MANY WAYS TO ENJOY THE BRIDGE GARDENS

As you can see from the photo above, there are many ways to enjoy the bridge gardens. Whether you are there in the early morning quiet or at any time of day, you might see walkers and runners, or busy volunteers working with the plants. Visitors enjoy taking time to "smell the roses" or taking photos to remind them of their vacation when they return home. Whatever your pleasure, we hope you will enjoy this wonderful addition to the Hickory Nut Gorge. Thanks to Charlie Yelton's craftsmanship one of our bridge benches (left) is in place with another on the way from his workshop soon.

WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT OUR NEW SIGN

Sometimes things come together in such a magical way that we know we are on the right track. With the input of our Board and garden planning committee, we took our idea for our bridge signage to local craftsman, Steve Sane. We couldn't be happier with the way he created the arch above our gates so that all who pass by from either direction know where they are.

Steve is a native of Rutherford County who got interested in iron work when he made a Christmas gift for his mother. He describes himself as a self-taught blacksmith who has learned from reading books and trial and error. From his home-based shop, he creates beauty from iron, sometimes using copper with wrought iron. Father of four and grandfather of three, Steve lives in Green Hill with his family.

THANKS TO CHUCK SANE

Thanks to the generosity of Chuck Sane, we now have three Carolina Silverbells (Styrex Americana) planted on the west end of the bridge. Chuck is a local resident who saw the LLFB presentation to Rutherford County master gardeners. He then donated the trees in memory of his wife, Susie. Chuck is also the uncle of Steve Sane, our creative iron craftsman in the story above.
THANKS TO JANE MELTON FOR HER GIFT OF LIGHT

Thanks to Jane Melton for a very special gift, the amazing lamp post that has been placed near the bench in the east end gardens. This is one of the old town lights that once sat in front of the original Lake Lure School. After many years on her property, this lamp from our town's history was generously donated to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge for placement in the gardens. We are very grateful to Mrs. Melton for her thoughtful donation in memory of Ira and Daisy Noblitt. The lamp will provide illumination along the pathway for many years to come. In the picture above you can see the light (far left) as it stood in front of the old school which was situated on Memorial Highway where the temporary home of the Lake Lure Classical Academy is today.

Bill Miller and Charlie Yelton attach the lovingly-restored lamp to our historic post. (Photo by Saundra Nelson)

THANKS TO AMY WALD OF CHIMNEY ROCK BARK & TWIG

As visitors come through the gardens, they will have Amy Wald's craftsmanship to thank for the wonderful cases that hold our maps of the beds on the bridge. Amy donated her labor to make these unique cases despite the fact that she is in the midst of a very busy schedule of shows where she displays and sells her work. She has a rare and amazing gift for seeing the beauty in wood and bark and turning those natural materials into unique works of art. To see more of Amy's creative work, go to: chimneyrockbarkandtwig.com. Thanks, Amy!

Sometimes there is a magic moment when the early morning light spills through the balusters and creates a glow. In the herb garden this beautiful borage plant can take your breath away. (Photo by Lee Armstrong Lumpkin)

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND TO LEARN ABOUT PLANTS

The photo above reminds us that there is much more to our gardens than the simple joy of their beauty. For instance, the borage plant above is one of the culinary plants in the herb garden. Also known as the starflower, borage is used in Italy as an ingredient in ravioli. It is often found in soups and has medicinal uses as well. Within the herb garden bed, you can also see fragrant, medicinal and decorative herbs.

"Flowers are the music of the ground From earth's lips spoken without sound." --Edward Curran
We are very grateful for the support of the donors listed below who have made contributions to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge thus far this year. Hayward and Nancy Nettles, Barbara Bagwell, Fred and Kathy Bauch, David Thompson, Curtis Bartelt, Russ and Doris Lloyd, Betty Ross, Perry and Carol Rawson, Danny Holland, Alice Garrard, Bill Beeman, Bob and Nan Covert, Diane Barrett, Mary Jaeger-Gale and Steve Gale, Walter Hughes, Dick and Barbara Nealon, Dean Egly, Alex and Julie Marshall, Sandra St. Clair, Brown and Betty Thornton, Charlie and Susie Ellis, John Kobland, Bill and Jerry McAninch, Mary Jo Bertsch and Melany Furinsky, Gary and Patti Blenden, Chris Braund and Karen VanSickler, Bill and Eleanor Miller, George and Margaret Nixon, Charlene Efird, John and Paula Moore, Lee Armstrong and Mike Lumpkin, Lynn Carnes Pitts, Steve and Marcia Eisenbrown, Woody and Linda Turner, T Russell Sherrill, Mike and Ellen Huber, Vern and Leslie Allen, Mary D’Maria, Vivian Saich and Family, Betty Flynn, Sara and Barry McWilliams. If you have donated this year, but don't see your name, it might not have been processed by our deadline. You will be acknowledged in a later issue.

JOIN FRIENDS OF THE BRIDGE AND BECOME ONE OF OUR PATHFINDERS

There’s a new opportunity to have an engraved brick in the gardens as supporters of the bridge. We’ve been asked many times about bricks, but did not have an answer for those requests since the Founders Circle closed in June 2012. Now, those who join the Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge at a level of $200 or more can request an engraved brick. These bricks will be placed in the west end gardens when those are developed. All the details and the forms to become one of our Pathfinders are now available on our website. Go to: www.lakelurefloweringbridge.com.

Mary Ann Brown leads a group through the gardens. A terrific volunteer, Mary Ann donated many plants to our gardens from her gardens at home.

GROUPS TOUR BRIDGE GARDENS

Our garden gurus have led some guided tours for groups through the gardens this month. The "Keenagers" from the First Baptist Church of Rutherfordton were our first tour group, led by Mary Ann Brown, Kathy Tanner and Bill Miller. They had many questions for our gardeners and were very appreciative of the work that has been done to create the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. Also touring were the Lake Lure Newcomers Club.

If your group would like to arrange a guided tour, please contact us via mail at PO Box 125, Lake Lure, NC 28746 or through our website or Facebook. We will make every effort to accommodate requests as our volunteers are available.

Visit us at www.lakelurefloweringbridge.com and LIKE Friends of Lake Lure Flowering Bridge on Facebook.