DELIght IN THE CREATIVITY OF OUR FAiry Gardens

Our fairy garden workshop led by Lynn Lang on October 29 produced an array of creative results that are on display now through the winter months. The photo above features the creation of Terry Ashley and Kathy Tanner that they call "All Cracked Up." It shows plants arranged in cracked flower pots, a design that recycles pot fragments to make a pretty and interesting garden feature. Then there is Lynn Lang's "Man Cave" with busy gnomes gathering supplies for the winter. [Top photo by Mike Lumpkin, bottom photo by Alice Garrard.]

Click here and here to see more fairy garden photos on Facebook.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: SAUNDRA NELSON**

One of the joys of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is working side by side with great people. A founding member of the Board, Saundra Nelson co-chairs the Garden Committee, sharing her expertise as a gardener, her leadership and her wonderful giving spirit.

Saundra's story in her own words: Remembering a certain day in December of 2011 as the first time the idea of a Flowering Bridge was presented to me by Bill Miller always causes me to smile and give thanks for his vision and persuasiveness. What an undertaking! What an opportunity to help create something unique and beautiful! What a blessing to our community!

The three years since that day have undoubtedly been filled with challenges, both mental and physical. The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge Board, under the leadership of Bill, is made up of some of the brightest, most creative and hardest working men and women with whom I have ever been associated. What an honor!

Being the granddaughter, daughter and niece in a family of true gardeners and lovers of all plants has served me well in this undertaking. Thanks to their teachings, I think I knew the common names of plants before I learned my alphabet. Working in the garden has a calming effect for me. Even pulling weeds is therapeutic. I seem to lose myself and all sense of time. My husband, Carl, for years has teased me about my gardening habits. In years past, after my retirement in South Georgia/North Florida, he would say goodbye to me in the garden as he left for work only to discover me still there when he came home that evening. Sometimes, he would find me in a hole where I had dug massive roots from an especially wicked weed that were the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. I have to say, working in the gardens of the Flowering Bridge is a lot easier!

Of our many volunteers at the Bridge there are those who are considered experts, a few Master Gardeners, and many of us who might best be described as 'in training'. Whatever level you consider yourself to be, there is a place for you. It is a wonderful place to make new friends, learn more about plants and be a part of the most exciting community project that has come to this area in many years. I feel so blessed to be just a small part of it.
**2015 LLFB CALENDARS ARE HERE!**

For a donation of just $15, you can now have a 2015 Lake Lure Flowering Bridge calendar filled with beautiful photographs of the bridge and gardens. These make lovely holiday gifts for family and friends and remind them year-round to enjoy our special spot in the Hickory Nut Gorge. To order, email gullahgal@gmail.com or contact any LLFB Board member.

**LLFB HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS FROM VERYLE LYNN COX**

Once again, our talented local artist Veryle Lynn Cox has created unique holiday tree ornaments commemorating the LLFB. For a donation of $25, these are available to add that special touch to your tree. Contact Saundra Nelson. Phone her at 828-625-1065 or 828-289-2214(Cell) or email Saundra at csnelson38@bellsouth.net.

**LLFB VEHICLE TAGS ARE AVAILABLE**

Now you can get one of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge automobile plates seen on the front of many cars in our area. For a donation of just $10 you can help spread news of our unique Lake Lure Flowering Bridge wherever you drive. To order, email llfb@bellsouth.net.

**DECORATING THE BRIDGE GARDENS FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Thanks to the volunteers who braved cold temperatures and windy days to gather greenery and decorate the bridge for the holidays. In these photos (taken by Saundra Nelson), Rae Frykberg is cutting greenery at Rumbling Bald RV Park. Lesley Rife is bagging it to be turned into wreaths. Go to page 3 here or to Facebook for photos of the decorations.

**WINTERFEST IN THE GORGE RETURNS NOVEMBER 28TH**

Plans are in the works now for WinterFest in the Gorge 2014 with lots of activities for all ages. It all begins with Light Up the Gorge November 28. Activities are planned for the weekends of December 5-6 (including the Chili Cookoff) and December 12-13. There will be extended shopping hours, pictures with Santa, crafts for the kids, carolers, trolley rides, hay rides and more. Festivities conclude with the Polar Plunge at the Beach January 1, 2015. For more information, go to WinterFest online.

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The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat and a member of the American Public Gardens Association.
**CHIMNEY ROCK CHILI COOKOFF**
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH**

To enter your chili or cornbread, contact Steve Gale at (828) 625-4126. [Entries $5.00 in each category] All are welcome for the all-you-can-eat dinner ($7.50 per person) beginning at 5:00 PM at the Chimney Rock Volunteer Fire Department. Activities begin at 7:00 PM, so join the Cake Walk and play bingo for prizes. Then watch the tree lighting at 9:00 PM at the Gathering Place. This event benefits the beautification and enhancement of the Village of Chimney Rock. For more information call Mary Standish at (828) 625-9611.

**HICKORY NUT GORGE CHAMBER**
**ANNUAL GALA/AUCTION**
**DECEMBER 11TH**

The Chamber of Hickory Nut Gorge is hosting its [Annual Christmas FUNraiser Gala Auction](#) on December 11, 2014 at the Lakeview Restaurant at Rumbling Bald Resort from 6:30-10 p.m. Don your best 1960s attire and get ready to party like mad men (and women) as this year’s themes will play off the popular TV show, *Mad Men*!

This event will feature a ’60s-themed buffet, live DJ, dancing, a scrumptious dessert bar, live and silent auctions, a special Grand Raffle prize and a cash bar. Auction items include handcrafted works of art in several genres, concert and show tickets, PGA golf tickets and more. There will be a photo booth where you can capture the moments with friends and family! Photos will be posted online after the event for purchase and download. Holiday attire is suggested!

"Just a' Swingin'"
_Fairy Garden designed by Nancy Nettles_

[Photo by Alice Garrard]