**Lake Lure Flowering Bridge**

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**NEWS**  May 2015

**COME TO A GARDEN PARTY**  
**ON THE BRIDGE**  
**LLFB ANNUAL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 22ND**

Join us for the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge annual meeting, a "garden party" on the bridge. The festivities begin at 6:00 PM with refreshments and door prizes as we share accomplishments and plans for the future. We'll celebrate our volunteers and have a tour of the gardens with giveaways and lots of fun. Bring your friends and neighbors! (Should inclement weather make it necessary, we'll move our event inside Town Hall.) [Photo by Alice Garrard]

**LLFB GROUP TOURS**

We are hosting garden clubs, church groups, retirement communities and others for tours of the bridge gardens. If you know a group that wants a tour, contact our Education Committee leaders, Alice Garrard or Danny Holland. You can email your request to alice@bellsouth.net or dbholland@bellsouth.net. Be sure to include any specific needs your group might have. Tours are free. Donations are always welcome.

**VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH:**  
**VERYLE LYNN COX & AMY WALD**

Vveryle Lynn Cox and Amy Wald with the mural they created for the LLFB Gardens [Photo by Blaine Cox]

The greatest gift to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is the talent shared by our volunteers. When volunteers are also artists, magical things happen. The mural now in the west end garden was suggested by **Veryle Lynn Cox** and created by her and fellow artisan **Amy Wald**. Both have graced the bridge with countless gifts from the very beginning and we are grateful for their dedication and their creativity as we recognize them as our Volunteers of the Month.

**Veryle Lynn's Story:** In the 1970’s, my husband Blaine’s career led our family to Brussels, Belgium. There for four-and-a-half years I studied life-size figure drawing and figure sculpture at the Royal Academy of Fine Art.

Lake Lure became our home 25 years ago after dropping out of work life in Chicago. My job as chair of a large suburban high school art department moved into doing my own art designs.

My work in pottery and paint reflect the energy of the Hickory Nut Gorge. Rhododendron leaves grace our driveway, my paintings and my pots. Depending on the season, the Sleeping Lady of the mountains across from us is blanketed in greenness, scarlet, and fog. She is featured in many of my works in paint and clay and in Blaine’s photographs.

Our Lake Lure Flowering Bridge has become another favorite inspiration for my work in paint and clay. Sharing a page from Facebook about using old doors in a garden led to a nudge from Kathy Tanner. A quick watercolor sketch of the Hickory Nut Gorge as seen with the bridge’s beautiful Grecian urn balustrade was given the stamp of approval.
Amy Wald’s knowledge of exterior mural design and paints, plus the use of the Chimney Rock Fire Department community room made the mural become a reality. Twenty-one enthusiastic volunteers painted the large areas of the mural, and Leianne Carnes helped us with her fine painting skills.

Not only planning the installation of the mural but digging post holes in the hard ground were Kenneth Tanner and Danny Holland. Big thanks to all who made the mural possible!

**Amy’s Story:** I was born in Fargo, North Dakota in 1955. My parents moved many times in the next 14 years, steadily south and east, traveling through Minnesota and Illinois, then to Florida. I got really tired of moving and wanted more control of my life, so I decided I would need to graduate early from high school. I had already skipped a couple of elementary school grades and found a way to bypass high school classes if you pass the CLEP tests. I did that and decided to move to Florida to go to college. My parents quickly followed. I knew only two cities, Tampa and Miami and decided on Tampa and the University of South Florida. I majored in Aural Rehabilitation or Deaf Education toward a Masters degree. I finished all my doctoral work there, but did not get my degree.

I taught at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine for a year, then moved to Naples in South Florida to be nearer my family. I taught in both public and private schools there for many years, mainly at the primary level.

I met my husband, Bob, in 1982 and we were married in 1983. Our daughter, Lauren, was born in 1985. I left teaching to be a stay-at-home mom. I quickly found that I was not meant for that, so started to work part-time at my husband’s psychiatric practice a couple of days a week. That ended up being a very full-time practice management position for 16 years.

We came to this area when we were vacationing in Maggie Valley in 1997. We hiked some properties, thinking it might be nice to find a little five-acre piece of land to visit on vacation. That ended up being a full-time move to a 50-acre piece of heaven.

Since moving to Chimney Rock I have been active with the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, the Lake Lure Artists, Chimney Rock Community Development Association and several other local volunteer groups. I cannot imagine living in a more beautiful place among a friendlier population. This is my forever home. [Amy’s photo by Jim Proctor]
**OUR FACEBOOK FAMILY KEEPS GROWING**

Thanks to our volunteer web manager and Facebook guru Mike Lumpkin the number of our Facebook followers continues to grow. We now have more than 1230 "likes" who see Mike's beautiful photos of the bridge gardens (like the one here) and for visitors to contribute their own pictures as well. It's a good way to communicate throughout the month between newsletters, not just telling folks about us, but showing them as well. Like us on Facebook.

**THANKS TO AREA MEDIA FOR TELLING OUR STORY**

As we see visitors strolling the path through the gardens, we are mindful that we are all ambassadors for our community. LLFB owes a debt of gratitude to those in our area who publish our story both online and in print. Thanks to David and Cathy Leestma of The Mountain Breeze for including us in the May-June issue that is available now. The Breeze has supported the LLFB generously from our beginnings. Thanks also to Genevieve Helms and the folks who cover our community online at Go Lake Lure for their support, including an item from the Polk County Center describing the LLFB as "an oasis of flowers" and encouraging readers "to see what dedicated volunteers can achieve with a vision, a little leadership and lots of hard work."

**LUAU ON LAKE LURE = "LURAU"**

The Chamber of Hickory Nut Gorge invites you to an authentic Hawaiian beach luau on the shore of Lake Lure, **July 15 from 6-10PM** on the Lake Lure Beach. The cost is $30 for adults, $15 for children 12 and under. A giant Hawaiian food buffet featuring Hawaiian-style pulled pork, chicken and baked fish. Entertainment by The Big Kahuna Hawaiian DJ and the He'olina Leo Ka Ke Aloha Dance Troupe performing and teaching traditional hula dancing. Go to their website for more information.

**THANKS TO THE TOWN OF LAKE LURE**

Thanks to Chris Braund, Valerie Hoffman and the Town of Lake Lure staff for helping us get our banners up around town. Donors paid for the banners and the Town is hanging them at their banner sites. Welcome visitors!

Left: Red hot pokers frame visitors enjoying the gardens. Below: Coneflowers are natives that grow well here. [Photos on this page are by Mike Lumpkin.]

The graceful balusters of our old bridge make a beautiful backdrop for the rose garden's blooms.

**VOLUNTEER WITH LLFB**

Come to the bridge any Tuesday or Thursday around 10:00 AM. Join us and find the joy of digging in the dirt with friends.