JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE LAKE LURE FLOWERING BRIDGE

As we enjoy the lush greenery of summer, it's a good time to refresh our memories about who and what are the Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit group of community volunteers led by a Board of Directors. We rely on donations of time and financial support to grow the gardens.

Our mission: to design, create and maintain a flowering pedestrian bridge across the Rocky Broad River and the walkways at both ends of the bridge for the joy and benefit of all who come our way.

Our board includes Chairman Bill Miller, Vice Chair Janet Walters, Secretary Susie Ellis, Treasurer Linda Turner, Garden Chair Kathy Tanner, Infrastructure Chair Charlie Yelton, Membership Chair Marily Floyd, Education Co-Chairs Alice Garrard and Danny Holland, Marketing Chair Lee Armstrong Lumpkin and At-large member Chuck Watkins. The board meets monthly to discuss and decide upon issues related to the preservation and maintenance of the gardens and the stewardship of the budget. [See Board photo by Mike Lumpkin on page 3.]

Our website is maintained by volunteer Mike Lumpkin who also manages our Facebook presence. New volunteers join our ranks regularly and we welcome all who are interested. Please email us at llfb@bellsouth.net if you want to volunteer in the gardens or serve on the board.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH: OUR GARDEN CHAIRPERSONS

All credit for the growth of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge rests squarely on the shoulders of our volunteers. We believe a key secret to our success is having garden chairpersons for each bed. Every part of the gardens has a dedicated leader or team of leaders taking responsibility for planting and maintaining these individual areas. In consultation with Kathy Tanner and the Garden Design team, this group of committed volunteers contributes ideas and makes sure that each area has the attention needed to maintain both beauty and health. Each of the leaders works with the Tuesday and Thursday volunteer corps to weed, plant, water and make any changes as needed. Thus, this month we salute our garden chairpersons whose leadership shows in each stem, every blossom and design element.

East Garden-Bill and Paige Massey

Herb Garden-Janet Walters

Lake Lure Classical Academy and Whimsical Gardens-Saundra Nelson

Fragrant Garden-Marily Floyd

Wildflower Dry Garden-Kathy Tanner
CLINT CALHOUN SHares HNG ECOSYstem KNOWLEDGE

As part of our continuing outreach with free educational workshops, we invited Clint Calhoun, Environmental Management Officer for the Town of Lake Lure, to lead a workshop at the bridge on wildflowers and native plants. LLFB Education Co-Chair Alice Garrard reports that Clint, always a fountain of information about the Hickory Nut Gorge ecosystem, generously shared his knowledge with participants.

Clint warned that ginseng is becoming less common in the Hickory Nut Gorge and will disappear eventually because people are harvesting it for profit and not leaving the seeds. There are 14-15 rare species of plants in the gorge, he said. Some are endangered. White irisette, a blue-eyed grass found here, is one of the endangered plants. It has small white flowers whose petals curl backward. Clint can supply a list of endangered plants to anyone who is interested. Contact him at eco@townoflakelure.com. Thanks to Clint for his time and expertise for this program. [Photo above from Lynn Lang]

HELP SUPPORT LLFB BY GETTING YOUR OWN TEE SHIRT

Interested in having one of our colorful shirts? They are available at the Artisan Center of Lake Lure while supplies last. Or you can place an order with volunteers on the bridge or email us at llfb@bellsouth.net with your request. You can wear our message wherever you go.
The pathway invites a stroll in the August sunshine.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR
10AM-2PM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
LAKE LURE TOWN HALL

The Chamber of Hickory Nut Gorge reminds us not to wait for the New Year to resolve to be healthier. A community health fair will offer free cholesterol and glucose screenings, as well as information on strength conditioning, yoga, reflexology, carbon monoxide poison prevention, outdoor activities, personal training, the Affordable Health Care Act and more from local providers at the Lake Lure Community Town Hall. Plus, enter for the chance to win Mast General Store gift cards, tickets to Chimney Rock and other health-related prizes! Free to the public and hosted by Chimney Rock Management, LLC. Please note that mammograms will NOT be available as previously advertised.

LLFB WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Thanks to the Lake Lure Artists for allowing LLFB volunteers to join in a watercolor workshop in the gardens led by Veryle Lynn Cox on August 13th. An enthusiastic crowd gathered under the trees to get some pointers. Then artists and beginners dispersed across the gardens to capture the beauty. One of the pretty watercolors is shown above left. To learn about similar educational programs in the gardens check our website and LLFB Facebook page. [Photos from Alice Garrard]

The LLFB Board meets monthly at Town Hall (usually first Monday at 2pm). Clockwise from lower left are: Linda Turner, Chuck Watkins, Charlie Yelton, Janet Walters, Marily Floyd, Susie Ellis, Alice Garrard, Danny Holland and Lee Armstrong Lumpkin. We missed Bill Miller and Kathy Tanner for this session. Your input is welcome. Contact us at llfb@bellsouth.net.

Blooms against the balustrade beautifully combine architecture and nature.

[ Unless otherwise credited, photos in this issue taken by Mike Lumpkin]