GARDEN DELIGHTS RETURN WITH THE PUMPKIN PEOPLE

Those fun Pumpkin People returned for their third year in the gardens, brought to "life" by an enthusiastic group of creative volunteers in a workshop on Wednesday, October 14, that was much more fun than work. The well-dressed "Garden Gourmet" (left) was created by Susie Ellis. The "Flamingo" pumpkin was designed by Danny Holland. Amy Wald carved the wonderful animal faces below. Each year the imagination, skill and variety displayed by our garden artists amaze and amuse all those who take the path through the gardens. They are expressions of the joy that volunteers find as they dig in the LLFB dirt and share their work with visitors. More photos on later pages here.

These photos taken by Alice Garrard

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: SILVIA MARIANI

We are proud to salute Silvia Mariani as our Volunteer of the Month. Marily Floyd tells us that as a twice-a-week volunteer in our LLFB gardens, Silvia talks to the plants and provides them with whatever special care they need. She is known for her green thumbs and willing hands that pull weeds, remove spent blossoms and improve the plant beds wherever she is, especially in Firefly Cove, where she lives. She shares her joy in nature with all those around her. Silvia can't resist a beautiful rock she finds in the dirt or tucking a remaining bloom in her shirt. We are thrilled to have her as a member of our team.

From Silvia's daughter, Genevieve Helms: Silvia is of Italian heritage and originally from Philadelphia, PA. After raising the family in Massachusetts, Silvia lived 15 years in Puerto Rico tending to a tropical paradise terrace on the roof of our apartment there in the city. She then relocated to Wrightsville Beach, NC before finally landing in Lake Lure when our daughter Harper was born in Dec. of 2007. As a member of the community she has been saving the lives of dehydrated potted plants ever since! As soon as we enter any office or venue where there are plants, my mother goes straight over to check the soil and remove the dead leaves, leaving behind a refreshed and happy plant.

This "plant-passion" and gardening have been a constant theme throughout her life. Silvia has a fascination with plants and their beauty, purpose, and names of origin. Her background in Latin languages gives her an advantage when recalling these names. Coincidentally the Latin derivation of Silvia is "of the woods." Clearly, the innate desire to be connected to the earth an organic one!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE GARDENS

Tuesday, November 3
Remove Pumpkin People

Friday, November 6
Fairy Gardens Workshop
(Rain Date: Monday, November 9)

Tuesday, December 1
Decorate Bridge for the Holidays

Saturday, December 19
Light up the Gorge begins
2015 LLFB HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS CELEBRATING THE LLFB AVAILABLE NOW

Artist and LLFB volunteer Veryle Lynn Cox has brought her talents to us once again to create the 2015 Holiday Ornaments. This is Veryle Lynn’s fourth ornament for LLFB. A $25 donation will reserve one of these very special treasures for you. Our supply is limited, so don’t wait to order. Contact Saundra Nelson at csnelson38@bellsouth.net. [Photo by Saundra Nelson]

HNG CHAMBER ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY CELEBRATION DECEMBER 10 AT LAKE LURE INN

The Chamber of Hickory Nut Gorge is hosting its Annual Christmas FUNraiser Gala Auction on December 10, 2015 at the 1927 Lake Lure Inn & Spa from 6:00-10:00 PM. Put on your best holiday attire and join your friends to party! This end-of-year event will feature heavy hors d’oeuvres, caroling, live and silent auctions and lots of holiday cheer. Auction items include handcrafted works of art in several genres, attraction and show tickets, getaways and more. The Chamber wants everyone to have fun and be safe so there will be shuttles again this year, making attending the event convenient and fun. Check the Chamber website for updates as more auction items are added as well as more details about the event. Click here for more info- HNG Holiday Gala

LLFB TEE SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE

A limited number of LLFB tee shirts is now available for sale to benefit the bridge gardens. You can find them at the Lake Lure Artisan Center and Carolina Moon, as well as on the bridge when volunteers are working there. These make nice gifts for friends who have enjoyed visiting the LLFB gardens.

A VISIT TO THE BRIDGE OF FLOWERS IN SHELBURNE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Recently Alice Garrard and Danny Holland made a trip through the Northeast, stopping for a special visit to the Bridge of Flowers in Massachusetts. As you may know, our LLFB Chairperson Bill Miller visited the Bridge of Flowers as a child and was inspired by its unique beauty to suggest our decommissioned bridge become a garden. We thought you would like to share Alice and Danny’s experience through their notes and photos here.

Located on an old trolley bridge between the towns of Shelburne Falls and Buckland, the Bridge of Flowers has existed since 1929, founded and still led by the Shelburne Falls Women’s Club. The bridge has five arches, but no balustrade. It is 400 feet long and 18 feet wide, bordered by wire fencing with a center walkway that is narrow, straight, and lined with flowers, shrubs, and some trees. There are no themed beds.

The bridge has committed leaders and volunteers (called the Blossom Brigade) but also employs a part-time gardener (20 hours) and a part-time assistant gardener, with whom the volunteers work.

Their is a more populous area than ours, so the donor base is larger and includes a lot of businesses. We saw bridge merchandise in many shops and at the Visitors Center (t-shirts, sweatshirts, artwork, notecards, postcards), but the bridge doesn't benefit from the sale of any of it. A local potter makes ornaments and other small items featuring the bridge, and she donates $5 from the sale of each one to the bridge.

There are donation boxes at either end of the bridge, as well as a notebook where visitors write their names, home, and number in their party (no space for comments). That’s how they keep track of how many people cross the bridge annually.

While there are distinct differences between our respective gardens, we appreciate the opportunity to exchange ideas with the Bridge of Flowers volunteers.
REMEMBER LLFB IN YOUR END-OF-YEAR GIVING PLANS

The generosity of our donors over these first years of gardening has been critical to the success of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. We encourage you to think of us as you plan your end-of-year giving. We are a tax-exempt 501(c) 3 organization and will happily make a tax letter available to confirm your gift. Donation information is available on our website at this link Donate to LLFB

LLFB PUMPKINS ON PARADE
[These photos from Kathy Tanner]

LAKE LURE FLOWERING BRIDGE 2016 CALENDARS ARE HERE

Enjoy the beauty of the LLFB gardens all year long when you purchase a 2016 calendar. Calendars are $15 each. All proceeds go to growing our LLFB gardens. These make nice gifts for friends and family, too. Contact us at leearmstrong16@gmail.com or check local stores.

"I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers."
~Claude Monet

Kid's Korner
from Susie Ellis