A warmly-dressed crowd braved early spring’s chilly temperatures to attend our April 5th workshop "Garden Design with Shrubs and Perennials." Former Polk County Extension Agent John Vining led participants on an informative stroll across the Flowering Bridge, pointing out specific plants that thrive in sun or shade, moist or dry habitats. He also pointed out that sometimes the reason a plant fails to thrive in your garden may be due to misconceptions. You might think a plant needs more sun when it actually needs less. John was kind enough to compile a Flowering Bridge list of perennials, ornamental trees, and shrubs. Drop by the bridge when volunteers are working and pick up a copy. Our thanks to John Vining for sharing his time and expertise. [Thanks to Alice Garrard for photos and reporting.]

GROUP TOURS ENJOY EVER-CHANGING GARDENS

A container gardening workshop for seniors held at Church of the Transfiguration included a tour of LLFB. [Photo from Marily Floyd]
**VANDALS DISTURB THE PEACE AND BEAUTY OF OUR GARDENS**

The photo at left is the sight that sadly greeted LLFB volunteers in the afternoon of April 22 when they discovered the theft of the bobbing peacock in the Overlook Garden. It took quite an effort to tear it from its place. In addition, one of the Flight 93 roses nearby had been damaged and several other decorative items had been taken from other garden beds. The vandalism was reported to the police. Such destruction is an affront to the volunteers who work so hard to create and maintain the gardens, as well as to the visitors who enjoy this place. Anyone with information about suspicious activity in the gardens at any time is encouraged to report it to the Lake Lure Police Department. [Photo from Alice Garrard]

**DISCOURAGING THOSE PESKY DEER WITHOUT HARMING THEM**

Back in 2011, when we were first talking about creating the gardens on the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge, some folks warned that we were creating a veritable "deer buffet." In truth, the deer often traverse the bridge and, as deer will do, they are looking for food all the way. Almost daily, we are asked why the deer don't eat our plants. The solution for our gardens was found in an organic product that won't harm the critters even as it discourages them from noshing. What works for us is Green Screen, a deer and rabbit repellent composed of 99% meat bi-products and 1% white pepper. It is 100% organic, non-toxic and environmentally friendly. In use since 1981, this can be applied in gardens, farms, orchards, commercial and home landscaping projects, golf courses, cemeteries, municipalities, etc. Green Screen is safe on edible crops and may be applied during bud break or flower bloom. Michigan State University has tested and proven Green Screen to be effective. Sprinkle loose powder directly on the plants, garden, and ground to be protected. It's effective even after rain, dew or sprinklers. Powder does have to be replaced after a very heavy rain. [Photo above by Mike Lumpkin]

**NEW GARDEN CREATIONS FROM OUR PLANT-A-HAT WORKSHOP**

They came together with their hats and plants and imagination to enjoy a free workshop April 19th led by Master Gardener Lynn Lang. The results now grace our gardens with whimsy and fun, providing ideas for our visitors to try at home. (More photos on page 3) [Plant-a-Hat photos by Alice Garrard]
PHOTOS FROM A RAINY DAY
[Photos by Alice Garrard]

PLANT-A-HAT WITH US
[Photos by Alice Garrard]

MANY MORE PHOTOS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
SPRING PHOTO ALBUM
JUST FOR THE JOY OF IT ALL
[Photos by Mike Lumpkin]

Many more photos on our Facebook page