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October 2016

Calendar of Free Public Events

November 10  Fairy Gardens Workshop
November 29  Make a Mosaic Gazing Ball

**Unless otherwise indicated, classes will be held at 10:00 AM in the Outdoor Classroom at the west (Chimney Rock) end of the bridge. In case of rain, they will be held in the Community Hall at Lake Lure Town Hall. For more information, call Alice Garrard or Danny Holland at (828) 625-2540.

Visitor Feedback

One of the joys of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is the reaction of our visitors. We see it in their smiles and their active use of cameras to capture the beauty and creativity. We also get notes in the visitor books located in the "mailboxes" along the path and through our website. We share a few comments here.

—"Loved your flowering bridge! I'm a Master Naturalist/ Master Gardener from Texas and we are putting in a Monarch Way Station in our community park. Got a lot of inspiration from your garden on my visit to Lake Lure."

—"Who would think flowers would be so interesting? The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is an unexpected oasis in an already picturesque location. So many plants, flowers and wild life (bees, butterflies)."

—"This bridge could have just been torn down, but instead it is a place of beauty...Talented & hardworking volunteers have created a meandering garden pathway. One would never guess this was once a busy traffic bridge."

Out of the fertile minds of our creative volunteers rise the Pumpkin People. Artist Amy Wald paints the faces on characters imagined with fun and whimsy by those who came to the Pumpkin People workshop October 18. As a stroll through the gardens will demonstrate, pumpkins have been cleverly used to poke fun, but also to honor good causes. Enjoy the photos here from Alice Garrard.

Above: Groucho by Pamela Paulis
Left: Emojis by Mitsi Chorak
Below: Princess Leia by Tonie Smith

LIKE us on Facebook
**HERE’S A SECRET TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE**

Tucked just behind the Welcome Terrace and enclosed by white picket gates, our little "Secret Garden" is less a secret than it is a tiny private oasis. Open the gate and come inside for a few moments of peace. Have a seat and take time to look around. As with other parts of our gardens, this space will develop and change with the seasons. You will often see new ways our volunteers find to display the wonders of nature, too.

[Photo left from Kathy Tanner]

**HELP US LIGHT THE BRIDGE 🕯️**

We need your help to light the bridge for the coming holiday season. LLFB Garden Chair Kathy Tanner says we could use short and long strands of small white and icicle white lights. Please drop them off at the garden shed or at any volunteer's house.

**CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Our volunteers have become a cadre of friends, a community family devoted to the growth and maintenance of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. Once each year we dress in something more festive than our gardening duds and gather to celebrate accomplishments. This year's luncheon at the Esmeralda Inn was a happy celebration of our joys, a time to laugh together with tales of the volunteers who play pranks on their fellow planters and pruners, as well as the dedication these folks show in welcoming guests to the bridge, even those unexpected busloads of travelers who want to see it. It was a fun time, brightened by the centerpieces created by Lynn Lang, Geneva Matteis and Alice Garrard. Thanks to Marily Floyd for putting it all together and to Kathy Tanner and Bill Miller for hosting us all with inspiring words. Each volunteer received a donated LLFB tote bag and 2017 LLFB calendar. Both tote bags and calendars are now available to anyone interested. Donate $15 for a calendar, $10 for a tote bag to help us continue the development of the gardens.
MORE WAYS TO DONATE NOW: GET AN ORNAMENT OR A BRICK

Eleanor Bails and Marta Campbell help artist Veryle Lynn Cox paint the 2016 LLFB Christmas ornaments.

There are even more ways you can help us continue development of our gardens. Contact Marta Campbell (marta.campbell2@gmail.com) to reserve a limited edition Christmas ornament created by local artist Veryle Lynn Cox and painted with help from LLFB volunteers like Nancy Nettles at left. Another option is to make a $200 donation to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge and become a Pathfinder with an brick etched with words of your choice and installed along the pathway. Any tax-deductible gift will be acknowledged by us with a note to let your friend/loved one know of your donation. Going forward, we will note both your name and the recipient's name in our newsletter and other donor recognition that will be displayed in the gardens in coming months. DONATE HERE

Sally and Kathy Tanner join Veryle Lynn Cox to paint ornaments that help raise money for the LLFB.

1916 FLOOD REVISITED IN AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY AT LAKE LURE TOWN HALL NOVEMBER 10 AT 6:30 PM

You are invited November 10th to an event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the horrendous Flood of 1916. A reception at 6:30 PM sponsored by Duke Energy introduces a traveling exhibit created by the N.C. Office of Archives and History. The film recalls the huge impact the 1916 flood had on the Hickory Nut Gorge community as well as the entire Western North Carolina region.

David Weintraub’s film, "Come Hell or High Water," will be screened at 7:00 PM, followed by a panel discussion with historians, local elders and planning experts to explore the history of WNC’s worst natural disaster and what lessons we have learned that could save our lives and better protect our community.

Space is limited, so come early. There is no charge for the evening, but donations will be accepted to support NC residents that are struggling from the recent record-breaking flooding that occurred in the eastern part of the state after Hurricane Matthew. For additional information, call Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park at 828-625-9611.

Breast Cancer Awareness month inspired this pumpkin sculpture designed and photographed by Alice Garrard.

[Photos above from Veryle Lynn and Blaine Cox]

Unless otherwise noted, photos by Mike Lumpkin
Maryann Brown’s recent workshop about winterizing your garden included great thoughts for local gardeners. We share them here for your use.

GENERAL CLEAN UP

- Plan to do this in two stages – before frost and after the first hard frost. Keep a notebook handy.
- Use your county extension office, the internet or diseases or a friend who knows plants to identify plants or diseases.
- Spread Preen or corn meal to keep down winter weeds. Put down Preen/cornmeal as you weed.
- Get any diseased plants out of the compost pile
- Collect seeds (gravel box for seeds or plant in pots), keeping seeds on some plants for birds.
- Take cuttings of tender plants like coleus and begonias before frost or temps in the low 40s.
- Trim plants that can be trimmed in winter and mark others for spring trim. Keep plants away from foundation of house for air circulation. Do not trim hollow stemmed plants. They will collect water in the crown and die.
- Cut back grasses now if you are returning in spring. Pink Muhly should be cut back in December. Some can be trimmed to the ground, others by only a third, depending on plant type.
- Limb up trees like oaks or maples that create too much shade. Winter is a perfect time to trim those big limbs. This creates better air circulation for your house and yard.
- Trim interior branches on shrubs so they don’t touch the ground. This creates more area for annuals or other flowering perennials and better air circulation, disease prevention, helps prevent die back and discourages voles.
- After disturbing the soil sprinkle soil with corn meal or Preen to prevent winter weeds from sprouting. (Preen should last 4 months if the soil is not disturbed). This can also be applied to gravel driveways to keep weeds from sprouting in winter.
- Keep mulch away from shrubs.
- VERY IMPORTANT - We have had a very dry fall. Your plants and trees need a deep watering before you leave for warmer climates, especially any new transplants. Even if you stay here for the winter, your plants need a deep watering before winter sets in. Do it now and again in late December if you are still here.
- Write down any activities/jobs to do during the winter and spring so you don’t forget them.

CHECKING FOR DISEASE

- Mark plants for late winter spraying, trim away disease. Keep that note book handy.
- Check leaves for fungus, etc.
- Dormant oil spray, Neem - The dormant oil spray can be done now and again in the early spring.
- Milky spore for Japanese beetles put in the garden as well as the lawn cuts down on voles and moles as there will be fewer grubs for them to eat.
- You want your plants close to keep out weeds but not so close that you cause disease from poor air circulation.
- Poor condition or growth of a particular plant could also be from soil condition (too wet, dry, acid etc), location (too shady or sunny), overcrowding, not actually to disease.

PREPARE NEW GARDENS OVER THE WINTER

- Use garden hose for outline and put in soil additives/amendments.
- Cover with black plastic or tarp to kill as many weed seeds, viruses and bugs as possible. Leave on at least 8 weeks, remove in early spring for planting.
- Make a diagram of plants for new garden and mark plants to move into new area from other parts.
- Pile of pine bark double/triple shredded mulch/shredded cardboard/paper as early fall cover with black tarp for heat will become compost for late spring.
- Place those new bird houses, stepping stones, etc. Winter is a perfect time to add stone borders, also for building arbors and other hardscapes.

GETTING PLANTS READY FOR SPRING TRANSPLANTING

- Mark the ones you want to move and write down the new location in your notebook.
- Cut around roots of any shrub you want to move 6 months to 1 year before to increase root growth.
- Prepare the soil now for the transplant and mark the spot. In the spring you will be able to move the plant into an easily dug area that has settled. If done right you should be able to just move the dirt aside with your hands and place the plant.

PROTECT YOUR PLANTS FOR WINTER

- Spray windy sites with an anti-desiccant that will have to be reapplied in February (Wiltproof).
- Use fresh manure and cardboard and mulch.
- Wrap and screen and use branches (not always necessary in this area).
- Protection from wind is more important here than protection from cold.
- Water those areas that tend to be dry in December especially the ones under your house overhang.
GARDEN PESTS

- Use sprays, granules and poison pellets for voles and moles.
- Remove mulch and check for holes and tunnels.
- Spray soil with dish soap/caster oil combination. It will last months and discourages digging good for lawn too used by golf courses.
- Apply vole scram and Sweeney’s peanuts or a mixture of Baar Castor oil/detergent or Murphy’s oil soap—2 teaspoons to a gallon of water or 2 ounces each in a hose end sprayer.
- Check weekly or every other week for new holes and activity. You can do this by placing a slice of apple in the hole and covering the hole with a plastic container and then check in two days to see if the apple has been eaten or nibbled on. If it has you have an active trail. Place Sweeney’s pellets in the hole. If not, move on to another hole. Check the internet for Bait Stations.
- Keep mulch away from roses, hostas as voles use it as cover to hide from hawks and other predators.
- Wrap young trees or shrubs with tree wrap to protect from nibbling rodents.
- Look up Richard Merritt on YouTube for castor oil method.
- Plant new plants with Permatil/Vole block that can be purchased at the Garden Patch in Columbus.
- Owls eat voles and rabbits so build owl nesting boxes to encourage owls in your garden.
- Don’t forget to sprinkle ant killer on any ant hills.

TOOL MAINTENANCE

- Clean your tools in soapy water with Clorox.
- Sharpen shovels and clippers, pruners and oil the blades to prevent rust.
- Wash clay and decorative pots.
- Empty the gas out of weed whackers, etc.
- Decide if any need to be replaced.
- This is the best time to get the mower ready for spring. The repair places are not busy and your mower will be ready to go as soon as that grass gets growing.

After you’ve finished your work outside Maryann says to get out those garden catalogs and magazines and your notebook, sit in front of the fire and plan your spring garden.