THE WORLD COMES TO NORTH CAROLINA AND LLFB

When horses and their riders came from all over the world to participate in the World Equestrian Games (WEG) at the Tryon International Equestrian Center a few miles from Lake Lure, our volunteers welcomed those who came to our gardens. According to local news estimates, more than 250,000 people either participated or came to see the games despite the wind and rain brought by Hurricane Florence. In addition to sprucing up the garden beds and adding special touches for horse-lovers, volunteers spent extra time at LLFB to share our story through the two weeks of the WEG. Our LLFB ambassadors report visitors from Canada, England, Sweden, Australia, Germany and New Zealand. Volunteer Kathy Tanner recalls "On the workdays when I was there we had visitors from England, who said they didn’t have anything in England like this garden."

Volunteer Eleanor Bails says she enjoyed chatting with the visitors. "All the international visitors I talked with loved the uniqueness and beauty of the bridge. A common comment from international guests was 'can't believe how BIG the bees are here.' They also noticed and asked about the beautyberry shrubs which look like they’re adorned with purple or white beads this time of year.

In addition to the international contingent, there were visitors from the four corners of the United States and places in between. Eleanor remembers a mom and her high school sophomore daughter from California. The mature and well-spoken daughter was really excited to be taking a week off from school for the trip and was just as complimentary about the LLFB as her mom was.

[Photo of rocking horse by Mike Lumpkin. Photos by Alice Garrard of volunteers preparing for visitors - Mitsi Chorak, above left, and Danny Holland at right]
HOPING FOR A DONOR TO UNDERWRITE A NEW FOUNTAIN

Our gardens bloom and evolve through the generous support of donors. We would like to acquire the lovely “Tranquility Fountain” seen here, but we await a donor who will give us $1200, the cost of both its purchase and its installation in the atrium on the Chimney Rock end of the gardens. A donor at this level will be recognized both at the fountain and on our Giving Tree in the gardens. For more information on donation opportunities contact Bill Massey at coachbillmassey@icloud.com.

VISIONS OF THE LLFB
2019 CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The 2019 Lake Lure Flowering Bridge calendar is now available for a donation of $15.00. With photos by Mike Lumpkin and Alice Garrard, these calendars make lovely gifts and remembrances of visits to the gardens. You can find them at some local businesses and on the bridge Tuesday and Thursday mornings. They will also be available at the Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival October 20-21 at the LLFB Booth.

When the flower blooms, the bees come uninvited.
~Ramakrishna

[Photos above by Mike Lumpkin]
Milkweed pods attract Monarch butterflies
   Photo by Alice Garrard

Secret Garden
   Photo by Alice Garrard

Roses and the River
   Photo by Mike Lumpkin

Hibiscus in the Sun
   Photo by Mike Lumpkin

Glorious Roses
   Photo by Mike Lumpkin