NEWS  NOVEMBER 2018

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 1  Lake Lure Lights Up for the Holidays  West End of LLFB
December 1  Santa in the Village  Chimney Rock Village
December 6  Hickory Nut Gorge Chamber Gala  Lake Lure Inn
December 7  Annual Chili Cook off and Cake Auction  Chimney Rock Village Firehouse
December 8  Santa in the Village  Chimney Rock Village
December 26  Winter Break Family Fun  Chimney Rock State Park
December 31  Naturalist Niche: Winter Tree ID  Chimney Rock State Park
January 1  New Year's Day Polar Plunge  Lake Lure Beach


WE REMEMBER THANKFULLY

November 2016 was a scary time in the Hickory Nut Gorge. The Party Rock Fire began November 5 and raged through the area until almost month’s end. Firefighters from all across America came to do the dangerous work of containment. Their heroic efforts saved lives and structures. We will never forget them.

LLFB volunteers and friends met November 1 for our annual luncheon, this year to celebrate five years of accomplishments. Kathy Tanner, Board Chair, reminded us of some of those achievements.

- 10,000 volunteer hours each year
- 50,000 visitors each year
- With completion of the kiosk this month, we are concluding a two-year West End development.
- The total gardens now cover an acre.
- The gardens are tended by 15-20 volunteers.
- Cardno, a global architectural firm that developed our initial plan, has returned to donate a re-design of our visitor map to show the 30 gardens we now have.
- The gardens are fully irrigated and lighted.

We celebrated Veryle Lynn Cox, a local artist and volunteer, who has donated her time and talents in so many ways. As she leaves Lake Lure, her presence will be visible in our gardens. We raised our glasses in a toast to our departed friend, Tom Gorman, who came to lay the pavers in our pathway, fell in love with the gardens and became a volunteer.

Thanks to the committee that has worked hard on kiosk development: Susie Ellis, Alice Garrard, Valerie Hoffman, Paige Masse, Kathy Tanner and Amy Wald. They have spent many hours on the research and creation of the kiosk information that will add to visitors’ enjoyment.

In the spirit of this special time of year, we are thankful for the vision of our founders, grateful for the growth we’ve experienced and excited about the seasons to come. [Photos by Alice Garrard]

Like us on Facebook - 3,082 have!
LAKE LURE LIGHTS UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT LLFB

The Town of Lake Lure, Lake Lure Classical Academy (LLCA) and Friends of Lake Lure Flowering Bridge invite you to ring in the holiday season with the Lighting of the Flowering Bridge December 1 at 4:30 p.m.. The festivities will be held at the west end of the Bridge, hosted by LLFB volunteers with cookies and cider for celebrants. Our volunteer "elves" have decorated the gardens beautifully with greenery and lights.

The program will include the LLCA Chorus singing holiday songs as well as poetry readings and additional music from LLCA students. Lake Lure Mayor Kevin Cooley will host the event along with LLCA Executive Director Tom Keever. Kathy Tanner, Board Chair of the Friends of LLFB will offer holiday greetings. The event will include with a singalong walk across the Bridge.

Parking will be available at the west end of the gardens, as well as across the street at the Riverside Events Center.

For a complete event program, click on Lighting Up Lake Lure.

YOUR DONATIONS KEEP OUR GARDENS GROWING

Our gardens depend on the generous support of donors. From the lovely fountain seen here to the variety of benches to the bricks that line the walkway, the gracious gifts we receive make it all happen. No gift is too small or too large and we are grateful for them all. We recognize ongoing donations at various levels on our Giving Tree in the gardens. Friends of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is a 501(c)3 charitable organization so your donation is tax-deductible. For more information about ways you can donate and perhaps honor a loved one, contact LLFB Board member Bill Massey at coachbillmassey@icloud.com. A convenient way to donate is at our website Donate.

NATIVE BEES AND BEE HOUSES

Despite what many people think, honey bees are not native to North America, but were brought here by European settlers. Long before their arrival, more than 3,500 species of native bees already lived here. Unlike honey bees, they are solitary insects, burrowing into the ground or nesting in cavities. No hives for them! And they're much better at pollinating plants, making them especially useful in gardens.

This native bee house, created and donated to the LLFB by Michael Lamm of Burnsville, NC, consists of stacks of wood blocks, drilled with grooves 1/8-inch to 1/2-inch in diameter to accommodate different size bees and covered with clear plastic. The different tunnel entrances are painted blue, yellow, black and white, with some left unpainted, to provide contrast and help bees locate their chosen tunnel. (Bees' favorite color is bright blue. They can't see red at all.) They will divide the tunnel into a series of sealed cells, each containing a lump of pollen and an egg. The removable, clear covering makes it easy to check for nests and to clean annually.

Bee houses should face the morning sun and be mounted to a firm surface or strong pole four to five feet above the ground, with no vegetation touching them to prevent spiders and ants from preying on the bees inside. To learn more about native bees and how to build bee houses, visit Building Wild Bee Houses [Article and photo from Alice Garrard]
NOVEMBER SCRAPBOOK
LLFB in Fall with Fairy Gardens
Photos by Alice Garrard