YEAR-END REFLECTIONS

In these last hours of the old year, just before the merrymaking of New Year’s Eve begins, let’s take a little time to reflect, time for reviewing our accomplishments, rueing our sorrows and counting our blessings.

The accomplishments are many. The photo above shows the bridge and its reflection before the gardens were created. Now, five years later, the gardens extend well beyond the bridge itself on both ends. This year the West End gardens have been built out all the way to Boys Camp Road. Our two arbors and the atrium are part of that development, now shining with holiday lights. The kiosk is well underway. It will add helpful information for visitors, not just about the Flowering Bridge gardens, but about the Hickory Nut Gorge and Rutherford County as well.

We lost friends in this year and mourn their loss even as we celebrate their lives and contributions to LLFB. Other friends and volunteers left us as they moved away. We remember them fondly and gratefully.

Our blessings have been many. New volunteers have joined our ranks, bringing with them their ideas and talents, experience and enthusiasm. Our donors have been generous, both those who leave contributions in our donor boxes on the path and those whose gifts come through the website and bequests. Our partnerships with the Town of Lake Lure, Chimney Rock Village, the Rutherford County TDA, Lake Lure Classical Academy and other community organizations have deepened, allowing us to blossom and grow.

As the old year ends, we reflect. As the new year begins, we are grateful for the promise ahead. Here’s to a bountiful and happy new year for all!

[Photos from Mike Lumpkin and Alice Garrard]
December photos from Alice Garrard