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NEWS FEBRUARY 2019

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- March 5** Healthy Eating Program
5 PM - Lake Lure Library
- March 10** Daylight Saving Time - 2AM
- March 13** Craft Party - Making Potpourri
10AM - Lake Lure Town Hall
- March 21** Project: The Language of Flowers**
10 AM - LLFB Gardens
- April 9** Project: Blossoms in Bonnets**
10AM - LLFB Gardens
- April 25** Education Class - Topic TBA
10AM - LLFB Gardens
- April 27** Ring into Spring
11 AM - LLFB Gardens

Education classes will be held once a month on the 4th Thursday at 10AM April-October in the LLFB Gardens. More information will be available soon.

**For more information about projects, contact Special Projects Chair, Lynn Lang at mllang4931@verizon.net



We are never too young to enjoy the magic of flowers as Danny Holland's granddaughter demonstrates with our February-blooming daffodils. [Photo by Alice Garrard]

READY FOR SOME FUN? JOIN OUR LLFB GARDEN VOLUNTEERS



Sometimes it's good to take a break and just enjoy the swing with a friend, as LLFB volunteers Susie Ellis and Kathy Tanner found time to do. [Photo from Alice Garrard]

Ask anyone who volunteers in the LLFB gardens about their experience and they will always mention friends and fun. Investing a little sweat equity will bring rewards in so many ways. Our volunteers have formed a family, supporting each other as they create and maintain the gardens, always looking for new ideas to try and to share.

It's a great way to meet people and become an ambassador, greeting the estimated 50,000 visitors who wander along our path each year. They are eager to see what's new and to learn about our plants and the art and whimsy that make the gardens fun for adults and children alike.

Don't think you can't contribute if you are not a gardener. Some of our volunteers are master gardeners who can offer advice and help you take part. You decide when and how you want to help.

For more information about becoming an LLFB volunteer, come by the gardens on Tuesday or Thursday morning to chat with volunteers and pick up a form. Or contact Susie Ellis by email at susieellis59@gmail.com.

LLFB MILESTONES



So there we were 8 years ago this month, standing on the starkly bare and abandoned Broad River bridge on a cold February day. We were dreaming of the time when flowers would adorn this historic site as it would be repurposed to take on a new life. And so we've grown and blossomed and become a family within the Hickory Nut Gorge community. LLFB is truly a dream come true. [Photo from Mike Lumpkin]

🌸 OUR VALENTINE LOVE STORY



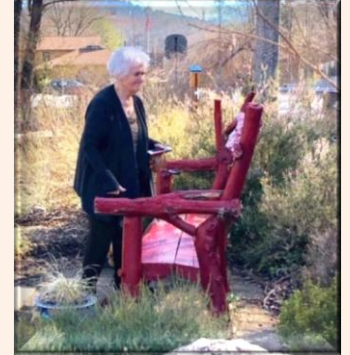
There have been many special moments in the LLFB gardens--gatherings of families or friends spending time in a special place, chance visits by travelers passing by who stopped to enjoy the uniqueness of the setting, the beauty of the flowers.

The story of the young couple pictured above, Lindsay and Josh, as told here, seems just right for this Valentine's Day month. Lindsay's story: *Even though they grew up five minutes from each other in Concord, NC, attended the same schools, and church, they knew "of" each other but didn't "know" each other. It wasn't until Josh was a freshman at Emory & Henry College in Emory, VA that he and Lindsay started communicating. At that time, she was a senior in high school and he was three hours away playing college baseball. Their story began December 2014 when he was home for Christmas break, and they "officially" began dating on Valentine's Day in 2015. After Lindsay graduated from high school in May 2015, she stayed close to home and started college at UNC Charlotte. Over the past four years despite much time apart, they have managed to remain very close and make it work. Lindsay spent almost every weekend of those four years traveling with Josh's family to see him play baseball. When he could, Josh would come home to visit her. Josh graduated from Emory & Henry in May 2018 and continues to be away from Lindsay as his new career with the FDIC has taken him many different places. This past Christmas Eve, Josh asked Lindsay's parents for their blessing to take her hand in marriage. With their approval, he prepared for the special day. Lindsay had planned a trip for five couples to spend the weekend at Lake Lure before all the girls started their last semester of college. Josh chose to "pop" the special question at The Flowering Bridge. With the help of one of the other couples, they got Lindsay to the Flowering Bridge on January 5th just as the sun was setting. Even though the flowers were not in full bloom, Josh knew it would be a special place to come back to visit. He got down on one knee and asked Lindsay to marry him and*

she said, "Yes!" Knowing how sentimental they both are, Lindsay's mom contacted The Flowering Bridge to see if she could purchase the elf decoration that was hanging on the arbor where Josh proposed. With kindness and help from Marily Floyd, the elf was sent to them. Lindsay and Josh both agree that it was the best engagement present they received. The elf will always remind them of the love and happiness they shared on that special day. [Story and photo from Lindsay Kawa, edited for space. Additional thanks to Marily Floyd for connecting with the Kawa family.]

🌸 CELEBRATING OUR FRIEND CHUCK

Members of the LLFB family met in the gardens recently to celebrate the life of our dear friend Chuck Watkins. Chuck's wife Joselyn remembered many happy times she and Chuck shared the



bench in this photo. She led the group in a song of celebration and shared words of solace, expressing the love that Chuck had for the other volunteers. Friends shared memories of working with Chuck through the years, bringing forth laughter and tears. Chuck was a dear friend, always bringing



his smile and good humor and getting so much done along the way. He will, as one colleague said, "be sorely missed." There will be a memorial service for Chuck on March 16th at 1pm at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Bat

Cave. [Photo and story from Alice Garrard]

🌸 NEW BRICKS ARE INSTALLED

Recently ordered pathway bricks were installed by TJ Conner on Valentine's Day. For those eager to see their bricks, take a walk on the Chimney Rock side of the bridge to find yours. Click [here](#) for an online brick directory. If you would like to support the LLFB with a donation of \$200 and have a brick engraved to honor someone special, check our website for the information and brick order form. [Pathfinders Brick Form.](#)

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FEBRUARY SCRAPBOOK
LOVE IN BLOOM



Photos this page from Alice Garrard