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# News ♦ August 2019

## Calendar of Events

**August 22 - Gardening for Success!**  
 (Bring your gardening questions!)  
 led by gardening guru Maryann Brown  
 10-11, Town Hall (back entrance)

**September 26 - All About Hydrangeas**  
 led by master gardener Eleanor Bails  
 10-11, Town Hall (back entrance)

**Through September - EXHIBIT:**  
*Windows To Somewhere Beautiful*

For information about classes or tours,  
 call Alice or Danny at 828-625-2540;  
 or email [alicegrrrd@gmail.com](mailto:alicegrrrd@gmail.com)



Ooh la la! An emerging cherry red bloom of the compact cultivar *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Cityline® Paris' was captured on camera in June in the country shade garden.

## HAPPY HYDRANGEAS

Visitors to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge during spring and summer notice many vigorous shrubs with extravagant blooms. Some blossoms resemble large pom poms while others are either cone shaped or lacelike. Names of the plants might spark thoughts of an old song or favorite flavor such as 'Twist-n-Shout' or 'Vanilla Strawberry.' Hydrangeas 'Tuff Stuff®' and 'Nikko Blue' bloom shades of indigo in our WNC native soil, however will emerge pink if grown in a different location with alkaline soil. Many varieties of these plants are comfortable growing in part shade while others love to bask in the sun.

All of these versatile landscape plants are hydrangeas, a genus of over seventy species of flowering shrubs or vines native to Asia and the Americas. Only a half dozen species grow in the United States, including "oak leaf" and "smooth," which are southeastern U.S. natives. Over twenty varieties representing all six species of U.S. hydrangeas call the LLFB home.

Geneticists are developing new cultivars of hydrangeas with improved color and stem strength as well as longer bloom time. Dwarf and miniature varieties have gained in popularity in recent years. See more photos of our "happy hydrangeas" in this issue's scrapbook.



With its subtle white blooms looming above the shed and billowing outward like smoke, this panicle hydrangea is appropriately named 'Phantom.'



**Honor a loved one, leave a message**  
 . . . or simply have your name etched on a Pathfinder brick. Our pathways are edged with these engraved pavers so your brick is permanently displayed on the *gateway to somewhere beautiful*.

Click here to  
**PURCHASE A BRICK OR MAKE A GENERAL DONATION**

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## LLFB Inspires Painter

Lisa Blackshear uses brushstrokes on canvas to express color, texture, and depth on the bridge for her final piece in a series of landscapes featuring Lake Lure and Chimney Rock. The artist's locally inspired paintings which are "created on location" will be featured August 1-30 at Woolworth Walk, 25 Haywood St., Asheville, NC,



## The Birds and the Bees

Information about two kinds of winged guests on the bridge are featured on "All About the Birds and the Bees," one of eight panels that make up the new educational kiosk. Visitors see colorful pictures of the large variety of birds that live either year round or seasonally in the Hickory Nut Gorge. Bees are described as "the most valuable species on the planet" for their role as pollinators of fruit, vegetables and other plants. Interested guests can grab the handout "Keeping Our Birds and Bees Healthy" out of a decorated metal box.



From information on a poster, a visitor learns that there are a variety of bees native to the area and some species are showing signs of decline.

## Sound of Music on the Bridge

On the Last Friday in June, visitors to the LLFB were treated to the sweet sound of dulcimer music when Mountain Minstrels, an Asheville group of both beginner and experienced lap dulcimer players, held a practice session on the bridge. In good weather, the musicians, who are occasionally accompanied by a guitar and a Celtic harp, like to explore new places to practice and introduce the public to this stringed instrument.



Musicians, L to R, Ruth Allen, Ann Bolton, Gail Roberts and Jackie Collison entertain visitors while practicing traditional Appalachian songs on the bridge.



## A 'Cool' Addition

Visitors and their pets love the new mister that helps them stay cool on hot summer days. Thank you, Jennifer Gregg, for obtaining this welcome addition to the bridge, and Danny Holland for installing it!





# August Scrapbook

Hydrangea blooms greet visitors to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge late spring through early fall. Dried blossoms create winter interest.



*Hydrangea arborescens*  
'Invincibelle  
Mini Mauvette®'



*Hydrangea arborescens*  
'Annabelle'



*Hydrangea macrophylla*  
'Nikko Blue'



*Hydrangea quercifolia*  
'Ruby Slippers'



*Hydrangea paniculata*  
'Vanilla Strawberry'



*Hydrangea paniculata*  
'Limelight®'



*Hydrangea serrata*  
'Tuff Stuff®'



*Hydrangea paniculata*  
'Little Lamb®'



*Hydrangea macrophylla*  
'Next Generation® Pistachio'