Monarch Magic

The annual migration of the monarch butterfly, a 3000 mile trip to their winter home in southwestern Mexico, starts in Canada and the northeast in early fall when the weather turns cool. One of their routes brings them to the Asheville, NC, area during the last two weeks of September. Lake Lure Flowering Bridge gardens entice these insects with an abundance of milkweed, the only plant upon which female monarchs lay eggs, as well as with blooming annual and perennial flowers, which provide energy for the adult butterfly. All four stages in the life cycle of the monarch—egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult—can be observed on the bridge during September and October.

The LLFB is a both a certified Monarch Waystation and a member of the Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail. Monarch Watch is a website dedicated to the study of the monarch butterfly and its spectacular fall migration.

In Town for Dirty Dancing Fest?
Stop by the Flowering Bridge! We’re in full bloom and our welcome table will be set up on Saturday, September 14, from 10 am to 2 pm, with handcrafted merchandise, including our popular fairy wands to add some bling to your fall planters.
Read Our Stories

A touch of nostalgia now exists in what was once part of the Wildflower Garden. A recently debuted floral space replaces the wildflowers that were moved to another East End bed. The new Friendship Garden is abloom with our volunteers’ favorite plants and the tales that explain their choices. Garden co-chair Kathy Tanner chose Joe Pye. It was her mother-in-law’s, Catchy’s, favorite flower. In fact, the elder Mrs. Tanner once had a car she affectionately named Joe Pye.

Great Time for Tours

Early fall is an optimal time for tour groups. Our gardens are flourishing and the intense summer heat is subsiding, giving way to warm, breezy days. We host large bus tours of up to fifty people to small groups of eight to ten people: garden clubs, church groups, school groups, civic organizations, retirement communities. A typical tour lasts approximately one hour and begins with the history of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge, followed by a stroll through the gardens in small groups led by guides.

For additional information about, or to schedule a tour for your group, see contact information on the first page of this newsletter in the “Calendar of Events” section.

Planned Parking!

Thanks to the efforts of volunteer Bill Massey, our West End parking lot has “earned its stripes”! There’s now a total of sixteen marked spaces for vehicles and a driveway to exit and enter the second row of parking places. This plan provides a safer and more organized way for our guests to park while enjoying their visit to The Secret Garden.

[photo by Paige Massey]

Volunteer guide Paige Massey tells a group of guests from Myrtle Beach on the AAA/Easy Radio bus tour about The Secret Garden.

Bill with his mean, green, striping machine.
September Scrapbook

Water features add soothing sounds and shimmering reflections to the Flowering Bridge.