



P.O. Box 125, Lake Lure, NC 28746

lakelurefloweringbridge.org

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News ♦ November 2019

Calendar of Events

December 1, 2019 - February 27, 2020

“Light Up The Bridge” holiday lights

January 15, 2019 - March 15, 2020

Fairy Gardens on display



[photo by Mitsi Chorak]

A Stop on the Journey

Mitsi Chorak spotted a white dot on the wing of a monarch butterfly. A website and code printed on the sticker

led this LLFB volunteer and master gardener to the **Monarch Watch** website where she reported the sighting and found out the insect was tagged and released in Kansas. The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is a certified Monarch Waystation. In autumn, our nectar plants provide fuel along the journey to Mexico during the 3,000-mile fall migration of the monarch butterfly.

Many Hands Make Work More Like Fun

“Who takes care of all of this?” is a question visitors often ask our gardeners. The gardens are tended by a group of volunteers from diverse backgrounds who vary in levels of expertise about gardening and the amount of time they are able to devote to working at the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. All are passionate about maintaining this well-loved area attraction.

“I’d love to help out, but I don’t know much about gardening” is another comment we often hear. New volunteers become familiar with garden tasks with help from a mentor. Joining our community of volunteers is a great way for the novice gardener to learn from our master gardeners, or how a new resident to Western North Carolina can become familiar with regional flora. There are also jobs that do not directly involve caring for the plants. These jobs include, but are not limited to, assisting gardeners by weeding and mulching, selling merchandise at the welcome table, and leading guided tours.

Lending a hand in our beautiful park provides lots of social interaction, a healthy workout, and is just plain fun! Our volunteers never tire of hearing praise and gratitude from guests who are in awe of the breathtaking surroundings.

Learn how you might find your niche in this community. Visit with our volunteers on a Tuesday or Thursday, or contact Volunteer Coordinator Susie Ellis for more information: susieellis59@gmail.com.



Volunteer ambassadors provide hospitality and education for our guests. Here Pamela Paulus chats with and answers questions posed by visitors to the bridge.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK





One Year Ago



... a group of men set the center post for the structure that would become our educational and informational kiosk. Since its completion, the kiosk is often where visitors stop first to read and pick up information about the Flowering Bridge and the local area.

Margie Reaches a Milestone!

Margie Warwick, one of our active and dedicated volunteers, recently turned ninety years young! Margie's infectious warmth and positive attitude are an inspiration to all! Happy Birthday, Margie!



[photo by Lynn Lang]



Prune Like a Pro!



A group of gardeners eager to learn about pruning gathers to hear John Vining's expert advice.

[photo by Kathy Tanner]

Removing branches or limbs of plants, especially those on ones that appear lush and healthy, can be intimidating. However, pruning is necessary to control the size and shape, remove dead or diseased branches, encourage new growth, and improve the overall health and structure of shrubs and trees. Former Polk

The colorful stems of red and yellow twig dogwoods provide striking color in the winter landscape. John advises cutting these multi-stemmed plants to the ground every three to five years to retain the intense hue of the branches.

Each class attendee received a Pruning Calendar, compiled by John, referencing which plants should be pruned each month of the year. This valuable handout, applicable to the local area, can be picked up at the informational kiosk located near the entrance of the bridge.



A common pruning mistake is to sever a limb flush with the tree. In the picture above, John uses his fingers to demonstrate the correct place to make the cut, outside of the branch collar.

[photo by Dan Bails]

County Extension Director and Horticulture Agent John Vining shared his expertise about pruning during the final class of 2019, held on the bridge in late October.

Early fall is a perfect time for accomplishing gardening tasks like cleaning up, mulching, and planting trees, shrubs, and bulbs. John warns that pruning trees and shrubs should not be on a gardener's "to do" list for September and October because pruning stimulates new growth which may not have time to harden off before frost.

While late winter or early spring is the optimal time to prune many trees, John cites several exceptions. Maple, birch, elm, dogwood and styrax ooze sap if pruned during mild winter days. The coldest days of January are ideal for trimming these "bleeder" trees.



John suggests that this overgrown shrub can benefit from renewal pruning, which involves cutting the oldest branches back to ground level and leaving the younger, more vigorous branches.



November Scrapbook

We are thankful for our talented, creative and hardworking volunteers!



THIS FOUNTAIN IS DEDICATED
IN HONOR OF THE VOLUNTEERS
WHOSE CREATIVITY AND COMMITMENT
KEEP THESE GARDENS THRIVING
AS A PLACE WHERE ALL WHO PASS
THIS WAY MAY ENJOY THE BEAUTY.