



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

lakelurefloweringbridge.org

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Build It and They Will Come

North Carolina historic bridge number 7, once described as “a busy thoroughfare that connected Lake Lure to Chimney Rock,” is, again, a busy thoroughfare. In June 2018, the town of Lake Lure installed a counter to record visitors to the gardens. After some computations, it has been estimated that more than 100,000 people visit the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge every year!

Since the LLFB’s official opening in 2013, it has received attention from internet, print, and broadcast media. Business review and travel websites like Yelp and TripAdvisor give the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge glowing recommendations. In 2016, the Flowering Bridge was featured on WRAL-Raleigh’s show “[Tarheel Traveler](#),” Later that year, Bill Miller, who proposed the concept of turning the abandoned bridge into a pedestrian walkway, recorded a [TEDx Talk](#) on the history of the LLFB. Articles about our park have appeared in numerous local, regional, and state publications, including the popular magazines *WNC* and *Our State*. “Build it and they will come,” adapted from a quote from the movie *Field of Dreams*, can certainly be applied to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge.



The number of visitors that stroll the gardens in recent years has far exceeded our “field of dreams.”

News ♦ October 2019

Calendar of Events

Oct. 1- Nov 1: *Scarecrows* exhibit

Oct. 15 - Nov 1: *Pumpkin People* exhibit

October 19: Welcome table selling LLFB merchandise and handcrafted items
10 am - 2 pm, on the bridge,
during Fall Arts and Crafts Festival

October 24: Prune Like A Pro
led by retired Polk Co. Extension Director John Vining, 10 am, Secret Garden

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CLASSES OR TOURS,
call Alice or Danny at 828-625-2540
or email alicegrrrd@gmail.com



Return of the Pumpkin People!

It’s that time of year when our talented volunteers transform pumpkins and gourds into whimsical characters, creatures, and other “things that go bump in the night” and day. Look for this highly anticipated annual exhibit on display for two weeks starting mid-month.

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Gardening for Success

“Know what you’re dealing with before digging in the dirt,” advises Maryann Brown, a local gardening expert who shared helpful tips during a class held in late August. Regional climate, topography of the land, USDA Plant Hardiness Zone, soil type, and length of sun and shade exposure are all factors to consider when selecting landscape plants. Drainage problems must be solved before planting, which can be accomplished by incorporating the solution into the garden design by creating streams or pathways that follow the natural flow of the water. Installing raised beds, planting in attractive containers, and planting prairie grasses that thrive in clay conditions are alternatives to the costly and time consuming process of amending hard clay soil. This knowledgeable gardener also shared a novel idea: Maryann plants seeds in gravel, then transplants them after they germinate.



Maryann Brown shares a wealth of information about gardening with her attentive audience. Not a question was asked that she couldn't answer.



Garden of New and Unusual Plants

Named after a breed of dog that's short, stocky and cute, Pugster Blue is a recently introduced compact cultivar of butterfly bush with thick, sturdy stems and large flowers. You'll find it, along with Sombrero Lemon Yellow Coneflower, Immortality Tall Bearded Iris, and Lemony Lace Elderberry, in a bed of unique plants that have recently become available to gardeners. The idea for the new garden is the brainchild of volunteer and master gardener Debbie Clark, who, along with LLFB garden co-chair and master gardener Kathy Tanner, helped select the plants. Kathy planted the bed with help from her daughter Katie.



Two kinds of succulents, commonly called "hens and chicks," from the colorful series Chick Charms, hold front row seats in the new garden.

[photo by Kathy Tanner]

Business Salute to Steve Sane



The artistic, self-taught blacksmith at work in his shop.

[photos by Barbara Sane]

Anyone who crosses the Flowering Bridge will see Steve Sane's handiwork from one end to the other. This self-described "artisan-blacksmith" created the iconic arch on the east end of the bridge, along with our donation boxes, giving tree, arbors, top of the atrium, and hanging hayracks.

Steve began working as a welder in Rutherfordton. His work became more creative fifteen years ago when his mother asked him to make something decorative for her garden. He fell in love with forging and began visiting and picking the brains of local blacksmiths.

Word of Steve's prowess quickly spread and commissions began to roll in. In 2011, Steve went out on his own, and he now has one full-time and two part-time employees. He does everything from decorative pieces to maintenance on logging trucks. "Everybody comes to the local blacksmith," he says. But his passion is artwork, and his work on the Flowering Bridge bears witness to that.

Steve Sane may be reached at 828-980-1103; sbsane00@gmail.com.



Steve and his wife, Barbara, donated the graceful Turks Cap Lily sculpture that stands in the former Wildflower Garden, now the Friendship Garden.



Over ten varieties of new and unusual plants, accompanied by stories of how they got their names, fill the new garden located midway along the bridge.

October Scrapbook

Visitors to the bridge can't help but smile at these cute, funny, or scary characters with human qualities that grace our park during the month of October.



[photo by Aileen Kelly]



[photo by Danny Holland]