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News ❄️ Dec. '19 - Jan. '20

Calendar of Events

December 1-31 — Seasonal decorations and twinkling lights transform the bridge into a holiday wonderland. Lights will brighten winter nights until February 27.

December 3, 5:30 p.m. — “Light Up The Bridge” official lighting of the bridge for the holidays. Lake Lure Classical Academy students and bridge volunteers will provide music, readings, and refreshments.

January 15 - March 15, 2020 — Fairy Gardens on display

A Gift That Keeps on Giving



Honor a loved one, friend, or beloved pet with a **Pathfinder Brick** this holiday season. 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](#)



Kathy Tanner, Garden Co-chair and Chair of the LLFB Board of Directors, speaks from her heart at the annual luncheon to thank volunteers of the Flowering Bridge.

[photo by Lynn Lang]

Reflecting on 2019

The garden is what it's all about. Garden Co-chair Susie Ellis and I have had the privilege of leading you all in the most fun volunteer job ever. This year we finished building and expanding! The educational kiosk, which was dedicated in April, is one of our crowning achievements. It draws visitors to the bridge and encourages guests of all ages to read and learn about local plants and animals.

Education is our main focus. Some of the many things visitors love about the Flowering Bridge is learning the names of and information about the plants from garden lists, signs, and our educated and passionate volunteer gardeners who love to spend time talking with our guests. This year we've taught seven classes and led ten tours ranging in size from five to fifty people. We participated in Earth Day in April, had a booth at a garden show in Black Mountain, and gave presentations to garden clubs and community organizations.

We have a redesigned brochure with updated pictures, stories, and a map of our thirty gardens. Over 30,000 copies of this leaflet have been placed in visitor centers in North and South Carolina. In addition to receiving stellar reviews on travel websites, the Flowering Bridge was featured in twelve articles in local newspapers.

We're celebrating our sixth year at the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge. Many visitors tell us they can't believe this beautiful, peaceful, incredibly fun destination has been created by volunteers. The amount of energy and creativity in our group of volunteers knows no boundaries. These dedicated workers go the extra mile to design and plan future activities and events on the Flowering Bridge. The special displays — pavers painted to look like books, decorated windows, scarecrows, pumpkin people, fairy gardens, and holiday decorations — are hits with all ages and attract many visitors. How many times have we heard a visitor say, “We came again to see what you are all up to now.”

— Kathy Tanner

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Make a Fresh Evergreen Wreath

You can create a festive wreath like those displayed on the bridge during the holidays!



1. Gather materials: Choose an inexpensive artificial wreath OR wire wreath form (we use 18 inch), floral wire, and clippers. You will also need evergreens with different textures, a bow, and other decorations.



3. Attach the bundles of greenery securely to the wreath form, one at a time, by wrapping the floral wire tightly around both the bundle and the form. Overlap the bundles and make sure some face towards the center of the wreath and others face outward.



2. Wire together 6- to 10-inch-long boughs of evergreen cuttings with different textures into bundles. The number of bundles depends on the size of your wreath, length of bundles, and the kind of evergreens used.



4. When the wreath form is covered with bundles of greenery, use floral wire to attach a bow and other decorations of your choice. Your wreath should look fresh for about a month if hung outside.

Twelve Painters Painting



... and a partridge in a pear tree.

[photos by Kathy Tanner]

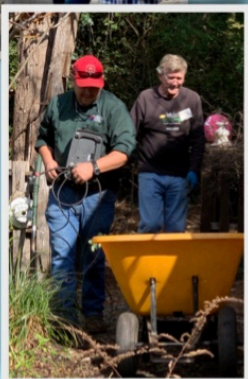


Each November, LLFB volunteers gather to create seasonal decorations that adorn the bridge for the holidays. This year, our talented and resourceful workers added one more creative day to their schedules to paint twelve plaques depicting "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Take a stroll along the bridge this winter holiday season to see these paintings as well as beautiful evergreen wreaths and swags fashioned by our volunteers. There will also be twinkling lights and many other decorations.

Some Help From Our Friends

It was a picturesque morning in early November when Tres Magner, Yancey County Extension Director, brought some helping hands to the bridge. Master gardeners from Yancey County, NC, joined LLFB volunteers in fall garden clean-up, planting, transplanting, and mulching. Afterward, the Yancey County group accompanied the bridge workers in their customary activity following a morning of hard work: lunch and lively conversation at a local eatery.



[photos submitted by Tres Magner]



Holiday Scrapbook



May Happy Times Decorate
Your Holiday Season & ❄️
Warm, Special Memories ❄️
❄️ Grow Throughout ❄️
The New Year! ❄️
❄️ From ❄️ All of us ❄️
at the
Lake Lure Flowering Bridge

