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News ♥ February 2020

Calendar of Events

**Through February 27 – “Light Up The Bridge”
Light display brightens winter nights.**

Through March 15 – Fairy Gardens on display



Little Library

Visitors to the LLFB often notice a small structure holding books next to our west parking lot. Lake Lure’s Little Library, initiated in 2015 by area residents Doug and Aileen Kelly and Charlene Efir, was built by Doug from an old cabinet that came out of a house he was renovating.

While visitors are encouraged to “take a book and leave one,” many of the folks who stop at the bridge and also take advantage of this “community bookshelf” don’t have books to swap. So donations from local residents help keep it going. When stock is running low, Aileen purchases books at the Mountains Branch Library. Contact her via email at esmo1891@gmail.com to contribute books or magazines, or schedule a pickup.

Little Free Library is an international nonprofit based in Hudson, Wisconsin, that promotes literacy, love of reading and a sense of community.



We Must Love Dogs!

Water bowls, waste bags and a certain volunteer who carries dog treats in his pocket ensure canine companions are happy campers on their stroll across the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge.

Most of our volunteers are animal lovers with pets of their own. Local dogs, who frequently accompany their humans on walks to the bridge, instinctively seek out Danny Holland, also known as “Daisy’s dad.” Danny packs dog treats along with his gardening tools when he volunteers at the Flowering Bridge. LuLu Nettles often comes to work at the bridge with volunteers Heyward and Nancy. Lulu “supervises” while her doting parents lend a helping hand in the gardens.

Pets are family members so it just makes sense to take them on vacation! The LLFB is one of several area attractions in the Hickory Nut Gorge described as “dog friendly” on travel websites like TripAdvisor and BringFido.

Check out some adorable pictures of pups on the bridge in this month’s scrapbook. It goes without saying that we must love dogs!



Nala makes sure Christina gets her exercise by taking her for a daily walk on the Flowering Bridge.

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Plants Create Winter Interest in the Garden

Gardens need not be bleak and uninteresting spaces in winter. Evergreens, relegated to supporting roles for three seasons, take center stage wearing coats of emerald, gold, and cream during the coldest months of the year. Fruits, such as holly berries and rose hips, add a splash of red to the winter landscape. After shedding their leaves, deciduous shrubs like colored-twig dogwoods and selected varieties of Japanese maple trees reveal yellow, orange or red stems and trunks. Oak leaf hydrangeas expose cinnamon-colored exfoliating bark after dropping their leaves.

Flower seed heads, dried blooms, and dormant grasses add texture to the winter garden. As an added bonus, seed heads of some flowers such as coneflowers provide food for birds. Some plants like hellebores, also called Lenten Roses, and certain varieties of camellias bloom in winter. Edgeworthia is a shrub that buds in the fall and blooms on bare stems in February. Edgeworthia flowers sweeten the air with a pungent scent not unlike gardenias.

Consider taking a winter stroll along the Flowering Bridge to enjoy those plants suffused with quiet beauty, color, texture, and even fragrance. You might be surprised by what you find.



You'll find these beauties on the bridge in winter, from top to bottom: holly with berries; rose hips, fruit of the rose; edgeworthia buds; and dried hydrangea blooms.



This fairy garden is crafted in a terracotta saucer. Its focal point, "the house on Acorn Lane," is an overturned clay pot. Debbie Clark fashioned the roof, chimney, bird house, and an entire family from acorns.



Think Outside the Box When Creating Fairy Gardens

Fairy gardens are magical miniature worlds placed directly on the ground or created in containers ranging in size from a tiny teacup to a large wheelbarrow. Contrary to the title, a fairy garden doesn't always contain plants or fairies. Garner inspiration for your own creations from books, blogs, the Internet, and Pinterest. Purchase accessories for your fairy gardens from craft stores, garden centers and online retailers, or fashion them from "found" materials. Create structures such as houses, benches, bridges, birdhouses and fences from natural components like rocks, twigs, pine cones and acorns.

Fairy gardens add just the right touch of whimsy to the Flowering Bridge during the winter. These recently installed displays, designed by our volunteers, will delight visitors to the bridge through mid-March.



Susie Ellis chose a discarded spice rack for this fairy garden. She placed a variety of tiny figurines on the shelves, which are lined with moss.

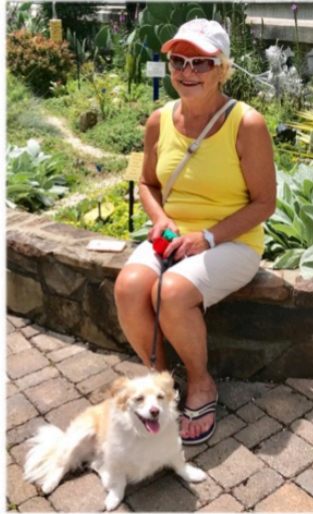
February Scrapbook

Puppy L♥VE! We ♥ our canine visitors!



Xenia brought mom and dad, Phyllis and Lee, to the bridge from New Smyrna Beach, FL.

[photo by Dan Bails]



Brindle brought mom Cheryl all the way from AZ.



Lucy allows Kathy to take a short break from gardening on the bridge.



Ladybird is accompanied by her boy from Texas.



Billy didn't want to move from under the mister on a hot summer day.

[photos, above and below, by Kathy Tanner]



Beautiful Daisy pauses on her walk with Danny to bask in the attention from her adoring fans.



Freeman checks out the floral border of the succulent garden. He and his mom, Aileen, are frequent visitors from Bat Cave, NC.



It's Connor, looking like a cute garden ornament tucked under the Weeping Bald Cypress.



The balustrades at the bridge create the perfect frame for Mazie's pretty face. She and her folks live in Lake Lure.