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lakelurefloweringbridge.org

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Spaces between the balustrades are just the right height for curious youngsters to gaze out on the river below.

Bring the Kids!

A trip to a public garden may not seem like a very exciting adventure to most children. On the contrary, we often hear squeals of

delight as kids discover hands-on activities, touches of whimsy, interesting insects, or special textures and smells on their visit to the Flowering Bridge.

Children gravitate to a set of table and chairs that are just their size in the Secret Garden and are immediately surrounded by miniature gardens. Older kids try their hand at answering true-false questions about pollinators at the kiosk or sit down to play a game of tic-tac-toe in the atrium. Youngsters of all ages delight in the soft, fuzzy texture of a Lamb's Ear leaf or the peanut-butter-like smell of a crushed leaf of Clerodendrum, also known as Peanut Butter Tree.

Some volunteers take a special interest in our young guests. Jennifer Gregg designed and built the troll house on the east end of the bridge. At special events, Lynn Lang and Mitsi Chorak provide juvenile activities such as painting small rocks that kids can either hide or take with them. Paige Massey is the creator of several scavenger hunts that delight kids and adults alike. Young summer visitors get seed packets as souvenirs and Danny Holland makes sure there are plenty of mini pumpkins to hand out to kids who visit the bridge in the fall.

There are so many things for children to see and do, so bring them along! Be sure to check out photos of some of our junior guests enjoying themselves on the bridge in this month's scrapbook.



Volunteer Lynn Lang squeezes in an impromptu science lesson on metamorphosis when she notices children's interest in a green, white and black striped caterpillar, the larval phase of a monarch butterfly.

News March 2020

Calendar of Events

**March 10 - April 30 – Special Feature:
Bunnies on the Bridge**

Tues., March 24, 10am – Wake Up Your Garden!

Garden tasks to accomplish in March and April will be presented by former Polk Co. Extension Director John Vining. Town Hall, back entrance

Sat., April 18 – Sale on the Trail

West end of the bridge

Sat., April 25 – Earth Day Activities for Kids and Adults

On the bridge

**Tues., April 28, 10am – Demos: Turning Ordinary
Objects into Garden Art**

West end of the bridge

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

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Who's in Charge Here?

If you haven't been to the Flowering Bridge in a couple of years, you haven't been to the Flowering Bridge! All of the additions, improvements and new programs at our beautiful park cause one to query who's in charge of planning and implementing these changes. The LLFB is a volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors that meets once a month. In addition, some board members, such as garden and education co-chairs, meet with satellite committees made up of volunteers who brainstorm ideas and plan activities. Board members who will continue their roles on the LLFB Board of Directors in 2020 are:

Kathy Tanner, Garden Co-chair and Chair of the LLFB Board of Directors

Charlotte Gardner, Secretary

Bill Massey, Treasurer and Fundraising Chair

Alice Garrard, Education Co-chair

Danny Holland, Education Co-chair

Charlie Yelton, Infrastructure

Mitsi Chorak, Marketing / PR Coordinator

Paige Massey, Outreach Coordinator

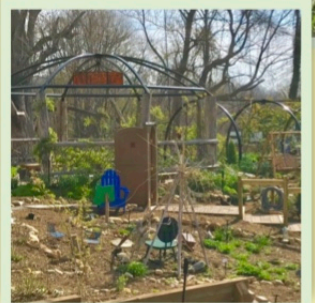
We welcome these new board members:

Debbie Clark, Garden Co-chair

Mary Jaeger Gale, Member-at-large

Mark Hoek, Infrastructure

Amy Wald, Member-at-large



Kudos to Two Special Ladies

Janet Walters and Susie Ellis, two longtime members, have left their posts on the LLFB Board of Directors. Janet, founding member and first board treasurer who led the process for the LLFB to become a nonprofit organization, will remain a garden volunteer and co-chair of the Herb Garden. Janet and her husband, Jim, were workhorse gardeners in the initial phases of creating our gardens nine years ago.

Susie joined the board as secretary in 2013, then later served as garden co-chair. Known for her infectious enthusiasm, creativity, and love of special projects, she played a major role in designing our educational kiosk. Susie will continue as a volunteer gardener and serve the board as an ex officio member.

If you notice a sign on the bridge, chances are it was created and printed by Susie Ellis, who has an eye for design and an affinity for symmetry.



Never underestimate the strength of a woman with a power tool! Janet Walters trims back grasses on the hill near the west entrance of the bridge.



Garden Art That Rocks!



A rock painted to look like a ladybug is a cheerful addition to a garden space.

Rock painting is an easy, fun and inexpensive activity for all ages. To create your own miniature art piece, start with a smooth rock that is clean and dry. A scrub brush will help remove dirt that is clinging to your rock. Since rocks are porous, they should first be sealed with a primer, sealer, paint that contains a sealer, or covered with several coats of paint. Small bristle brushes, bottles of acrylic paint and paint pens, sold at hobby or discount stores, are ideal materials for painting a design on your rock. Look online for a plethora of ideas if you need help deciding what to paint. Finally, seal your artwork by brushing or spraying on a weather-resistant varnish.

Display your masterpiece in a planter or garden, but if you plan to hide your rock for others to find, be aware that placing painted rocks in National Parks is prohibited, and some public places discourage this practice. Also, if you use a rock found in nature, do not collect it from private property or take one where its removal could negatively affect the natural environment, such as a rock used to prevent erosion.



[photos & rock designs by Mitsi Chorak & Eleanor Bails]

March Scrapbook

There are so many cool things on the bridge for kids to see, hear, smell, touch and discover!

[photo by Lynn Lang]



[photos above and below by Lydia Taylor]



[photos, left & below, by Lynn Lang]

