



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

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## News April 2020

### Calendar of Events

**Caveat:** In these uncertain times, many activities are being cancelled. Please double-check before coming to a scheduled event at the bridge.

#### Special Feature: Bunnies on the Bridge

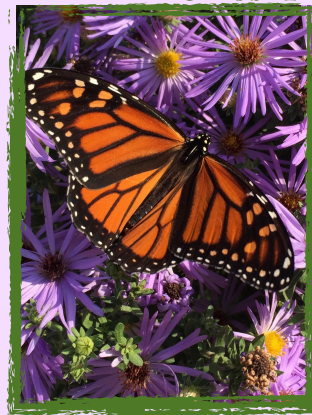
See photos in this newsletter and on our [Facebook Page!](#)

**Tues., May 26, 10 a.m. – Tips For Growing Healthy Herbs**

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CLASSES OR TOURS,  
call Alice or Danny at 828-625-2540  
or email [alicegrrrd@gmail.com](mailto:alicegrrrd@gmail.com)



Wishing you  
a safe,  
healthy,  
and  
Happy  
Easter!



Native plants such as this aster are best adapted to local climate and soils. Natives require less water, fertilizer and pest management, and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

[photo by Lynn Lang]

## How Green Is Our Garden?

The Flowering Bridge is more than an attractive gathering place for visitors. At our park, we pride ourselves on utilizing and promoting practices that conserve natural resources and cause no harm to the natural environment or its inhabitants.

The use of chemical herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers can be harmful to

animals and the natural surroundings, and can cause human health problems. Volunteers are often seen bending over or kneeling in their gardens to remove weeds. Hand-picking weeds or smothering them with newspaper or cardboard topped with a layer of mulch are two ways we get rid of these unwanted plants without using potentially harmful chemicals. We avoid using pesticides on roses by knocking beetles off of these flowers into soapy water. Aphids are removed from plants by spraying them with water. Also, we encourage beneficial insects such as ladybugs and their larvae to help eliminate destructive insect pests. Because the majority of herbs are used as food or for seasoning food, organic fertilizers are always used to enrich plants in the herb garden as well as other gardens on the bridge.

In an effort to curtail paper use, we display some educational information on temporary and permanent signs. Our newsletter is published solely online.

Join us in celebrating Earth Day by incorporating eco-friendly practices in your own garden. April 22 marks the 50th anniversary of this worldwide movement to protect the environment.



This unwanted rocking chair got new a new life as a container for a fairy garden. The board used to create the sign is a construction discard.

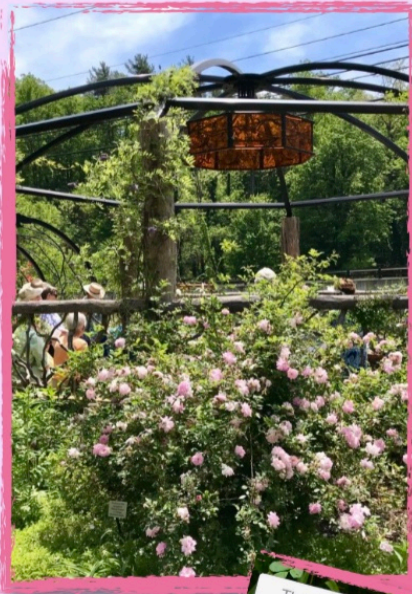
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# Bellevue Rose Blooms in April

One of the first roses to bloom on the Flowering Bridge in the spring is also one of its most historic. The Bellevue Rose blooms profusely throughout the month of April. It was propagated from an old rose bush that stands on a private plantation in Burke County, Georgia. According to a historic marker, the rose "was damaged [during the Civil War] by horses tethered to it by Union officers while their men stripped the plantation of horses and provisions, a work in which they were engaged when struck by Confederate pursuit." The soldiers who fell here were buried behind the residence. The Union dead remain, but the Confederates were reinterred in a nearby cemetery.

The rose on our bridge was one of only three propagated by Kerry Ann Crossley, a Columbia, SC-based rosarian and part-time resident of Chimney Rock, who gave us this special gift because "I admire the bridge and its purpose, and I support your efforts." Of the rose, she says, "It's a true rambler, and a beast, especially if it can hold a horse!"



The Bellevue Rose is located outside the atrium and near the LLFB's parking area.



## Wake Up Your Garden

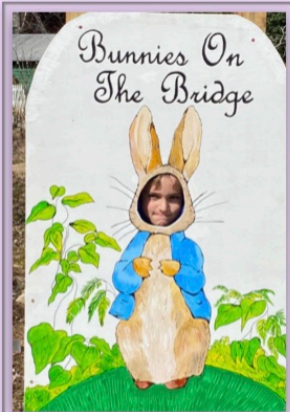
It's spring! Temperatures are comfortable for working outside and plants are waking up following a winter's sleep. Here are some important garden tasks to accomplish this time of year:

- Deadhead spring flowering bulbs when they are finished blooming, but do not remove the green foliage.
- Prune spring-flowering trees such as flowering cherry and shrubs like forsythia immediately after blooming.
- Remove debris, leaves and weeds, and add mulch.
- Cut back remaining dead growth on perennials, being careful not to injure emerging new growth.
- Apply organic fertilizer to roses and other emerging perennials.

If you live outside Western North Carolina, consult your local extension agency, regional gardening books or online sources for advice about the proper time to complete tasks to prepare your garden for the new growing season.



Choose a cool day in spring to divide and transplant some perennials such as hostas, ornamental grasses and fall blooming flowers.



The LLFB is hoppin' with bunnies in all shapes and sizes. Posing at the photo board as a human-sized hare, is Ryan, the nine-year-old grandson of LLFB board member Charlie Yelton. Check out more photos of these charming cottontails in this month's scrapbook.





# April Scrapbook

Spring has sprung! Bunnies and bulbs welcome the season of renewal to the bridge.

