



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

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## News May 2020

### Calendar of Events

The town of Lake Lure has closed the Flowering Bridge to visitors until May 15 to strengthen safety measures to protect our community from the COVID-19 pandemic. Caretakers have been given limited permission to maintain the gardens.

Please check our [Facebook Page](#) or our [Website](#) before visiting or attending a scheduled class.

#### May - July – Special Feature: Darlings in Denim

**Tuesday, June 23, 10 a.m. – Tips for Growing Healthy Herbs**

Led by master gardener Charlotte Gardner  
Flowering Bridge Secret Garden

**Tuesday, July 28, 10 a.m. – How to Grow Healthy Roses**

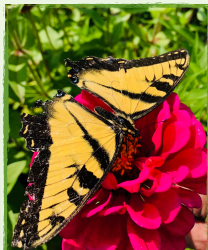
Led by rosarian Steve Earnest

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



“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.”

– Claude Monet



Several of our volunteers elevate photography to an artistic level. Photos taken on the bridge, left to right, by Debbie Clark, Alice Garrard and Lynn Lang.



Lisa Blackshear, an artist from Asheville, NC, totes her easel and canvas to the bridge to paint en plein air.

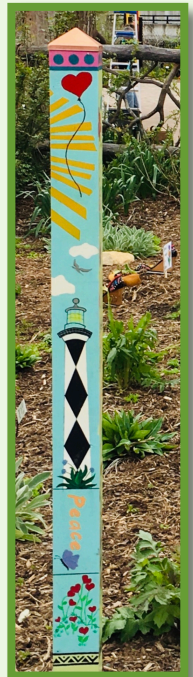
## Flowering Bridge Celebrates Art

Throughout history, artists have been inspired by their natural surroundings: painters like Claude Monet and James Audubon; photographers whose stunning images grace the pages of *National Geographic*. The pristine beauty of the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge makes it

a natural choice for attracting the attention of artists who capture images of the bridge on camera, in a sketch book, on canvas or in clay.

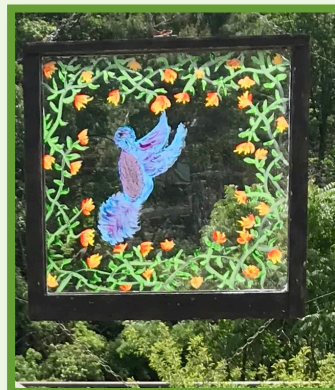
In 2017, the LLFB was named a living 3-D mural, the first of its kind, by the Appalachian Mural Trail. Local artists, including some of our own volunteers, have created one-of-a-kind artwork that embellishes gardens on the bridge and complements the creative spaces where they are displayed.

Within these pages, you'll encounter local artists who've captured the essence of the bridge in a variety of mediums. The Scrapbook is composed of photos of works of art on permanent display donated to the LLFB by the artists who created them.



[photo by Mitsi Chorak]

Mitsi Chorak, volunteer gardener and LLFB board member, designed and painted the peace pole shown above. Her artwork pays homage to our sunny days and Carolina blue skies.



The hummingbird and vine painting on the left by Jennifer Gregg, volunteer gardener and member of Lake Lure Artists, was part of our painted windows feature in 2019.

SEE WHAT'S BLOOMING ON THE BRIDGE!  
VISIT US VIRTUALLY ON FACEBOOK.

## Characterized in Clay

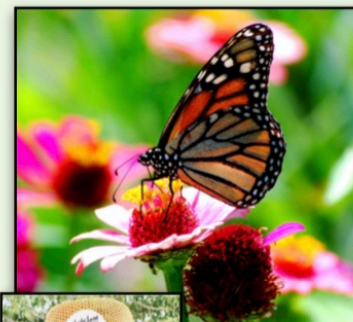


For **Veryle Lynn Cox**, whose studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels, Belgium, included classical figure drawing and sculpture, it's the concrete balustrades on the Flowering Bridge that "tug at my heart" and provide inspiration for many ceramic pieces. Making stamps and molds to help fashion her work, this resourceful artist creates clay pieces, like the platter shown on the left, that incorporate the bridge's architectural elements. Donating her time and talent, Veryle Lynn designed and made the ceramic ornaments shown on the right, as well as magnets and several other beautiful clay creations, to raise funds for the LLFB.



## Worth a Thousand Words

As a young girl growing up in Czechoslovakia, **Jana Moravec** developed and printed black and white photos of her family's outings, "the old way, in a bathroom/darkroom at night." She admits to inheriting a good eye from her father, a renowned photographer whose work appeared in *National Geographic*. Later, when she and her husband, Milan, immigrated to the United States, they both pursued photography as a hobby, but life got busy, and she found herself taking pictures only for family albums. When Jana and Milan retired to Lake Lure, the Flowering Bridge was in the developmental phase. A lover of nature, she was taken with the idea, and when the bridge officially opened in 2011, she took photographs of it that have become popular sellers. "It is humbling to know people like my work enough to hang it in their homes," she says. "Every year I take more photos of the bridge."



To **Mike Lumpkin**, the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is a photographer's paradise that offers different textures at every turn. He should know. Mike has volunteered as an official photographer for the LLFB since its inception, capturing enticing images for our Facebook page, website, printed calendars and other promotional materials, as well as for the online newsletter edited by his wife, Lee, for seven years.

Some of Mike's favorite subjects are flowers, birds, bees, dragonflies and "all manner of other tiny creatures," about which, he says:

The flowers, though, pose so patiently, as if they're waiting for their closeups. Bring the blossoms and butterflies together and you have a photographic combination made in heaven.

The ethereal monarch butterfly and coneflower, above, was one of several photos Mike snapped on the bridge, enlarged into a canvas print and donated to be sold as a fundraiser for the Flowering Bridge.

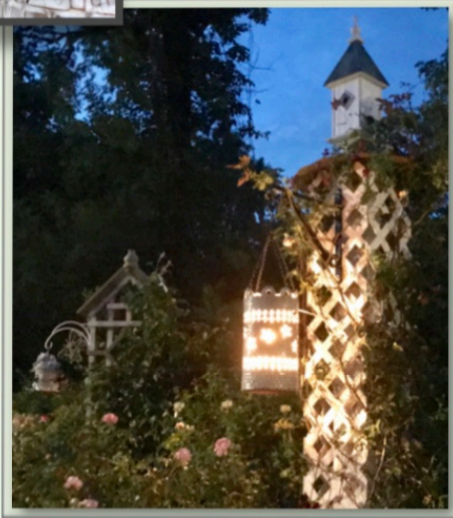
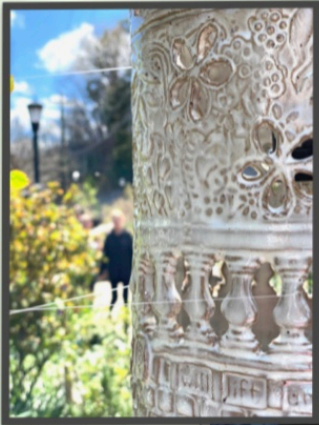
## Witnessed Through Watercolor

**Carole Lang** compares "crossing the old bridge" [before it was closed to traffic and transformed into a public park] to "crossing into a new life" when describing her move to Lake Lure in 2000 after the passing of her husband. This talented painter and former educator studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art and Ringling School of Art and Design. In the watercolor painting shown on the right, Carole captures our iconic arch framing several East End gardens. She displays her paintings at Lake Lure festivals and in local restaurants.



**Veryle Lynn Cox – Ceramic Lantern**  
In the Rose Garden

“It was my honor to make a large lantern for the ‘Lighting of the Bridge’ and to have it hung in the rose garden,” says Veryle Lynn. “If you look closely, it features two rows of cut-out balustrades, the brick path, stamped flowers and leaves, and cut-out flowers letting the light on the inside flow out.”



# May Scrapbook

Art created and donated by local artists serves as a focal point in several of our gardens.

**Steve Sane – Metal Sculpture, Turk’s Cap Lily**  
In the Volunteers Friendship Garden

It was Gaylord Cowen, the original owner of Cowen Tire, an NC wildflower enthusiast, who gave Steve a picture of a Turk’s Cap Lily and challenged him to duplicate it in metal. He fashioned the sculpture from steel and copper, and bronze for the stamen. Steve’s wife, Barbara, shares, “It was a fun and challenging experience. It’s the only one he ever made. One of a kind. He donated it to the Flowering Bridge in appreciation for the honor of working on the projects at the bridge. He hoped it would be a nice addition there.”



**Amy Wald – Wire Sculpture, “Mariah”**  
In the Rock and Succulent Garden

After admiring wire fairies made by a UK artist, Amy learned wire sculpture by ordering a sample kit and discovered she loved it. About the sculpture she named “Mariah” after song lyrics in which wind was given the same name, this Lake Lure artist says, “I decided to make one [wire sculpture] a little bigger and that is how Mariah was formed. I like the way her hair seems to blow in the wind. I am working on one now featuring a very large dandelion with three fairies dancing along the stem. “

