



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

lakelurefloweringbridge.org

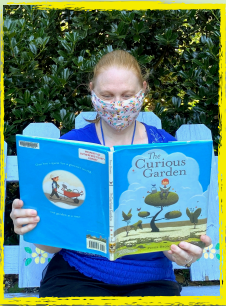
Eleanor Bails, editor; llfb.newsletter@gmail.com

Alice Garrard, associate editor/photographer

News August 2020

Calendar of Events

Through mid-October – Special Feature: Here Comes the Sun



Tuesday, August 4, 10:30 a.m.
Children’s Story Time at the Bridge

Tamara Edwards, the Children’s Library Associate with Rutherford County Library, will read stories about gardens and garden insects. Participants will receive a craft. Meet Ms. Tamara in the Secret Garden!

Tuesday, August 25, 10 a.m. – Tips and Tools for the Older Gardener

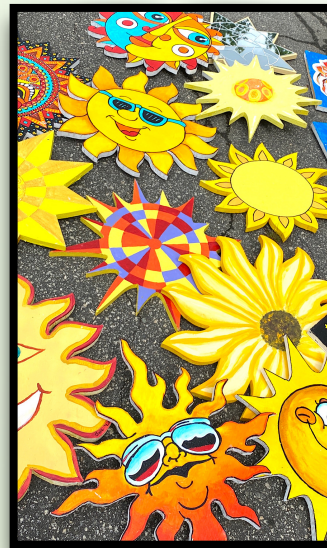
Led by gardening expert Maryann Brown
Town Hall (back entrance)

Tuesday, September 22, 10 a.m. – Landscape Solutions for Problem Yards

Led by master gardener Debbie Clark
Flowering Bridge Secret Garden

Social distancing and masks are required on the bridge and in the classes we offer. For more information, call Alice or Danny at 828-625-2540.

SEE WHAT’S BLOOMING ON THE BRIDGE.
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Artists and Volunteers Spread a Little Sunshine

What happens when each member of an artists group is handed a piece of wood cut in the shape of a sun and given carte blanche to embellish it? You get a

collection of different ways of interpreting this celestial body, each as unique as the artist who decorated it. Take the Flowering Bridge volunteers, who have a penchant for repurposing thrift store finds and castoffs into unexpected garden decorations, and arm them with yellow paint. The result is an array of cheerful garden accents.

“Here Comes the Sun,” our most recent special feature, is a collaboration between the **Lake Lure Artists** and LLFB volunteers. Twenty-two suns embellished by the artists are on display throughout the gardens. Sun-themed garden decorations created by our volunteers provide the finishing touches and complement the artists’ suns. Check out more photos from this special feature in this month’s Scrapbook and on our **Facebook Page**.

The suns and sunny garden touches will be on display until mid-October.



Volunteers Lisa Willis and Susie Ellis add a large, bright sun catcher to the Swing Garden.



Lynn Lang repurposed a discarded bird cage into a colorful planter and hung it in the Songbird and Pollinator Garden, which she tends.

Creativity Reflected in New Display

A new permanent attraction near the west end of the bridge, “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall,” combines framed succulent planters with decorative mirrors for one of our most eye-catching displays to date. Volunteers involved in the planning, construction and installation of this display include Dan and Eleanor Bails, Debbie Clark, Susie Ellis, Danny Holland, Lynn and Bobby Lang, Geneva Matteis, Kathy and Kenneth Tanner, Amy Wald and Charlie and Emily Yelton.



Steve prepares to demonstrate pruning a rosebush at a 45 degree angle above a set of five leaves.

Tips for Growing Healthy Roses

Recently, local rosarian Steve Earnest shared some of his methods for growing healthy roses with fifteen people assembled in the bridge’s Secret Garden. He suggests feeding roses a diet of organic compounds twice a year, using generous amounts of mushroom compost, alfalfa pellets, and coffee grounds (post-brewing, or they’ll be too acidic), a smaller amount of fish emulsion and a tablespoon of a 3-1-2 chemical fertilizer. The first feeding should occur after the last frost in your hardiness zone; the second, about six weeks before the average first frost. In western North Carolina, zone 7a, he suggests May 1 and September 1. He also adds half a handful of Epsom salts in spring to encourage new growth.

One of the biggest challenges to roses is pests. Aphids go after new growth and buds; Japanese beetles decimate buds and blooms; and sawfly larvae eat the undersides of leaves, giving them a skeletal look. Steve removes all these pests by hand. “I’ve learned to stomach that,” he says and adds that Japanese beetles have been particularly bad this year. Roses are also vulnerable to a fungal disease called black spot, which is most likely to appear when the temperature is 74 degrees and moisture stays on the leaves for four hours. Water your roses in the morning to avoid black spot. Steve rarely uses chemicals on his plants, and never puts systemic fungal mixtures in the ground because they can harm worms and pollinators. When he needs to take drastic action, he relies on a spray product called Bayer Advanced Disease Control.

When pruning a rosebush, he says, always leave the last few sets of five leaves on the plant and cut at an angle so water doesn’t sit on the cane and cause disease. The higher you prune, the faster the growth but the smaller the blooms. The lower you prune, the larger the blooms. In western North Carolina, the best time to hard prune is March; the best time to transplant roses is February. Don’t buy barefoot roses after March and plant them no later than the first week of April. You can plant potted roses any time of year. If you live in a different area of the country, check with your local extension office for best times to plant, prune and transplant roses. When Steve plants a new rose, he incorporates pine fines and mushroom compost into the soil and adds dried cow or horse manure to enrich it.

For more information, visit the American Rose Society’s website, where you’ll find a comprehensive guide to growing roses. Also, check out Steve’s private Facebook group, The Rose, Flower and Veggie Gardener’s Group.



Lady of Shalott, an English (David Austin) rose and a gift from Steve, is located at the entrance to the Secret Garden.

August Scrapbook

These sunny garden decorations are sure to put anyone in a cheerful mood!

