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lakelurefloweringbridge.org

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News ❄️ Dec. '20 - Jan. '21

Calendar of Events

Through January 4, 2021 — Special Feature:

“Happy Holidays From Our ‘Gnome’ to Yours”

Seasonal decorations and twinkling lights transform the bridge into a winter wonderland. Lights will brighten winter nights until March 2.

January 15 - March 15, 2021 — Special Feature:

“Sleds In Beds”

Social distancing and masks are required on the bridge.

A Gift That Keeps on Giving

OUR SOMEDAY
THE ANSLEYS
2018

FRIENDS ARE
THE FAMILY
YOU CHOOSE

IN MEMORY OF
CHUCK WATKINS
LOVED BY ALL

Honor a loved one, friend, or beloved pet with a Pathfinder Brick this holiday season. Our pathways are edged with these engraved pavers, so your brick is permanently displayed on A Gateway to Somewhere Beautiful.

Click here to

**PURCHASE A BRICK OR MAKE A
GENERAL DONATION**



Kathy Tanner, Garden Co-chair and Chair of the Board of Directors, shown here with Lucy and Connor, shares her thoughts about 2020, a year filled with creativity and innovation, as well as challenges, for the LLFB.

Reflecting on 2020

Despite all the challenges brought on by the pandemic, we have had a wonderful year in the gardens. We began 2020 by continuing to light the bridge on winter nights with the white lights that had been part of our holiday decorations (we'll do the same thing this winter). As many of you know, we had to close the gardens in March, not reopening them until May. That was a hard time for us as ambassadors because we love to share the beauty of the spring gardens with our visitors. We were able to tend the gardens in groups of three at a time, and we sure were happy when May came!

We added two unique features to the gardens this year. “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall” is a whimsical

living wall created with framed succulents and mirrors found in thrift shops. (We love to repurpose!) Visitors often stand in front of the mural and photograph their reflections in the mirrors. The Riverside Garden got a facelift and a major clean-up, along with a new, dog-inspired garden filled with red benches, paw-print stepping stones, an open-air dog house with a living roof, a fountain made from an old fire hydrant, and even a “stick library,” where a dog can take a stick for play. A donation from a local family made this special garden possible. Soon nooks filled with plants that delight doggies’ sense of smell and a golden retriever topiary will be added.

This year we found ourselves with more visitors than we had expected. Perhaps because of restrictions related to the pandemic, people from all over were traveling with their families, enjoying vacations and day trips to our little niche in the mountains. Visitors of all ages exclaimed over our gardens, whimsical touches and special features. We chatted enthusiastically with them — one of our most fun things to do — in spite of the challenge of wearing masks.

For the holidays, our volunteers have created displays of crafts and greenery, with gnomes tucked throughout the gardens, producing surprises and delights along every pathway. Look for a new winter feature, “Sleds in Beds,” coming in January.

As we move into next year, I have to say that our Board of Directors and our garden volunteers are the most dedicated and lovely group of friends with whom I have ever worked. Our community is grateful for the dedication and love that we all share. Happy Holidays from our “Gnome” to Yours.

– Kathy Tanner

VISIT US VIRTUALLY ON FACEBOOK

To “Gnome” Us is to Love Us

During two work parties at the Lake Lure Inn’s Roosevelt Hall, LLFB volunteers, well-“gnome” for being clever and resourceful, fashioned some whimsical creatures from materials such as pine cones, socks, live greenery and logs, to create decorations to fit our holiday theme. Turn the page and check out our handiwork. Plan an in-person visit or a virtual one via our Facebook page to see more holiday decorations on the bridge.



[photos on this page by Dan Bails, Debbie Clark, Susie Doll, Susie Ellis, Alice Garrard & Lisa Willis]

There’s No Gnome Like Your Own

If those magical, faceless creatures with large noses peeking from under pointed hats make you smile, let it be “gnome” that you can easily create your own! Arrange stems of greenery in bundles and secure them around the middle and upper rungs of an inverted tomato cage using wire or nylon zip-ties. Make certain the greenery is dense enough so that the metal frame can’t be seen. Top with a handmade or purchased hat stuffed with fiberfill or plastic bags. Fashion a beard from a triangular piece of faux fur, or spray greenery with white paint. Finally, glue wire or a dowel to a sphere such as an ornament or a styrofoam ball to create a nose and tuck the nose between the beard and hat.



Let There Be Lights!

Drive by or take a stroll through the Flowering Bridge to see our spectacular holiday light show from dusk to dawn, now through January 4. Or enjoy the holiday lights through a virtual visit via our Facebook page. Just click the link on the first page, bottom right, of this newsletter.



Nighttime view of the west end of the bridge from Memorial Highway



[photo by Susie Ellis]



 **Happy
Holidays
From Our
“Gnome”
To Yours**



[photo by Dan Bails]

