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News ♥ February 2021

## Calendar of Events

Through March 1 — Bright lights at night

Through March 8 — Special Feature: “Sleds In Beds”

March 9 - April 27 — Special Feature:  
“Bunnies on the Bridge”

Social distancing and masks are required on the bridge.

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



“If I had a flower for every time  
I thought of you, I could walk  
through my garden forever.”

— Alfred Tennyson

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As winter progresses, Edgeworthia buds begin to point toward the sun and open up.

## Pretty in Yellow

You will detect a sweet fragrance in the air if you pass by a shrub with cream and yellow blooms in LLFB’s Fragrant Garden this month. “The scent is magnificent, especially in the cooler winter air,” remarks Marily Floyd, caretaker of this garden located on the east end of the bridge. Edgeworthia chrysantha, also known as Chinese Paper Bush and our current Plant of the Month, “is unusual because it blooms in the winter, usually in mid- to late February in this [western North Carolina] area,” Marily says.

In late fall, the plant loses its long, slender leaves, exposing branches filled with silvery, acorn-shaped buds. They become a pretty cream color and point toward the ground, then turn upward as they bloom fully. The outside of the flower remains creamy white while the inside is gold. Edgeworthia is a low maintenance plant that does best in full sun. It can get quite large, so needs plenty of space to grow.

The Flowering Bridge is home to two Edgeworthia plants. You’ll also find large specimens outside of the Conservatory at Biltmore House in Asheville, NC.

“Don’t miss the opportunity to enjoy the ‘scent of heaven’ on the bridge,” urges Marily. “It’s one of my all-time favorite plants. Enjoy!”



Marilyn Floyd likes to share information about her favorite plants with visitors. She’s pictured, above, snapping a photo of another treasure, Bloomerang Reblooming Lilac.

# Valentines to the Bridge

More than 100,000 people visit the Flowering Bridge each year, and we're grateful when some take a moment to sign our guestbook. Believe it or not, one of our volunteers reads every comment and shares his favorites with the Board of Directors. Words like "beautiful," "magical," "whimsical," "creative," "enchanted," and "peaceful" come up a lot. Here's a sampling of their "love letters" to the bridge.

We saw this beauty from the roadway. There was no way we weren't going to stop by and say hello. We enjoyed this beautiful garden and hanging out with the bees and the butterflies.  
— William & Aitza, Orlando, FL

I want him to propose to me here one day.  
— Olivia & Drew

In this world of confusion and anger, thank you for this place of beauty. It reassures us that God is still in control.  
— The Brysons, Cleveland, GA

I'm visiting here with the love of my life. I hope you have someone special in yours.  
— Amit & Bo

Amid Covid and shut-in time, what a wonderful opportunity to walk and explore the pretty gardens.  
— N & LH, Charlotte, NC

Fantastic, so creative and whimsical. Thank you all for this time to renew and forget the worries of the world. My husband is too busy taking photographs to write, so I will say for both of us, just superb!  
— Shirley & George, Black Mountain, NC

Thank you so very much for giving us the gift of beauty. Such joy, and I'll carry ideas from your garden to mine!  
— Sider/Hering Family

God bless all who work and donate to this garden. Thank you for reminding us to "stop and smell the roses."  
— Joe & Krista, Charlotte, NC

So good for my soul!  
— Susan, Myrtle Beach, SC

Beyond words! Love the commitment to nature, education, butterflies, preservation, relaxation, and beauty.  
— August 2020 [no attribution]

What a beautiful way to honor nature and build community.  
— 2 Mississippians

So lovely and romantic.  
— Honeymooners Pete & Traci



# February Scrapbook

*LET IT SNOW!* But even if it doesn't, enjoy these photos of "Sleds In Beds," on display 'til March 15. Check out more pictures from this special feature on our Facebook page, which is linked on page one of this newsletter.

