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News April 2021

Calendar of Events

Through April 27 – Special Feature: Bunnies on the Bridge

Tuesday, April 27, 10 a.m. – The Architecture of Gardening
Class led by gardening guru Maryann Brown
Flowering Bridge Welcome Terrace (west end)

Tuesday, May 18, 10 a.m. – Bonsai Principles for Success
Class led by master gardener Bill Massey
Roosevelt Hall behind the Lake Lure Inn

Social distancing and masks are required
on the bridge and in classes.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CLASSES OR TOURS,
call Alice or Danny at 828-625-2540
or email alicegrrrd@gmail.com.



Did You Know?

The Lake Lure Flowering Bridge is a member of the American Public Gardens Association, composed primarily of U.S. and Canadian public - garden

institutions and professionals. Over the last six decades, the organization has emerged as the premiere association for public gardens in North America.



Best known as author and illustrator of children's books, Beatrix Potter was also a scientific illustrator, natural scientist and conservationist who lived in England from 1866 until her death in 1943.

New Garden Honors Beatrix Potter

A new garden underway at the Flowering Bridge pays homage to English author and illustrator Beatrix Potter and her comedic and mischievous characters from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

The space between the Secret Garden and our garden shed, now being transformed into the Peter Rabbit Children's Garden, was once a container garden and, later, a cottage garden. While the theme of this garden area has evolved through the years, its caretaker, volunteer Geneva Matteis, and her fondness for using rabbits as ornamental garden elements have remained constant. Matteis, who collaborated with LLFB Garden Co-chairs Kathy Tanner and Debbie Clark on the new garden's essence and design, enjoys saving seeds from her plants and suggested that one of the activity areas be a potting bench where children can plant seeds to take home.

According to Debbie Clark, other features being installed are a vegetable garden, sensory garden, tic-tac-toe table, water feature, new mural, hopscotch using rabbit stepping stones, pole-bean teepee made from tree limbs, whitewashed fencing and gate, and miniature garden. Stay tuned for photos and additional information about this exciting, new children's space in upcoming issues of the newsletter.



Geneva Matteis, above, is happy to incorporate the child-sized rabbit bench and rabbit stepping stones that were already in the garden space in this area into the new children's garden.



Taking Swift Action



Chimney swifts have hooked claws and spiked tips on their tails, adapting them for clinging to vertical surfaces.

[photo credit: George L. Armistead]

One of the most unique bird species, the chimney swift, lives in the eastern half of the United States from spring through fall. With a wingspan twice as long as its small (5-6 inch), cigar-shaped body, this migratory bird spends most of its day airborne, foraging for insects. Unable to perch upright, swifts roost and build nests on the inside walls of chimneys.

Audubon North Carolina selected the chimney swift as 2016 Bird of the Year. The bird is still common in the state, but its population has sharply declined, partly due to the increased practice of capping chimneys. This organization devoted to the protection of birds suggests building chimney swift towers as one way to help preserve this federally protected avian species.

During a vacation to Lake Lure, Eric and Kristin Booker “really appreciated the concept of transforming an unused bridge into a focal point for the community.” Noting our emphasis on environmental education, the Charleston-based family reached out to the Flowering Bridge with an offer to fund a chimney swift tower to erect on the bridge. “We thought it would be a great way

for the community to observe and appreciate the aerial acrobatics of chimney swifts and learn about their lifecycle and the vital role they perform on a daily basis,” explains Eric. Pleased to take on this project and help protect swifts in our area, we recruited woodworker and LLFB volunteer John Reed to construct a chimney swift tower according to specifications outlined by the Audubon Society.

In early summer, the bridge will host a presentation on chimney swifts by Tom Tribble, Past President and At-Large Director, Blue Ridge Audubon Society.



The new chimney swift tower, embellished by local artist Amy Wald, stands 15 feet tall and is located at the west end of the bridge.

PLANNING



INSTALLING



MULCHING

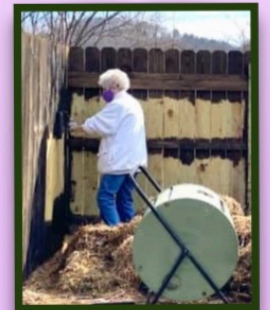


PRUNING



We're Hoppin' to It!
Getting ready for our busiest seasons in anticipation of your in-person or virtual visit to the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge.

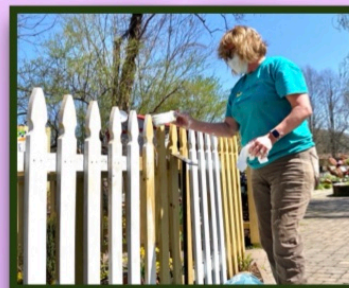
STAINING



PLANTING



PAINTING



DECORATING

April Scrapbook

Hop over to the bridge to see "Bunnies on the Bridge," on display until April 27. You can also visit virtually via Facebook by following the link on the first page of this newsletter.

