



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

lakelurefloweringbridge.org

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News May 2021

Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 13, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., weather permitting

Demos, rock decorating

Children’s story times – 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m.

Tuesday, May 18, 10 a.m. – Bonsai Principles for Success

Class led by master gardener Bill Massey

Roosevelt Hall behind the Lake Lure Inn

June 1 - September 7 – Special Feature: Fairy Gardens

Tuesday, June 22, 10 a.m. – Fascinating Facts about Chimney Swifts

Class led by Tom Tribble, Past President and At-Large Director, Blue Ridge Audubon Society
Roosevelt Hall behind the Lake Lure Inn

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

National Public Gardens Week

The LLFB is a member of American Public Gardens Association, an organization that promotes vibrant, relevant gardens committed to community enrichment and environmental responsibility.

Join us in celebrating National Public Gardens Week, May 8 – 16. Stop by Tuesday or Thursday, weather permitting, to chat with our garden volunteers. On Thursday, May 13, we’ll have demos, a rock decorating activity and story times for children, all centered around the theme of protecting the earth.



This mom brought her daughters to the bridge to release butterflies they raised from caterpillars.

Passing on the Love

Just about any day we have visitors on the bridge, you’ll find moms, grandmas and aunts passing their infectious enthusiasm for gardening and nature to younger family members. These women can be

observed pointing out a butterfly, identifying a plant or offering gardening advice. They take photos, pose for pictures with family, and engage their youngsters in activities such as a game of tic-tac-toe in the new children’s garden or the interactive quiz about pollinators at the kiosk.

Several of our volunteers identify their moms as the person who instilled in them a life-long love of gardening. Lynn Lang shares her fondest memory of gardening with her mom. “I was about six and we planted a seed packet of zinnias and one of radishes. I was thrilled to see the little plants bloom.” Susie Ellis relates, “I’ve always loved green beans since I was a little girl. One year when I was about five, my mom and I planted some [bean seeds] in our garden. We watered, weeded and watched – best green beans I have ever tasted were those we planted together.”

In honor of Mother’s Day, this month’s scrapbook is a heartwarming collection of photos captured on the bridge of women with their family members.



Three generations take advantage of a photo op on the bridge.

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On a typical tour, a guide (here, Charlotte Gardner) points out unique plants such as the peanut butter tree, the green rose, and Harry Lauder's walking stick, and contributions made by local artists and artisans, such as sculptures, benches, trellises, and our well-known arch.

Group Bridge Tours

It's not unusual to see people strolling the Flowering Bridge in groups or to spot a church van or two in our parking lot. What most people don't realize is the Flowering Bridge offers free, informational tours to the public. Just let us know when you're coming, and a volunteer will meet your group and serve as your guide. Groups as small as seven to ten people are welcome; these days, face coverings are required. Groups hosted on the bridge have included garden clubs, master gardeners, retirement communities, school and church groups, special needs groups, and larger groups of individuals who have booked a vacation through a travel agent or an organization such as AAA.

The larger the group, the more volunteers are on hand to act as guides. A tour lasts about an hour, starting with the guide's providing a brief history of the 96-year-old bridge, then

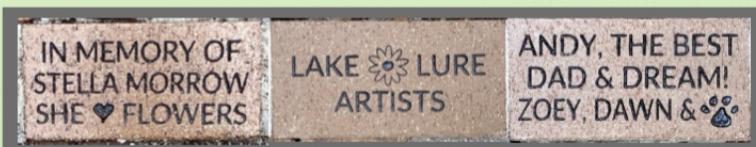
strolling across it with the group and pointing out special plants and other points of interest along the way. The best time to tour the bridge is in the morning, especially in summer, and the best days to visit are Tuesdays and Thursdays because the volunteers work on those days. This is true whether you're part of a group or visiting the bridge on your own. People always enjoy chatting with our volunteers about what they're doing and asking them questions about plants and gardening. For their part, the volunteers thrive on their interaction with visitors.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Alice Garrard and Danny Holland at 828-625-2540, or email alicegrrrd@gmail.com.

Sweet Success

Folks who love gardens and appreciate the efforts of the volunteers at the Flowering Bridge responded to a promotional sale of commemorative bricks that line the pathways on the bridge. This limited-time offer gave donors the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick at a 20% discount and include one of three special symbols on their brick. Thank you to everyone who bought one!

Sixty-one orders for bricks were received from a six state area during the sale, held earlier this year. The newly purchased bricks join others that are permanently displayed on the bridge for a total of over 300 engraved pavers, each representing a dedication, remembrance or event — a special, loving sentiment in so many lives.



The brick promotion has ended, but engraved pavers may still be purchased using our "Say It With a Brick" [Order Form](#).

Spring Cleanup

Boy's Camp Road, which leads to the west entrance of the Flowering Bridge, was recently treated to a spring cleanup. A crew of environmentally conscious local volunteers removed twenty bags of litter from the road's edges and embankments. Thank you to this special group for helping keep our community beautiful.



Several LLFB volunteers took part in the cleanup efforts along Boy's Camp Road: Moe Bay, organizer, fourth from left; Susie Ellis, wearing orange vest; and Jim and Janet Walters, not pictured.

May Scrapbook

Happy Mother's Day to the women who encourage younger generations to explore nature, appreciate beauty and just have fun on the Flowering Bridge.



[photo by Kathy Tanner]

