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# News June 2021

## Calendar of Events

**June 1 - September 7 – Special Feature: Fairy Gardens**

**June 21 - 27 – POLLINATOR WEEK**

Pollinator-related displays and activities on the bridge on Tuesday and Thursday, weather permitting. See top of page 2 of this newsletter for details.

**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

**Tuesday, July 27, 10 a.m. – The Bees You Never Knew**

Led by Mike Lamm, native bee house builder/educator  
Roosevelt Hall behind the Lake Lure Inn

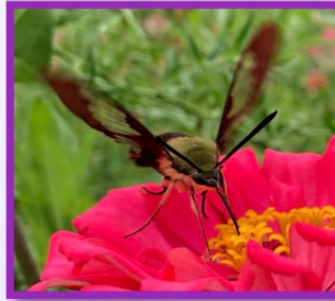
**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CLASSES OR TOURS,**  
call Alice or Danny at 828-625-2540  
or email [alicegrrrd@gmail.com](mailto:alicegrrrd@gmail.com)



## New Sign, New Class

Tom Tribble, Immediate Past President of Blue Ridge Audubon Chapter, recently presented us with an official sign for the newly installed chimney swift tower on the west end of the Flowering Bridge.

Tom has been an Audubon member and avid birder for 45 years. He'll share his expertise about chimney swifts during a free class held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on June 22, at Roosevelt Hall behind the Lake Lure Inn.



A hummingbird moth finds nourishment at a zinnia bloom. The moth benefits the plant by transferring pollen from one flower to another.

[photo by Lynn Lang]

## It's a Bird! It's a Bug?

"Look! It's a baby hummingbird!" Hovering at a flower sipping nectar with wings flapping rapidly, creating that familiar humming sound, it's no wonder hummingbird moths are often mistaken for small hummingbirds.



In the U.S., there are four species of insects belonging to the Hemaris genus that are commonly called "hummingbird moths" because their appearance and behavior closely resemble a hummingbird's. A hummingbird moth spotted on the Flowering Bridge is most likely either a Hummingbird Clearwing (*Hemaris thysbe*) or a Snowberry Clearwing (*Hemaris diffinis*).

These insects begin their life cycle as tiny green eggs deposited on larval food sources such as honeysuckle, dogbane, or snowberry shrubs. When the caterpillars are fully grown, they drop to the ground and spin loose cocoons that are well-camouflaged by dry leaves. There are usually two generations of hummingbird moths per year in North Carolina, with one generation spending the entire winter in the pupa stage, hidden in leaf litter, before emerging as an adult in the spring.

The many colorful blooms on the Flowering Bridge create a nectar-rich environment for these beautiful moths as well as for many other pollinators. Check out this month's scrapbook, where you'll find photos of some of our best pollinator plants captured on camera by one of our volunteer pollinator advocates.



The Snowberry Clearwing moth, which gets its name from one of its host plants, the snowberry shrub, is sometimes mistaken for a large bumblebee.

**FOLLOW US ON:**  

# Celebrate Pollinator Week June 21-27



We can thank pollinators like bees, birds, butterflies, moths and beetles for beautiful flowers and a large percentage of the foods we eat and the raw materials to make many of the products we use. Join us in celebrating Pollinator Week during the fourth week of June.

Visit the [Pollinator Partnership website](http://PollinatorPartnership.org) to learn ways you can support pollinators.

Joyce Pearsall, local conservation specialist, will be on hand Tuesday, June 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to share how to create habitats for monarch butterflies. On Thursday, June 24, there will be pollinator education materials and activities available for kids and adults on the bridge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Since activities are held outside, they will be subject to weather conditions.

Stop by the bridge on any Tuesday or Thursday and chat with our knowledgeable volunteers about planting your own pollinator garden.



Joyce Pearsall  
Monarch Watch  
Conservation Specialist  
[jepearsall@monarchwatch.org](mailto:jepearsall@monarchwatch.org)

## The Art of Bonsai

LLFB volunteer Bill Massey recalls being attracted to the “windswept look” of bonsai over twenty years ago. Seeing the artistically shaped plants at nurseries and garden shows, and in photos in books and magazines, inspired him to try his hand at what turned into a decades-old hobby. Last month, in a class held at Lake Lure Inn’s Roosevelt Hall, this master gardener and retired educator employed his tongue-in-cheek humor to share the knowledge and skills about bonsai that he’s learned by research as well as through trial and error.

Bonsai, which simply means “potted plant,” is an ancient art with origins in Asia. The term refers to both the process and result of pruning and training a plant to look like a miniature replica of a large tree in nature. There are no quick results with bonsai; it requires time and patience.

Bill suggests that a beginner choose a hardy plant such as juniper, suited for growing outside in one’s hardiness zone, for a first project. After trimming away one-third of its roots and branches, he puts the plant in potting soil in a shallow container with good drainage. Later, he switches to a heavier “maintenance soil” of granulated rock to which he adds nutrients. Bill stresses the importance of regular watering and sometimes positions shade cloth above his plants to protect them from the hot sun.

Debra, who attended the class, said she’d always been interested in bonsai but was afraid to attempt it. However, Bill’s class demystified the process for her and she was excited to try it herself. Bill recommends [How to Start A Bonsai Tree](#), which outlines the step-by-step process, as a good resource for beginners.

Below, Mitsi Chorak, an artist herself, admires Bill’s placement of moss and pebbles in the containers he chooses for his designs.



There is a variety of tools made specifically for bonsai. Bill prefers to use the simple scissors shown above as well as tweezers and wire to shape his plants.



## Good Bug, Bad Bug

Many insects are touted as being beneficial to the environment. However, not all insects are “good bugs.” Three insects are threatening to destroy trees, crops and landscape plants in western NC as well as in other areas of the country. Visit the [Sentinel Plant Network website](#) and learn how to identify and report the [emerald ash borer](#), [brown marmorated stink bug](#) and [spotted lanternfly](#). Informational signs about these insects are posted at the Flowering Bridge.

# June Scrapbook

Volunteer Lynn Lang, caretaker of the Songbird and Pollinator Garden, shares photographs of some of her favorite flowers that attract pollinators to the bridge.



**Zinnia**



**Verbena**



**Yarrow**



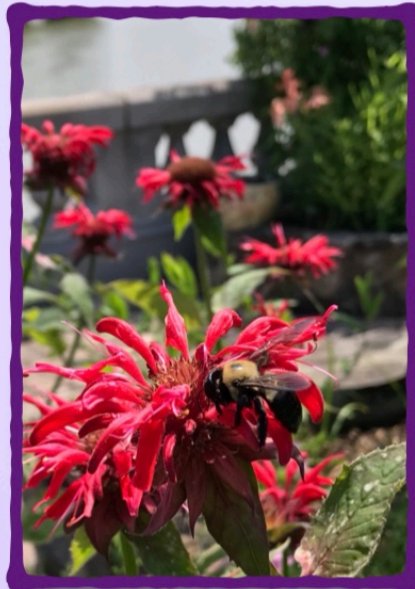
**St. John's Wort**



**Salvia**



**Cranesbill**



**Bee Balm**



**Phlox**