



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

lakelurefloweringbridge.org

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News ★ July 2021

Calendar of Events

Through September 7 – Special Feature: Fairy Gardens

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

Class led by Mike Lamm, native bee house builder/educator

Town Hall, back entrance

Tuesday, August 24, 10 a.m. – Vertical Gardening

Class led by master gardener Kathy Tanner
Flowering Bridge Welcome Terrace (west end)

Tuesday, September 28, 10 a.m. – Composting 101

Class led by master gardener Debbie Clark
Flowering Bridge Compost Center (west end)

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



Red, White and Bloom

Perennials, plants that faithfully return year after year, fill most of our garden spaces on the Flowering Bridge. However, it's annuals that lend cohesive design to the bridge's landscape. These plants live for only one growing season, but, unlike their perennial companions, remain at their peak performance from late spring until fall, filling hanging baskets, hayracks and containers woven along the main path leading to the thirty distinct gardens that make up the Flowering Bridge.



This year, garden co-chairs Debbie Clark and Kathy Tanner chose four annuals in a predominantly red and white color scheme for the planters on the bridge. The focal flower is a red geranium accented by the variegated foliage of a sun-loving variety of coleus. Euphorbia fills the design with airy white flowers while the graceful leaves and tendrils of sweet potato vine cascade over the edges.

If you visit during this patriotic month, enjoy how the annuals burst like fireworks all along your path.

The layered shades of red of "Ruby Punch" coleus and soft white "Diamond Snow" euphorbia play perfect supporting roles in our planters.



Bright red geranium blooms and the chartreuse leaves of "Margarita" sweet potato vine stand out from a distance in the hayrack planters atop the balustrade railings.

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Whose Nest Is This?

After presenting the Flowering Bridge with an official sign for our newly installed chimney swift tower, Tom Tribble, immediate past president of Blue Ridge Audubon Chapter, returned to Lake Lure last month. This time, at a free, LLFB-sponsored class held at Town Hall, he shared fascinating facts about the migratory birds we hope to attract to nest and roost in the tower.

“A pair of nesting chimney swifts and three to five hatchlings eat 5,000 insects a day,” Tom relayed, and added that mosquitoes are a favorite cuisine. A swift family occupies a single chimney and shares parental duties. However, hundreds, sometimes thousands, of chimney swifts crowd together on the vertical surfaces inside one chimney to roost during fall migration.

Those who attended Tom’s class left with a greater understanding and appreciation of chimney swifts and were encouraged to attend a phenomenal event this fall. “Swift Night Out,” sponsored by Audubon North Carolina, is held at dusk when observers can watch an astounding number of these birds enter chimneys, one after another, “like a vortex.”



Tom Tribble brought a chimney swift nest, which is fashioned from twigs gathered during flight, to show class participants.



All Abuzz About Pollinators

During the morning and early afternoon of June 24, LLFB volunteers and one special guest provided information and activities that focused on the important roles pollinators play in our lives. Enjoy these photos from this event, organized by volunteer Lynn Lang, and held during National Pollinator Week 2021.

Lynn brought striking pictures and a plethora of facts about pollinators ...



... plus a take-home art kit to depict the life cycle of a butterfly using pasta shapes.



Junior scientists participated in a simulation of cross-pollination by bees at Eleanor’s station.



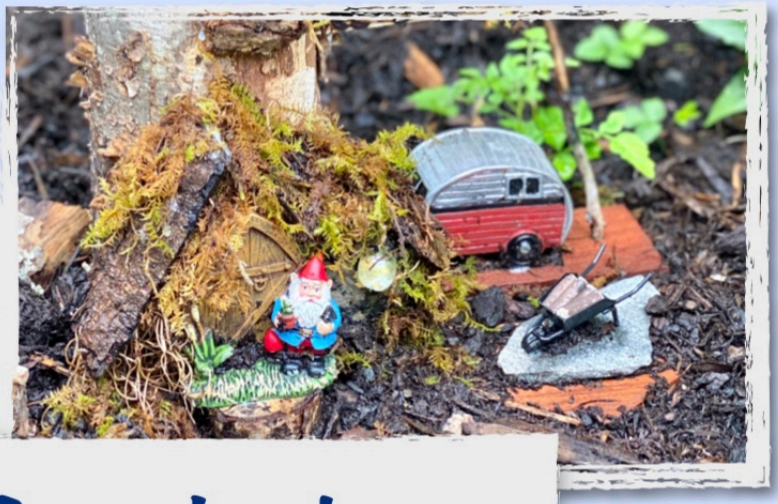
Geneva encouraged budding artists to paint designs on rocks in the new children’s garden.



[photo by Pamela Paulus]

Joyce Pearsall, local conservation specialist representing Monarch Watch, was on hand to share information about monarch butterflies.





July Scrapbook

You'll find miniature gnome homes and fairy fortresses tucked in our gardens from now until September 7. Enjoy this sample of whimsical real estate created by our volunteers from natural materials and their imaginations.

