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# News ☀ August 2021

## Calendar of Events

Through September 7 – Special Feature: Fairy Gardens

**Tuesday, August 24, 10 a.m. – Vertical Gardening**  
Class led by master gardener Kathy Tanner  
Flowering Bridge Welcome Terrace (west end)

September 9 - October 17 – Special Feature: Beautiful Bears

**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](mailto:alicegrrrd@gmail.com)

## Painterly Anniversary

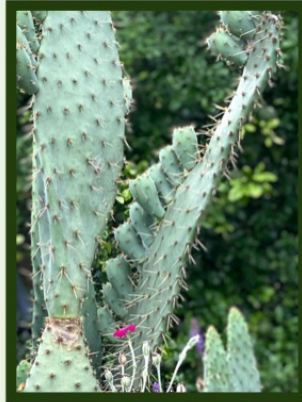
A couple celebrating a special anniversary strolled the Flowering Bridge on a picturesque July day. They were invited to join a group of people who were painting on small canvases.

Cliff watched and took photographs while his bride of sixty years, who claimed she has never painted, wielded a paintbrush and created the “best anniversary memory ever.”

See related story on page two of this newsletter.



[photos by Moe Bay]



This large prickly pear cactus, a focal point in the LLFB’s Rock and Succulent Garden, elicits the most questions and comments from visitors.

## Can Take the Heat

Many plants become stressed without frequent watering in the oppressive heat of July and August. Succulents, however, fare quite well during this hot and dry stretch of summer due to their ability to store water in their leaves, stems or roots.

There are about thirty different plants in the Rock and Succulent Garden, which is located near the west entrance to the Flowering Bridge. Many are unusual, hard to find and expensive compared to plants in our other gardens. While some plants, such as the prickly pear cactus and varieties of sedum, overwinter in the garden, there are about twelve plants that spend the colder months in volunteer Danny Hollands’s basement. Danny enjoys tending and choosing plants for the Rock and Succulent Garden because “you don’t have to water it; it’s easy to maintain; and most of the plants are odd.”

This month’s scrapbook features more photos of quirky plants that can survive heat and dry conditions on the bridge. Check it out.

Danny Holland, shown below with his pup, Daisy, considers the chain succulent (in the hanging pot) and the pickle plant (pictured on the right) his two favorite plants.



**FOLLOW US ON:**

# The Bees You Never Knew



This bee house, constructed and donated by Mike Lamm, attracts native bees of many sizes to the LLFB.

The United States is home to 35,000 species of native bees, with 500 species in North Carolina alone. You might be surprised to learn that not one of them is the honey bee, which was imported from Europe in the 1600s. According to Burnsville, NC-based master gardener Mike Lamm, who taught a bridge-sponsored class on native bees recently, native bees are much better pollinators than honey bees, so it behooves gardeners to woo them. Unlike the honey bee, they have a limited range, are solitary and don't live in hives, require very little care, and — best of all — they don't pose a stinging threat!

Be an advocate for native bees! Some 60% to 70% of native bees nest in the ground, so leave some unplanted dirt for them; the remaining 30% to 40% nest in hollow stems and sticks. If you buy or build a native bee house, place it on a post four to five feet high, facing southeast, with no plants around it to give ants access. Clean it in November using a small bottle brush and a 5% solution of chlorine bleach and water.

To learn more about these important pollinators and how to build and care for your own bee house, read "[Native Bees, Solitary Bees, and Wild Bees: What Are They?](#)"

## Paint Party

In July, the Lake Lure Artists gathered on the Flowering Bridge for a meeting in which "the artists were told to fill their palette with any colors they wanted, then just go out and have fun," said Amy Wald, a member of the group who provided small canvases on sticks, palettes, acrylic paints and brushes.

The program gave everyone a chance to try "painting on a small scale, whether they were painters or not," Amy said. She had some leftover canvases and coaxed some young visitors, and a few adults, to join in the fun and let their inner artists out.



[photos by Alice Garrard and Lori Loftus]

# August Scrapbook

The appealing, odd shapes of succulents offer drama, texture and form to the Rock and Succulent Garden, as well to other gardens on the Flowering Bridge.

