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lakelurefloweringbridge.org

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News ❄️ Dec. '21 - Jan. '22

Calendar of Events

Through January 3, '22 — Special Feature:

Festival of Trees

Themed trees will be on display throughout the gardens. White lights will remain until February 23 to brighten winter nights.

March 1 – April 4 — Special Feature:

Tiptoe Through the Tulips

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT TOURS OR
UPCOMING CLASSES,**

contact Alice or Danny at 828-625-2540
or alicegrrrd@gmail.com

A Gift That Keeps On Giving

OUR SOMEDAY
THE ANSLEYS
2018

FRIENDS ARE
THE FAMILY
YOU CHOOSE

IN MEMORY OF
CHUCK WATKINS
LOVED BY ALL

Honor a loved one, friend, or beloved pet with a Pathfinder Brick this holiday season. Our pathways are edged with these engraved pavers, so your brick is permanently displayed on A Gateway to Somewhere Beautiful.

Click here to

**PURCHASE A BRICK OR MAKE A
GENERAL DONATION**



Kathy Tanner, on the right, Garden Co-chair and Chair of the Board of Directors, takes a break from holiday decorating with Debbie Clark, Garden Co-chair, in front of the Chimney Swift Tower, which was installed in the spring.

Reflecting on 2021

This has been an especially busy and expansive year for the Flowering Bridge. We added a compost and mulch center, a children's garden, a large and much needed tool shed and a chimney swift tower, which was made possible through a family donation. Our dog garden, begun in 2020 and also funded by a family donation, was completed, and its stick library is a big hit with pups and people alike. Repeat visitors tell us they find this area especially peaceful and love to sit there.

This year saw a major redesign of our pollinator garden, with the addition of a pergola, Adirondack chairs and soft lighting — creating another area where visitors can rest

and soak in the beauty around them. According to a counter installed on the bridge, about 175,000 guests have visited the bridge in 2021.

In the past year, we've added twelve new names to our volunteer list, and have benefited from the energy, enthusiasm and creativity they bring to our committed group of gardeners. Our board of directors has also expanded. Kenneth Tanner joined us as interim treasurer; Marla Somerville, data base manager; and Linda Reandau, marketing co-chair.

At the same time that we've welcomed so many new volunteers, we said good-bye to two long-time volunteers who have moved from the Lake Lure area. Marta Campbell and Mitsi Chorak will be greatly missed. One of our founding members and strongest supporters, Charlene Efirm, passed away in July. In her memory, we are creating a special area surrounding the bench installed on the east end in her honor in 2020. The new space will include a small pergola, a stone path from the Founders Circle, and permanent lighting.

This year the Flowering Bridge became a member of the American Public Gardens Association, for more than 80 years a champion of public gardens as leaders, advocates and innovators in the conservation and appreciation of plants. Through this association, we hope to draw the attention of visitors and professionals worldwide to the work we are doing.

When we began our journey eight years ago, our goal was to become "a gateway to somewhere beautiful," and we did that, linking the communities of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock. Today, we believe we have become a gateway to the entire Hickory Nut Gorge, one of the most beautiful parts of our country, and we look forward to seeing what, and whom, the coming year brings our way.

— Kathy Tanner

FOLLOW US ON:



“Seasoned” Volunteers Draw Inspiration for Holiday Trees

This year marks the Flowering Bridge’s eighth Christmas since being dedicated in the fall of 2013. LLFB volunteers were asked to create themed trees for the gardens and share what inspired their designs. Several long-time volunteers drew on the Flowering Bridge, its people and surroundings for inspiration for their trees.



Above, light bounces off the textured surfaces of the branches gathered by Pamela Paulus to fashion this simple, nature-inspired tree for the Country Shade Garden. Pamela has appreciated the natural beauty that surrounds her as a bridge volunteer for the last six years.



Eleanor Bails’ tree, below, decorated with ornaments made from okra, grown, then dried, on the LLFB, is dedicated to her fellow volunteers, with whom she’s enjoyed creating arts and crafts projects for six years.



Visitors to the bridge often comment about the calming effect of the aromatic herbs in the garden tended by long-time volunteers Charlotte Gardner and Janet Walters. It’s fitting that the tree they decorated with red poinsettias and white doves, above, represents Peace on Earth.



Susie Ellis, who has been involved with the bridge for over eight years, created a “yesteryear tree,” decorated in Buffalo plaid with framed photos taken during the early years of the LLFB. Susie’s tree, shown above, is located in the Swing Garden, which she tends.

Marilyn Floyd has been caretaker of the Fragrant Garden since its inception. Her primarily red and white tree, pictured above, pays homage to some incredible scents found in nature and in her garden, such as the citrusy aroma of lemon balm and the floral scents of phlox and peonies.

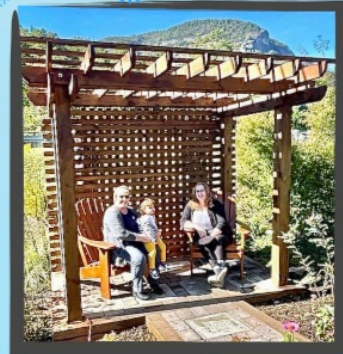
An Idea Takes Shape

While working on gardening tasks in the Pollinator Garden, located on the sunny, sloped area near the west entrance to the bridge, Lynn Lang noticed that “visitors walk by quickly, especially during the summer when it’s so hot, and don’t linger to watch the bees and butterflies.” After considering a variety of ideas to encourage guests to observe these important pollinators at work, this eight-year bridge veteran spotted a photo of a pergola in a magazine and suggested that a similar structure with a walkway be built on the bridge. Lynn’s idea came to fruition this fall when the shady retreat and artful walkway were completed.



Volunteer and pollinator advocate Lynn Lang inspects the walkway and foundation for the new pergola project.

Contractor Don Lynch and Jeff Burch, standing, install rafters and purlins to create a top for the structure that provides a shady area to entice visitors to sit and watch bees, butterflies and other pollinators gather pollen.



Visitors have a front row seat to watch monarch butterflies lay eggs on common milkweed. They can also observe bees and hummingbirds being nourished by nectar and gather pollen from asters, coneflowers, daisies, gladioluses, phlox and zinnias.

The back of the pergola is just as attractive as the front.



Pole-bean teepee adorned with bunnies and carrots in Peter Rabbit Children's Garden by Marla Somerville

December Scrapbook

When asked to create themed trees for the LLFB Festival of Trees feature this holiday season, our volunteers did not disappoint. Enjoy two pages of photos of uniquely constructed and decorated trees. See more of these artful creations on our Facebook Page, which is linked on the first page of this newsletter.



Christmas dog house and tree decorated with dog bones for the River's Edge Dog Garden by Linda Reandau



Rose-embellished tree designed by Becky Melton for the Rose Garden



Tree decorated in blue and yellow, school colors of Lake Lure Classical Academy, by Kathy Tanner



Festive palm tree for the Tropical Garden by recent Florida transplant Mara Butera



Tree fashioned from branches with ornaments inscribed with volunteers' names for the Volunteer Friendship Garden by Lisa Willis



An ode to birds on the bridge for the Songbird Garden by Lynn Lang



Twin trees beside the Lion's Head Fountain on the Welcome Terrace by Lia Barth



Tree and deer in Franklin Tree Garden inspired by the children's book *Stranger In The Woods*, installed by Paige and Bill Massey



Red, white and blue tree to honor our military placed in the Tropical Garden by Jeannie Lewis



Holiday cactus tree for the Cactus and Succulent Garden by Debbie Clark

Photos of decorated trees by Debbie Clark, Alice Garrard and Kathy Tanner



Perfect color tree with splashes of gold for the White Garden by Diane Miller