It happens because the Bridge is supported by so many good Friends of the Bridge of Flowers, and many devoted members of the Flower Brigade who spend hours over the long season, weeding and watering to keep the plants in perfect condition. We are grateful to you all.

This year saw the installation of two big projects, both of which have been on our To Do list for a couple of years. First came the handsome new fence on the Shelburne side. Our Head Gardener, Carol DeLorenzo, and her assistant Tish Murphy, prepared the way for the Fitzgerald Fence Company to remove the old rotting fence. When the fence was in place they rearranged the plantings so artfully no one would ever know there had been a disruption. We also want to thank the VFW post for their cooperation during this work.

The second project was the installation of the stunning fountain on the Shelburne side. This was an extraordinary collaboration between John Sendelbach of Metal Stone Arts and Paul Forth of Stone Creations. The magnificent fountain stone handpicked from the quarry was donated by W.R. Hillman and Sons while the spectacular paving stones were donated by the Goshen Stone Company. The stones and the artistic labors are gifts to the Bridge that will be enjoyed for many years. We hope visitors will notice the way the fountain echoes the Glacial Potholes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bridge of Flowers Committee 2012

Judy Lawler and Pat Leuchtmann, Co-Chairs
We enjoyed another collaboration this year. Local restaurants use a dumpster from the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. This year weeds and trimmings from the Bridge have gone into that dumpster to help keep down the flies and provide the makings for better compost.

Last year’s new Buckland Streetscape project and the damage caused by Irene meant new plantings were needed, and new plantings will be needed this year as two or three of the very large trees are to be removed to keep the design of the Bridge in scale. It has been said that gardening is the slowest performance art, but there is no doubt that movement and change do occur – and need to be funded. We are also considering the need for a new more efficient shed.

We continue our role as Classroom to the Community, working with the teachers and students at Buckland Shelburne School, and welcoming Master Gardeners to the Bridge to answer questions from visitors.

And the visitors continue to come. Last year 29,141 visitors from 50 states and 94 countries/islands signed our guest book. Uncounted other visitors and local residents enjoyed crossing the Bridge every day.

Some of those new visitors may have found their way to the Bridge of Flowers because of our beautiful rack card that makes its way all over the region, and even farther when visitors carry it home as a colorful souvenir inspiring their friends to visit as well. We could not have printed those cards without the generous support of Greenfield Savings Bank and Greenfield Co-operative Bank. We are grateful to both banks for helping us promote the Bridge and bring more visitors to town.

We are grateful to both banks for helping us promote the Bridge and bring more visitors to Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club. And the visitors continue to come. Last year 29,141 visitors from 50 states and 94 countries/islands signed our guest book. Uncounted other visitors and local residents enjoyed crossing the Bridge every day.

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