THE BRIDGE OF FLOWERS

2011 Annual Report

Resilience! The Bridge of Flowers and our whole community showed the strength of our resilience and ongoing recovery after raging floods sent the river splashing over the Bridge at the end of August. On September 1, less than 24 hours after it was declared safe, the Bridge reopened thanks to the 40 volunteers who spent all day cleaning and pruning plants and repairing the path.

An engineering study paid for by the Bridge of Flowers Preservation, Inc. took place after the flood. We expect to receive these reports soon. The Buckland-Shelburne Water Commission and Preservation, Inc. will continue to work together based on the report.

The devastating flood was not the only surprise Mother Nature had in store for us. An April snowstorm delayed opening of the Bridge and an October snowstorm caused its early closing, although volunteers later kept it open during the day until after Moonlight Magic had come and gone.

Buckland’s streetscape project and road work meant plantings on that side of the Bridge had to be reworked. The happy result is improved universal access, as well as improved drainage at the entry. Trees needed to be removed, but have been replaced with a red bud and magnolia, both beautiful spring blooming trees. Carol Delorenzo, our skilled Head Gardener, and her assistant Tish Murphy guided the work of our many volunteers so that the glory of the Bridge has scarcely been diminished even under trying conditions. They all have our gratitude and appreciation.

The violent weather also affected the number of visitors to the town and the Bridge. This year about 30,000 people recorded their visit in our guest book, while last year about 36,000 visitors signed in. This is a decline of about 18%. Even so, our visitors came from all 50 states and 109 foreign countries. Word of the Bridge’s beauties is spreading around the world! While we are delighted that so many visit from distant places, we never forget the pleasure the Bridge brings to local residents who use it frequently on their daily rounds.

This year, artist-blacksmith Bob Compton of rising Sun Forge completed and installed a graceful structure we are calling the Friends Tree. It records the names of all those who became Friends of the Bridge during the year. We are grateful to Bob for his artistry, and to our Friends who support us in times when the sun shines, and times when wind, flood and blizzard have their way with us.

Near the Friends Tree a space has been cleared for a new fountain. Stonemason Paul Forth and artisan John Sendelbach have been planning all season for the fountain. This is our big project for 2012 and it is well underway.

We continue our effort to be a Classroom to the Community. Once again kindergarteners, first and fifth-graders came on the Bridge to plant and learn about soil and flowers. In addition, we continue to add more labels to our plantings, and have welcomed several Master Gardeners to the Bridge to act as docents, answering questions for visitors.
GARDENER’S CIRCLE
($250 and over)

All-Brite Cleaning Services
Canepari’s Landscaping
Country Aire Campground
Greenfield Co-operative Bank
Home Design GLM LLC
Home Roots
John and Barbara Hurley
Lorraine & Hale Johnson
LaRene Tree & Landscape Service, Inc.
LaPierre’s Advertising
Judith & Robert Lawler
Peter & Marion London
In Honor of Kathleen Marie O’Neill

Palmer Electric
People’s United Bank
John Richardson, Attorney at Law
Rising Sun Forge
John Sendelbach
Shelburne Falls Area Women’s Club
Shelburne Falls Supermarket
In Honor of Mildred March & Howard Stockwell
Ward Plumbing & Heating
Cliff & Carol Washer
Anonymous
West End Pub & Café Martin

SILVER TROWEL
($100-$249)

Madeline & Howell Adams, Jr.
Eleanor Baker
Craig Borchardt
Clarks Corvair Parts, Inc.
Coldwell Banker Upton-
Massamont Realtors
Irene Cronk
Anders Ferguson &
Nancy Edwards
Michael & Susan Garfield-Wright
Wendy Glaas
Joan Greenfield
Greenfield Savings Bank

Hillside Nursery
Cyrus Johnson
Margaret Jones
Kathleen & Kenneth Kippenberger
Bill & Lynda Leitner
Little Big House Gallery
Lee Armstrong & Mike Lumpkin
M.I.B. Construction
Joan MacIver
Magic Wings Butterfly
Conservatory
Molly Cantor Pottery
Jenny New

Peter & Eva Otten
Pamela Parker
Barb & Mike Parry
Doris Perry
Michael Miovic & Madhavi Ravela
Julie Petty & David Reading
Anonymous
Stump Sprouts
Gordon & Marion Taylor
The House on the Hill
Karen Winkler
Deborah Woodsome
GREEN THUMB
($25-$99)

George Hartling
Nancy Hazen
Basil & Barbara Hoffman
Hope & Olive
Christin Couture & William Hosie
Nancy Parland & Steve Howland
J.F. George, Sr., CPA, CFP
J.H. Sherburne Fine Art
Sally Judd
Pamela Kelleher
Richard & Sharon Khachodoorian
In Honor of Lee Kobrick & Putney
Richard Smid & Larry Koehig
Mary Robertson & Stefan Kostka
Amelia Leonardi
Pat & Henry Leuchtman
Lucille Lomascolo
Sandra & Eric Lucentini
Peggy March
Nathalie McCormick
Ted McIntosh
Mark McKusick
Lisa Merrill
Edward & Dorothy Miller
Mirick Insurance Agency
John & Wanda Mooney
Karen O. Moore
Maureen Moore
Carol & Keirnan Murphy
Jacob & Vivianne Nachmias

*Please let us know of any errors.*
You can all follow the bloom season on our Facebook page and get useful information on our website, www.bridgeofflowersmass.com. We thank all who work with us to maintain the Bridge which is a joy to us individually, and an economic benefit to the whole community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bridge of Flowers Committee 2011


In 2011, Memorial Gifts were given in honor of: Stefan Racz, Mary Morrill Elwell Sands, Rolland Gifford, Adeline Fortier, James Delaney, Nellie Hillman, Judy Kantrowitz, Joyce Buell, Kathleen O’Neill, Robert Shaw, Abba Bogin, Miriam and Richard Hollien, and Gay Gorgone.

Bridge of Flowers
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