Today the Bridge has Friends, men and women and businesses who support it and 35,000 visitors who come and sign the guest book with gratitude for its beauty.

In 2014 a new irrigation system, that now waters both sides of the path, and the stunning River Bench created by artist John Sendelbach, were installed. These are the visible new elements on the Bridge; not as visible is our outreach and community education.

We have expanded the scope of school tours so that children can get a better grasp of the history of the Bridge and a better understanding of the plants. We also gave a special guided tour to a garden club. This was so successful that our Tour sub-committee has created a process that will enable us to give a meaningful tour to other groups.

The floral displays on the Bridge often raise questions which continue to be answered by the Master Gardeners who are on duty several summer weekends. This is a different element of our outreach and we are happy to join the Master Gardeners in their mission of educating the public.

We consider the Bridge of Flowers to be a work of art, and this year the Fitchburg Art Museum invited Pat Leuchtm an to give an illustrated presentation about the Bridge. Pat was gratified to hear how many had visited the Bridge, and appreciated the beauty it brought to the town.
A local artistic event was the exciting exhibit at the Art Garden celebrating the Bridge and what it means to us individually and as a community. The exhibit was organized by our assistant gardener, Tish Murphy, working with Jane Wegheider, Director of the Art Garden.

Tish is also responsible for the Bloom Seasons information on our website. No matter how hard we try we cannot label every plant on the Bridge. The Bloom List is just one of the ways our website provides useful information to the public.

Carol DeLorenzo, our skilled head gardener who is responsible for the design of the Bridge’s plantings, works with the volunteer Bloom Brigade who come weekly to weed and dead-head and help with other maintenance on the Bridge.

One important task volunteers help with is the Annual Plant Sale, our only fundraising event of the year. They donate plants, divide plants, pot up plants, move plants and finally help sell plants at our mid-May plant sale.

As the season begins to draw to a close we hold our Volunteer Appreciation event, a chance to enjoy good food and good talk, but especially to express our gratitude to those volunteers who help us in so many ways.

Maureen (Mo) Moore and Liz Canali put in many hours attending planning meetings for the building of a new garden shed. Carol DeLorenzo, helped define the needs of the 30+ year old existing shed. Architect Kim Erslev’s beautiful Garden Shed rendering includes plans for proper drainage. Meetings with town officials gave us necessary permissions and permits: contractor bids revealed we need further funding. We hope to build in 2015.

Finally, we give thanks to two retiring committee members, Judy Lawler and Liz Canali, who gave so generously of their time and talents over the years. At the same time we welcome Marjie Moser and Mary Kay Hoffman who bring skills and new energy to the committee.