



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Bridge of Flowers

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



It's not an exaggeration to describe this as an all-hands-on deck year. On April 1st, the gates of the Bridge did not open as usual, as we girded for our own version of "The Big Dig" and the major structural repairs that would entail removing all the plantings and soil on the Bridge. In the previous fall, many, but not all the perennials, bushes, and trees had been dug and transported to several off-site locations. To complete that work, in early spring those who cheerfully turned up with spades and shovels included community members as well as several volunteers from Tighe & Bond, the engineering firm chosen to carry out the repairs.

With the gates closed, during April the committee was able to ready plants for its annual plant sale, held Saturday, May 11. Fewer perennials and more annuals were offered owing to all the changes taking place. Nevertheless, many gardening enthusiasts turned out on a sunny day to make the event a solid success. The variety of vendors on hand proved popular as did the gardening-themed tag sale, sponsored by the Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club, whose proceeds benefit its scholarship fund. Attendees also appreciated the chance to have their soil tested and ask questions at the Master Gardeners' booth.

During the hot summer that followed, the intrepid Blossom Brigade reported for duty to weed and water the saved plantings at temporary sites, under the guidance of our head gardener and assistant gardener.

Amid all the moving parts of this season, two events seemed to capture the spirit of the whole experience. In late June, with many plants and bushes already re-homed, we opened the gates of the Bridge for a few hours and invited local folks to dig and take what remained for their gardens. Unfortunately,

black clouds hovering overhead suddenly released a deluge, soaking the happy diggers, who slogged their way—laughing and lugging soggy plants—through a river of rain where the garden path used to be.

Equally memorable, in a final gesture of letting go just days before construction crews reported for work on July 8th, the storied and beloved wisteria was cut down. Their roots, experts agreed, could not withstand re-planting, so the intricately gnarled trunks were sawn carefully into sections by two members of the Bridge Committee and hauled off to be sold for re-purposing at the Bridge of Flowers Art Exhibition and Sale, held August 16–18.

Matching the success of last year's first exhibit and sale, this year's show drew an equally enthusiastic turnout. Sixty-seven regional artists offered over 125 pieces of art in various media forms, including painting, photography and sculpture. Participating artists generously donated 50 to 100 percent of sales to the Bridge.

During the remaining months of the year, the committee continued to meet to make decisions on new and improved lighting and irrigation as well as a more serviceable walking path. Meanwhile, the Bridge's transformation from a garden over the river to a construction site was captured in photographs posted on the Bridge website and Facebook page. Some structural repairs were less visible than others. For example, a section of failed wall on the north side was replaced with a reinforced concrete wall to match and ties that hold the walls together from inside were reinforced. More evident were improvements to the exterior. Once the crack and "spall" repairs on the surface had been made and fresh paint applied, the graceful arches of the Bridge once again gleamed in the sun.

As 2024 drew to a close, the committee, encouraged by the prospect of having this major project completed on schedule and on budget, began making plans to re-plant the Bridge and prepare for its re-opening sometime during the late spring or early summer of 2025.



Gifts in Memory of

John Morrison Atwater
Joe Babcock
Richard Lake Bailey
Candice B. Bath
Elizabeth "Busy" Belden
Leslie P. Brown
Jane S. Burnett
Laura W. Conley
Kimberley Cuenca
Lillian Davenport
Davidson-Poole Family
Margaret E. Folgman
Adeline Fortier
Betsey Johnson
Edward G. Keefe

Shirley E. Kelley
Bode Miller MacIver
Paul Maddern
Theresa Maiorana
Milly March
Kip Moeller
Yvonne Montmeat
Tish Murphy
Gail D. Ojala
Doris Perry
Hattie O. Salter
Barbara Shea
Marie F. Spinney
Patty Svehlak
Lucille Szpila

Donald T. Upton
Mal Versage
Catherine Woodard
Marian L. Woodsome
Gordon Dean & Hedley Yost

Gifts in Honor of

Carol Angus
Ethan Dreyfuss
Angus & Laurel Dun
Rachel Gunther
Rick & Doreen Leskowitz
David Schochet
Patty Smythe

FRIENDS

New England Aster (gifts of \$500+)

Richard & Ellie Binns
Dr. Sharron Laplante & Susan Bissell
Blackmer Insurance Agency
Sarah Hill Buck
Nancy Edwards & Anders Ferguson
David Freitas
Jeana & David Hayes-Carrier
Barbara & John Hurley

Walter Burnham & Joy Knohr
Judy & Bob Lawler
Ann Lofquist
Phillip Maiorana
Peter & Eva Otten
Joanne Soroka
Cliff & Carol Washer
Nikki & Bob Welsh

Gardener's Circle (gifts of \$250-499)

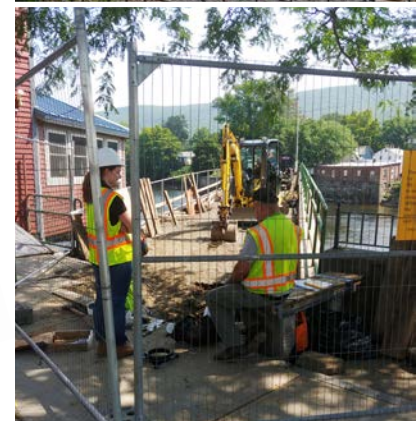
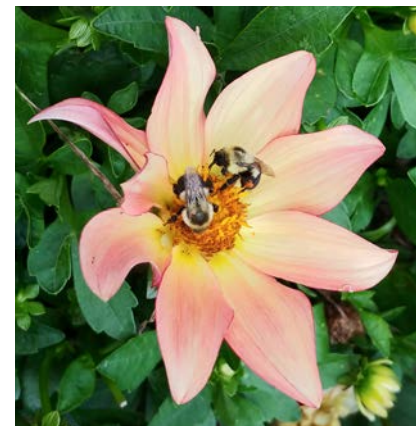
Callie, Don & Liza Ahern
Colleen Armstrong
David Hayes & June Blaise
Carol Bolduc
Carl's 4 Season Yardscape Services, LLC
Sauna Stokes & Joel Chew
Charles & Lisa Cornish
Country Aire Campground
Paul Hollings & Mary Ann Dalton
Davenport's Service Station
Nancy Dole Books & Ephemera
Andrea & Steven Frank
Michael Herr
Greenfield Co-op Bank
Dr. & Mrs. Greg Grillone
Constance Emmett & Suzy Groden
Bob & Cheryl Handsaker
LaPierres Media Marketing

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Mill River Farm
Peter & Marion London
Mr. & Mrs David Neill
John MacDonald
Elizabeth Otis
Kim & Tim Paige
Palmer Electric
Raymond & Melanie Poudrier
Ellen & Scott Purinton
Jean & Larry Rankin
Shelburne Coffee Roasters
Anna Thurber
Peggy Warwick & John Walsh
Tom & Ann Weisse
West End Pub
Don & Marcia Wheeler

For additional information about the garden
or to join the *Friends of the Bridge*
(with a gift of \$25 or more) visit our website:

bridgeofflowersmass.org

*Memorial Gifts are listed on the bulletin board
located at the Buckland side of the bridge.*



Silver Trowel (gifts of \$100–249)

Heather Alexander
 Mary Anderson
 Amy Barry
 Sam & Marie Bartlett
 Phil Billitz
 Baystate Perennial Farm
 Kathleen Bowse
 Patrick L. Cadam &
 Cynthia M. Brown
 Daniel & Phyllis Brown
 Jean Bubriski
 Greg Cangialosi
 David Close &
 Gail Chapman Close
 David Chester
 Constance Clarke
 Chia Collins & Michael Cohen
 Deborah M. Decoigne
 JoAnn Denehy
 Terri Doherty
 Carroll Durand
 Andree Duval
 Nancy & Kenneth Eisenstein
 Karen Fairbrother
 Cheryl Faufaw
 Maureen Flaherty
 Judy Fogg
 Gail Hanlon
 Nancy Parland & Steve Howland

Cosima Hewes
 The Hydefrost Family
 Rita Jarys
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 Ted Sicker & Ron Kelter
 Richard & Sharon
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 Rick & Doreen Leskowitz
 Pat & Henry Leuchtman
 Robin Logan
 Ellen & Ron Louie
 John & Polly MacLean
 Mildred March
 Mary Walsh Martel
 Albert & Patricia Martin
 Karen O. Moore
 Maureen Moore
 Penny & Levaugh
 Morrison
 Connie Nicodemus
 Sylvia & Keith Orcutt
 Jon & Marilyn Osgood
 Margaret Phelps
 Jim Picardi
 John Piepul
 Roberta Potter
 Ruth Pullen
 Regina Purinton
 David & Melissa Roberts



Barbara & Robert Ruchames
 Georgia & Chuck Russo
 Kim Sebrey
 Steven Shulda
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 Rosemarie Sullivan
 Alan & M.A. Swedlund
 Annette Szpila
 Cynthia Price Taylor
 Sally & Walt Tejan

Steve & Patty Upton
 Angela Vincent
 Elena Watson
 Johanna & Josh Weinstein
 Tom & Ann Weisse
 Steve & Marie Welch
 Marguerite Willis
 Karen Winkler
 Nancy & Joe Woods
 Martin Yaffee



Green Thumb (gifts of \$25–99)

Carol Angus
 Wes Slate & Georgia Bills
 Olivia & William Blumer
 Jorie MacLeod & Jim Bonham
 Thierry Borcy
 Diane Broncaccio
 Karen Buscemi
 Mac McCoy & Polly Byers
 Nancy Carroll
 Christopher Coveney
 Emily & Jon Crawford
 Catherine Daly
 Jane Ellen Davis
 Penny DeGeorges
 Ellen Eller
 Fred & Lois Feldman
 The Fetonti Family
 Robert & Nan Fischlein
 Dick & Shirley Floyd

Donald & Margaret
 Freeman
 Polly French
 Barbara Hoffman
 Marian Ives
 Deb Jacobs
 Sally Judd
 Betsy Corner & Randy Kehler
 Nancy Kocik
 Robert & Toni Ann Kubica
 Julie Kumble
 Judith Roberts &
 Jonathan Lagreze
 Carol Lambie-Parise
 Sarah Lawrence
 Jo-Ann Leitner
 Lynda & Bill Leitner
 Amelia & Alex Leonardi
 Eric & Amy Lewanda

Stephanie Gelfan &
 Wolfe Lowenthal
 Sarah's Mandala
 Peggy March
 Cathie & Michael McGowen
 Marilyn Mele
 Sarah Neelon
 Elaine Parmett
 Paula Parsons
 Julie Petty
 Catherine &
 Malcolm Porter
 Susan Samoriski
 Ms. Susan Shearer
 Penelope Spearance
 Kathe Geist &
 Steven Sternbach
 John Robinson Riggan
 Scott & Laurel Rollins

Paul W. Schroeder
 Sarah Saville Shaffer
 Ann & Ed Shanahan
 Suzanne Smethurst
 Lisa Spinney
 Frances Wood Sullivan
 Gordon & Marion Taylor
 Anita Tieman
 Fred & Delores Turcotte
 Susan van Leer
 Art Payne & Karen Walz
 Marie Welch
 Gina & Larry Wells
 Ann Wetherbee
 Laurie Wheeler
 Patricia L. Wood
 Janie Gordon & Carlos Zigel



We carefully review lists of donors for accuracy. We sincerely apologize if any names were missed.



SAVE THE DATES

Bridge of Flowers Plant Sale, 2025

**Saturday, May 10
9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon**

Corner of
Main and Water Streets
Shelburne Falls, MA

Art Show

**Saturday, August 16 &
Sunday, August 17**

Shelburne Buckland
Community Center

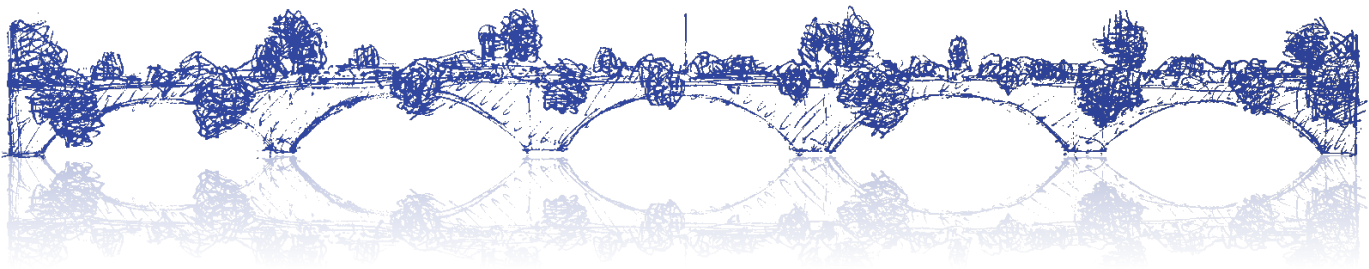


Bridge of Flowers Committee 2024

Annette Szpila *Chair*
Carol Angus & Lynda Leitner *Co-Chairs*
Virginia Ray *Recording Secretary*
Peggy March *Treasurer*

Kathryn Atkins
Ann Lofquist
Jorie MacLeod
Laurel Rollins
Joanne Soroka

Carol DeLorenzo *Head Gardener*
Elliston Bingham *Assistant Gardener*



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P.O. Box 335, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

bridgeofflowersmass.org