



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Bridge of Flowers

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



*Above: Volunteers “potting up” plants for the annual plant sale.
Below, right: “Waiting for Spring”—anonymous snow sculpture at entrance to the Bridge.*

This was an eventful year for the Bridge of Flowers, as well as for our sponsoring institution, the Shelburne Falls Area Women’s Club.

Among the most significant happenings for the Bridge committee was a state grant of \$2.46 million from MassWorks to the Shelburne Falls Fire District, which owns the Bridge. The grant will help to fund the Shelburne Falls Bridge Improvement Project, whose goal is to make both immediate and long-term repairs to the structure. The engineering firm of Tighe & Bond has been contracted to undertake the work, which will include addressing large stress cracks evident in some areas and stabilizing a key section of the north wall. A schedule for the project is expected to be announced this spring and may require partial or total closure of the Bridge for periods of time later this year or next. Announcements regarding closings will be made well in advance to alert both locals and visitors.

The Shelburne Falls Area Women’s Club initiated discussions last year about restructuring both its administration and programming as it marked 97 years of service to the community. The Club is credited with transforming the old trolley bridge

into a blooming garden in 1929 and continues to support the Bridge of Flowers as a non-profit to this day.

According to Bridge guest books, well over 33,000 people visited April through October, 2022, but the actual number is likely closer to 100,000, since only approximately one-third of visitors actually sign in. Travelers from abroad were fewer than before the pandemic, but more came from distant states.

The gardens greeted visitors with a profusion of color despite an unusually dry season and the temporary absence of our head gardener, Carol DeLorenzo, who had sustained injuries to her shoulder and hand. During her recovery, we were fortunate to have Julie Petty, former chair of the Bridge of Flowers Committee, fill in for her.

Other new faces we welcomed last year included several more volunteers for the dedicated Blossom Brigade, whose members tend the gardens weekly during the growing season; and we were pleased to have Ann Lofquist join the Bridge of Flowers Committee. An established artist who recently moved to the area, Ms. Lofquist inspired us to begin planning a new venture, an art show and sale that we’re calling “Art on the Bridge.” Scheduled for October 14-15, 2023, it will feature local and regional artists whose work in 2D-media presents images of the Bridge to be exhibited and sold to benefit the Bridge. The newest face on the Bridge, however, was Assistant Gardener Elliston Bingham’s baby girl, who arrived last spring.

The annual plant sale in mid-May attracted an enthusiastic crowd of plant lovers, whose purchases delighted them and furnished funds for Bridge maintenance. In late October, the Blossom Brigade energetically dug in hundreds of bulbs, promising a spectacular display of color for spring 2023.

As the year drew to a close, we looked back with gratitude for so much goodwill and good work accomplished, and began to look forward with many plans for 2023.



Gifts
in Memory of

Mauricia Alvarez
Craig W. Barry, Jr.
Candae B. Bath
Helen, Chester & Henry Bloniarz
Jane S. Burnett
Rolande Curtiss
Corinne Dugas
Harold Charles Fait
Margaret Folgmann
Edward G. Keefe
David Keinan
Mildred B. Knapp
Ethel M. Lemay
Shirley Mende

Thomas J. Monticup
Yvonne Montmeat
Lisa "Tish" Murphy
Terry Palermo
Yvette Pritcher
Margalee Riggan
Emily & Paul Rizner
Peter J. Sanborn
Hattie O. Salter
Kathleen Simpson
Marie F. Spinney
Lorraine Tatro
Effie Louise Stowell Tenney
Thomas Roberts-Wierzbowski

Gifts
in Honor of

Carol Angus
Carol DeLorenzo
Shari and Ethan Dreyfuss
Andrew Olson Evans &
Ava Marinelli
Mary Dennihan Gionet
Pam Kelleher
Peggy March
Debra Mozill
Dorothy Steier

New England Aster
(gifts of \$500+)

Floodwater Brewing Co.
Polly French
Anders Ferguson
Noah Grunberg & Janet Mullen
Barbara & John Hurley
Judith & Robert Lawler
David & Virginia Neill
Peter & Eva Otten
The Burnham Family
Three Friends Fund
Patricia & Charles Walker Family Fund
Cliff & Carol Washer

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

Carl's Four Season
Clark's Corvair Parts
Coldwell Banker Community Realtors
Country Aire Campground
Maryann Dalton & Paul Hollings
Davenport's LLC
Kate Downes, Esq
Flora! The Shop
Florence Bryan Fowlkes
Andrea & Steven Frank
Greenfield Cooperative Bank
Michael Herr
LaPierre's Media Marketing
Peter & Marion London
Janice Loving

Joan MacIver
Kim & Tim Paige
Palmer Electric LLC
Ellen & Scott Purinton
Kim Sebrey
Ann Shea
Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters
Vic Sloan & Sue Rees
Peter & Susan Shriber
Marion Taylor
The Blue Rock Restaurant and Bar
Wash & Wire
Nikki & Bob Welsh
West End Pub
Mill River Farm—Brett Young

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)

Apex Orchards
 Callie, Liza & Don Ahern
 Shannon Allen & Brian O'Neill
 Colleen Armstrong
 Amy Barry
 Sam & Marie Bartlett
 Baystate Perennial Farm
 Robert Bender & Sandy Venner
 Bethlehem Garden Club
 Ron Bilyk
 Blackmer Insurance
 Craig Borchardt
 Marlene Borer
 Cynthia Brown & Patrick Cadran
 Myra & Earl Carlow
 Mike Chovonec & Rick Conner
 Constance & Winnie Clarke
 Chia Collins & Michael Cohen
 Anush Dawidjan
 Deborah Decoigne
 Ron & Karen Dobosz
 Nancy L. Dole Books and Ephemera
 Ken & Nancy Eisenstein
 Cheryl Faufaw
 Larry & Susan Flaccus
 Maureen Flaherty

Judy Fogg
 Sharon Glazer
 Greenfield Garden Club
 Diane & Gregory Grillone
 Bob & Carol Handsaker
 Gail Hanlon
 Judy Harlow
 WR Hillman LLC
 Rita Jaros and Wes Talley
 Christne Judycki Crepeault
 Richard & Sharon Khachadorian
 Carmela & Raymond Lanza-Weil
 LaSalle Florists
 Rick & Doreen Leskowitz
 Arnold Levinson
 Deanne Loonin
 Ellen and Ron Louie
 Tom & Gail Lucia
 Mildred March
 Annie Matias
 Belden Merims
 MaryAnn Milewski
 Wanda Mooney
 Karen Moore
 Dr. & Mrs. Clark Moseley
 Elizabeth Otis

Margaret Payne
 Judith Perera
 John Piepul
 Raymond & Melanie Poudrier
 Regina Purinton
 The Perry Family
 Jim Richardson
 David & Melissa Roberts
 Steven Shulda
 Sheila Simon
 Sylvia & Bill Smith
 Russ & Cheri Snow
 Patricia & Gene St. Pierre
 Marguerite Sheehan & Dorrie Merriam
 Annette Szpila
 Steven Thomashow
 Cynthia Tomasini
 Town & Country Garden Club
 Don & Kathleen Upton
 Johanna & Josh Weinstein
 Don & Marcia Wheeler
 Karen Winkler
 Nancy & Joe Woods
 Deb Woodsome
 Jim & Kathy Wynn

Green Thumb
(gifts of \$25–99)

Heather Alexander
 Carol Angus
 Dan & Phyllis Brown
 Polly Byers
 Cat & Crow
 David Close & Gail Chapman Close
 Kathleen DaFonte
 Catherine Daly
 Gordon Dean
 Penny DeGeorges
 Fawn Draucker
 Barbara Edsall
 Karen Fairbrother
 Fred & Lois Feldman
 Richard Fein
 Nan & Bob Fischlein
 Flanders Law Offices
 Shirley & Dick Floyd
 Donald & Margaret Freeman
 Kathe Geist & Steven Sternbach
 Norman & Phyllis Garland
 Stephanie Gelfan
 Joan Gessing
 Jacqui Goodman and Norman Beebe
 Janice Gordon
 Richard & Roxanne Hamilton
 David Hayes
 Barbara Hoffman

Patricia Hofhler-Mychreest
 Sally Judd
 Thomas & Elaine Jones
 Marc & Ellen Kaufmann
 Robert & Toni Ann Kubica
 Dr. Sharron Laplante & Susan Bissell
 Jennifer Lapierre
 Lowell Laporte, Laporte Bookkeeping
 Bill & Lynda Leitner
 Pat & Henry Leuchtman
 Mariana Luz
 Jim Bonham & Jorie MacLeod
 Sarah Mandala
 Peggy March
 Nathalie McCormick & Mark Pichette
 Marilyn Mele
 Stephen Mershon
 Bill Mish
 Maureen Moore
 Debbie Motsinger
 Vanda & Tom Mullins
 Sarah Neelon
 Old Deerfield Country Store
 Sylvia Orcutt
 Jon Osgood
 Elaine & Richard Parmett
 Paula & David Parsons
 Margaret Phelps

Jim Picardi
 Catherine Porter
 Jean & Larry Rankin
 Laurel & Scott Rollins
 Georgia & Chuck Russo
 Sue Samoriski
 Paul Schroeder
 Sarah Saville Shaffer
 Ed & Ann Shanahan
 Susan Shearer
 Wes Slate & Georgia Bills
 Suzanne Smethurst
 Joanne Soroka
 Penelope Spearance
 Lisa Spinney
 Shauna Stokes & Joel Chew
 Dennis & Susan Stetson
 Jody Stewart
 Carolyn Taylor
 The Taylor Family
 David & Missy Tetreault
 Ira & Robyn Transport
 Dolores Turcotte
 Wandering Moon
 Ellen Weeks
 Gina & Larry Wells
 Ann Wetherbee
 Hedley Yost



*Most photos on this page by Lynda Leitner;
top right by Annette Szpila.*

SAVE THE DATE

**BRIDGE OF FLOWERS
PLANT SALE, 2023**

**Saturday, May 13
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Corner of
Main and Water Streets
Shelburne Falls, MA**

Bridge of Flowers Committee 2022

- Annette Szpila - Chair
- Lynda Leitner and Carol Angus - Co-Chairs
- Virginia Ray - Recording Secretary
- Peggy March - Treasurer
- Judy Harlow, Ann Lofquist, Jorie MacLeod,
Laurel Rollins, Joanne Soroka
- Marion Taylor - Emeritus

- Carol DeLorenzo - Head Gardener
- Elliston Bingham - Assistant Gardener

Bridge of Flowers
P.O. Box 335
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
bridgeofflowersmass.org

