

Ride for the Schell

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 9 AM

Save May 3, and spread the word, to ride for the Schell and benefit the efforts to restore it for hiking and biking.

On May 3, 2008, Friends of Schell Bridge will sponsor three bike rides in Northfield, starting at 9:00 in the morning. A 17-mile loop will begin at the boat ramp (with its view of Schell Bridge) on the east side of the river, proceed through the village, cross the river on the route 10 bridge and wind through the hills and back roads of west Northfield (venturing briefly into Vermont). This route returns across the route 10 bridge and ends with post-ride festivities at Green Trees Gallery on Main Street. See the route map on the right-hand panel.

This 17-mile ride will be led by experienced bikers and will be family oriented. A 3-mile loop will cater to those family members preferring a gentler ride.

For the serious biking enthusiast a 35-mile loop on both sides of the river in the tri-state area, begins and ends in Northfield.

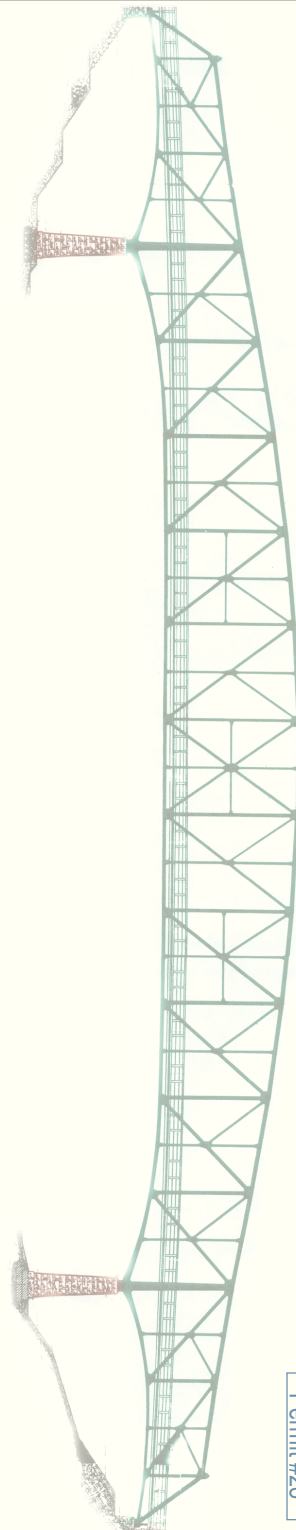
continued on the right ...



This photo, courtesy of Touring Ride in Rural Indiana (TRIRI), looks a lot like a restored Schell Bridge might look - it has the early 1900s steel truss look reminiscent of the Schell.

Wouldn't it be great to again see a scene like this on the Schell?

Vision: A beautifully-restored historic bridge across the Connecticut River that serves both as a premier recreational link for a network of hiking and biking trails in the tri-state region and as a centerpiece for a series of linked riverfront parks for Northfield and area residents.



FRIENDS OF SCHELL BRIDGE
P.O. BOX 27
NORTHFIELD, MA 01360

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Northfield, MA
Permit #28



**17-mile bike loop,
start at boat ramp,
finish on Main St.**

The entrance fee is \$20 (\$25 for families, kids under 12 free), and participants will be required to wear helmets and sign a liability waiver. Register at www.bikereg.com/events/register.asp?eventid=5833, at www.schellbridge.org, or at the event. It should be a fun time, so mark your calendar for May 3.

Representatives of the Massachusetts Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Board will be present.

Friends of Schell Bridge Membership Form
memberships and donations are tax-deductible

Name _____ Preservation Patron .. \$500 and up
Address _____ Schell Star \$250-499
City, State _____ Schell Saver \$100-249
Zip _____ Phone _____ Bridge Booster \$50
Email _____ Family \$25
 Individual \$15
 I prefer to receive news and alerts via email. Other

I would like to volunteer to **help save Schell Bridge.**

Mail to: Friends of Schell Bridge, P.O. Box 27, Northfield, MA 01360

Friends of Schell Bridge is a nonprofit 501c3 corporation for more information visit www.schellbridge.org or call 413-498-4364



From Jennifer Tufts, Executive Director

It's a new year, and Friends of Schell Bridge has many new activities to report! Since joining the organization as Executive Director in

September 2007, I have been occupied with grant writing, pursuing media outlets, and coordinating with individuals and groups who share our enthusiasm for Northfield's historical and natural treasures. I am more convinced than ever that the town has something special to offer future generations if we demonstrate vision and purpose today.

The Schell Bridge is steadily becoming more a symbol of the future than a relic of the past. Our more than 200 members understand that preserving what is beautiful about our town contributes greatly to our sense of who we are in a rapidly changing world. Northfield's strategic location and lovely riverscapes not only unite the two halves of our town to a tri-state region but with careful planning may become an economic boost for local businesses and public coffers alike.

Already, the vision contained in our Strategic Plan, has proven useful to organizations who have donated over \$10,000 for Friends of the Schell and the Greater Northfield Watershed Association. The Local Cultural Council, the Mass Land Trust Coalition, and Mass Riverways, have provided funding for:

- ▶ An **Art Contest** highlighting **A River Town: Views of Northfield**;
- ▶ A training **fellowship** through Mt. Grace Land Trust;
- ▶ A river access project to restore the trail and views from historic **King Philip's Hill**.

When Northfield citizens voted to put the Schell on the demolition list in 1987 they might not have imagined that, twenty years later, the bridge would still be standing. Not only is that the case, but Friends of Schell Bridge have demonstrated that there is interest and support for an alternative to demolition. Let's get behind the vision!



Above, Friends of Schell Bridge board members pour over the year-end finances around the "conference table" in the new FSB office in Green Trees Gallery. The finances are in good shape going into the new year, thanks largely to the great support from the members. (If you haven't renewed recently, now would be a good time to make use of that membership form elsewhere in this newsletter; if you have renewed, thank you very much, and pass that form along to a friend.)

As you can see in the above photo, the "conference table" is already too small. Friends of Schell Bridge has a great crew of directors and volunteers. The board of directors meets monthly and makes all of the organization's decisions. Two new members have recently joined the board: Carol Lebo and Steve Martin. The board welcomes your input and invites you to help the Friends of Schell Bridge become even more active in saving the bridge.



Feb 15 Benefit Concert a Rousing Affair

Joe Graveline and the Bork-Tinen-Kahn Trio enthusiastically and generously performed music to lift the spirit and warm the heart. Drawing from past hits that delighted the baby boomers in the audience, while injecting their own creative styles, original works, humor, and musical talents, these local musicians beautifully entertained and inspired the crowd of all ages gathered at Green Trees Gallery.

At intermission Craig Della Penna talked about the potential role of Schell Bridge in the local area hiking/biking trail scene. Craig described trails as linear parks and highlighted the long trails in the northeast, including the Erie Canal and the Petit Train du Nord as examples - and are an increasing source of small-town economic rejuvenation.



Rick Lisa, 2006

Next Step ...

You read in the Fall 2007 Newsletter that informed estimates of Schell Bridge rehabilitation costs have been received by the board. The bottom line concludes that a \$10 million dollar fundraising effort will repair the bridge and provide a modest endowment for future maintenance. The board is now planning for a campaign to raise as much as \$100,000 to commission a more detailed bridge inspection report. Such a report will provide detailed information about what is needed for each part of the bridge and set the stage for more significant fundraising. Foundation, government, and private resources will be tapped for this effort.

The Friends of Schell Bridge board is committed to sound research and investigation to inform all decisions regarding the future of the bridge.



Shane Ellison, 2007