

Second Annual Ride for the Schell

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 9 AM

Save May 2, and spread the word, to ride for the Schell and benefit the efforts to restore it for hiking and biking.

On May 2, 2009, 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.

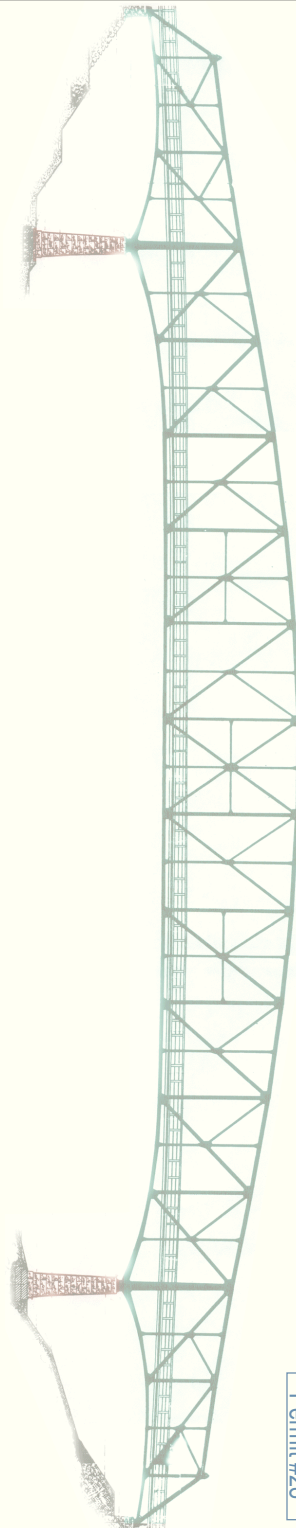
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This photo, courtesy of Touring Ride in Rural Indiana (TRIRI), looks a lot like a restored Schell Bridge might look - it has the early 1900s steel truss look reminiscent of the Schell.

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



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=8330, at www.schellbridge.org, or at the event. It should be a fun time, so mark your calendar for May 2.

Come Ride for the Schell !



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

Many thanks to all the **Friends** who renewed their membership in the past few months and kudos to a terrific, dedicated Board of Directors who are putting in many hours every month to keep the dream of preserving Schell Bridge alive! We had a wonderful winter gala and fundraiser at the Gill Tavern in January and are busy planning a series of events for the coming months. In May we will hold the 2nd Annual Bike Ride for Schell Bridge as we forge new traditions and memories while building on Northfield's rich past. Recently, I was reminded again of how broad Northfield's reach has been when I learned that **American Youth Hostel** will honor Northfield as the site of the very first youth hostel by celebrating its 75th Anniversary here in August.

With help from the National Trust for Historic Preservation we are honing our fundraising skills and reconnecting with partners throughout the Connecticut River Valley. New Hampshire Representative **Hank Parkhurst** has already pledged his own funds to the renovation and looks forward to spending leisurely Sunday afternoons enjoying the views from Northfield, just as he did as a child. **Chelsea Gwyther**, Executive Director of the Connecticut River Watershed Council says, "the reopening of the historic Schell Bridge for cyclists and pedestrians would signal yet another 'win' for our enjoyment of healthy rivers and thriving country towns."

The sweeping economic upheaval of the last few months resulted in a large infusion of infrastructure funding to the state from the federal stimulus package prompting us to be "shovel ready" as soon as possible in order to try to capitalize on this unprecedented opportunity. A century ago it cost Francis Schell less than \$60,000 to *build* the Schell Memorial Bridge, an amount similar to the cost of a professional engineering assessment on rehabilitating the bridge for pedestrian use today. In this newsletter, you will find information on how and when we will initiate this important **first step** in the rehabilitation process.



Office Back to Front

On February 28th FSB relocated inside Green Trees Gallery - front and center in the space that used to be the Gallery gift shop and is now going to be more of a community center. This transformation will include the addition of a café and bookstore, opening sometime this summer. Drop by Friday or Saturday mornings from 10-12 at Green Trees Gallery, front and center, for a chat, and to view maps and artwork depicting the FSB vision for linking Northfield to its scenic river and countryside via biking and hiking trails!

Jan 18 Benefit Dinner at the Gill Tavern

On a beautiful snowy evening in January, 39 people gathered at the Gill Tavern to dine on a great three-course meal which was prepared by the owner (FSB member Alden Booth) and staff of this cozy gem in Gill, MA. The intimate setting provided the opportunity to meet new people and renew old friendships. Almost seven hundred dollars was raised, but the pretext of raising money was overshadowed by the warmth and congeniality among all who attended. Interested in attending a future event? Call the office (413-498-4364) or let an FSB board member know.

Breakfast for the Bridge

With the advent of spring, the breakfast project has restarted on the occasional Saturday morning. Join us for good conversation, good food, and good fun. Please call the office to express an interest. (Suggested donation: \$10 per person.)

Tactical Plan Development

Late last year FSB received a \$3,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The purpose of this funding is to solidify regional support for a Schell Bridge and park development project, and acquire the expertise necessary to raise money from governmental (state and federal), foundation, and private sources.

The **first step** in that process will be a *mini-campaign*, to be launched later this year, to fund the definitive engineering assessment of the condition of the bridge. Such an assessment would be conducted by a civil engineering firm with expertise in historic bridge preservation and would produce a firm estimate on the actual cost of renovation.



May call-a-thon

Building on the success of the end-of-year appeal to the membership, FSB will hold a **call-a-thon** at the new office on two evenings in May to contact remaining members who have not sent in their 2009 renewals. Refreshments will be provided and it will be a great opportunity to speak with members in person. For dates and more information, contact Jenny Tufts at 498-4364.