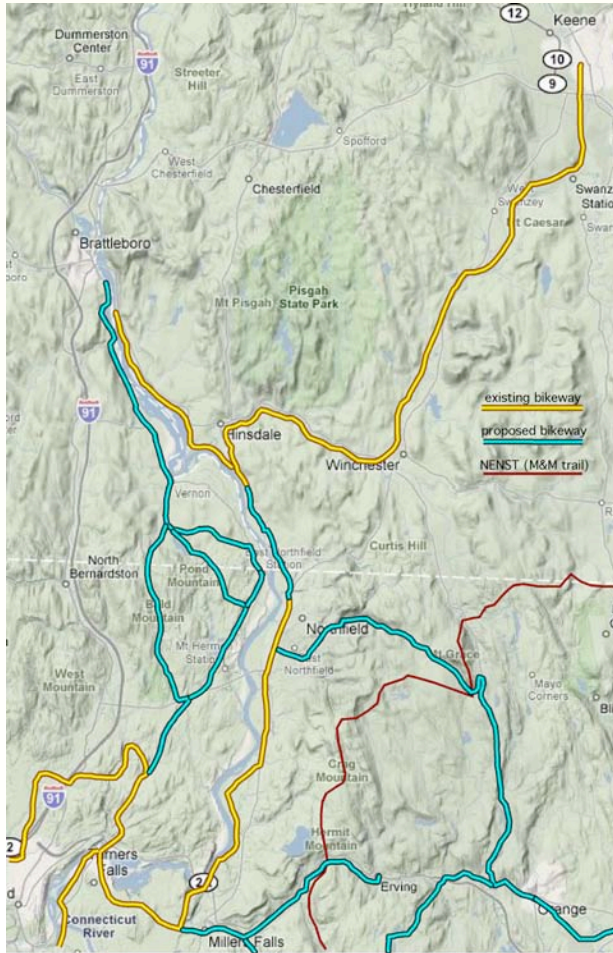


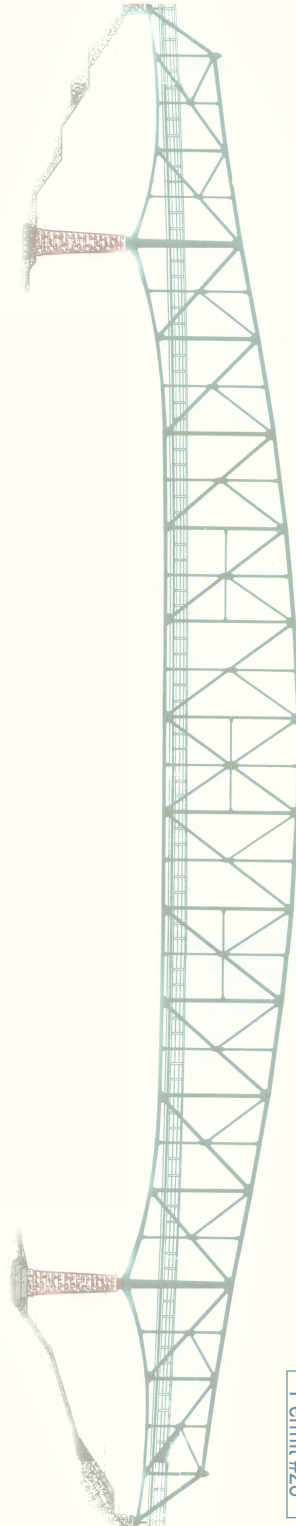
Tri-State Trails

REGIONAL & STATE AGENCIES
COLLABORATE TO FURTHER
COORDINATE TRAIL EFFORTS
IN THE VT/NH/MA AREA

The map below is a crude initial depiction of the familiar existing (yellow) bikeways in the Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts tri-state area, as well as some new & proposed (blue) bikeways. The collaborative efforts should flesh out this design. See more details about these efforts elsewhere in this issue.



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.



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

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

Time to Renew Your Membership

Its the time of year that Friends of Schell Bridge sends out it main reminder to members to renew their tax-deductible membership. Use the form below, or stop by the office in Green Trees Gallery and share a coffee with the staff.



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

Other

I prefer to receive news and alerts via email.

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
visit www.schellbridge.org or call 413-498-4364



From Jennifer Tufts, Executive Director

As we approach the end of 2009 there are a couple of real bright spots signaling hope for the future of Schell Bridge. The first is the renewal of a tri-state partnership linking trail systems along the Connecticut River.

Friends of Schell Bridge joined forces with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to convene two meetings of a tri-state group of planning agencies, conservation-minded non-profits, and tourism businesses. We discussed the economic and recreational benefits of connecting trails between Brattleboro, Keene and Franklin County. The newly designated New England National Scenic Trail, which passes through Northfield, and National Scenic Byways along Routes 63 and 47, combined with the potential for several bike trails looping back and forth over the river, form the most promising rationale for preserving what the *Valley Advocate* recently designated as “the Valley’s most beautiful bridge.”

Meanwhile, in New York State the new *Walkway Over the Hudson* opened on October 3rd, 2009. That non-profit group began in 1992 and eventually raised \$38.8 million to restore a 6,767 foot railroad bridge dating back to 1889. That effort is an example of what a group of committed citizens with vision can accomplish. It should make our 515 foot/\$8 million project look like a cakewalk and inspire all of us to continue the fight to reclaim our own access to the river. Elsewhere in this issue you’ll see our end-of-the-year call for membership renewal. Please help us keep the momentum going.

Finally, I was fortunate to meet the author of *Two Coots in a Canoe*, David Morine, when he came through Northfield recently. He tells the story of two “old” guys canoeing the length of the CT River, getting to know the people on its shores, and observing the fact that towns that have turned their back on the river are much less attractive and vibrant than those that have embraced the river as an asset. We are right to keep our eyes on the prize and reclaim our heritage as a river town.



Walkway over the Hudson

On November 9, 2009, two of the members of Friends of Schell Bridge walked across the Hudson.

Well, no, they didn’t walk on water; they took the newly-opened Walkway over the Hudson, an abandoned and closed bridge (sound familiar?) over the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie, NY, that has, after 17 years of trying, been rehabilitated for walking, biking, etc. (See www.walkway.org for the details.)



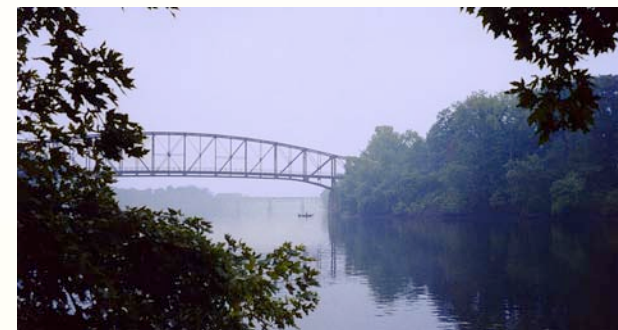
The bridge is high off the water and 1.3 miles long, with high railings and a 25-foot-wide concrete deck; it is open from 7am to sunset, and walking across it is quite inspiring. An information kiosk at the west end, and occasional information panels along the railing, tell the story of the bridge and its rehabilitation. The walk appears to be popular, with corresponding economic benefits to the area.



Walkway over the Connecticut



There could be a new Walkway over the Connecticut just as inspiring as the Walkway over the Hudson, illustrated by this circa 1930s Schell Bridge photo. This Walkway over the Connecticut, though shorter and lower than the Walkway over the Hudson, would embrace the walkers more intimately in a beautiful natural environment.



2009 Annual Meeting

About 50 members of Friends of Schell Bridge gathered at the Centennial House B&B on September 24 and enjoyed a cocktail reception to kick off the annual meeting. Then, after a short business meeting, the members were treated to an inspirational and informative glimpse into the challenges and rewards involved in forging pedestrian and biking trails in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Charles Martin (Rail Trails Alliance and author of *New Hampshire Rail Trails*), Chapin Spencer (Local Motion, Burlington, VT), and Craig Della Penna (Northeast Greenway Solutions), emerged from the trenches to tell about their successes and encourage those like friends of Schell Bridge to keep up the good fight.

