

## Fall Auction

**Autumn** - Fall foliage, harvest suppers, cool nights, Halloween, the Friends of Schell Bridge **Live Auction**.

On a Saturday evening this fall Green Trees Gallery will be filled with community spirit and good humor as Michael Humphries auctions off over 75 items donated by local merchants, businesses, artisans, and friends. The Fall Auction showcases local businesses and services, while raising money for Schell bridge. Warm soup and dessert are all part of the festivities.



Are you ready for another auction this Fall? Do you have a business? A talent? A craft? Auction planners welcome any contribution of goods and services. Call Barbara at 413-498-5931 or e-mail her at: [brichardson0928@comcast.net](mailto:brichardson0928@comcast.net). Your offer of assistance in planning and organizing, as well as donations, will be greatly appreciated. Otherwise, plan to join FSB for a night of local shopping - date to be announced.

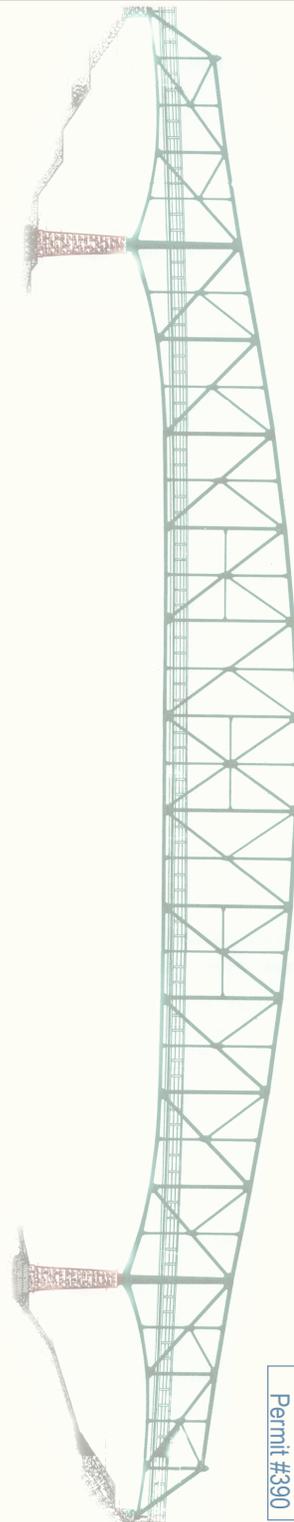
## Road Cleanup

In June, access to the east side of the bridge was completely blocked by several fallen trees. A group of 10 volunteers with chainsaws, brush cutters, and lots of elbow grease did a great job of cleaning up.



FSB is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation  
for more information visit  
[www.schellbridge.org](http://www.schellbridge.org)

*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  
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Permit #390

FSB Newsletter - Summer 2012

## Speaker Promotes "In-Kind" Restoration

At the 2012 annual meeting of Friends of Schell Bridge on June 27, 2012 speaker Vern Mesler of Lansing Michigan promoted the concept of "in-kind" restoration of Schell Bridge. In-kind restoration replaces deteriorated sections with "carbon copy" new sections, having the same shape and size steel members as the original and are fastened with rivets (rather than bolts, which are now more common).



An informative aspect of Mesler's talk was that such restoration was "easy" - that any replacement members would be easily fabricated in the contractor's shop and trucked to the site. The old, deteriorated member would be removed and replaced by the new member. For example, the badly rusted bottom chords, one on each side, would have to be completely replaced. Each of these chords have 17 sections, for a total of 34; all 34 could be replicated in the shop and replaced one by one.

To quote Mesler: "The Schell Memorial Bridge is a distinctive structure, not just meant to carry traffic from one side of the river to the other, but also to pay tribute. It is a bridge worth saving. Although the Schell Bridge has deteriorated and is in need of a thorough engineering analysis, it is possible to replicate any historic steel members in need of replacement, and restore the bridge for future use."

Vern Mesler ([historicbridgerestoration.com](http://historicbridgerestoration.com)) has been a structural steel foreman involved in the fabrication of many steel bridges, is on the board of the Historic Bridge Foundation, and in retirement is a welding instructor at Lansing Community College.



## Professional Engineering Assessment

There are both costs and benefits to the Schell Bridge project. In 2011 Friends of Schell Bridge commissioned an analysis of the economic impact to the Northfield area of a Schell Bridge restored for recreational use. That study, done by the U-Mass Center for Economic Development, laid out the economic benefits to the area of such a project – jobs, commerce, etc. (See <http://www.schellbridge.org/impact.html>.)

To determine the cost of restoring Schell Bridge, FSB proposed a warrant article for the September 26, 2011, Special Town Meeting requesting that the Town seek state funds for a professional bridge restoration assessment that would identify the various restoration options and an estimated cost of each option. Many hours were spent building support for this article and getting out the voters.

On September 26 the Town of Northfield voted, almost 2-1, to empower the Selectboard to seek public funds for an engineering assessment. In turn, the Selectboard has since requested an appropriation by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of \$70,000 earmarked for this study. The study will examine the condition of Schell Bridge to determine whether the town-owned bridge has the physical integrity for future use as an attraction and recreational asset for town citizens and visitors. A decision on the request is expected soon.

There is no question that an engineering assessment and cost analysis is critical to future fundraising for Schell Bridge, and FSB is in touch with the Northfield representative and senator in the State House. Plans are also underway to solicit pledges. Donors may contact members of the FSB Fundraising Committee: Janice Starmer, chair; Alex Stewart; Sue Ross).



Marie Ferré

Friends of Schell Bridge extends thanks and expresses gratitude for Marie Ferré's leadership as she steps down from her role as Chair of the FSB Board of Directors. She will continue to serve as a board member.

Marie has been a committed chair. Few individuals would be willing to shoulder the responsibilities of leadership for many years. Whether it was running a contentious board meeting, making a presentation at a Northfield Town Meeting, or visiting government officials on behalf of FSB, Marie stepped up to the task and performed with grace and resolve. Marie took care of the office, fed the troops zucchini bread, and insisted that wine had to be consumed in a wineglass and soup from a real bowl. She has amazing energy and commitment to civic and church activities. No doubt the entire Northfield community will join FSB in acknowledging Marie for her gifts and service.



## New Co-chairs of FSB



Sue Ross



Steve Tower

Sue Ross and Steve Tower have replaced Marie Ferré as co-chairs of Friends of Schell Bridge Board of Directors. Both have been FSB board members for a number of years and are committed to the mission of a beautifully restored bridge.

Sue has lived in Northfield for forty years with her husband, Rob; they remember riding their bikes over Schell Bridge with their three children. Retired from Greenfield High School, Sue currently serves on three town committees and the board of the Greater Northfield Watershed Association, as well as the board of FSB.

Steve graduated from NMH in 1968; he and Heather were married in Sage Chapel in 1984 and both their children are NMH grads. In 2003 the Towers left suburban NYC and moved to 46 Main St in Northfield. Steve has been involved in education since moving to Northfield, and is co-owner of the Sylvan Learning Center in Keene, NH.

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

Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Patron .. \$500 and up
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Schell Star ..... \$250-499
City, State _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Schell Saver ..... \$100-249
Zip _____ Phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge Booster ..... \$50
Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Family ..... \$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual ..... \$15
<input type="checkbox"/> I prefer to receive news and alerts via email.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other .....
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer to help save Schell Bridge.	

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