



The Newsletter

*of the National Society for the
Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc.*

Fall 2022

New Vaughan Creek Covered Bridge



St. Martins, New Brunswick

Photo by Becky Kunze Carr, August 9, 2022

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The **NSPCB Newsletter** is published quarterly to keep the membership informed of current bridge news and upcoming events.

NSPCB Contacts

President & Newsletter Editor

Bill Caswell
535 2nd NH Tpke
Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601
WSCaswell@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary

Robert Watts
126 Merrimac St. Unit 21
Newburyport, MA 01950
508-878-7854
bob1.watts@me.com

Membership Dues and Address Changes

Jennifer Caswell
Membership Chair
535 2nd NH Tpke
Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601

Topics Back Issues

Contact Bill Caswell at the address above

Treasurer

Gloria Smedley
1143 Sage Drive
York, PA 17408

Next Newsletter Deadline

The next *Newsletter* is scheduled to be mailed in early **December**, therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them by **November 15, 2022**. Articles and photos can be emailed to nspcb@yahoo.com or mailed to Bill Caswell at the address above.

We appreciate any information sent in even if we cannot ultimately use it in the *Newsletter*.

NSPCB Website

www.coveredbridgesociety.org

Welcome New Members

Caroline Brunner, Quincy, Massachusetts
Lewis Bryson, Millheim, Pennsylvania
Paul Garber, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Tom Lis, Columbia, Maryland
Larry Olasky, Haverhill, Massachusetts
Noel Rubinton, Chevy Chase, Maryland
Terri Trier, Concord, New Hampshire

Welcome New Life Members

#207 – Donald Mudge, Rye New Hampshire
#208 – Kim Varney Chandler, Hancock, New Hampshire
#209 – Marshall Chandler, Hancock, New Hampshire

2022 NSPCB Meetings & Events

All meetings begin at **1:00 PM** unless otherwise noted. If you plan to attend a meeting, please check the NSPCB website (www.coveredbridgesociety.org) or contact Bill Caswell at nspcb@yahoo.com a couple days before the event to inquire if it has been necessary to make any last minute adjustments to the published schedule.

Saturday, September 24 – Covered bridge event, Lyndon, Vermont.
Details on page 12.

October 8 & 9 – Warner Fall Foliage Festival, Warner, New Hampshire.

Saturday, October 22 – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner.
O'Connor's Restaurant, 1160 W Boylston St, Worcester, Massachusetts. Meal at noon, meeting starting at 1:00 PM.

Annual Dinner

It looks like we will be able to gather for our annual meeting this year. See the enclosed reservation form for the details.

This year's speaker will be Andy Rebman, President of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society. Andy is an IT business analyst for a pharmaceutical research company in Indianapolis. He is from Terre Haute, Indiana and graduated from Indiana State University in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. It was during his college years that he did a folklore project which gave him the opportunity to photograph covered bridges and has enjoyed photography ever since. He joined the Indiana Covered Bridge Society in 2003 and became President in 2014. He enjoys meeting people and discussing Indiana's covered bridges. He and wife Melinda have two children—a son David (19 years old) and a daughter Abbi (15 years old).

In Memorium

David A Topham

We have learned that former NSPCB treasurer David Topham passed away in Fort Myers, Florida, on March 2, 2022 at age 88. He was treasurer from 1991 to 2008 and life member #18. Before permanently retiring to Florida, he and his late wife Joan lived in Rockport, Maine during the warmer months and Florida from November to April. Joan passed away in 2017.

Ed Shields

C. Edwin (Ed) Shields, 86, of Butler, Pennsylvania died on Thursday, June 2, 2022, as a result of an automobile accident. A Pennsylvania native, he was the son of the late Carl E. Shields and Elsie (Vanstone) Shields. Ed and Grace (Shaffer) Shields were married in 1959. Like his father before him and his son and grandsons after him, Ed was an Eagle Scout. He also served in the United States Army Reserves. In addition to his wife of 62 years, he is survived by three children, six grandchildren and a sister. Ed and Grace have been NSPCB members since 1992.



John Ulrich

John Anthony Ulrich, 80, of May's Lick, Kentucky, passed away Saturday, May 28, 2022, at The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, after an illness of several weeks. John was born May 3, 1942, to the late Joseph Edgar Ulrich and Nell Appelman Ulrich, at the Ulrich Homeplace on Old Dover Road, outside of Augusta, Kentucky. He met his first wife, Gloria Shantz from Ontario, Canada, while on vacation in the Bahamas. They were married in 1969 and had two sons. Gloria passed away in 1993. In 2003, John married Lori Bevins who survives him.



John was a proud veteran of the U S Army. He has been involved in many different forms of animal husbandry over the years, including working as a breeder of both Arabian and Thoroughbred Horses, as well as working in the breeding of Black Angus cattle, Katahdin hair sheep, dairy goats, and English Shepherds. Most recently, he did pioneering work in restoring the bloodlines of St. Bernards to their more classic form.

John was also an award-winning professional photographer, completed nursing school earning his LPN degree and had a lifelong love of carpentry and metalwork, which he utilized in personally building and overseeing the construction of three homes. John wrote a novel, *Ancient Wisdom, Ancient Folly* and, shortly before his passing, he, along with wife Lori, had submitted his second novel, *Through the Fire*, for publication. He was an avid reader of the Bible, and a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Warner Fall Foliage Festival

As of our publication date, the Warner Fall Foliage Festival in Warner, New Hampshire is scheduled to occur during Columbus Day weekend, October 8 & 9. The NSPCB plans to have a booth set up in the parking lot of MainStreet Bookends of Warner as we have done in the past. If you happen to be in the area, drop by for a visit. If you are interested in helping staff the booth for a couple hours on one of the two days, let us know.



President’s Message

I hope that this message finds you healthy and well. I will begin by introducing our new grandson, Liam Richard Scott Guay, the first child of our daughter Jackie and Kyle Guay, who was born shortly after noon on July 22nd. Mom, dad and baby are all doing well.

This has been a very busy quarter as we completed projects which had been in the works for the past few months. Thanks to all the volunteers who continue to contribute their time and talents.

The covered bridge coloring book, discussed later, was more challenging than we originally anticipated. How to go through thousands of historic and current photos of covered bridges throughout New England and only select images of 20 bridges to be included. Once the photos were chosen, we needed to prepare the text to go along with them plus a few pages of other content for the book. We are looking forward to having them available for sale at our event in Lyndonville, Vermont on September 24th.

The *Introductory Guide to Covered Bridges* will be a wonderful resource to share with people who are not familiar with covered bridges. The booklet contains a great deal of information within its 24 pages and is intended to not only promote interest in the topic, but to help others understand why we put so much effort into promoting their preservation.

The 2023 calendars are also being printed as I write this. Each year the calendar committee reviews all the photos submitted and goes through multiple rounds of reviewing the images and narrowing down the candidates. The final selections are intended to represent as many different states and provinces as we can. Carol Colaianni processes the final selections and adds the historic inset images while I prepare the captions.

Before closing, a reminder to fill out the reservation form for the annual dinner by the requested deadline if you plan to attend. Planning the annual meeting this year proved to be a challenge. We initially intended to be at the venue we have used in recent years but were having difficulty finding a caterer available on that date to provide the meal. Finding a new location available on October 22nd was also difficult. Fortunately, Jenn was able to get that worked out. We look forward to having an in-person event this year and seeing you there.

Please continue to keep us informed of covered bridge news so we can share it with the rest of our members. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.

Bill Caswell



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Do you shop at Amazon? Have you heard of Amazon Smile? It is a program where Amazon contributes 0.5% of your purchases to a non-profit organization. There is no cost to you. In June, we received a donation of **\$46.17**. Every little bit helps. Having more people participate will increase the funds we have available to contribute towards fire retardant and other worthwhile preservation projects. Thank you to all who have contributed.

For more details, go to tinyurl.com/nspcb-amazon. If that doesn't work, try the original link – smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6060691

June Meeting

The June meeting was held at the Contoocook Railroad Bridge in Contoocook, New Hampshire.

Bill shared details of the September 24th event in Lyndon, Vermont. Those details are included elsewhere within this issue. The group voted to match a \$5,000 donation that the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau was offering for repairs to the Stillwater Bridge (PA/38-19-21) in Columbia County.

We learned that fire retardant we donated for the Cemetery Road Bridge (OH/35-29-01) in Greene County, Ohio and an anti-graffiti coating were applied to the bridge. The Anti-graffiti was supplied by the Ohio Historic Bridge Association. It was suggested that we consider offering the anti-graffiti product for other bridges. Bill Caswell, Scott Wagner and Sue Wagner reported on the Covered Bridge Leaders Summit in Oxford, New York.

Photos by Bob Watts.



July Meeting

The July meeting was held at the Haverhill, Massachusetts, Public Library. It started with Bill's presentation on the covered bridges of the Haverhill area.

The group approved a request for a donation to the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center to help fund an intern who has been helping at the center. We learned that Andy Rebman, president of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society, will be the speaker at this year's annual meeting. Details of the upcoming covered bridge coloring book were discussed.

Attendees opted to offer 100 copies of the *Introductory Guide to Covered Bridges* to each of the state covered bridge societies. More details on that booklet are in a separate article.

Photos by Bob Watts and Scott Wagner.



Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events

For more information on these events from other bridge societies, visit their websites.

- Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick, Canada (CBCANB)
 www.facebook.com/groups/CoveredBridgesConservationAssociationNB/
 Indiana Covered Bridge Society (ICBS) www.indianacoveredbridges.org/
 New York State Covered Bridge Society (NYSCBS) www.nycoveredbridges.org/
 Ohio Historic Bridge Association (OHBA)..... oldohiobridges.com/new/
 The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania (TBCBSP) www.tbcbspa.com/
 Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) www.vermontbridges.org/

Events could be cancelled or rescheduled on short notice. If you plan to attend, please confirm that the event is actually taking place with the group hosting it.

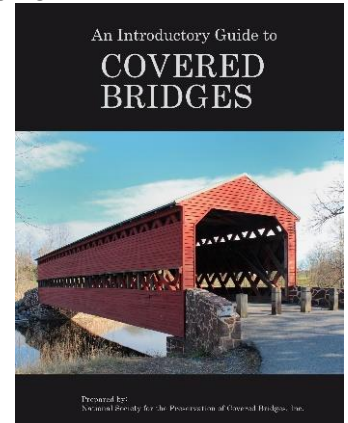
<u>September</u>	<p>8-10 – Roann (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival at the bridge, Roann. For more details, visit https://roanncoveredbridgefestival.com/.</p> <p>9-11 – Cumberland (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival at the bridge, northeast of Matthews. For more details, visit http://www.matthewscoveredbridgefestival.com/.</p> <p>Sunday, 11th – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS virtual meeting.</p> <p>Sunday, 11th – Noon, TBCBSP Annual Picnic and meeting at Poole Forge Bridge.</p> <p>23-25 – Elizabethton Covered Bridge Days, Elizabethton, Tennessee. See https://coveredbridgedays.org/ for details.</p>
<u>October</u>	<p>Sunday, 2nd – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>6-9 – Columbia-Montour County (Pennsylvania) Covered Bridge Festival. See https://itourcolumbiamontour.com/covered-bridge-festival/ for details.</p> <p>Saturday, 8th – Blount County (Alabama) Covered Bridge Festival in Oneonta. See http://facebook.com/CoveredBridgeFest for more details.</p> <p>Saturday, 8th – Euharlee (Georgia) Covered Bridge Fall Festival. For more information, visit https://www.facebook.com/EuharleeCoveredBridgeFallFestival/.</p> <p>8-9 – Ashtabula County (Ohio) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See http://www.coveredbridgefestival.org/Pages/festival.html for details.</p> <p>8-9 – Madison County (Iowa) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival/ for details.</p> <p>14-23 – Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See https://www.coveredbridges.com/covered-bridge-festival for details.</p> <p>Saturday, 15th – ICBS Fall Tour of Rush County.</p>
<u>November</u>	<p>Sunday, 6th – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Sunday, 13th – NYSCBS Annual Dinner and Meeting with Christmas card exchange at the Hamden Community Hall (behind the church) 35806 St. Hwy 10, Hamden, New York. Doors open at 11:00 AM, Turkey Dinner at noon, meeting after dinner.</p> <p>Sunday, 20th – 1:30 PM, OHBA Annual Business Meeting, Cardinal Room, 3rd Floor, Ohio History Center, 800 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, Ohio.</p>
<u>December</u>	<p>Saturday, 11th – 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM, TBCBSPA Christmas Dinner at Yoder's Restaurant, 14 South Tower Road, New Holland, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.</p>

Introductory Guide to Covered Bridges

At the April 2021 meeting, Karl Young proposed that the Society prepare a guide for “newbie bridgers,” to help them avoid some of the pitfalls he encountered when he started “bridging”. Numerous potential topics were discussed at that meeting and later ones. Once the new World Guide was completed in the fall of 2021, work on this document began in earnest.

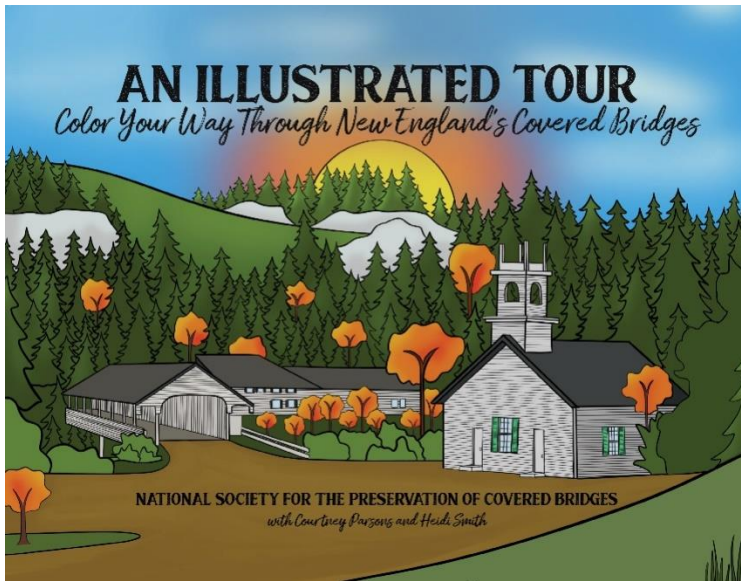
Karl had written a draft which Bill Caswell built on. Bill prepared many drafts over the past few months which were reviewed at this year’s NSPCB meetings and the Covered Bridge Leaders’ Summit in Oxford, New York in June. Draft copies were also sent to representatives of the various covered bridge societies for review and comment. The booklet briefly covers many different topics from covered bridge history, terminology, truss designs, trip planning, safaris and preservation efforts.

The resulting 24-page booklet was available at the August picnic meeting and can be downloaded from the NSPCB website. Discussions at this year’s June and July meetings led to a decision to donate 100 copies to each of the five state covered bridge societies for them to distribute at their discretion. The NSPCB will have 500 copies which will be offered to new members when they join and made available at future meetings and events.



Covered Bridge Coloring Book

In the Spring, the NSPCB was offered the opportunity to prepare a covered bridge coloring book. Color Your Way USA is an educational coloring book series for children and adults based on historical locations throughout the United States published by Give A Salute! of Laconia, New Hampshire. The books are collaborative works developed by nonprofit organizations and managed by the publisher. Once published, the Society is able to purchase copies at a discount and sell them to raise money. We will also received royalties from copies sold in book stores, gift shops and other retailers.



Color Your Way Through New England's Covered Bridges will feature the Stark Bridge in Stark, New Hampshire on the cover and twenty other covered bridges throughout New England inside. Each of the twenty bridges will have a photo of the bridge, some historical notes about it and, on the facing page, an outline to be colored. There will also be some introductory material about covered bridges in

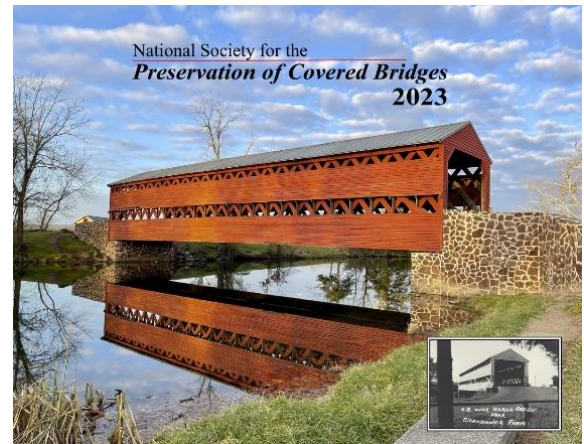
general and a page about the NSPCB. Thank you to Scott Wagner, Bob Watts, Kim Varney Chandler, Arnold & Meg Graton and Bill & Jenn Caswell for their work on this project.

Books are expected to be available at the Lyndonville, Vermont event on September 24th. They will also be available for sale on the NSPCB website.

NSPCB Calendars

The 2023 calendar is at the printer. There should be an insert with the details of which bridges are included. Our thanks to Carol Colaianni, Sue & Scott Wagner, Bob Watts, Carmela Sciandra, Kathie Lesich, Arthur Walsh, Jenn & Bill Caswell for going through the submissions to select the final images and to everyone who submitted photos this year. We were excited that there were a number of entries from people who had not previously submitted images. In fact, this is the sixth calendar we have prepared and the first time where each of the twelve monthly photos was taken by a different photographer.

Images are being accepted for the 2024 calendar until February 28, 2023. As you travel around this fall and winter, watch for opportunities for calendar photos. Each individual can submit up to ten recent photos to be considered for the calendar.



Photos taken during the past year are preferred. As in the past, the committee will be looking for images from a variety of states and seasons, so the calendar presents structures throughout the United States and Canada. Bridges which have not yet been featured on one of our calendars will be given preference over those which have been included in previous years. Images which include area surrounding the bridge are preferred over tightly cropped photos. This allows space to insert archival photos or just to appreciate the setting of the structure.

Images should be submitted to Bill Caswell in a digital format at a high enough resolution so it still looks good at 8½" x 11". They can be emailed to nspcb@yahoo.com, transferred through a file sharing service such as Dropbox or mailed on a flash drive, CD or other media. Bill's mailing address is on page 2.

Archives Update

There has been lots of activity within the Society's archives during the past quarter. Scott Wagner and Bill Caswell are still working on organizing the thousands of images which were added to our digital archives last spring. While each individual collection was well organized, the images now need to be incorporated into the main collection to make it easier to locate photos of a particular bridge. Some of those images appear in the current issue of *Topics*.

LeeAnn Wetzel donated a number of books to the Society a few years ago. In June, we received a box of brochures, newspaper and magazine articles and other items which will be added to the archives.

Jim & Gloria Smedley accepted two collections for the Society. The first was a collection of items donated by Betty Concha of Maryland. The second collection belonged to Charles Mahan and was donated by his grandson Kevin Mahan. Charles died in 2013 and was well known among railroad historians for his thorough research and documentation of the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad. These items were transferred to Bill & Jenn Caswell at the Oxford Summit delivered to the archives. They included some used books which have been added to the list of those for sale on the Society's website.

Thanks to Vickie Wolper for donating a series of prints made from her photographs and suitable for framing which were picked up by Bill Caswell. We will have them available for sale at our meetings and events.

News of Members

Josif Bicja

On May 10th Hoyle, Tanner and Associates, a New Hampshire based engineering firm announced that Josif Bicja has been promoted to Vice President – Senior Structural Engineer. The press release stated “Josif continually demonstrates excellence in the bridge engineering industry not only through his projects, but also in his mentorship. He has shared this knowledge at numerous presentations and through his involvement in multiple professional associations including as current President of the Structural Engineers of New Hampshire and as a long—time member of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. Early in his career, he was named the New Hampshire Young Engineer of the Year and has been a leading technical authority on bridges since, having provided inspection, design, analysis or construction inspection for over a dozen covered bridges.”



Jason Stitt

A press release from the Frederick County Government on July 26, 2022 announced that Jason M. Stitt has been appointed as Director of the Division of Public Works for the county. The position oversees six departments: Highway Operations, Facility Maintenance, Engineering and Construction Management, Fleet Services, Professional Services, and Fiscal Services.

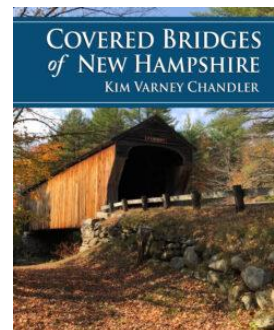


“An employee of Frederick County Government since 2003, Mr. Stitt has held progressively higher positions within the Division of Public Works. Most recently, he has been Department Head for the Department of Engineering and Construction Management, which is responsible for the construction of roads, bridges, highways, facilities, parks, stormwater retrofits, and stream restorations. Mr. Stitt previously served as Chief of the Office of Transportation Engineering, and as an Engineer III. Before joining Frederick County Government, he was a transportation engineer for the Maryland State Highway Administration’s Office of Bridge Development.”

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Saint Vincent College, with a minor in Physics. He has been a Registered Professional Engineer in Maryland since 2002 and certified as a Project Management Profession. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the County Engineers Association of Maryland. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers in addition to his NSPCB membership. The appointment was effective August 1.

Covered Bridges of New Hampshire

In the previous issue, we announced the upcoming book on New Hampshire’s covered bridges authored by member Kim Varney Chandler. The book will be released on November 15, 2022. More details on this project can be found on the book’s website at <https://coveredbridgesnh.com/>. Copies can be pre-ordered on the website.



Documentary on Hassenplug Bridge Repairs

There is an article in the News section about repairs to the Hassenplug Bridge in Union County, Pennsylvania (PA/38-60-03). The company doing the work, Lancaster County Timber Frames of York, Pennsylvania, is being featured in a documentary about the project. Member Joe McCarthy is among the crew being interviewed. No information was available at press time regarding a release date or where the video will be available.

A Visit to Sweden's Only Historic Covered Bridge

By Philip Caston

[Editor's note: In June, Bill Caswell was contacted by a reporter for Vi Bilagare, a Swedish sports car magazine, looking for information about the country's only known historic covered bridge and information about covered bridges in general. Bill shared the email with others including Philip Caston, a professor of Building Documentation, Building Archaeology and Surveying at Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany. He has visited nearly every covered bridge still standing in Europe and many in North America and China. He is a life member of the NSPCB and visits the States frequently. All images in this article were provided by Philip.]

The majority of Europe's historic covered bridges are in the Alps or in the hilly forested regions of Northern Central Europe, just a few are spread out farther afield. One such loner is SE-19-01, Vaholms Brohus, as far as is known it's the only one in Sweden. I had seen the basic information on page 239 of the latest edition of the World Guide – I thought it would be too far away for a visit as it's a long way to go for just one bridge. Then Bill received an enquiry about it from a Swedish journalist, who also included photos and passed it on to others including myself.



Now it was not just a few lines of text, but an intriguing structure. I inserted the coordinates as stated in the WG into Google-Earth and quickly came up with the location. In scrolling out I saw that it was not that far north, some 140 miles WSW of Stockholm and easily accessible by fast roads. It's about the same distance (circa 350 miles) as the crow flies from my office as it is to my family home (both in Germany) but in the other direction. Unfortunately, whilst I can drive home on the Autobahn almost in a straight line, driving to the bridge means crossing the Baltic Sea or driving the long way round through Denmark.

By chance I had a couple of free days at the beginning of July, a time when the days are long making visiting bridges possible well into the evening and after two years of Corona restrictions I was aching to get out and about again and also to test my latest "toy" given to me by the university – a LiDAR scanner.

The problem is that the Baltic Sea is in the way. I looked at the ferry alternatives. They were extremely expensive and complicated. It seems that it was much easier to drive round the Baltic then across Denmark crossing the Øresund Bridge near Copenhagen, then through Southern Sweden up to the bridge. It added another 300 miles and incurred bridge tolls, but there would be no stress in racing to a ferry and missing it, then waiting six hours for the next one.



The Vaholms Brohus Bridge was easy to get to. It linked the main road to a small farming settlement. I had not contacted anyone in advance, I never do, so it's always a gamble if there is going to be traffic or not or an angry farmer, but I was fortunate.

I set up the scanner. It's a small black box mounted on a tripod about the size of a 19th century camera. The scanner works by sending out a laser beam to an object, then measures the time it takes to get reflected back. That gives you the direct distance to the object. At the same time the angle of the beam, which is adjusted by a rotating mirror, is recorded. That gives you its position in space. All this happens at light speed, so after circa five minutes of scanning the 360° wide and 300° vertical field of view you end up with a cloud of over 43 million points, each one a reflection of an object (i.e. part of the bridge or a tree etc.).

Then the scanner rotates round again for another five minutes. This time taking coloured images of the same field of view. When these images are combined with the points the software generates "voxels" (volume pixels) which are boxes of colour set out in 3D virtual space. That is the model of the space you scanned. If you add multiple scans from different positions, you can combine them to form a more complete model.

To do that you have to fix orientation points (called targets) to the structure that the scanner can see. That proved to be a problem. The wind was so strong, it ripped the paper sheets printed with the checker box point out of my hand. Then I tried sticking them to the portal. The wind ripped the duct tape out of my hand. I had to cut three pieces in the shade of my car then stick them to my trousers then walk to the bridge hold the paper point to the cladding and then attach the duct tape piece by piece whilst holding the paper. Eventually I had three on the floor and three on the portal so I could start scanning. No sign of any people or cars so I set up the scanner on the deck and started. No one came by so after ten minutes I had a scan in the can. Also, I had also taken some contingency photos in case of an angry farmer so I knew I had the basics. Every minute would give me more.

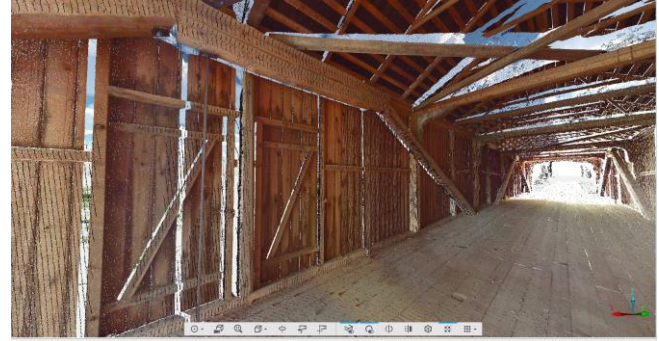
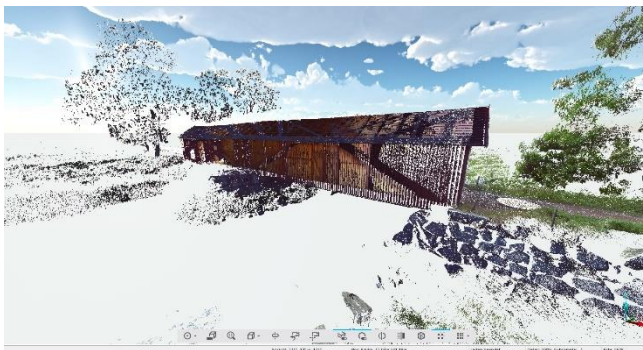


Image from interior LiDAR scan.

I set up the scanner again in the middle of the road at the portal. This would link the inside and outside. Again, no people or cars. Time for just one more scan. I set it up in the adjacent field to get both the portal and the side. Meanwhile the sun had gone behind the trees, it was still light at 9:50 pm but no direct sunlight anymore. The checker box targets linked the three scans perfectly and the model is an accurate representation of the bridge. You can measure the voxels down to 1/8th or even 1/16th of an inch, allowing you to take all the measurements you want, when you want without being on site.



Then the long trip back to my office the next day, crossing again the famous Øresund Bridge. Not only do I now have a photographic record of the bridge, but also a 3D model (sample shown at left), that I can move through and measure. I will leave a description and assessment of the bridge to you, the reader. This is going to be one future option of visiting covered bridges. Once these digital models get convincingly real and available for all online then it will be possible to immerse yourself in these models without actually having to go to the bridge. This will be advantageous for some, but not all.

As we all know there is something emotional about actually being there at a bridge for real. It's more than just the physical sensations you experience. Somehow you can connect to the past, seemingly defy gravity and share with others. Virtual models help us rationalize our world in a technical way, but actually going there is an experience difficult to simulate.

New Brunswick Covered Bridge Brochures

Member Ray Boucher is president of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick (CBCANB). Using photographs he has taken of the province's bridges, the association has produced brochures to help people locate the bridges and document their visits. At the time this was written, brochures were available for Albert and Charlotte counties. Others may have become available since then. The CBCANB was formed after the loss of the French Village or Hammond River #2 Bridge (NB/55-06-05x) in the fall of 2017. The bridge was badly damaged when an excavator carrying a load of lumber attempted to cross during repairs in 2016. As a result of the damage done plus deterioration found in the lower chords, the Department of Transportation decided to tear down the bridge. The brochures can be downloaded from the "Bridge Tours" page of the NSPCB website at <http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org/tours.html>. *Photo of the McCann Bridge (NB/55-03-09) by Ray Boucher.*



Covered Bridge Event in Lyndon, Vermont

The Town of Lyndon, Vermont has offered an agenda for our September 24th event. The town has been developing plans for promoting its covered bridges which will subsequently help raise funds for their repair and maintenance. Bringing our group to Lyndon for the day will help raise awareness of their efforts.

The plan is to meet at the Schoolhouse Bridge on South Wheelock Road, just west of the Memorial Drive exit of I-91 at 9:30. There is limited parking at the bridge and they are working on arrangements for us to park at the church across the street. We will then travel to the Chamberlain Covered Bridge which also has limited parking. The third stop will be at the Miller's Run Bridge where some parking is available at the adjacent Park and Ride lot. From Miller's Run, it is a short drive to the Sanborn Bridge which was recently acquired by the Town. The final bridge on the tour will be the bypassed Randall Bridge.

After visiting the bridges, we will drive up to East Haven for lunch at Dirt Church Brewing. Lunch will include pizza to order from the brewery and a food truck vendor, Sessions Food, will also be on site. September might be a great opportunity for lunch outside. However, if the weather isn't conducive to that, we will be seated in the brewery's barn space.

After lunch, we will move to the chapel where Anna Cronin, owner of Dirt Church is going to share her story of historic preservation of the East Haven Chapel and reconstruction of the Grange Hall. Nicole Gratton, Planner for the Town of Lyndon will discuss their efforts to restore the Sanborn Bridge and potential development of a small park at the bridge. This is the first step in an effort to promote all of the town's covered bridges.

After the presentations, there will be a brief NSPCB business meeting.

If you are interested in joining us or just want to stay informed as more details become available, please email Bill at wscaswell@yahoo.com.



*Schoolhouse Bridge
VT/45-03-03*



*Chamberlain Mill Bridge
VT/45-03-04*



*Miller's Run Bridge
VT/45-03-06#2*



*Sanborn Bridge
VT/45-03-05*



*Randall Bridge, Lyndon
VT/45-03-07*



*Dirt Church Brewery
Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell*

Ohio's Brubaker Bridge Badly Damaged by Tractor-Trailer

[Editor's Note: On August 6th, the Brubaker Bridge in Preble County, Ohio (WGN OH/35-68-06) was badly damaged when an 18-wheeler attempted to cross it. On August 8th, R. Kyle Cross, Preble County Engineer, provided the following statement. Photos courtesy Preble County Engineer's Office.]



I assessed the damages to the Brubaker Bridge this morning after having a couple of days to process a lot of emotions about it since I was first notified Friday night. The good news is that the trusses only appeared to have minor damage to some of the king post that will need replaced. The lateral bracing and roofing system took the brunt of the damage.

We will rebuild the Brubaker Bridge. It has been repaired in the past and it WILL be repaired again. Please be patient though as there are a lot of steps that must be taken from consultant selection to competitively bidding to being reimbursed by the insurance company of the individual who did the damage.

I understand that many people would like to see the extent of the damage firsthand, and I have no way of stopping you from doing so. But if you do please take a couple of things into consideration. First there is still unsecured broken timber and boards with nails sticking through them so PLEASE DO NOT GO INTO THE BRIDGE. Secondly, Brubaker Road is a generally quiet township road that does not usually see a lot of traffic. If you do go please be respectful of those who live on this road and their property.

I will make further posts throughout this journey to get the Brubaker Bridge reopened. I am hopeful that this can be accomplished by the end of 2023. Remember, I said this would be a long process.

GPS is a wonderful tool and we all rely on it on a regular basis, but please be cognizant of your surroundings and always remember that YOU as the driver know where you should or shouldn't go better than an electronic device.



New Whiskey Release Honors Tennessee's Pigeon River Covered Bridge

In June 2021, the Covered Bridges Whiskey Company released Ruddell's Mill Bourbon, their first in a series of whiskeys (bourbon and rye) named for historic covered bridges. The latest offering honors the oldest of Tennessee's four historic covered bridges, the Pigeon or Harrisburg Bridge in Sevier County (TN/42-78-01) built in 1875. The mash bill (recipe) is intended to be typical for early Tennessee whiskeys, primarily corn with a small touch of malted barley.



According to their website: "The bridge was built in 1875 by Elbert Stephenson Early, who owned the nearby Newport Mill, one of many mills in the area. The mills processed corn for local farmers, much of which ended up as the key ingredient for their quietly produced whiskey. This remote area in the Smoky Mountains, provided the perfect seclusion from Whiskey Tax Collectors in the 1800s and prohibition enforcers in the early 20th century." Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.



For more information visit pigeonriverwhiskey.com or TheCoveredBridges.com.

America’s Newest Covered Bridge – Wyoming County, New York

By John Kucko, June 1, 2022

What a sight this afternoon! AMERICA’S NEWEST COVERED BRIDGE IS NOW OPEN! The spectacular bridge that spans Cayuga Creek here in the Hamlet of Cowlesville, NY in the Town of Bennington on Schoellkopf Road opened this afternoon. The Cannon Bridge, named in honor of WWII veteran Charles Cannon—Cowlesville native who died during the war [WWII], is built in the old-style of the



six covered bridges they had in this area back in the late 1800’s and in the 1900’s. The Southern Pine structure is magnificent and today I was thankful Tom Schmidt, from this area, brought his fabulous 1952 International truck to the bridge—perfect way to begin a new era here, the first civilian vehicle to pass through the bridge. Tom was accompanied by his wife, Dawn, as well as his father, Walter, Sr. It was Walter’s grandfather, George, who used to drive that very truck through the covered bridges of this area back in the good old days, pulling wagons filled with hay. Special thanks to Tom’s cousin, Don Schmidt, for helping me with this. A formal dedication ceremony will take place at the bridge

next week. Terrific work by the folks at L.C. Whitford Inc. of Wellsville, NY—it is stunning! LaBella Associates of Rochester designed a real gem, a project that will garner numerous national awards in my opinion. This ends my documentation of this endeavor, I have completely enjoyed this. Special thank you to Dick Fanton and Joe Weaver of L.C. Whitford for their help in answering my many questions along the way during this documentation. Americana at its finest right here!

Cannon Bridge Dedication – Wyoming County, New York

Member Alice Bader attended the official opening of the bridge on June 9th and provided these photos of the event. About 100 people gathered on the rainy day to witness the event. Attendees included State



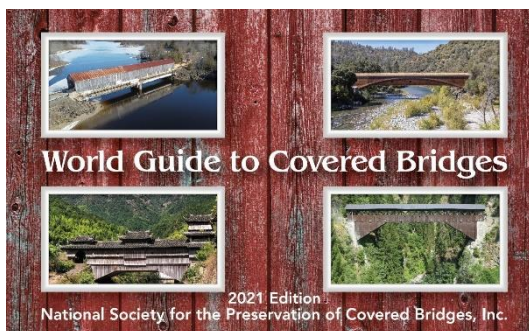
Senate and Assembly members, Wyoming County government officials, Bennington town officials, the Patriot Guard and local VFW groups to honor Sgt. Cannon. The program lasted about 1 hour. Ellen Grant, Supervisor for



the Town of Bennington mentioned the email she received from NSPCB President Bill Caswell announcing the new bridge’s World Guide number, NY/32-61-07#2.

These additional photos of the bridge were sent in by Karl Young who visited it on July 2nd.

World Guide to Covered Bridges



Copies of the new *World Guide to Covered Bridges* can be obtained for \$19 per copy for media mail shipping or \$23 each for priority mail shipping to US addresses. Due to the high international shipping rates, a copy mailed to Canada will cost \$37 total. For rates to other countries, please contact us first. They can either be purchased through the NSPCB website (coveredbridgesociety.org) or by sending a check or money order made out to **NSPCB** to Bill Caswell, 535 2nd NH Tpke, Hillsboro, NH 03244.

Updates to the 2021 World Guide to Covered Bridges

For a complete list of changes, please visit the website at www.coveredbridgesociety.org and click on the World Guide link.

Page 60, Ulster County, New York, coordinates for the Ashokan or Turnwood Bridge, NY/32-56-05, did not print correctly. They should be **N41° 55.596' W074° 11.937'**

Page 60, Add the Cannon Bridge in Wyoming County, New York

NY/32-61-07#2 Bennington Cayuga Creek Cannon 1 2022 Pratt Variant

2.9 miles west of jct with NY77 at Bennington on NY354, then 0.8 miles left on Folsomdale Rd (County route 35), then 0.7 miles ahead on Schoellkopf Rd. N42° 49.114' W078° 26.749'

Page 146, Orange County, Vermont, coordinates for the Cilley or Lower Bridge (VT/45-09-08) should be corrected to **N43° 52.978' W072° 30.233'**

Page 146, Orange County, Vermont, coordinates for the Flint Bridge (VT/45-09-11) should be corrected to **N43° 56.960' W072° 27.516'**

Page 172, Victoria County, New Brunswick, correct the name of NB/55-13-03 to **Tomlinson Mill or Odellach River #2.**

Page 283, P'ingnan County, Fujian Province, China, delete the Wan'an Bridge which was lost to a fire on August 6, 2022.

Covered Bridge News

Georgia

King Bridge, Troup County

In the Summer issue, we reported that the former Wehadkee Creek Bridge, built in Troup County by George King (son of noted builder Horace King) in 1890, and relocated about 30 miles to Callaway Gardens in 1965, was returned to Troup County on February 22nd. Since that report, the bridge has been reconstructed at the edge of the Mulberry Street Cemetery, next to Horace King's grave, in LaGrange where it will be called the King Bridge. The bridge will ultimately be part of LaGrange's Thread, a non-motorized, multi-purpose trail which will ultimately be 26 miles long. The bridge was reconstructed by the Scott Bridge Company of Opelika, Alabama who was also involved with the reconstruction of a portion of the Salem Shotwell Bridge in Opelika after it was destroyed by a falling tree in June 2005. The city is hoping to have the work completed by September 8 – Horace King's 215th birthday. The historic photo of the bridge at its original location is part of Elna Johnson's collection. Other photos were provided by Visit LaGrange.



Georgia (continued)

Howard or Big Clouds Creek, Oglethorpe County – GA/10-109-01

On July 21st, the Historic Howard's Covered Bridge Facebook page posted a news article from the Oglethorpe Echo about the condition of the bridge. The approach span was badly rotted and eventually closed by the county. Photos posted on that page on July 25th showed that the flooring from that span had been completely removed. Some of those images are shown here. The leftmost photo is from Bill & Jenn Caswell's visit to the bridge on January 30, 2022.



Indiana

Bean Blossom Bridge, Brown County – IN/14-07-01

On February 10, this bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places. According to the announcement from Indiana's Department of Natural Resources, the single span structure was constructed atop locally quarried cut-stone abutments by Joseph Balsley in 1880. At the time of its construction, it was a critical link between Bean Blossom and Nashville, the county seat. When state route 135 was built in 1934, the bridge's service was reduced to primarily local traffic and tourists. This photo of the bridge by Andy Rebman was featured on the January page of our 2017 calendar. *Thanks to Jim Crouse for sharing this announcement from Indiana's Department of Natural Resources.*



Westport Bridge, Decatur County – IN/14-16-01

In the previous issue, we noted that the bridge was going to be repaired from damage caused by a series of storms in late June 2021 when high waters tossed a large tree trunk through the side of the bridge. Greg McDuffee shared this photo from his visit on August 7th showing that repairs have been completed. The single-span bridge was built in 1880 by A. M. Kennedy and Son, using the Burr design. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 1982.



Wallace Bridge, Fountain County – IN/14-23-01

The area around the bridge was recently cleaned up. Brush was removed and a barn painter has been hired to paint the structure. The bridge is due for some much needed repairs once the Cades Mill Bridge project is accomplished. The single-span Howe truss structure was built over Sugar Mill Creek in 1871. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 2021. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Indiana (continued)

Cades Mill Bridge, Fountain County – IN/14-23-02



Photo by Greg McDuffee.

The oldest covered bridge in Indiana still in its original location still needs your help. The Fountain County Art Council Historic Committee continues their efforts to raise funds for repairs to the structure. So far, they have not been able to obtain the support of the county commissioners. In mid-July Bill Caswell and Andy Rebman, president of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society, both sent letters to the county commissioners in support of the Historic Committee’s efforts and asking for the County’s help. The single-span Howe truss bridge was built in 1854 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 2021. An estimated \$800,000 is needed to properly restore the bridge.

On August 22nd, Indiana Landmarks announced its annual list of 10 Most Endangered landmarks in the state which included this structure. The report noted, in part:

“Built to help Fountain County’s early settlers travel to a mill at Coal Creek, the span is one of three historic covered bridges remaining in Fountain County. It’s only seen use as a pedestrian bridge for decades, bypassed after construction of a newer concrete bridge in 1976. Deferred maintenance in the intervening years hastened the historic bridge’s decline.”

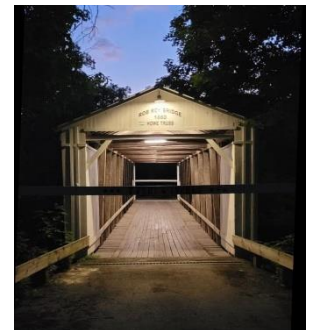
“The Fountain County Art Council Historical Committee has been raising money for complete rehabilitation. Repairs are estimated at over \$800,000, and ongoing pandemic-related labor and materials shortages are expected to increase the price tag. In an area with limited resources, finding money to rehabilitate Cades Mill Covered Bridge is a daunting challenge.”

Donation checks should be made out to Western Indiana Community Foundation and sent to them at P.O. Box 75, Covington, IN 47932



Rob Roy Bridge, Fountain County – IN/14-23-03

On July 21st, the Friends of Rob Roy Covered Bridge posted these photos and a note on their Facebook page announcing that the bridge is now equipped with interior lights. A donor offered to pay for the ongoing electrical expense of the lights. The single-span Howe truss bridge was built over Big Shawnee Creek in 1860.



Potter's Bridge, Hamilton County – IN/14-29-01

The Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office arrested three individuals for vandalizing this bridge on May 24, 2022. Police said the inside walls and decking of the bridge were spray painted. Images from surveillance



cameras were posted on social media leading to the identification of the suspects and their arrest. The two-span Howe truss bridge was built over the West Fork of White River in 1871. It was bypassed in 1971 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on December



19, 1991. WTHR-TV, June 2, 2022. Photos by Greg McDuffee.

Kentucky

Cabin Creek Bridge, Lewis County, Kentucky – KY/17-68-03

The last time we reported on this bridge was in the Fall 2020 Newsletter (page 18) where we mentioned the ongoing disagreement regarding ownership of the bridge and right-of-way of the road that used to pass through it. After purchasing the property adjacent to the bridge in 2017, the new owners claimed that they also owned the bridge and former alignment of Route 984. On August 23rd, the Lewis County Circuit Court ruled that the bridge and its bypassed roadway, also known as Cabin Creek Road, was owned by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. They granted a permanent injunction barring the other property owners from encroaching on the property and ordered them to remove any fences or other fixtures they have placed on Commonwealth property. The single-span multiple kingpost bridge was built in 1873 by a Mr. Bryant of Ohio. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 26, 1976. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Maine

Trout Brook Bridge, Alna, Lincoln County – ME/19-08-P06

Years of permits, brush clearing, grade/drainage repair and track construction culminated with the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum’s inaugural run of excursions across the pony truss bridge on Saturday, August 6th. After thousands of hours by hundreds of museum members and contractors, the first revenue passenger train in 89 years traveled up to the Trout Brook Station. *Photos by C. Stewart Rhine.*



New Hampshire

Tannery Hill Bridge, Gilford, Belknap County – NH/29-01-03

In the previous issue, we reported that the selectmen unanimously approved a motion to contract with Geddes Building Movers for \$27,000 from American Rescue Plan Act funds to move the covered bridge to the east embankment so the west abutment can be repaired. Michael Rudnick visited the site in mid-July and shared these images. The single-span Town truss bridge was built in 1995.



New Hampshire (continued)

Jackson or Honeymoon Bridge, Jackson, Carroll County – NH/29-02-01



The bridge sustained damage from a tractor-trailer truck early in the afternoon of June 1st. The truck driver, Brandon D. White, 37, of Fort Worth, Texas, got stuck about 10 feet into the bridge. While backing out the top of the tractor caught the bridge's portal causing damage there plus damage to some roof braces. He was charged with a Bridge Overload violation and traffic sign violation, which are punishable by fines in excess of \$500. State police may add more charges. The truck was impounded and driver taken to a bus station so he could return to Texas. NHDOT personnel repaired the roof braces and reopened the bridge on June 3rd. The bridge was closed during weekdays between June 20th and June 30th so the portal could be repaired. *Conway Daily Sun, June 2, 2022 and NHDOT Press Release, June 14, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

On a more positive note, the bridge was closed again, on August 6th. This time for a party. Jon Sarty and the White Mountain Boys got the crowd dancing at the 19th annual Jackson Covered Bridge Dance. Food was available from Cheese Louise, a restaurant in Conway, and the Jackson Fire Department offered a 50/50 raffle. *Conway Daily Sun, August 9, 2022*

Swift River Bridge, Conway, Carroll County – NH/29-02-05#2

On July 19th, the Conway Daily Sun reported that the bridge was recently tagged by graffiti artists. The vandalism was reported to the town's Recreation Department by one of its staff members. "It's a nice picnic area and unfortunately some people are choosing to deface it by doing some spray paint graffiti," said Conway Recreation Director Mike Lane adding his staff will be painting over it in the next few days. The single-span Paddleford truss bridge was built in 1870 by the father and son team of Jacob E. Berry and Jacob H. Berry. It was bypassed with a new steel and concrete bridge in 1974. *Conway Daily Sun, July 19, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Whittier or Bearcamp Bridge, Ossipee, Carroll County – NH/29-02-08



Ossipee's town administrator said the project to reinstall the Whittier Covered Bridge, closed since 2008, over the Bearcamp River should be done by the end of the year reconnecting Nudd Road with Covered Bridge Road, off Route 16 in West Ossipee. The Paddleford truss structure was probably built in 1870 to replace an earlier bridge lost during the great freshet of 1869. Although its construction is often credited to Jacob Berry, definite proof of that has not yet been found. *KPVI-TV, Pocatello, ID, June 17, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

New Hampshire (continued)

Mechanic Street Bridge, Lancaster, Coös County – NH/29-04-06

On July 11th, the bridge was damaged for the second time this summer by a negligent driver of a box truck. The driver, Mike Litchfield of Malden, Massachusetts, drove through the bridge and failed to stop after damaging the structure. A visitor taking pictures of the bridge at the time provided photos of the



vehicle to Lancaster police who issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Litchfield. The damage included eight roof braces, three tie-beams in the roof support system, both portals, three vertical truss posts and the Fire-Wire fire detection system. Lancaster Selectman Leon Rideout shared these photos of the damage. Within a few days



after the accident, Arnold M. Grāton Associates performed some repairs so that the bridge could be re-opened to traffic. The remaining repair work will be done later in the fall. The single-span Paddleford truss bridge was built over the Israel River in 1862. *WCAX, July 13, 2022.*

Ohio

Harpersfield Bridge, Ashtabula County – OH/35-04-19

Last quarter we reported that Union Industrial Contractors was awarded a project to rehabilitate both the covered bridge and steel truss bridge for \$6,057,260.50. The project will reconstruct the abutments and piers of the structure. Once complete, there will also be sidewalks on both sides of the bridge. The project completion date is December 31, 2023. Terry Miller visited the site on July 24th and discovered that the bridges had been completely removed from the river. The Howe trusses laying on the ground a little south of the bridge. Terry shared this photo of the trusses.



The next phase of the project will include repairs to the abutments and piers. The contractors have been able to keep the park open on both side of the Grand River where people can watch the construction underway. Keeping the park open was one of the stipulations of the \$5 million federal grant which is paying for the bulk of the project. An Ohio Public Works Grant contributed \$350,000 and the remaining costs came from local funds. *Ashtabula Star-Beacon, July 26, 2022.*

Lynchburg Bridge, Clinton & Highland Counties- OH/35-14-11 & OH/35-36-06



Updates from Ohio DOT's District 9 have only noted that the work on this bridge, which began in January, is still underway and is expected to be completed this fall. Member Jeff Shroyer shared these photos of the work in progress from his visit to the site in late May. The single-span bridge was built in 1870 by John C. Gregg of Hillsboro, Ohio at the cost of \$3,138.66. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 16, 1976.



Ohio (continued)

Spellacy Bridge, Holmes County

On April 26th, Holmes County Engineer Chris Young held a public meeting to discuss plans to construct a new covered bridge over the Mohican River on the Wally Road Scenic Byway (Route 23) about six miles south of Loudonville (N40.594085°, W82.206858°). It will replace a bridge built in 1993 which has deteriorated. In July, bids were requested. Two bids were received and the lowest one was \$10.5 million, almost 17% over the \$9 million estimate. Holmes County commissioners rejected the bids for the bridge project because they exceeded the 10 percent limit over the engineer's estimate.



"Being a county, if bids come in at 10 percent over the engineer's estimate, we legally can't do that," Young said. "We're hoping to turn this around as quickly as we can. We're rebidding with the next

bid opening date being Aug. 15, which is tight, but will keep us on schedule for the work that needs to be done yet this year." *Rendering provided by Smolen Engineering.*

Knowlton or Long Bridge, Monroe County – OH/35-56-18

We last reported on the status of the project to rebuild this bridge in the Summer 2021 issue, page 18. For those not familiar with this saga, the three-span 192 foot-long structure over the Little Muskingum River was built in 1887. One of those spans collapsed on July 5, 2019 while the county was working on preparing plans to repair it. On June 17, 2020, a second span collapsed leaving one remaining intact. Last year we noted that the county was planning to harvest much of the timber for the project from county lands.

"Covered bridges are unique, and we need to do everything that we can to protect and preserve them. Of all the covered bridges that I've done in the last 30 years, this one has become the most unique."

Tony Durm, Ohio DOT Engineer



On July 7th, a Martins Ferry Times Leader article about expanding bike trails on county lands noted that the county will finish gathering the white oak for the bridge project by the end of July. *Photo by Terry Miller.*

Bigelow Bridge, Union County – OH/35-80-04

On June 29th, the Marysville Journal-Tribune reported that crews were repairing damage to this bridge caused by a vehicle a month earlier. The single-span Partridge truss bridge was built in 1873. *Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo.*



Ohio (continued)

Spain Creek Bridge, Union County – OH/35-80-02

On June 29th, the bridge was damaged by an oversized vehicle and closed until the Union County Engineers’ Office can make the repairs. The parts have been specially ordered and need to be cut in a lumber mill. The single-span Partridge truss bridge was built around 1870. *WMCH-NBC4-TV, July 2, 2022. Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo.*



Oregon

Shimanek Bridge, Linn County – OR/37-22-03#2

In the previous issue (page 21) we described the details of this \$2.9 million project to repair the 130-foot-long Howe truss bridge. Member Jerry Russell was on hand to watch the bridge be removed from its abutments on June 2nd. While off the river, the lower chord will be replaced. It was reported that those Douglas fir timbers have decayed along their entire length. Due to the difficulty of obtaining new Douglas fir timbers of sufficient size for the job, they will be replaced by glulam beams. By June 13th, removal of the abutments and approaches was nearly complete. The work is expected to be completed by late October. *Albany Democrat-Herald, June 13, 2022.*



*Moving Day
Jerry Russell Photo
June 2, 2022*



*Alan Viewig Photo
August 13, 2022*



*New lower chord
Alan Viewig Photo
August 13, 2022*

Pennsylvania

Little Gap Bridge, Carbon County – PA/38-13-02

On Saturday, June 25th a U-Haul truck attempted to cross the bridge but was stopped by the structure’s height restriction bar. The bridge was closed for the remainder of the weekend until county crews could repair the bar. Last March, a Penske box truck struck the same barriers, causing over \$8,000 in damage to the steel I-beam that the barriers hang from. The single-span Burr truss bridge was built in 1860. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980. *Times News, June 27, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Pennsylvania (continued)

Shoemakers Bridge, Columbia County – PA/38-19-06

The Columbia County Covered Bridge Association (CCCBA) who is responsible for maintenance of the structure, initiated a project to recap of the wing walls of the bridge. The work was done by Donald E. Kocher Masonry. The Association posted these photos of the work on their Facebook page on August 19th. This was one of two projects recently undertaken by the group.



Stillwater Bridge, Columbia County – PA/38-19-21

At the June meeting, we voted to contribute towards work at the portals to correct a drainage problem causing deterioration. The CCCBA is responsible for maintenance of the structure posted photos of the work on their Facebook page on August 19th. Chris Young, CCCBA President, emailed the following note to association members: "It is with tremendous gratitude that I can tell you we have received two \$5,000 dollar donations to cover the expenses of both projects. I would like everyone to thank the Columbia/Montour Visitor Bureau and the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges (NSPCB) for their generous donations. We couldn't do what we do without the partnership of many organizations dedicated to the preservation and advocacy of Covered Bridges."



Hollingshead Bridge, Columbia County - PA/38-19-34

Chris Young also informed us that a truck took out roof braces all along one side of the structure. Jim & Gloria Smedley visited the site on August 24th and shared these photos. The organization's bridge engineer also inspected the structure on that day. The bridge was expected to open during the following weekend. The single-span Burr truss bridge was built by Peter Ent for \$1,180. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 29, 1979.



Pennsylvania (continued)

North Oriental or Curry's Corner or Beaver Bridge, Juniata & Snyder County – PA/38-34-05 & PA/38-55-05

On July 18th, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced that repairs to the bridge were postponed until August 1. PennDOT said it delayed the start of work because it has yet to receive some materials needed for timber repairs. Overall work includes timber repairs, removal and resetting of stone masonry facing, and miscellaneous construction. Jay Fulkroad and Sons, Inc. of McAlisterville, PA, is the contractor on this \$359,000 project. All work is weather and schedule dependent. The bridge is 65 feet long and carries an average of 874 vehicles daily. It suffered damage in a 2021 crash that PennDOT repaired using temporary means. There were no later press releases before this Newsletter was completed indicating that the project had started. The single-span bridge was



built in 1908 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. *Photo by Gloria Smedley.*

Waggoner's Bridge, Perry County, Pennsylvania – PA/38-50-15

This bridge was known by many names, Wagner's, Wagoner's, Waggoner's and Roddy's Mill. In the



Winter 2020/2021 Newsletter, we noted that this bridge had been lost due to a suspicious fire. Apparently, we were a little premature in that assessment. K.C. Klingensmith and Bob Griner visited the site and discovered that someone has done some work at the bridge. The end posts have been replaced and a new roof and siding added to cover



the charred trusses. They shared these updated photos of the bridge. According to its National Register application, it was built by Joseph D. Lightner to replace a structure lost during a flood in 1889.

Shaffer's or Ben's Creek Bridge, Somerset County – PA/38-56-11

Thornbury Inc., a Butler County contractor, started work on a \$152,700 project to rehabilitate the bridge in early July. The bridge was closed for almost a month during the work. Treated hardwood was used to repair the bridge's deteriorating roof support beams, which have been on the county's repair list for several years. The county received a \$100,000 Department of Community and Economic Development grant last summer to stabilize the structure. The remaining costs were covered by the county's annual liquid fuels funds. The bridge was reopened to traffic on August 2nd. The single span bridge was built over Ben's Creek in 1877. It was added to the



1980. *The Tribune-Democrat, June 28, 2022 and August 3, 2022. Photo by Greg McDuffee.*

Pennsylvania (continued)

Hassenplug Bridge, Union County – PA/38-60-03

In the previous Newsletter (page 22), we reported that Lancaster County Timber Frames of York, Pennsylvania was working on repairs to the structure. The work is now complete and there was an opening ceremony on August 24th. The metal grated floor has been replaced with a wooden floor. The 70-foot-long span that was reportedly built circa 1825. According to Joe McCarthy of Lancaster County Timber Frames, more than half of the timbers were preserved. He, along with Jim & Gloria Smedley, attended the ceremony. *Photos by Gloria Smedley.*



Factory or Horsham or Yocum School Bridge, Union County – PA/38-60-04

On June 2nd, we received some information about this project from Duane Gaugler, a senior project manager with the Larson Design Group. The project is to repair some bridge elements that have deteriorated over time. Work includes the replacement of the existing steel beams, replacement of deteriorated timbers and a new timber deck. The truss members needing replacement include the lower chords, portions of the upper chords, 5 diagonals and the end posts. Headache bars will be installed on each approach since the structure has been hit by oversized trucks in the past. The project is currently out for bid with bid opening on July 14, 2022. Construction is anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2023. *Photo provided by Larson Design Group.*



Vermont

Salisbury Station Bridge, Addison County – VT/45-01-01x

On September 10, 2016, this bridge connecting the towns of Salisbury and Cornwall was destroyed by a suspicious fire. So far, no one has been charged in connection with the fire. Near the end of 2021, the Vermont Agency of Transportation offered the towns three options: a new steel beam bridge with a concrete deck, a new “truss bridge” (material not specified) or a new covered bridge. The Selectboard



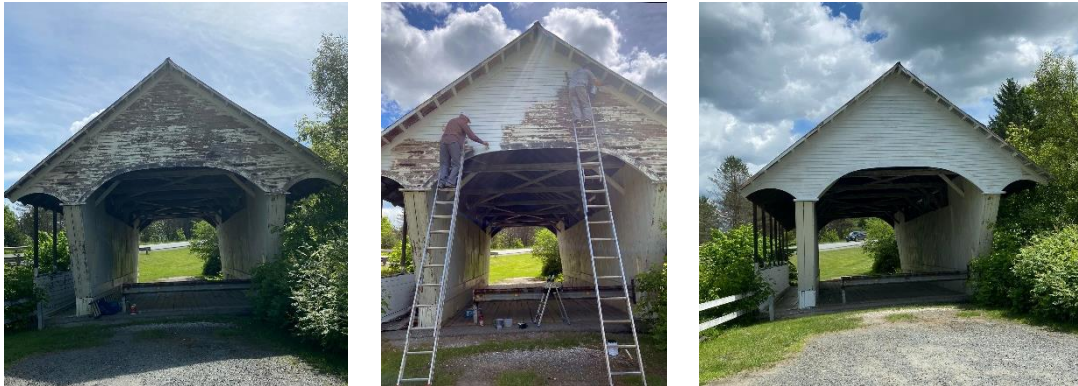
members of both towns sent postpaid postcards to each resident asking for their preference. In mid-May, they announced the results. Salisbury residents were mostly split between the covered bridge and steel options with the covered bridge receiving slightly more votes. Nearly 60% of the Cornwall residents who expressed a preference opted for the covered bridge option. At a combined Selectboard meeting on May 17, the board members voted 7-1 in favor of the covered bridge alternative. That alternative was estimated at \$4,387,004 with a local share of \$219,350 for each town which would be covered by insurance money. The project will now need to go through the design and review process with

construction possibly in 2025. *Addison County Independent, May 25, 2022. Photo by Scott Wagner.*

Vermont (continued)

Schoolhouse Bridge, Lyndonville, Caledonia County – VT/45-03-03

On June 11th a group of 25 volunteers scraped and painted the bridge and did some other cleanup work in the area. There is still more painting to be done at a later date. These photos of the event were provided by Joanna Hastings.



Miller’s Run or Bradley Bridge, Lyndonville, Caledonia County – VT/45-03-06#2



The bridge was struck again on July 16th. According to the Vermont State Police press release, Joshua Stewart, of Owings Mill, Maryland, was returning a Penski moving truck that he had rented when the top of the truck struck the entrance to the bridge. There is a sign before the bridge stating that “All vehicles above 11’ 9” DO NOT fit under the covered bridge.” Realizing the mistake he made, Stewart pulled over after exiting the bridge to call state police. The cost of the damage done to the bridge is not known at this time. A Town crew made the repairs on August 22nd. *Vermont State Police press release, July 18, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

Sanborn Bridge, Lyndonville, Caledonia County – VT/45-03-05

On August 15th, Bill & Jenn Caswell met with Nicole Gratton, Lyndon Town Planning Director, to discuss the upcoming event on September 24th and future plans for this bridge. It was good to see that the



“temporary” repairs funded by the NSPCB were still holding up after nine years and most of the material stored within the bridge has been removed. However, there are concerns about the failing abutments. The one on the north side (shown here), where the motel used to be, appears to be



worse than the other. The town is looking for grants to help fund the repairs and eventually develop a small park on the south side of the bridge.

On August 24th, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), a partnership between the federal government and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont, announced that the Town of Lyndon was awarded \$350,000 grant from its State Economic and Infrastructure Development program towards rehabilitation of the bridge and development of the 1.5-acre riverfront park adjacent to the bridge, connecting nearby recreational trails and waterways. *Vermont Business Magazine, August 24, 2022.*

Vermont (continued)

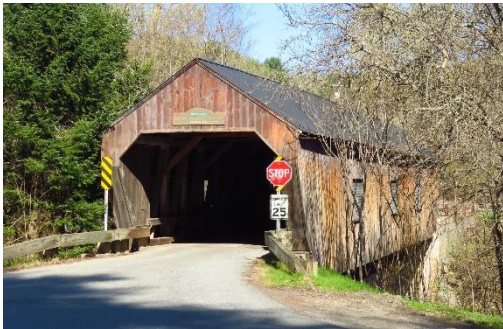
Jaynes or Coddington Hollow or Upper Bridge, Waterville, Lamoille County – VT/45-08-15

On May 28th, one of Vermont’s newest residents was born while her parents crossed this covered bridge. Rebecca Abair, the proud mother, and her partner Jesse Locke were rushing through the bridge on their way to the hospital, but their daughter Vivienne June wasn’t going to wait. The couple only got a couple minutes down the road when they knew the baby wasn’t going to wait. Vivienne June, a healthy eight-pound, nine-ounce daughter was born in the bridge. *WCAX-TV, June 2, 2022. Photo by Steve Brown.*



Union Village Bridge, Thetford, Orange County – VT/45-09-05

The bridge was damaged by an oversize vehicle sometime on August 22nd. The vehicle left the scene and damage was reported later by a local resident. The bridge was closed for about three hours until it



could be inspected and determined safe for traffic. Thetford Police Chief Michael Scruggs said the vehicle began hitting roof braces about 20 to 30 feet in. One was completely broken and two others severely damaged. The 10 foot, 6 inch clearance is clearly



posted on both sides of the bridge. The single-span multiple kingpost bridge was built in 1867 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 17, 1974.

Warren or Lincoln Gap, Warren, Washington County – VT/45-12-15

The Warren Select Board posted a request for bids for work to be done on this bridge. The work was primarily concrete work along the bridge’s abutment and was estimated by Dubois and King engineers to cost approximately \$450,000. There was only one bid entered, from ECI Engineers, which was over \$1.1 million, significantly more than the select board had expected. The board decided to reject the bid and rebid for the work in the fall. The 55-foot-long Queen truss bridge was built by Walter Bagley in 1880. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 7, 1974. *The Valley Reporter, June 18, 2022. Photo by Michael Rudnick.*



NSPCB Facebook Page

To help spread the word about our mission, the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. has a Facebook page. The page is used for sharing current bridge related news and Society meeting information. If you use Facebook, visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/nspcb>. “Like” our page and share it with your friends.



Virginia

Meem’s Bottom Bridge, Shenandoah County – VA/46-82-01

On July 1st, WHSV-TV announced that repairs to the historic covered bridge are complete and it has been re-opened to traffic. The bridge was closed in November 2021 due to damage from repeated strikes



by oversized vehicles. Multiple signs on both sides of the structure advise motorists that vehicles are limited to 10 feet in height, 12 feet in width, and a weight of 13 tons. In 2018 signs and overhead clearance bars were installed with suspended chains to alert drivers of oversized vehicles approaching the bridge. Despite these warning



devices, the bridge was struck 11 times between 2019 and 2021. The risk of permanent damage to the historic structure may force VDOT to close the bridge to all but pedestrian traffic. *WHSV, July 1, 2022. Photos by Michael Rudnick.*

West Virginia

Carrollton Bridge, Barbour County – WV/48-01-02

We last reported on this bridge in the Fall 2021 issue, page 23. After being partially burned by an arsonist on August 10, 2017 the bridge was reopened to traffic a month later on September 14th. The floor system of the 1856 Burr truss bridge had been replaced by a concrete deck in 1962. The West Virginia Division of Highways announced that the cleaning work for the restoration began on July 11. Tiger Diversified LLC was awarded a contract in May 2021 to provide the timber for the restoration. Contractors for Span 1, LLC have installed scaffolding and rigging to replace the bridge’s wooden siding and portions of the upper superstructure. The District 7 bridge department was to begin replacing the wood. They hope to complete the work in the fall. *WBOY-TV, June 30, 2022 & July 11, 2022. Photo by Michele Lee Victor.*



Barrackville Bridge, Marion County – WV/48-25-02

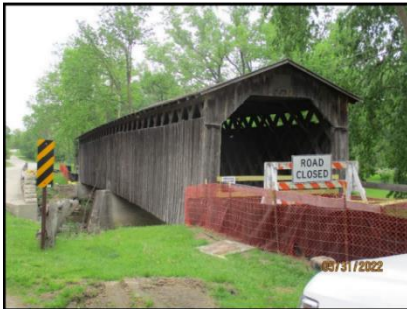
The Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Association hosted its first covered bridge festival on June 18th. Even though the event needed to be moved from the bridge area to the school on short notice, it was a great success. After expenses were calculated, the committee raised almost \$8,000 towards repair of the bridge. Positive feedback from this first bridge festival encouraged the committee to schedule next year’s festival for Saturday, June 17, 2023. The committee encourages anyone that has an interest in preserving the bridge to attend future meetings. Donations to the Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Society can be made out to that organization and mailed to Lion’s Club, P.O. Box 429, Barrackville WV 26559. For more information, email them at saveourbridge@aol.com or visit the group’s Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/SavetheBarrackvilleBridgeAgain>. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Wisconsin

Cedarburg Bridge, Ozaukee County – WI/49-46-01

Last quarter, we reported that Wisconsin’s last historic covered bridge was closed to all traffic following the discovery of a large crack on one of the bridge’s trusses. The 120’ long Town truss bridge was built in 1876 and retired from service in 1962. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 14, 1973. The county hired Jewell Associates Engineers of Spring Green, Wisconsin to inspect the structure and recommend repairs. The inspection report was presented at the June 16th meeting of the Ozaukee County Public Works Committee. The photos here were part of that report. The most significant issue was the failure of the lower chord at its connection with the abutment at the northwest corner of the bridge. The report detailed additional issues and included a recommended course of action. The committee authorized a contract for repairs up to \$70,000. We contacted Jon Edgren, the Public Works Director, who informed us that work is presently being done on the adjacent roadway bridge and the covered bridge will be repaired once the other project is complete.



Connection of the lower chord at the abutment on the northwest corner.

Canada – New Brunswick

William Mitton Bridge, Albert County – NB/55-01-22

This bridge has not seen any maintenance in many years and is now badly deteriorated. It has been closed to all visitors. The Covered Bridge Conservation Association of New Brunswick (CBCANB) has scheduled a rally at the site on August 21st (rain date of August 28th) to raise awareness of its needs. Ray Boucher, president of the CBCANB, has gotten a couple articles in local newspapers to draw attention to the bridge. The structure is owned by the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure who is willing to transfer ownership to the community. However, the town of Riverview is not interested in taking possession of the bridge. NSPCB offered a donation of \$200 towards the group’s expenses for this rally and future efforts.



A number of sources note that this bridge was originally built in Kent County and was carried to its present location by floodwaters in the spring of 1942. So far, the original location has not been identified. Joan Gregory’s “Albert County Sketchbook” states that the bridge presently sits on a road which passed the William Mitton farm. The road had been bypassed by a new road. The 1942 floodwaters mentioned in other sources carried away the bridge on the new road. It continues to say that this bridge was moved from Kent County at that time and placed on the old road to be used as a detour until the new road was repaired. It has remained there. *Photos by Ray Boucher.*

New Brunswick (continued)

Parkindale or Magnetic Hill, Westmorland County – NB/55-14-14

The historic covered bridge at Magnetic Hill closed for emergency repairs and an overall assessment of its structural integrity on June 9th. The single lane covered bridge is near the main entrance to the Magnetic Hill complex at the top of Mountain Road, the boardwalk shops, Magnetic Hill Zoo and the Magic Mountain water park. Repairs to the bridge began Thursday and it is closed to traffic, with a detour to the other attractions. The bridge was originally constructed in 1916 to span the Little River on Route 895 in Parkindale. In 1982, it was dismantled and moved to the park where it was rebuilt using the original timbers. The article mentioned that a couple vehicles struck the bridge last year but did not specify details of the repairs. *Times & Transcript on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Ontario

West Montrose or Kissing Bridge, Waterloo County – ON/59-50-01

As noted in last Winter's issue, the bridge over the Grand River will be closed for about a year to undergo a \$4-million rehabilitation. In June, the Region of Waterloo provided additional information on the intended repairs and solicited comments. After recommendations from the NSPCB and others, they contacted Dr. Dan Tingley of Wood Research and Development (WRD) because of his specialized expertise in strengthening of wood truss bridges. The material offered in June presented a variation on Dr. Tingley's methods. Bill Caswell prepared and submitted a response expressing NSPCB's concerns after discussing the Regional government's most recent proposal with Tony Dowling from the West Montrose Residents' Association and Dr. Tingley. For more information on this project, visit <https://www.engagewr.ca/west-montrose>. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



Québec

We are grateful to Pascal Conner whose *Blogue sur les ponts couverts* (pontscouverts.com/blogue/) provides most of the Québec news each quarter. Unless otherwise noted, all Québec articles were derived from that website.

Pont de Saint-Placide-de-Charlevoix, Charlevoix Region – QC/61-14-03

In the summer Newsletter (page 26), we reported that the bridge had been closed after heavy snow collapsed a portion of the roof in April. Gérald Arbour visited the bridge in June and noticed that the damaged portion of the roof has been secured until complete repairs can be made. He also reported that some rotted sections of the bridge deck were also replaced. The bridge is scheduled for major repair work in 2023. The single-span 113' long bridge over Rivière du Gouffre Nord-Ouest was built in 1926. *Photo by Gérald Arbour.*



Québec (continued)

Pont Félix-Gabriel-Marchand, Outaouais Region – QC/61-53-01

In the summer Newsletter (page 26), we mentioned that the recent bridge repairs included interior lighting. At the end of July, Gérald Arbour visited the site to see it illuminated at night. According to a nearby sign, an app can be downloaded to your smartphone to control the lighting of the bridge. Although it won't show up well in the printed black & white copy, the online version of the Newsletter is in color.



Pont Romain-Caron or Saint-Jean de la Lande, Bas-Saint-Laurent Region – QC/61-71-03

The municipality of Saint-Jean-de-la-Lande is developing the area around the bridge. Mayor Léo-Paul Charest confirmed that a first segment of a multi-purpose trail from the New Brunswick border to the bridge will be open during the summer. The project, estimated at nearly \$100,000, will be a continuation of the



50.8 km (31.6 mile) long Méruimticook Trail running from Edmunston, New Brunswick to Lac Baker near the Québec border. The new segment will be three to four kilometres long running along Lac Baker, join the Lac Baker Road and then to the covered bridge. Work was expected to be completed in June. They are also planning to construct a stage for



musical performances during the summer. *infodiamache.com, May 25, 2022. Photos by Pascal Conner.*

China

Wan'an Bridge, Pingnan County, Fujian Province

Ron Knapp shared news articles from the Chinese press about the loss of this bridge to a fire late in the evening of August 6th. No one was injured and the cause of the fire is under investigation. Although the news articles stated that the bridge was 900 years old, research by Ron Knapp and Terry Miller for their *China's Covered Bridges* book determined that it had been completely rebuilt in 1932-1933. It consisted of six spans using the woven arch design common in China and was 316.8 feet long. It was thought to be the longest of the woven arch covered bridges. The woven arches are under the structure with the housing above. *Jimu News, August 7, 2022. Photos by Chester Ong and Terry Miller.*



Vaughan Creek #1 Bridge, St. Martins, New Brunswick

St. Martins iconic Vaughan Creek #1 covered bridge was constructed in 1935. When plans were announced to replace it, a campaign was started to try to save the bridge. Ray Boucher, president of the Covered Bridge Conservation Association of New Brunswick started with the petition-signing rally at the bridge which led to letter-writing campaigns and meetings with officials. A rally held in June 2018 brought widespread media attention to their efforts.



Undated photo in NSPCB Archives

The New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure released a rendering of a replacement structure consisting of a steel bridge made to look like a covered bridge.



Rally to save the bridge in June 2018.

Protests from preservation groups and local citizens continued. On April 17, 2021, the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick, Association Heritage New Brunswick and the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges released a joint statement urging others to contact their elected officials and share their concerns on social media.

Although the public interest couldn't stop the heritage structure from being razed, it did affect a design change. Initially the new structure was proposed to be a 2-lane steel bridge with a wooden housing to look like a covered bridge. Ultimately, that was changed to a modern timber bridge which has been under construction for the past few months.



Becky Kunze Carr Photo August 11, 2022

On August 11th, Betty Kunze Carr shared the image of the interior showing that it is now open to traffic. Her drone photo on the cover was taken two days earlier.



Ray Boucher Photo

Ray Boucher spoke with the chief engineer on the project who informed him that the bridge is built using hemlock from Norton, New Brunswick and the roofing consists of cedar shakes, also from New Brunswick. Dunbar Construction Limited is building the \$5.5 million project with Western Wood Structures providing the wood timbers for the project. Dunbar also constructed the covered bridge at Point Wolfe in Fundy Park in 1992 *CBC News, July 7, 2022 and Ray Boucher. Photos below by Becky Kunze Carr.*



June 12, 2022



August 9, 2022



August 26, 2022