

The Newsletter

National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc.

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Chambers Railroad Bridge 37-20-40
Cottage Grove, Oregon
Is it too late to save this rare covered bridge?

2010 Calendar of Events, Dedications, Dinners & Safaris

March 14 Sunday at 1:00 p.m. New York State Covered Bridge Society Meeting

Location: Masonic Lodge, 206 Front St., Deposit, NY 13754

Program: Dick Bailey will present a program about Virginia's Covered Bridges

March 21 Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Ohio Historic Bridge Association 50th Anniversary Dinner

Location: Heritage Golf Club at 3523 Heritage Club Drive, Hilliard, OH (east of Columbus)

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Speaker: Mr. David C. Fischetti, P.E., owner of DCF Engineering, Inc., Cary, N.C.

Program: The Town Lattice Truss, History and Rehabilitation

Send your reservation to: Mr. Joe Charles, 726 Newark-Granville Rd., Granville, OH 43023-1451

Phone: 740-587-2266

March 28 at 1:00 p.m. The National Society Meeting

Location: The Bear Hill Rehab and Nursing Home, 11 North Street. Stoneham, MA. From I-95 S Take exit 37 A to merge onto I 95 N towards Peabody. Take exit 38A to merge onto MA-28S/Main St. for 0.8 miles towards Stoneham. Make a U turn and a slight right (on North St.). Bear Hill will be on the left.

From I-95/US1. merge onto I-95 S. Take exit 38A to merge onto MA-28S/Main St. and follow as above. As many of you know, the good Colonel Wilbar Hoxie is in residence here. This is a chance for members from this area to talk to the colonel and get acquainted. (The approx. GPS coordinates for the Bear Hill Rehab Center are N42° 30.0015', W71° 6.0453') (*info from Dick Roy*)

April 11 Sunday at 1:00 p.m. New York State Covered Bridge Society Annual Dinner

Location: Spaghetti Warehouse 689 Clinton St., Syracuse, NY 13210

Cost: \$16.00 per person

Send reservations to: Ron & Ali McGay, 105 Rebecca St., N. Syracuse, NY 13212 by April 5th

Go to www.nycoveredbridges.org for directions

April 11th at 2:00 p.m. The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania

Location: At the Manheim Township Municipal Building.

Program: **Bake Sale and Auction** of the covered bridge items which were collected by Corena Dunkle, and also other items donated by the Theodore Burr Society members.

April 25 at 1:00 p.m. The National Society Meeting

Location: at the Plymouth Church, 97 Edgell Rd., Framingham, MA. Join us and enjoy the fine photographs of **Bob Watts**, one of our newer members, and current corresponding secretary. Bob is a **Nikon** factory rep and has some excellent photographs!

April 24 at 10:00 a.m. Vermont Covered Bridge Society Annual Spring Meeting

Location: Visions of Vermont Art Gallery in Jeffersonville, in the Sugar House Studio at 100 Main St.

Program: Mr. Jim Ligon of the Alpine Construction Co. will be the featured speaker. The subject is the restoration of the Cambridge Junction Bridge.

April 24 & 25 Indiana Covered Bridge Society Tour

A tour of Vigo and Vermillion Counties

Contact Margaret Smith for details. Her e-mail is: margaret.smith803@gmail.com

May 1st & 2nd The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania

ANNUAL SAFARI & 51st ANNIVERSARY DINNER A tour of Lancaster County bridges. Members will have dinner next to the Poole Forge Bridge on Saturday evening. Cost of the dinner is \$17.00 per adult or \$14.00 for children under 12. A regular meeting will be held after the dinner in the Ironmaster's Mansion. There is a safari fee of \$5.00 per member and \$10.00 for non-members. Send your reservations to Mr. Robert J. Kuether, 1080 5th Ave., Steelton, PA 17113 Phone: 717-939-8228 or kuether@verizon.net Safari Headquarters will be at the Weathervane Motor Court \$52.15 per night (717) 397-3398

May 14, 15, 16 New York Covered Bridge Society Safari

Northwestern New Hampshire and Northeastern Vermont

Headquarters: The Lynburke Motel 791 Main St., Lyndonville, VT 05851 Phone (802) 626-3346

Web site: www.lynburkemotel.com

Also see the NYSCBS web site for more details: www.nycoveredbridges.org

President Donna Freeland's e-mail is: dfreeland@hvc.rr.com

June 4th -6th Moscow Covered Bridge Festival in Moscow, Indiana**June 6th at 11:00 a.m. (Sunday) Theodore Burr Society of PA Meeting**

Location: at the Kreidersville Covered Bridge Festival in Northampton County

June 27th at Noon National Society Meeting

Location: The Contoocook Railroad Bridge in Hopkinton, NH. Meet at the Pizza Parlor next to the bridge for lunch. The meeting will begin at 1:00.

July 11 at 1:00 p.m. New York State Covered Bridge Society Annual Picnic

Location: High Falls Covered Bridge

July 11 at 12:00 noon Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA Annual Picnic

Location: At the Poole Forge Covered Bridge Park in Lancaster County. Bring a dish to share and your own tableware & drinks.

July 18 at noon Ohio Historic Bridge Association Annual Picnic

Location: At the Salt Creek Covered Bridge in Muskingum County

Bring a dish to share, your own chairs and tableware

July 24 & 25 Indiana Covered Bridge Society Tour

Location: Montgomery and Putnam Counties

August 1 at 2:00 p.m. Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA Meeting

Location: The Manheim Township Municipal Building.

Program: "Bridges of the Octorara Valley" by Clint Frackman.

Sept. 12th at 2:00 p.m. The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA Meeting

Location: At the Manheim Township Municipal Building

Program: "*Gone but Not Forgotten*" by Jim & Gloria Smedley, which is about the lost covered bridges in Pennsylvania.

The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members, Greetings!

Just a very brief message this quarter due to the press of much other business, in the present instance, mostly Society business. Very likely, full details as to just what the Society business in question has consisted of shall become the focus of the next President's Message, so, as was often said in the great days of AM radio, please stay tuned.

To change the subject, I am happy to report that as I look out my window today, there is some hope. The snow, of which we have had plenty lately, now appears to be melting away fairly rapidly. Put a bit differently, the Covered Bridge visiting season shall be upon us sooner, probably, than most of us currently believe, and the start of the Covered Bridge visiting season is always a good thing. My very best wishes to all of you respecting whatever plans you may have formulated for this season, as well as for the upcoming spring and summer.

One final matter: at some point during the transfer of last quarter's President's Message from Westminster to Brian McKee out in Ohio, then from Ohio back to Manchester, New Hampshire, where it is printed, part of the text got garbled. A decent respect for our glorious English Language compels me to make the following correction: the first sentence of the second paragraph on page 4 of the Winter Newsletter should read, "To conclude the above discussion, it would be most interesting to learn who actually invented the truss which survives today only within the confines of the Bath Village and Sayres Covered Bridges, and when it was invented".

Until next time then, Happy Bridging!!

David W. Wright

President

Welcome New Members!

Sara Beth Kohut, 1862 New London Road, Lincoln University, PA 19352

Robert Sheldon, 910 Rainbow Ave., Reading, PA 19605

Summer 2010 Newsletter Deadline

The Newsletter deadline has been moved up a couple of weeks to be on the 1st of the month from now on. The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in June. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit photos, articles, etc., should send them to the EDITOR by **June 1, 2010**. In order to save us from a lot of re-typing, please send your articles by e-mail or on a computer disc (no floppies, please), if at all possible. If this isn't possible, then the regular mail will do just fine, as it always has. If you type the information, please use PLAIN WHITE PAPER. If your submissions are extracted from a published newspaper or magazine, or an internet web site, include the source of the information so that we can give proper credit. Send all items to the editor, Brian McKee, 13008 TH60, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351 e-mail bjmckee@gmail.com

We are getting too much news and information from the internet these days and not very much from our members. Maybe this is a sign of the times, but we really need to have more covered bridge news sent to us for the Newsletter. Please remember that we always appreciate any news that is sent in, even if we ultimately can't use it. *THANK YOU!*



Covered Spans of Yesteryear

by Bill Caswell

I'm sure many of you are looking forward to the end of winter. We did a bit of traveling in February and were amused by the huge banks of snow along the roads in Washington DC. As we continued southward we were still seeing snow in North Carolina and Tennessee. An unusual year for sure.

Along with the warmer weather you can also look forward to a new covered bridge book in Arcadia's "Images of America" series. John Burk, an outdoor writer, photographer, and historian who has authored guidebooks and articles related to the New England outdoors has compiled a collection of images that document many of the lost bridges of Massachusetts, and also record the changes of the few that remain today. Watch for it this summer.

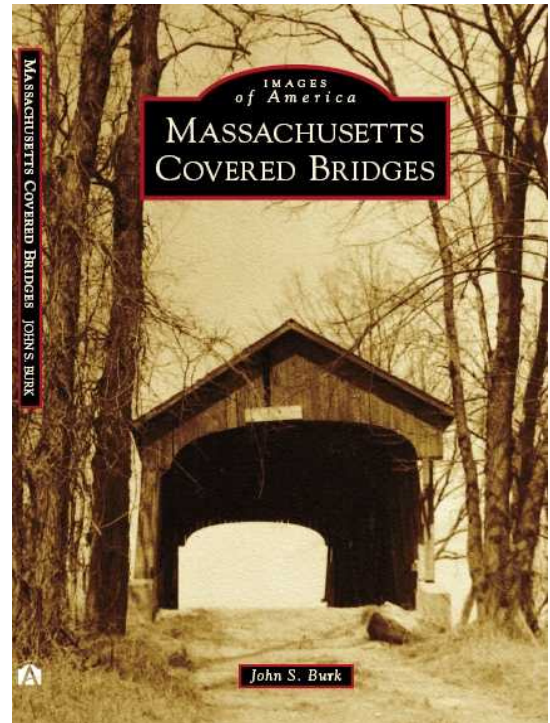
One tremendous advantage we have over our predecessors is the seemingly boundless amount of information available to anyone with Internet access. It is difficult to imagine the hours our predecessors spent writing letters to state and county officials, historical societies, and local libraries to gather bridge information. While there is still a vast amount of information yet to be discovered in these locations, there are valuable resources easily accessible right from your computer.

Google has become much more than just a tool for searching web pages. One of their many collections is a large library of electronic and digitized books including many county and local histories. Typically, these are books whose copyright restrictions have expired so they can be publicly reproduced. Visit <http://books.google.com/> and start your search. Google also has newspapers available for selected cities. Go to <http://news.google.com/archivesearch> to start searching their archives.

More newspapers are available from the Library of Congress website (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>). While you are there, explore their collection of digital photos (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html>). For more detailed information about select bridges, you can access many reports of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) at http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/hhquery.html. The Library's panoramic maps collection (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/pmhtml/panhome.html>) contains birds-eye-view maps for various cities and towns that were created in the late 1800's.

Map resources such as Google Earth (<http://earth.google.com/>), Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com/>), and Bing Maps (<http://www.bing.com/maps/>) can help pinpoint bridge locations. They often include a "street view" feature that can help locate structures shown in old photographs. Topographic maps for most of the US and Canada are available at <http://www.topoquest.com/>. Their search feature will allow you to search for the town, village, river or other named feature you are looking for and direct you to the map containing that location.

Good luck with your research.



News of Old Covered Bridges

Connecticut

Comstock Bridge CT-04-01 (Middlesex County) 1873 94' Howe truss Salmon River

A million dollar rehab project is under way at this old Connecticut covered bridge. The bridge is to be disassembled and then repaired in the parking area next to it. Officials were concerned that it wasn't even capable of supporting its own weight, not to mention pedestrians. It has been closed to automobile traffic for several years.

Barr, Inc. of Putnam was given the contract for the project and is supposed to rebuild the bridge with "historic accuracy". 80 percent of the costs are being paid for by the National Historic Covered Bridge Fund. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2011.

Maryland

Jericho Bridge 20-03-02 20-12-01 (Hartford & Baltimore Counties) 1865 88' Multi-King w Arch

Some quick repairs were done on November 2nd to temporarily fix damage caused by rotting arches on the north-east corner. Crews installed a support under the bridge until they could make more substantial repairs, which were supposed to be completed in February. The bridge has been the target of some arson attempts recently and authorities have installed a "bullet proof" light at the Hartford end. The Baltimore end may soon get the same type of lighting. A surveillance system is being looked into. *(Thanks to Jim Smedley)*

Gilpin's Falls Bridge MD-07-01 (Cecil County) 1860 119' Multi-King w/ arch

Repairs are almost finished at Maryland's longest covered bridge. It has been closed to traffic since it was bypassed in the 1930's. The roofing and siding are completed and all that is left is some landscaping, which will be done in better weather. *(Info from Jim Smedley and Bonnie Shultz)*

New Hampshire

Bath Village Bridge 29-05-03 (Grafton County) 1832 375' Unidentified truss w/ arch Ammonoosuc River

January 25th flooding caused some damage to famous Bath Village Bridge, one of the oldest surviving covered bridges in the nation. Ice had broken loose and floated down the Ammonoosuc River, striking the bridge. A few floor and support timbers were pulled loose. The bridge was closed to all traffic and it was repaired a couple of weeks later, after the flood waters receded. *(WCAX.com January 26, 2010)*

Ohio

Kirker Bridge 35-01-10 (Adams County) 1890 63' Multi-King Post Truss East Fork of Eagle Creek

A local group, the Adams County Travel and Visitors Bureau, has taken on the job of replacing the roof on this bypassed Covered Bridge which has been neglected for several years. They also will have it painted while they are at it. More funds are needed though, before the work can be done. The ACTVB is a non-profit organization and any donations to it are tax deductible. Those wishing to make a donation to the project can contact ACTVB director Mr. Tom Cross at 937-544-5454. *(From the Ledger Independent Feb. 4, 2010)*

Photo by Brian J. McKee 9-06-2009



News of Old Covered Bridges

Oregon

Chambers Railroad Bridge 37-20-40 (Lane County) 1925 78' Howe Truss Coast Fk Willamette River

One of 10 remaining railroad timber covered bridges left in the world has been completely abandoned for several years and is now in real danger of collapsing. Local folks recently found it leaning badly to one side and it was closed to all visitors. A windstorm on January 12th was probably the cause of the suddenly increased leaning. At this point, there are doubts that it will ever be rebuilt with most of its original materials, even if they can safely disassemble it before it collapses. Federal and State agencies are making it difficult to act quickly to save the bridge, due to many bureaucratic requirements. Repairs were supposed to begin this summer. (*Info from The Register-Guard Feb. 17, 2010*)

On March 3rd, we received a brief call from Winston Ross of the Register-Guard who says the crews are building a platform under the bridge so they can safely work on it. It will still be a while before the bridge is disassembled.

Hoffman Bridge 37-22-08 (Linn County) 1936 90' Howe Truss Crabtree Creek

Bill Cockrell sent some information and photos of the Hoffman Bridge's recent repairs. The south approach was rebuilt completely. The photos show a huge 75 ton crane driving several "H" beams into the ground to support the new approach span.

Next year (2011), the bridge itself will receive extensive repairs, including glue-laminated floor beams and a new cedar shake roof. The project is being funded by a one million dollar grant from the federal government. (*Info from The Albany Democrat-Herald 3/2/2010*)

Pennsylvania

Sheard's Mill Bridge 38-09-06 (Bucks County) 1873 134' Town Truss Tohickon Creek

PennDOT will make some improvements on this bridge in the next few months, including painting and fireproofing. More serious repairs, such as deck and roof repairs are still needed, but will have to wait until additional funds can be obtained. Cost estimates are in the range of \$600,000 to \$700,000. According to the *2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges*, it is one of 14 covered bridges in the county and is still open to traffic. (*info from PhillyBurbs.com 3-5-2010*)

Red/Glen Iron/ Millmont Bridge 38-60-01 (Union County) 1855 158' Burr Truss Penn's Creek

A \$1.1 million project to rebuild this bridge is well under way. It is expected to be completed in early 2011 if all goes well. It has been closed to traffic several years, since about 1994, but will be re-opened to the public after the repairs are completed. (*Info from North Central PA.com 3-01-2010*)

South Carolina

Campbell's Bridge 40-23-02 (Greenville County) 1909 41' Howe Truss Beaverdam Creek

A new historic park area has been added around South Carolina's only remaining covered bridge. The area has been cleaned up and made into a nice place for visitors to go hiking and enjoy the old mill and cabin foundations. There is also a new parking area. (*Info from The Greenville News Feb. 16, 2010*)

Washington

Pe Ell Bridge 47-21-02 (Lewis County) 1934 Howe Truss Chehalis River

A few people have asked if this bridge was still in existence, so I checked into it and found that it had collapsed in a flood in 2007. Your editor never saw it, himself. There are some photos of it on Dale Travis' web site and also www.lostbridges.org. It is not in the *2009 World Guide*.

New Covered Bridge and Replica News

Ohio

Blanchard River Bridge in Hancock County OH-32-21

We have been following this bridge project for several months and it is finally completed. The new Pratt truss covered bridge is open to traffic. An old Pratt truss iron bridge was moved from this crossing and into the Riverbend Recreation Area just a few hundred yards away. Travelers are most likely to appreciate having a 2 lane bridge instead of the old single lane bridge. It is located 4 miles east of Findlay on OH568, then just 100yds south of OH568 on TR241. N41° 02.102', W83° 33.847' *Photo from Karen S. Bittinger*



Wisconsin

Red Mill Bridge 49-69-a (1970) 40' Town Truss

Don Schmidt, owner of the Red Mill near Waupaca, Wisconsin has been trying to sell the property for several years, hoping someone will buy it and keep it up. His parents turned the historic 1855 mill and its property into a popular gift shop back in the 1960's. The property also boasts a nice covered bridge replica and a wedding chapel. Don lives in the mill which is heated with a wood stove. Increasing expenses are making it difficult to survive on the gift shop and chapel income. More info and photos of the bridge can be seen at <http://www.dalejtravis.com/bridge/wisconsin/htm/49069a.htm>. *(From WLUK-TV Fox 11)*

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVERED BRIDGES

On a Single Compact Computer Disc

World Guide—Romantic Shelters—Index to Topics—Bibliography of all known covered bridge books—Chinese Bridges—and much more for only \$15.00 Send a check made out to Joseph Cohen.

From September to March: 210 Wellington F, West Palm Beach, FL 33417-2559

From April to August: 130 Westfield Drive, Holliston, MA 01746-1257

The following items are still available through the Society

Covered Bridge Polo Shirts

A **white Polo Shirt** with a blue NSPCB logo, send \$15.00 plus \$3.95 for shipping and handling. Specify, Medium or Extra Large. Shirts are 100% pre-shrunk cotton. This is a fund raiser for the preservation fund. Buy several as gifts for your family and friends.

Society Arm Patch with N.S.P.C.B. logo 3" arm patch available for \$1.75 + 55 cents P&H.

Please order any of the items above from Mrs. June Roy, 73 Ash Street, Manchester, NH 03104-4906
or E-mail: dickroycb1@comcast.net

Books Available from the Society Store

“Covered Bridges of Vermont” by Ed Barna. This is an excellent book depicting all the covered bridges in Vermont in the year 1996. 6x9 soft cover, 216 pgs., Pub: The Countryman Press, ISBN 0-88150-373-8 Postpaid \$17.00

Two great books (below) by Joseph D. Conwill: The Arcadia Press Images of America Series

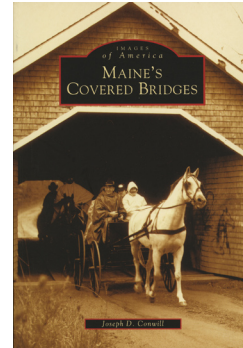
“Vermont Covered Bridges”

Pub in 2004, 6.5x9.25 soft cover, 128 pgs., ISBN 0-7385-3598-2

“Maine’s Covered Bridges”

Pub in 2003 6.5x9.25 soft cover, 128 pgs., ISBN 0-7385-1271-0

They sell for \$19.99 each plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.



“Life in the Slow Lane” is still available for \$16.95 + \$3.95 Shipping and Handling. This is a hard bound 8.5x11 in. book with 162 pages of excellent photos by many various contributors from all over the country. Publisher: Reiman Publications 1998 ISBN 0-89821-240-5

Books by Andrew Howard

C/B's of Madison County IA, A Guide.....\$6.50

6x9 format paperback, 46 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-07-4

C/B's of Connecticut, A Guide.....\$5.50

6x9 format paperback, 47 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-04-X

C/B's of Virginia, A Guide.....\$6.95

6x9 format paperback, 46 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-08-2

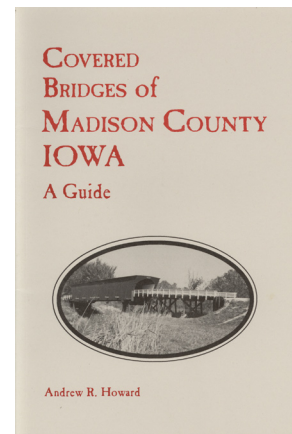
C/B's of Bennington County VT, A Guide.....\$6.50

6x9 format paperback, 49 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-06-6

C/B's of Massachusetts, A Guide\$6.95

6x9 format paperback, 80 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-03-1

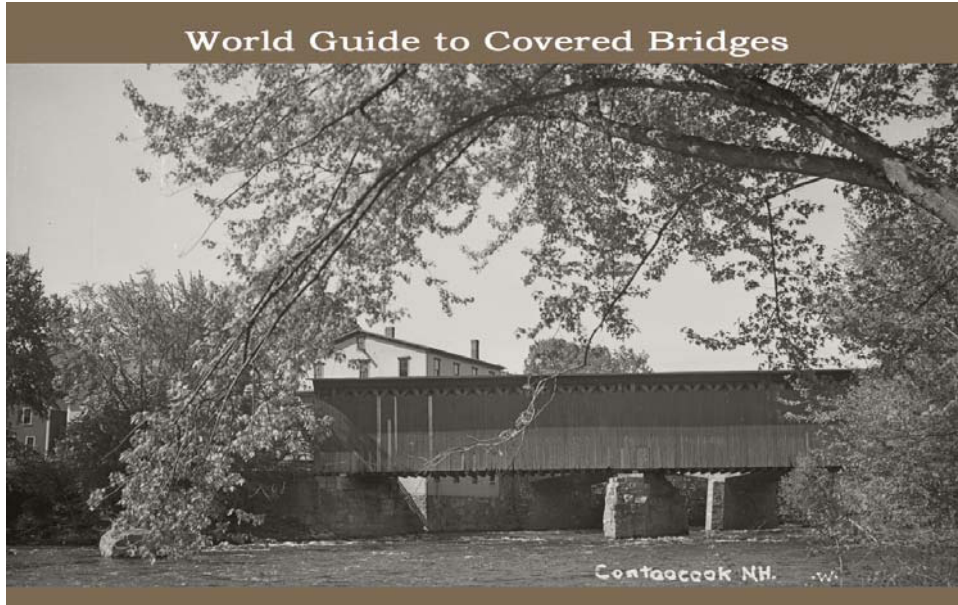
(There is a \$2.00 postage and handling charge for each book)



All the books above should be ordered from Mrs. June Roy, 73 Ash St. #2, Manchester, NH 03104-4906
e-mail address: dickroycb1@comcast.net

There is another excellent book on Vermont covered bridges called **“Spanning Time: Vermont Covered Bridges”**, by Joseph Nelson, who is the President of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. It is a superb hardbound book containing wonderful color photos, maps and information about each Vermont covered bridge. The book is 7.5 x 9.25 in. and has 271 pages. ISBN 1-881535-25-8 For ordering information contact the author at 2 Sugar Hill Road, Underhill, VT 05489 or on the Web www.vermontbridges.com
(This book isn't available from the society store).

2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges



**The long awaited update
to the 1989 Guide.**

Order your copy today.

Send this form with your check or
money order made payable to
NSPCB to:

Bill Caswell
535 Second NH Turnpike
Hillsboro, NH 03244

Massachusetts - Essex County						
Number	Township	Stream	Name	Spans	Length	Built Type
Essex County						
21-05-13	Gloucester	Sawyer Pond	Sawyer Pond	1	36'	1983 Town
1.1 miles east of jct US128 on MA133 (Essex Ave), (Exit 14) then 4.6 miles right to 138 Magnolia Ave. N42° 35.483' W070° 43.126'						
Franklin County						
21-06-01	Conway	South River	Burkeville or Conway	1	106'	1870 Howe
7.6 miles northwest of jct I-91 on MA116 (Exit 24), then just left on Poland Rd. At Burkeville. Closed, rebuilt 1999. (NR) N42° 30.473' W072° 42.644'						
21-06-02#2	Greenfield	Green River	Pumping Station	1	94'	1972 Howe
0.7 miles east of jct I-91 on MA2A (Exit 26), then 1.4 miles left on Conway St., 0.8 miles left (past municipal park), 0.1 miles right, 2.7 miles right on Plain Rd. and right on Eunice Williams Dr. Replaced a covered bridge built in 1870. Closed to motor vehicles. N42° 38.782' W072° 37.221'						
21-06-03#2	Colrain	North River	Arthur Smith	1	98'	2006 Burr Arch
1.2 miles southwest of Colrain town green on MA112, then 0.1 miles right on Lyonville Rd. Replaced a covered bridge built in 1870. N42° 40.198' W072° 43.093'						
21-06-04#2	Charlemont	Mill Brook	Bissell	1	92'	1951 Long variation
0.5 miles north of jct MA2 on MA8A. Rebuilt 2009 N42° 37.892' W072° 52.121'						
21-06-11	Ashfield	Creamery Brook	Creamery	1	40'	1985 Modified Queen
1.0 miles east of jct MA112 on MA116, then 1.6 miles left on west side of Creamery Rd. Private. N42° 31.191' W072° 48.036'						

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