



The Newsletter

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

Fall 2015



Maryland's Jericho Bridge Gets a Makover

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The **Newsletter** is published quarterly. It includes current bridge news and information about upcoming events.

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Editor's Comments ...

As some of you may know I underwent an unexpected heart procedure in July which will keep me out of commission for the next 6-8 weeks. I want to extend my thanks to Bill Caswell for volunteering to fill in for me during my recovery. I also want to express my thanks to everyone for your kind words, thoughts and prayers as I recuperate here at home. Such an experience can be quite un-nerving but having friends and family for support means a great deal. Thank you all again, I hope to be back for the Winter issue.

Hope you all are having an enjoyable summer. Remember, if you have an interesting story(ies) or photos of covered bridges you've visited, send them along. Who knows, you might be published!

Happy Bridging!!

How Do You Plan Your Bridge Trip?

We are looking for your input for an article for the Winter Newsletter. At a recent NSPCB meeting, the question was raised – How do you plan your bridging trips? What resources do you use to obtain information about the bridges in the area you are visiting? How do you keep track of the sites you have visited?

We have been fortunate to have picked up quite a few new members recently. They could use some advice from the more experienced bridgers to make their trips as productive as possible.

On The Cover

Thanks to Jim & Gloria Smedley for providing the cover photo of the work in progress at the Jericho covered bridge in Maryland. The photo was taken on August 6th.

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.

Winter 2015 Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in December. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them to the Editor by **November 15, 2015**. **Please note**, it is requested that your information be typed on plain paper and include proper credit information (newspaper, magazine, or web site, etc.), or on CD (Microsoft Word 2010 format, and sent via U. S. Mail to: Rob Mitchell, NSPCB Newsletter Editor, P. O. Box 375, Marshfield, MA 02050. Thanks! Please, remember that we always appreciate any news or comments sent in even if we can't ultimately use it.

President's Message ...

When time permits, Jenn & I have been going through the boxes of material moved from the former Society archives in Westminster, Vermont plus the 53 boxes of covered bridge material from David Wright's house. While that is mostly tedious work, I somehow find it relaxing and enjoy doing it. Every once in a while something pops up to keep the task interesting. Recently, I discovered a folder of articles related to repairing vs. replacing deteriorated covered bridges. I had seen most of them before, but one was new to me and I felt that the sentiment it expressed should be shared. The comment was penned by Gérald Arbour, president of the former Société québécoise des ponts couverts, the Québec Covered Bridge Society. In the Autumn 1999 issue of *Le Pont'âge*, Mr. Arbour included a short article on the replacement of the only known authentic covered bridge in Sweden. After the bridge deteriorated to the point where it eventually collapsed, the Swedish government initiated a project to construct a replica of it. That chain of events prompted Mr. Arbour to write (translated from the original French text):

“If I possess the only example of something important and I let it deteriorate to such a point that it is in danger of disappearing and then, when this does happen, I judge the thing sufficiently important to decide to make a copy, one must then ask: Why was the original so neglected?”

That is certainly something to think about.

In July, I was able to help a dedicated group of people get one of their projects moving forward. The Friends of Blount County Covered Bridges in Alabama are actively watching out for the three remaining historic covered bridges in the county. Over the years, I have been fortunate enough to be able to offer advice and support to help them see their bridges brought back from potential collapse to being functional again. Now they have moved to the next level, by offering some protection for them. You will find more details in the covered bridge security article on pages 8 & 9.

My association with the fine folks in Alabama started after a visit to the bridges about 8 years ago. They were in such a poor state of disrepair I was compelled to write to the County Commissioners and Chamber of Commerce about my experience. I would later learn that the repair project was already in the works, but held up waiting for DOT approvals. It was great to go back in 2013 and see them looking healthy again. The real credit for this transformation goes to the “Friends” who are always looking out for the well-being of their covered bridges. They are the ones who attend the meetings and communicate with local officials on a regular basis to make sure people know they care about their bridges. I hope we can inspire more communities to become champions for their own structures in need.

As I write this, I and leaders of the other covered bridge societies are preparing to meet in Oxford, New York for a weekend discussing a variety of topics. Agenda items cover a wide range of subjects such as increasing membership, using social media to promote our mission, fire retardants and other methods of protecting our bridges, working with public officials, and preserving archival data to name a few. Watch for a full report in the Winter edition.

If you received this before mid-September, don't forget about the public celebration surrounding the new covered bridge in Norwich, Connecticut. Arnold Grāton and his crew have nearly completed the structure. NSPCB members and friends are invited to attend the event when the bridge is pulled into place by oxen. More details in a separate article.

I hope you will also be able to join us for our joint tour with the Indiana Covered Bridge Society on September 26 & 27. It will be a great opportunity for fellowship with that group. The hold on our rooms has expired, but there might still be some available. Details of the tour are on page 19.

Make a note on your calendar to attend the Society's annual meeting on **Saturday, October 24th** at O'Connor's Restaurant, 1160 W. Boylston St., Worcester, Massachusetts. The meeting will be on Saturday this year because the restaurant is not open on Sunday's. More details and a reservation form are included with this Newsletter. As I mentioned last quarter, our speaker will be Christopher Marston, architect and project leader for the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a part of the National Park Service.

President's Message (continued)

The October meeting is also where officers are elected for the coming year. If you are interested in helping lead this fine organization, please let us know. Many of us currently in leadership positions have been doing them for many years and would welcome some new individuals and the renewed enthusiasm that comes with them. We are embarking on an exciting period of transformation. Your assistance is desired to keep the momentum moving forward.

We have lots of work ahead of us and will be able to accomplish great things with everyone's help.

Bill Caswell

Welcome to Our Newest Members ...

Chuck Christensen, Sunnyvale, CA
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
William McKone, Jeffersonville, VT
Brittany Miller, Decatur, GA
Amy Jagaczewski, Canterbury, CT
Anna Catherine Carroll, Concord, NC

Welcome New Life Member ...

Arian R. Hall, Kennesew, GA

Final Crossings ...

Ed. Note: The Society offers its sincere condolences to the family.

John A. Diehl

We are saddened to learn of the passing of one of the pioneers in the covered bridge hobby. John Diehl passed away on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at the age of 97. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1939. Shortly after graduating, Diehl pursued his interest in covered bridges and became Chairman of the Ohio Historical Society's Covered Bridge Committee in 1940. He developed the numerical system of cataloging the state's covered bridges by assigning numbers to the states, county and structure number. That system was later adopted by NSPCB to identify entries in the 1956 *World Guide to Covered Bridges*. The numbering system was later adapted to include Canada and other countries.



Donald L. Milne

Donald Milne of Burrirt, Illinois, passed away Monday, July 20, 2015, at age 92 at River Bluff Nursing Home, Rockford, Illinois. He had been an NSPCB member since the late 1960's and had visited over 800 covered bridges in the United States and Canada.

Upcoming NSPCB Meetings & Events ...

2015 Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at **1:00 pm** unless otherwise noted.

Saturday & Sunday, September 26 & 27, 2015 – Fall tour and combined meeting with the Indiana Covered Bridge Society. The tour will cover Rush County and surrounding areas of southeastern Indiana. Full details are in a separate article and on the Society website. Make your hotel reservations soon.

SATURDAY, October 24, 2015 at noon – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner. O'Connor's Restaurant, 1160 W Boylston St, Worcester, Massachusetts. Buffet lunch at noon followed by a presentation and business meeting. We are honored to have Christopher Marston, Project Leader of the National Park Service's Historic American Engineering Record as our speaker. Note the Saturday date.

Warner Fall Foliage Festival

On October 10 & 11, NSPCB will be participating in the Warner, New Hampshire Fall Foliage Festival. This year, we are quite fortunate to be sharing a location on Main Street with the Abbot-Downing Historical Society which maintains two stage coaches built by the Abbot-Downing Company of Concord, New Hampshire. Concord Coaches were best known as the stage coaches used by Wells Fargo for transporting passengers, mail and money across the country.

NSPCB Annual Meeting

The Society's Annual Meeting with election of officers will be on Saturday October 24th in Worcester, Massachusetts. All Society members are invited to attend. We hope that many of you will be able to join us and urge you to reply by the October 10th deadline so we can make sure the room is an appropriate size for the audience. A reservation form is included with this newsletter.

O'Connor's Restaurant is located at 1160 West Boylston St. in Worcester. Dinner will be served at 12:00 noon. A presentation by Christopher Marston is scheduled to follow the meal and then the business meeting with election of officers after the presentation.

Christopher H. Marston has been with the Historic American Engineering Record since 1989, after receiving architecture degrees from the University of Virginia and Carnegie Mellon. The project leader of the HAER National Covered Bridge Recording Project since 2002, he oversaw the documentation of nearly 100 covered bridges, and the designation of five as National Historic Landmarks. He is co-editor of the forthcoming book, *Covered Bridges and the Birth of American Engineering*. He was co-editor of the award-winning book, *America's National Park Roads and Parkways: Drawings from the Historic American Engineering Record*, and associate curator of the Smithsonian traveling exhibition, *Covered Bridges: Spanning the American Landscape*. Christopher is an active member of several national preservation organizations, including the Society for Industrial Archeology, the Transportation Research Board's Committee for Historic Preservation and Archaeology (ADC50), *Preserving the Historic Road*, and the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Other Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ...

September

- 12-13 New York State Covered Bridge Society Meeting**, Covered Bridge and Lighthouse safari. Covered bridges in western Connecticut and Lighthouses on the Hudson River
- 13 Dedication** of new covered bridge in Norwich, CT. See details in separate article.
- 13 Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Monthly Meeting** 2:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA Program: "Covered Bridges of New York State" by Steve Wolfhope.

October

- 3 Vermont Covered Bridge Society Fall Meeting** at Smugglers Notch Resort, Jeffersonville, VT.
- 4 Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society Meeting**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA – Sunday 2 pm, Program: "Covered Bridges of Columbia County, PA" by Bob Kuether
- 8-11 Columbia-Montour Counties Covered Bridge Festival**, Knoebles Park, Elysburg, PA.
- 9-18 Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival.**
- 10-11 Ashtabula County (Ohio) Covered Bridge Festival**, Jefferson, Ohio.
- 10-11 Madison County Covered Bridge Festival**, Winterset, Iowa.
- 11 New York State Covered Bridge Society Meeting**, Hyde Hall Covered Bridge, Glimmerglass State Park, NY.
- 19-20 Washington/Greene County Covered Bridge Festival**, events at various locations throughout the two counties.
- 16-17 G & M Tours of Campton, KY** is offering a "**Covered Bridges of Kentucky Tour**" visiting 10 of the states bridges. For more details, visit their website at http://www.gandmtours.net/2015_trips/kentuckys_covered_bridges, call 606-668-3652 or email marymc@mrtc.comyde.
- 24 Blount County Covered Bridge Festival**, Oneonta, Alabama.

November

- 1 Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society Meeting & Bake Sale**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, PA – Sunday 2 pm
- 8 New York State Covered Bridge Society Harvest Dinner**, 11:30 am at the Community Hall, Hamden, NY
- 15 Ohio Historic Bridge Association Annual Meeting**, Ohio History Connection Auditorium, 800 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, OH

December

- 12 Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society Christmas Dinner**, Dutch-Way Farm Market Restaurant, Gap, Lancaster County, PA, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Recent NSPCB Meetings ...

June Meeting -

A cold and rainy June afternoon couldn't spoil our meeting inside the Contoocook Covered Bridge in Contoocook, New Hampshire. After updating members on the Gorham pony truss project, the Scholarship Committee's recommendations were announced. Details are in a separate article.

The group discussed participation in the Warner Fall Foliage Festival. This year, we will try to obtain a spot on Main St. for our booth. Planning does not begin until late July. As a result of comments in member surveys, Bill Caswell proposed that we hold our 2016 "away" meeting in Fleming County, Kentucky. Members in Kentucky are eager to help organize a meeting and safari similar to the upcoming event in Indiana.



Scott Wagner Photo

July Picnic & Meeting



Scott Wagner Photo

This year, the annual picnic was rescheduled from August to July so the August meeting could be held in Gorham, New Hampshire. After having our fill of hot dogs, hamburgers and all the wonderful dishes that people brought to share, it was time to get down to business. The group decided to move the August 23rd meeting from Gorham to the Masonic Lodge in Warner, New Hampshire due to the lack of progress on the pony truss reconstruction. We cannot begin construction without the approval of railroad officials. Repeated requests for that approval have not been successful. tracks in Gorham.

Some new requirements have been added to our two Federal grant projects. One of them is to have a written policy for managing those projects. The policy is still being prepared. A majority vote of the Executive Board approved formation of a committee to oversee federally funded projects. That committee consists of Vice President Karl Olson, Meg Dansereau and Josif Bicja. Thank you to all for adding this volunteer duty to your already busy schedules.

We also discussed an epoxy being used by New Brunswick DOT to extend the life of bridge decking. More research will be done on this topic. Bill Caswell shared a letter he sent to the County Commissioners of Blount County Alabama supporting a request by local citizens to install video cameras in the county's three historic covered bridges.

A preliminary meeting schedule for 2016 was discussed. It was announced that the 2016 "away" meeting will be in Fleming County Kentucky in September. The schedule for the next year will be formally presented at the annual meeting in October.

Thank you notes from the two scholarship recipients were read to the attendees and a get well card for Newsletter editor Rob Mitchell was signed by all in attendance.

Covered Bridge Security

By Bill Caswell

As part of our mission to preserve our historic covered bridges, the Society is seeking information about the various methods of protecting them from vandals, oversize vehicles and other forms of negligence. We are asking you, the reader, to let us know what types of security systems are available at the covered bridges familiar to you. Having this information readily available will make us more effective in our mission by being able to cite specific examples to bridge owners who are considering ways to protect their bridges.

Last quarter, we discussed fire retardants to help protect our covered bridges from arson attempts and included an extensive list of bridges which have had fire retardant applied to them. This is only the tip of the iceberg. There is a great deal more to be learned and I hope you will be willing to share your knowledge to add to our research. We would appreciate any information that you can provide regarding the various systems currently in use such as fire detection, lighting, video and infrared cameras, etc., especially details about which bridges incorporate these devices. This quarter, I am focusing on video surveillance.

With the widespread vandalism of our historic covered bridges and numerous instances of oversized vehicles damaging the bridges, more communities are looking into video surveillance options. Surveillance can discourage vandals and is useful in identifying perpetrators. The benefit to this type of security was demonstrated in June when a truck driver damaged the Fallsburg Bridge in Kent County, Michigan. Damage from a 31-ton concrete truck in August 2013 plus the arson of nearby White's Bridge a month earlier was enough incentive to convince local officials to install a surveillance system. A review of the video footage identified a truck driver who drove his oversized vehicle over the bridge twice to make a delivery. The 24 year old truck driver was charged with failure to report the accident and driving with a suspended license.¹

Madison County, Iowa, added video and infrared cameras to the five remaining historic covered bridges after the Cedar Bridge was lost to arson. Cameras were added to the Captain Swift Bridge in Bureau County, Illinois, because of concerns that the newly constructed bridge might be targeted by vandals. Due to its remote location, video cameras were added to the Charlton Mill Bridge in Greene County, Ohio, when it was rebuilt in 2013.

In 1962, Pennsylvania's Pomeroy-Academia Covered Bridge was scheduled to be replaced with a new concrete bridge to span the river. The Juanita County Historical Society took prompt action and acquired the bridge. In June of 2009, weeks after \$1.4 million was put into restoration of the bridge, there was an arson attempt at the site. The individuals lit articles of clothing on fire and damaged some of the bridge deck. A few days later the interior was extensively covered in graffiti. An 8 camera security system was placed throughout the bridge site as well as within the bridge itself for a total of \$14,000. All the graffiti was removed and a coating of fire retardant was applied to the burned area for a total of \$2,600.²

Late in 2011, new lighting, fire sensors, and a fire alarm system were installed at Knecht's Covered Bridge in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The desire to protect the bridge was the result of an unsuccessful arson attempt in May 2007. The project was funded from several sources, including a \$23,000 grant from the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Fund.³

Some of the cases mentioned are shown in the photos below. Other locations are considering this form of protection, but are challenged by the costs. For example, residents and officials in Blount County, Alabama, are concerned about the vandalism at their three recently-restored covered bridges

¹ Mlive.com, July 10, 2015.

² Sievers, Ryan Allen, "Remote monitoring and security of covered bridges in the United States" (2011). Graduate Theses and Dissertations. Paper 12462. Page 108.

³ NSPCB Newsletter, Winter 2012, Page 10.

and wanted to take measures to help protect them. However, protection comes at a price. They discovered that providing a communication line to the cameras at each bridge will cost about \$5,000 per year. That is a small amount compared to the cost of replacing the bridges, but still a weighty addition to an already strained budget. The County Commissioners approved the project and security cameras are being installed.

This is only a brief introduction to the topic. For more information, including links to the “Covered Bridge Security Manual” published by the US Dept. of Agriculture and Ryan Allen Sievers Thesis “Remote Monitoring and Security of Covered Bridges in the United States”, visit the links page of the Society’s website - <http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org/links.html>.

All photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell



Charlton Mill Bridge, Greene County, Ohio



Academia-Pomeroy Bridge, Juniata County, PA



Fallsburg Bridge, Kent County, Michigan

Introduce a Friend to Covered Bridges

Give a Gift Membership This Holiday Season



Help support preservation of our nation’s historic covered bridges while sharing your interests with a friend or relative.



Gift subscriptions will be mailed in mid-December with a card noting your generosity.

Use the form included with this newsletter or visit the Society website to introduce someone to covered bridge preservation.

Eric DeLony Scholarship Essays & Winners ...

For the second year of the Eric DeLony Scholarship, we were again fortunate to receive some excellent applications. Scholarship awards are based on the student's selection of courses, letters of recommendation and the required 150-word essay regarding "**The Importance of Preserving Our Historic Covered Bridges**". The short essay format demonstrates the applicant's ability to present their thoughts in a concise manner. This year, two scholarships were awarded.

The Society was pleased to present our top honor, a \$1,000 scholarship award, to Amy Jagaczewski, a graduate student at the University of Connecticut. Amy is working on her Master's degree in Civil Engineering. Her Master's thesis is about rehabilitation of historic lenticular trusses. Although we did not specifically promote the scholarship towards engineering students, Amy learned of it through the historic preservation courses she has taken along with her engineering curriculum. Her Master's work on steel lenticular trusses clearly shows her dedication towards preservation of historic bridges – exactly the type of person we want to encourage and support.

The second recipient, Brittany Miller was awarded a \$500 scholarship. Brittany is a graduate student in the Master of Heritage Preservation program at Georgia State University. Her professors and former employer at North Carolina's Historic Wilmington spoke very highly of her passion for historic preservation, her leadership qualities and dedicated research.

We are delighted to encourage these students to continue to be active in historic preservation.

The Importance of Preserving our Historic Covered Bridges

By Amy Jagaczewski

Covered bridges are an example of cultural heritage and therefore should be preserved with the same respect that would be given to a national landmark. These bridges can demonstrate the evolution of truss types in New England. One could argue that this is also demonstrated by historic roof framing. However, bridges are special because the structure is completely exposed, unlike in a building. This is another strong reason to preserve these structures. Unfortunately, historic bridges are often met with animosity by modern engineers and officials based on the bridge's lack of preventative maintenance or its perceived inability to meet modern load requirements for traffic or snow. Preserving covered bridges requires specialized knowledge in areas such as historic construction techniques and historically sensitive rehabilitation techniques. With these tools, almost any historical structure can be saved and returned to a useful function. Lack of knowledge should never be an excuse to tear down a piece of our historic fabric.

The Importance of Preserving our Historic Covered Bridges

By: Brittany Miller

Covered bridges serve as a physical link to the level of technology and building materials that were available in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the United States. The development of roads and need for bridges can be seen in the construction of covered bridges. Preserving and maintaining these historical icons is necessary in the education of and reminder to our past. Without these bridges, cities could not have been connected and a network of cities may never have evolved. Not only are they beautiful, but they are also true testaments to the building technology of the time. People have been in awe of covered bridges since their initial construction, many coming from far distances to view them. Future generations are entitled to the same opportunity to admire these engineering feats of our ancestors. Of the some 10,000 covered bridges that once existed, less than 800 remain. Without preservation these historical innovations will be lost entirely.

Covered Bridge Happenings ...

Connecticut

Celebrating A New Covered Bridge in Connecticut

By the time you read this, Arnold M. Gräton Associates Inc., will have completed a new Town lattice covered bridge for Richard Perry at his home at 128 Wawecus Hill Road in Norwich, Connecticut. Mr. Perry is hosting a celebration on Sunday, September 13th beginning at 10:00 am as the bridge is pulled onto its abutments by oxen.

As was mentioned in earlier Newsletters, Mr. Perry contracted with Arnold M. Gräton Associates, Inc. to build an authentic 60-foot long, 18-foot wide 19th century covered bridge on his Norwich horse farm. Perry was quoted as saying "It is a preservation effort, and it is an effort to leave behind some legacy to future generations ... These bridges are not often rebuilt ..." and this would be "... a great opportunity to build a covered bridge in the same manner it would have been built 150 years ago, ..." Perry added that Arnold Gräton, 78 years young, has 50 years of experience in covered bridge rehabilitation and construction.



Photo by Meg Dansereau, August 6, 2015

When ready, the bridge will be positioned about 90-feet away at the bridge abutments on 4' diameter wooden rollers. The structure will be pulled across Gardner Brook with a team of oxen. Mr. Perry would like to share this building experience and has invited Society members and their interested friends and relatives to attend. Food will be available. No pets or alcohol please.

Indiana

Cedar Ford to be Rebuilt

In April 2008, Monroe County Commissioners announced that a grant had been awarded to reconstruct the Cedar Ford Bridge (WG #14-73-01x) in the northwestern section of the county. The bridge was originally built near Shelbyville by the Kennedy family in 1885 and has been in storage for more than 40 years. Project Engineer Jim Barker has indicated that only about 30% of the original structure is usable. Little more was heard about the project until mid-June when newspaper reports mentioned that the engineering work is underway. The bridge will take about 8 months to construct once it gets started.

Baker's Camp Nearly Complete

In the Spring Newsletter, we mentioned that the Baker's Camp Covered Bridge (WG # 14-67-02) in Putnam County, Indiana, has received a \$1.225 million restoration. The bridge was constructed over Big Walnut Creek by Joseph J. Daniels in 1901. In April, the work was nearly complete and is probably done by now. Dan Collom's Square & Level Construction Company was making the repairs. Mr. Collom has nearly 40 years of experience building and repairing covered bridges. We will be able to view some of his work when we visit the reconstructed Moscow Bridge during our Fall tour.

Work Delayed at Shieldstown

A \$1 million project to repair the Shieldstown Covered Bridge in Jackson County (WG #14-36-02) is currently on hold. Dan Collom was expected to begin work in the spring, but has had trouble finding enough white oak to replace floor beams, arches and posts. So far little has been done except removal of the old siding.

(Associated Press, July 17, 2015.)

Maine

Babb's Bridge Update

In the previous Newsletter, we told you of the need for repairs to Babb's Bridge (WG #19-03-01#2) connecting Gorham and Windham, Maine. One end of the bridge was struck by a snow plow last winter. That damage has been repaired, but more work is necessary. Guy and Janice Lebreque, who live near the bridge, and other concerned residents have been contacting local officials about the condition of the bridge. In addition to structural needs, the interior is covered in graffiti. Many of the side boards have been knocked out and replaced by sheets of plywood. The Lebreque's state representative contacted the Maine Department of Transportation and was informed that the DOT will look into work on the bridge in late Fall or next Spring.



(News contributed by Guy and Janice Lebreque, photos by Bill and Jenn Caswell.)

Maryland

Jericho Repairs

The Jericho Bridge over Little Gunpowder Falls between Baltimore and Harford Counties (WG #20-03-02 / 20-12-01) is undergoing major repairs to the tune of \$1.8 million. The two counties split the \$3,125 cost for Thomas F. Forsyth to construct the bridge in 1865. This bridge is a fine example because very few of the structural timbers have been replaced over the years. After this project is complete, it is estimated that about 90% of the original timbers will still remain in the bridge.

To simplify the repair process, the bridge was lifted from its abutments and moved 157 feet onto the adjacent roadway on a system of wooden supports and rollers. That included navigating a 17 degree turn in the roadway.

Work includes cleaning and repainting the structural timbers. They will also be treated with an insecticide and fire retardant. The wooden deck installed in 1983 will be replaced. The South end of the bridge is near completion, having replaced three posts, bottom chord sections, diagonals, and top chord sections. They have managed to save two arch sections by performing repairs, and sections of the

bottom chord by repair. Truss repairs are being done by Barns and Bridges of New England and are expected to be completed this fall. Kinsley Construction will replace the siding and roof. When ready, the bridge will be rolled back over the river. The project is expected to be completed in December.

(Compiled from various sources including Tim Andrews and a Baltimore Sun article on June 29, 2015, photos by Jim & Gloria Smedley.)



*Bridge being moved off of the river.
June 15, 2015*



*An example of the deterioration
being repaired.
July 5, 2015*



*Repairs to the southwest end.
August 6, 2015*

Michigan

Fallasburg Bridge Damaged

An oversized commercial vehicle has damaged the Fallasburg Covered Bridge (WG #22-41-02) for the second time in three years. On June 12th, a 24-year old man from Grand Rapids, Michigan, driving with a suspended license, drove his oversized delivery truck through the bridge...twice. The violation was captured by video surveillance at the site.

After this bridge was damaged by a 31-ton concrete truck in August 2013 and the arson of nearby White's Bridge a month earlier, video surveillance, lighting, new signage and fire retardant were added to the Fallasburg Bridge. Wayne Harrall, deputy managing director of engineering at the Kent County road commission, said the latest damage was repaired with several original wood beams donated by an Ionia County man who salvaged them from the bridge when the road commission did a rehabilitation project in the 1990s.



(News from Michigan Live, June 30, 2015, photo by Jenn Caswell)

New Brunswick

Trout Creek #4 Repairs

The New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure has replaced the wooden deck of the Trout Creek #4 Bridge in King's County (WG #55-06-19). The 2" x 7" pressure treated wooden laminated deck had deteriorated to a point where it had to be replaced. The deck area of this structure is 20.88m (68.5 ft) in length x 4.52m (14.8 ft) wide. After the deck was completed, they applied an epoxy seal & grit which they find is perfect for stopping the wear on top of the wooden deck. This coating has

become common on New Brunswick’s covered bridges. They are also adding a concrete wing wall to both abutments on the upstream side to counteract the erosion that takes place each year during the Spring runoff.

Work began on July 14th and was expected to take about 6 weeks.

(Contributed by Darren Ross, Bridge & Building Superintendent, NB DTI)



Photo by Jenn Caswell



Epoxy coating added to protect the wooden deck.

Photo by Clarence Ball, July 2015



New wing wall being constructed.

Photo by Clarence Ball, August 2015

New Hampshire

Stark Bridge Dedication

A large crowd attended the public ceremony to reopen the Stark Bridge (WG #29-04-05) in Coös County on June 27th. The ceremony was dedicated to the memory of James Eich, who served as a Stark selectman for more than 20 years. Eich, who was instrumental in acquiring the funding for the project, died in 2013. Most was covered by federal and state grants.



The \$1.4 million renovation, overseen by HEB Engineers of North Conway, was completed by Alpine Construction of Schuylerville, NY. The work began in April 2014. A number of state and local officials spoke at the event. The ribbon-cutting was done by Eich’s widow, Cecile, and Susan Croteau, Stark Town Clerk.

(Manchester Union Leader, June 29, 2015, photos by Bill and Jenn Caswell.)

New York

Newfield Bridge Closed For Repair

The Newfield covered bridge (WG #32-55-01) will be closed from August 17 to about October 30, a news release said. The Tompkins County Highway Division is planning to replace the bridge’s abutment stem wall, improve drainage and install a fire suppression system.

(Ithaca Journal, August 12, 2015)

Beaverkill Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation of the Beaverkill Covered Bridge (WG #32-53-02) is well under way. The bridge is a Town lattice timber-bridge originally built in 1865 and last rehabilitated in 1991. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 3, 2007 and is located in the Town of Rockland, Sullivan County, NY in the Beaverkill State Campground. The bids for the rehabilitation of this historic bridge were opened and read aloud in a public forum on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 10:45 a.m. The low bidder, Sullivan County Paving & Construction, Inc. started work at the site in mid-July and has currently removed the siding and the deck. The current plan is to support the structure during the rehabilitation by a prefabricated panelized steel structure threaded inside the covered bridge and supported on temporary abutments. The project will meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's "*Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*".



(Contributed by Josif Bicja of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, photo by Jenn Caswell.)

Perrine's Bridge Slated for Repairs

Perrine's Covered Bridge (WG #32-56-01), which crosses the Walkill River between the Towns of Esopus and Rosendale, is slated for much-needed restoration work. On April 21, 2015, the Ulster County Legislature approved \$350,000 to "restore deteriorating stone abutments, provide stabilization to the slopes at the abutments, and repair/retrofit/replace wooden structural members." If sufficient funds are left, a small park parcel, including parking, grading, picnic area, and bicycle rack will be added nearby.

Constructed in 1835 by Benjamin West using a Burr truss and used for nearly a hundred years, the bridge was closed in 1930 and today is only passable on foot. No significant restoration was completed until 1968 when the bridge sagged significantly. Additional repairs have been completed in 1993 and 1997.

Perrine's is one of five historic covered bridges still standing in Ulster County. At least another thirty have been lost over the years.

(Contributed by Ronald Knapp)

Ohio

Stevenson Road to be Repaired



The Stevenson Road Bridge (WG #35-29-15) in Greene County is undergoing a complete renovation - truss repairs, new floor beams, flooring, roofing, siding and abutments. Work is being done by the Righter Company of Columbus, Ohio.

(Contributed by Brad Nadolson of The Righter Company, Inc., photo by Bill Caswell)

Mull Road Bridge Repairs Nearly Complete

As of August 3rd, repair work on Sandusky County's only remaining covered bridge were nearly complete. The Mull Road Covered Bridge (WG #45-13-04) was built in 1842 with its single 104-foot Town Lattice Truss spanning the East Branch of the Wolf Creek. The project includes replacement of rotted beams along with a new roof and siding. Most of the \$330,000 needed for the work came from the Ohio Department of Transportation with Ballvill Township and Sandusky County contributing \$20,000 in matching funds. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and is one of the last remaining covered bridges in northwestern Ohio.

(News Messenger (Ohio), August 3, 2015)

Oregon

Update on Douglas County Covered Bridges

In the Summer Newsletter, we mentioned that Douglas County is working on three of its covered bridges: the Neal Lane Covered Bridge (WG #37-10-07) - a 42-foot-long single Kingpost Truss span across Myrtle Creek built in 1929, the Cavitt Creek Bridge (WG #37-10-06) – a 70-foot-long single Howe Truss span across Little River built in 1943, and, the Rochester Bridge (WG #37-10-04) – an 80-foot-long single Howe Truss span across the Calapooya Creek. The \$2.2 million project includes the replacement of roof and siding as well as replacement of other structural components while maintaining the original look of the structures.

In mid-June the Cavitt Creek Bridge was undergoing truss repairs and receiving a new roof. Steel beams are being used to support the bridge while the work is underway. Work on the Neal Lane Bridge was recently completed. The bridge has a new roof and siding plus new tension rods for added support.



Cavitt Creek Bridge under repair, June 13, 2015



Neal Lane Bridge, June 12, 2015

(News and photos contributed by Bill Cockrell, President, Covered Bridge Society of Oregon.)

McKee Bridge Dedication

Bill Cockrell, President of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon attended the June 13th dedication of the McKee Bridge in Jackson County (WG #37-15-06). This is the culmination of the dedicated fundraising and publicity efforts of the McKee Bridge Historical Society. A fine example of what local citizens can accomplish when they set their minds to it. The bridge has undergone repairs to the trusses, a new roof, new tension rods and new guard rails. The repairs were designed by OBEC Consulting and completed by Mowat Construction Co.



Pennsylvania

Dellville Bridge to be Rebuilt



Great news! Perry County has decided to solicit bids for reconstruction of the Dellville Bridge (WG #38-50-16) which was the victim of arson on November 3, 2014. Reconstruction would be paid with a combination of Insurance and private contributions. The Historical Society of Perry County is asking for corporate and personal contributions to show support for the rebuild. Send contributions to The Historical Society of Perry County - Dellville Bridge, PO Box 81, Newport, PA 17074 or use www.GoFundMe.com/Dellville

(Historical Society of Perry County Facebook Page, August 10, 2015, Photo by Jim & Gloria Smedley)

Knox Bridge Damaged

On the afternoon of July 6th, a large vehicle struck the portal of the Knox Bridge (WG #38-15-15) in Valley Forge National Park damaging the side of the bridge and adjacent stone masonry wall. The 1865 bridge is closed until repairs can be made. PennDOT already had a project to work on the bridge scheduled for 2016. That project has been rescheduled. Repairs are expected to begin in the Fall.

(Main Line Suburban Life, July 10, 2015)

Repairs Begin on Rapps Dam Bridge

The historic Rapp's Dam covered bridge (WG #38-15-14) at Rapps Dam Road over French Creek is getting \$360,000 worth of repairs after being damaged by a truck and flooding in April 2014. Two days after receiving considerable damage from the over height truck, the bridge was additionally impacted by the rain-swelled creek it crosses. The bridge had benefitted from a \$1.5 million rehabilitation in 2011 which removed and replaced the deteriorated cedar shake roof, redwood siding, and timber decking. In 2011, crews also replaced four steel beams supporting the bridge deck, and repaired the structure's stone abutments and wing walls.



PennDOT's contractor, Eastern Highway Specialists, Inc. of Wilmington, Del., will work the next two months to repair the damaged Burr Arch truss, install new ceiling joists and braces, and replace wooden cross members on the roof. PennDOT hopes to reopen the bridge by mid-October, although the work is weather-dependent.

The bridge is the first of three covered bridges in Chester County to be rehabilitated under a \$3,201,562 bridge improvement project. Repairs to the recently damaged Knox Covered Bridge in Valley Forge National Historical Park and Tredyffrin Township will begin in early October, and work on the Speakman Covered Bridge will commence in 2016.

The 28 year old truck driver pleaded guilty to one count of failure to prevent a catastrophe, a second-degree misdemeanor. He will serve two years probation, complete 100 hours of community service, and is responsible for paying restitution of \$450,000 to PennDOT.

(Reported in The Mercury, Pottstown, PA, August 20, 2015, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell, April 2012)

Cuppett's Bridge Being Repaired

Word has reached us that Cuppett's Bridge (WG #38-05-18) near New Paris is receiving some much needed repair work. The bridge has been privately owned for many years. It has been used for storage and has been in poor condition for a long time. We will share more details as we receive them.

Québec

Arson Attempt at Pont Brabant-Philippe

In December 2011, pont Brabant-Philippe in Gatineau was lost to arson. The bridge was built by volunteers as part of a project to construct a walking trail through Gatineau. The bridge was rebuilt and re-opened in mid-June. Since then it has been the target of vandals and at the end of July, another arson attempt. Fortunately, the bridge had been treated with fire retardant and the damage was minimal. Local citizens are requesting that Gatineau's three covered bridges along the rivière Blanche be equipped with video surveillance to help identify the vandals.

(From Radio Canada, July 29, 2015)

Residents Show Support for Pont Félix-Gabriel-Marchand

On June 30th, over 100 people gathered at pont Félix-Gabriel-Marchand (WG #61-53-01) northwest of Fort Coulonge to request that the bridge be repaired and re-opened. The six-span, 150 meter (499') long bridge was considered unsafe and closed in May 2014. Built in 1898, it is the longest covered bridge in Québec. Member of Parliament André Fortin stated that this is a priority for the Ministry of Transport and hopes that it will be repaired in 2016 or 2017. It is not known if the bridge will be open to vehicle traffic after the repairs are complete.

(News from Radio Canada, July 1, 2015)

Pont Neigette to be Replaced

The Québec Ministry of Transport has announced that Pont de la Chute Neigette (WG #61-58-03) in Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard will be dismantled and replaced. The intent is to put the bridge components into storage to be potentially rebuilt at a new location at a later date. The bridge's 5 ton weight limit has forced local farm equipment to either make a long detour or ford the stream next to the bridge.

(News from Radio Canada, July 27, 2015, photo by Gérald Arbour)



West Virginia

Philippi Bridge Repairs

The Philippi Covered Bridge (WG #48-01-01) is undergoing a significant renovation which will take about a year to complete. Work began in June and includes some structural framing, painting the steel beams, replacing some siding and work on the fire repellent system. Orders Construction of Saint Albans, WV has the \$2 million project.

(News from The Exponent Telegram, July 20, 2015)

**Indiana Covered Bridge Society &
National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges
Fall Weekend in Southeastern Indiana.
September 25 - 27, 2015**

Base of operations:

Hampton Inn, 2075 North Michigan Ave., Greensburg, Indiana, 47240



Schedule

Friday, September 25th, 2015

For those who will be in the area on Friday, we will be meeting at the Aqueduct Covered Bridge in Metamora to spend the afternoon exploring historic Metamora.

- 1:00 PM** Aqueduct Covered Bridge and the historic Metamora Village on Friday afternoon.
- 5:30 PM** Evening Dinner at the Brau Haus in Oldenburg. Reservations are for 5:30 PM.
- 8:00 PM** Gathering at Hampton Inn for fellowship and introductions.

Saturday, September 26th, 2015 Rush County Bridges

- 8:30 AM** Gather at Hampton Inn parking lot
- 9:00 AM** Start the day's tour
- Homer/Mud Creek Bridge (14-70-09)
 - Smith Bridge (14-70-01)
 - Drive by the home of Archibald Kennedy, patriarch of the bridge building family
 - Norris Bridge (14-70-08)
- Lunch** Picnic lunch at Offutt's Ford Bridge (14-70-02)
- Rush County Heritage Inc. is hosting a picnic at Offutt's Covered Bridge. They are providing drinks and an opportunity to see the scaled model covered bridge used as a sales demo when the Kennedy's were building bridges. A descendent of the Kennedy's will speak at lunch. A deli platter from Subway will be available for \$5 per person or bring your own lunch.
 - Forsythe Bridge (14-70-04)
 - Moscow Bridge (14-70-07#2)
- 5:00 PM** Dinner, presentation and business meeting in the conference center at the Greensburg Hampton Inn.

Sunday, September 27th, 2015

- 8:30 AM** Gather at Hampton Inn
- 9:00 AM** Start the day's tour
- Westport Bridge (14-16-01) Decatur County
 - James Bridge (14-40-02) Jennings County
 - Scipio Bridge (14-40-01) Jennings County
 - New Brownsville Bridge (14-03-08) Bartholomew County
 - Ramp Creek Bridge (14-07-02) Brown County

The Society Bookstore ...

Order from the Society website or send a check or money order to:
 Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244,
 E-mail: wscaswell@yahoo.com

Note: Books can only be shipped to US addresses.

America's Covered Bridges by Ron Knapp & Terry Miller

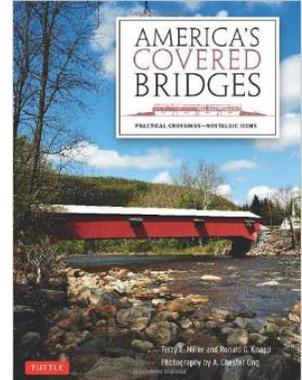
\$36.00, autographed copies, postpaid.

2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges

\$15.95, includes priority mail postage.

Connecticut & Rhode Island Covered Bridges

\$26.00, for an autographed copy, includes priority mail postage.



Holiday Gift Idea - NSPCB Mugs



Do you know someone who would enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea in an NSPCB mug? Would you like to help support one of the Society's current ongoing restoration projects but weren't sure how? Why not do both?

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges commissioned Mr. Bruce E. Hart of Hart Design Studio on Cape Cod, Massachusetts to design artwork for a new Society mug. The 11 oz. two-tone ceramic mug, both dishwasher and microwave safe, features a bright white exterior with a rich royal blue interior. On the mug, also in rich royal blue, a NSPCB logo can be found on one side while an abbreviated Society mission statement is found on the other side.

Proceeds from the sale of these mugs will help support the restoration efforts for the Moose Brook Pony-Truss Bridge located in Gorham, New Hampshire. [Find additional information about this bridge in the Winter 2014/2015 issue of the Newsletter.]

Mugs are \$10.00 each (in person) or \$15.00 (\$10 + \$5 postage) each (by mail). For orders of three (3) or more – contact Bill Caswell for actual postage costs. Send mail orders to Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Tpk, Hillsboro, NH 03244.

*If you don't already have one,
 Order yours, today!*

