

# *The Newsletter*

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

*Spring 2025*

## ***Springtime in Virginia***



*Sinking Creek Bridge  
VA/46-35-01, Giles County, Virginia*

*Photo by Paul Chandler*

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

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#### Next Newsletter Deadline

The next *Newsletter* is scheduled to be mailed in early **June**, therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them by **May 15, 2025**. Articles and photos can be emailed to [nspcb@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org)

## Welcome New Members

Gary Barnhart, Apex, North Carolina  
Doreen Beaudry, Derby, Vermont  
Jane & Bill Boesch, Henniker, New Hampshire  
Bruce Dickerson, Powell, Ohio  
William Joyce, Flat Rock, North Carolina  
David Kurecian, Orangeville, Pennsylvania  
Melissa Parkinson, Port Republic, Virginia  
John Smith, Cecil, Ohio

## Welcome New Life Members

#221 – Gary Krick, Newburgh, Indiana  
#222 – Paulette Thompson, Mechanicsville, Virginia  
#223 – Scott Mitchell, Newbury Park, California  
#224 – Trisha Mitchell, Newbury Park, California

## 2025 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](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org)) or contact Bill Caswell at [nspcb@yahoo.com](mailto: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. Meetings will be available by Zoom when possible.

**Sunday, March 23** – Horace Chase Masonic Lodge, Boscawen, New Hampshire. (In-person & virtual) Presentation: “Bridges as Civil Engineering Heritage and Cultural Icons in Numismatics and Philately” by Mohamad Hussein.

**Sunday, April 27** – Museum of Old Newbury, 98 High St, Newburyport, Massachusetts. Presentation by Bob Watts.

**Sunday, June 22** – Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, New Hampshire. Bring your own chairs.

**Sunday, July 27** – The Barn Yard, Ellington, Connecticut. Learn about the construction of this traditionally built bridge.

**August 9-10** – Joint safari with the New York State Covered Bridge Society. See details on page 8.

**Sunday, August 24** – Annual picnic at Beaver Meadow Village at the end of Waumbec Road, Concord, NH. The cookout is at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.

**Sunday, September 28** – Baltimore Bridge, Springfield, Vermont. Bring your own chairs and picnic lunch.

**Saturday, October 11** – Hyde Hall 200th Anniversary celebration, Glimmerglass State Park, near Cooperstown, New York

**Sunday, October 26** – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, Brigham Hill Barn, North Grafton, Massachusetts.



## In Memoriam

### Bob Kane



On November 20<sup>th</sup> the covered bridge community lost one of its dedicated workers as Bob Kane passed away unexpectedly at age 76. Bob and his wife, Trish Kane, are well known for their work creating and growing the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center in what was at one time the home of covered bridge builder Theodore Burr in Oxford, New York. Bob was a kind, gentle soul whose contributions were not always recognized because he preferred to work behind the scenes, helping with any task that needed to be done without seeking the praise that he so duly deserved.

Bob was born in Utica, New York on June 28, 1948 and married Trish 20 years later on July 20, 1968. He worked for Norwich Manufacturing as a journeyman tool and die maker until his retirement in 2010. He is survived by a son, a daughter and their families.

### Conrad Young

On January 8<sup>th</sup> we lost another of our long-time members and a regular attendee at our Concord, New Hampshire, area meetings. Conrad Charles Young was born July 12, 1936, in Moultonborough, NH. After graduating from Tilton-Northfield High School, he attended the Van Emburgh School of Commercial Art in New Jersey. Young Advertising Agency began in 1967 before moving back to New Hampshire in 1970. Conrad joined the Pat's Peak Ski Patrol and was President of the NH Quarter Horse Association. He founded a seniors' basketball team which played in National Senior Olympic competitions.

In 2007, Conrad married Penny Nelson Nixon and in 2010, he retired from his advertising agency and began his Watercolor by Conrad Young business, fulfilling a dream of painting full time. Watercolor originals and prints, notecards, and puzzles quickly grew the business. In 2016, his covered bridge watercolor paintings became the subject of his book, *New Hampshire's Historical Covered Bridges*. Conrad is survived by his wife, Penny, a son, a daughter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a brother.



### Ed Johnson

Ed Johnson was born August 23, 1938 in Brooklyn, New York to Eric and Stella (Zapatka) Johnson. He graduated from Fort Hamilton High School and was employed at the New York Stock Exchange for 44 years. Most of those years were spent as a bond reporter. When the bond room closed, he became a floater until his retirement in 2001. He had a passion for photography and enjoyed watching old movies. He embraced Elna's love of covered bridges and enjoyed going on cb safaris. He is survived by Elna, his wife of 37 years; his two sons, Edwin of Nebraska, Andrew and daughter-in-law Donna along with two grandchildren Aspen Adelaide and Keith all of Lockport, New York.



### Pat Tabor

We have learned that longtime member Patricia A. Tabor "Pat" of Philadelphia, passed away on December 31, 2023. Pat had a love for covered bridges and lighthouses. She was blessed with the opportunity to have seen every covered bridge in Pennsylvania. She had been a NSPCB member since 1999. She enjoyed traveling with her husband of 55 years, Charles, especially their visits to New England, the Dakotas and Wyoming. They would enjoy a visit to the rodeo and all the historical sights they could see. As avid Phillies fans, Pat and Charles made many good friends while being partial season ticket holders. In addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons and a sister.

## President's Message

I hope that this message finds you healthy and well.

Shortly after the Winter issue was printed, we experienced the loss of a dear friend. Bob & Trish Kane have been friends of ours for over 20 years and the news of his passing was such a shock especially since we had seen him at the New York society's dinner just a few days earlier.

Then in early January we learned of the death of Conrad Young. Conrad and Penny were regular attendees at our meetings and events in the Concord, NH, area.

On a more positive note, we have also gained a number of new members this quarter including three who joined as life members. Welcome to all!

After 17 years at the current membership rate, it has become necessary to increase our dues. The new rates are listed on page 8. Those of you paying annual dues will have a renewal notice included with this mailing showing the old rates. The current rates are still in effect until the summer mailing so renewing early will save you some money. You are welcome to renew for more than one year at the current rate if you wish.

During January, Jenn and I spent a weekend checking out the routes for our joint August safari with the New York State Covered Bridge Society. On one of those days, we were treated to some fresh snow enhancing the photos. Wayne and Karen Marshfield also journeyed to the area in mid-February to arrange for our hotel, rest stops and meal locations. Images of the bridges we plan to visit are included on the back cover of this issue.

You will notice that this issue also includes a proposed bylaw amendment. This proposal will be discussed and voted on at our meeting on March 23, 2025.

Remember, it is up to every one of us to help preserve our historic covered bridges. If you see something that isn't right, say something. Whether it is a bridge in need of repair, excessive graffiti or an oversized vehicle using the bridge, let the proper authorities know about it. Local/County/State government officials need to know that we care about these structures and want them to be around for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

*Bill Caswell*



*Green River Bridge, VT/45-13-04  
Windham County, Vermont  
January 11, 2025*

## Winter Board Meeting

The Executive Board met on Sunday, February 16th to cover some business and discuss plans for the coming year. A request for fire retardant for the Roann Bridge in Wabash County, Indiana was approved. Responses to the survey included with the Winter mailing were discussed along with the matter of the dues increase.

There was also discussion about updating the Society's websites and the need to find someone who can combine the two websites, [coveredbridgesociety.org](http://coveredbridgesociety.org) and [abhdemo.com](http://abhdemo.com), into a single, more modern site that is also more compatible with mobile devices.





## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

### Hyde Hall Bridge Celebration



New York's Glimmerglass State Park and the Hyde Hall State Historic Site invite you to a grand celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's oldest covered bridge on Saturday, October 11, from 10am to 4pm. Hundreds of visitors from around the country, including many from covered bridge societies, are expected to attend free events ranging from special presentations about the history of covered bridges, music from old time music specialists and Cooperstown High School students; a classic car show; children's activities; speeches honoring the 1825 bridge; and the unveiling of a model of the bridge with historic photographs. The New York State Covered Bridge Society, the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center and the NSPCB are also involved in planning the event.

A souvenir booklet about the bridge will be available, along with a special edition post card with a unique postmark and a special license plate with the bridge included. Food and drink will be available for sale. Please note: If you plan on camping at Glimmerglass that weekend, campsites fill up fast so make your reservations early at: [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com) and/or call Reserve America at (800) 456-2267.

There will be an opportunity for covered bridge societies to have tables to distribute materials and greet visitors at the event. Plans are being made for a dinner at a nearby restaurant that evening for covered bridge aficionados to socialize.

Hyde Hall bridge, 53 feet long, was built to provide access to the estate of George Clarke. Some notable visitors to the estate who crossed the bridge include Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt, Samuel F.B. Morse, and Juliette Gordon Low. The rain date is Sunday, October 12. For more information, please contact Wayne Marshfield at [w.marshfield1947@gmail.com](mailto:w.marshfield1947@gmail.com). *Photo by Trish Kane.*



### Hassenplug Bridge, Union County, Pennsylvania



Plans are in the works for a 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for the Hassenplug Bridge (PA/38-60-03), the oldest covered bridge in the United States that still carries vehicular traffic. The 80-foot, Burr arch truss bridge, built in 1825, crosses Buffalo Creek in Mifflinburg, Union County. Some of the officers of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania met with county commissioners on January 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss a celebration event and the possibility of placing historical markers near the bridge. A marker is planned to commemorate the span being placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1980 as well as one with details about its history.



The bridge was rehabilitated in 2022 by Lancaster County Timber Frames, Inc. That project included removal of the steel grating part of the flooring which was replaced with a wooden floor.



Updates will be provided as they become available. *Photos by Gloria Smedley.*

## March Meeting

The first public meeting of 2025 is planned to be a combined in-person and Zoom gathering hosted at the Masonic Lodge, 53 N. Main St. in Boscawen, New Hampshire on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00. The meeting will begin with a presentation by member Mohamad H. Hussein of Florida. The meeting will also include a vote on the proposed by-law amendment to clarify start and end terms of elected positions.

### Bridges as Civil Engineering Heritage and Cultural Icons in Numismatics and Philately

The development of civil engineering, money, and mail are at the core of the development of civilization. Bridges, coins, paper money, and stamps all share the basic utilitarian purpose as tools of communication which make a functioning society possible. As physical objects, they are beautiful and fascinating masterworks of art and technology. Paper money notes, coins, and stamps employ vibrant and deliberate patriotic designs to showcase the country's natural beauty, display cultural heritage, honor national heroes, celebrate triumphant events, chronicle proud history, express artistic style, document accomplishments, and promote all that they consider wonderful about themselves.



Engineering works, especially bridges, are depicted to symbolize vision and determination to overcome obstacles, scientific and technological advancements, engineering and construction achievements, solid reliability and lasting dependability, purposeful progress, economic prosperity, openness and communications. The United States has issued more than 20 stamps showing bridges as main design feature; more than 1,000 bridge stamps have been issued worldwide. Hundreds of coins and paper money notes depicting bridges have been issued worldwide,



including many in America. Bridges are the main design feature on all current Euro notes, as well as all paper money notes of Cambodia, Denmark, Scotland, and others. This presentation utilizes many vivid numismatic and philatelic images and well-researched historical findings and technical information to discuss the legend of bridges and showcase engineering heritage in popular culture. The history, design, and making of the 1952 ASCE stamp is detailed.



Mohamad Hussein, P.E. is Principal Engineer and executive Vice President at GRL Engineers, Inc. and Executive Director at Pile Dynamics, Inc. In his 40+ years career consulted on more than 1,000 projects, mainly bridges. Instructor of the ASCE's Continuing Education Class: Deep Foundations Design, Construction, and Quality Control. Member of technical committees of ASTM, DFI, PDCA, ASCE, and TRB. Chaired the Deep Foundations Committee of the ASCE's Geo-Institute, and the PDCA's Education Committee; and currently Chairs the PDCA's Technical Committee. Published 60 technical papers, and co-edited eight ASCE books. He is a registered professional engineer in several States, and recipient of several professional and industry awards and recognitions.

## 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.





## April Meeting

Join us at the Museum of Old Newbury, 98 High Street (on the corner with Fruit St.), Newburyport, Massachusetts, on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM for a fascinating event showcasing the history of advancements in transportation within our local community.

### "Bridges & Boats, Trains & Planes: Local Innovations in Transportation"

Bob Watts, co-vice president and Board member of the Museum of Old Newbury, will offer an interesting and entertaining presentation about the eclectic history of transportation and infrastructure in the Newburyport area. You will see items from the Museum's collection related to Timothy Palmer, who pioneered the construction and "disruptive technology" of wooden truss bridges, covered bridges and suspension bridges. You will learn about the five local mile-markers that date back to 1708 and answered the age-old question, "Are we there yet?" Did you know the first successful air flight in Massachusetts happened on Plum Island? We'll tell you all about it.



Bob has been photographing Newburyport and environs for a decade. Maybe you have seen his popular Facebook posts, "**Come for a Walk with Me...**" Bob's curiosity and love of a good story shine through in this informative presentation. Refreshments to follow. Open business meeting of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges begins at 2:30.

## Proposed Bylaw Amendment

It has been noted that the current by-laws do not specify the start and end dates of officer and director positions. They are elected at the Annual Meeting in October, but there is no indication of when the term actually starts. Also, it is the opinion of the Executive Board that anyone serving as an officer or director should also be a member. The following amendment to the by-laws is being proposed to make those changes. New and modified text is shown in **bold** print.

Members are welcome to email comments to [nspcb@yahoo.com](mailto:nspcb@yahoo.com) before the proposal is discussed and voted on at the March 2025 meeting.

### ARTICLE IX — NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- Section 1. A Nominating Committee of at least three members, appointed by the Executive Board shall be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Society, with one member being appointed each year for a term of three years.
- Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall present its report at the Annual Meeting of the Society.
- Section 3. To be nominated, the individual shall be a member of the Society in good standing.**
- Section 3 4. The election of Officers and Directors shall be held at the Annual Meeting, a majority vote of members present and voting being necessary to elect.
- Section 4 5. If there is only one nominee for any office, by vote of the Society, the Recording Secretary shall cast one ballot for the nominee, or for the entire slate.
- Section 5 6. The Officers shall serve for one year and are eligible for re-election. Directors shall serve for three years and be eligible for re-election.
- Section 7. The term of office shall begin at the end of the Annual Meeting.**

## Dues Increase

Everyone is experiencing increased costs of living and our organization is no different. We have been debating a dues increase for the past couple of years and, until now, kept postponing the decision. The last increase, from \$15 to \$20, occurred on January 1, 2008. We have been fortunate to be able to work within that budget for the last 17 years.

Membership dues only cover the cost of printing and mailing *Topics* and the *Newsletter* each quarter. Sales of Society merchandise (calendars, clothing, *World Guides* and other goods) cover the costs associated with those items. Income derived from those sales and monetary donations received are used towards donations of fire retardant and bridge repairs. All other expenses associated with operating the organization (fees for meeting locations, insurance, office supplies, archives lease, etc.) are covered by proceeds from an investment account set up after receiving a very generous bequest from the estate of Norman Merritt of Texas who passed away in September 2008.

The topic was discussed at the annual meeting and postponed again. At that time, attendees were informed that the cost of printing the two publications, envelopes to mail them plus postage for the previous 12 months cost \$22.99 per member. Printing costs have been stable for the past few years and the cost of printing *Topics* actually decreased when we switched printers in 2018. However, postage costs have nearly doubled over the past decade and even though we have a bulk rate, non-profit discount, it has still impacted the overall cost.

Therefore, as of July 1, 2025, the following membership rates will be in effect:

Annual Membership (U.S. addresses, Individual or Family).....	\$25.00
Annual Membership (Other countries, Individual or Family).....	\$35.00
Single Life Membership (U.S. addresses only) .....	\$400.00
Couple Life Membership (U.S. addresses only).....	\$450.00

Renewing your membership for one or more years or converting it into a life membership before July 1<sup>st</sup> will continue at the old rate. Renewal notices included with the next issue will reflect the new rates.

## 2025 Safari

On August 9 & 10, 2025, the NSPCB and New York State Covered Bridge Society will host a safari to covered bridges in southwestern New Hampshire, southeastern Vermont and northern Massachusetts. The tour will be based in Brattleboro, Vermont.

Our base will be at the Colonial Inn and Spa, 889 Putney Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301. Discounted Rates (including taxes) are \$115.00 for a king bed and \$130.00 for two queens. To reserve your room, call 1-802-257-7733 and mention that you are with either the National or the New York Covered Bridge Societies. If you need to cancel the reservation later, a refund will be given up to August 6<sup>th</sup>. Hot and cold breakfast is included in the pricing and available each day. They have an indoor pool, free Wi-Fi, and rooms have a small refrigerator and microwave.



Saturday's route will include bridges in Cheshire County, New Hampshire and two north of Brattleboro. Sunday's route will visit the Green River Bridge in Vermont and then travel around Franklin County, Massachusetts. If you are interested in attending, please email Bill Caswell ([wscaswell@yahoo.com](mailto:wscaswell@yahoo.com)) or Wayne Marshfield ([w.marshfield1947@gmail.com](mailto:w.marshfield1947@gmail.com)) to be added to the mailing list for future updates.

The bridges that we plan to visit are shown on the back cover.

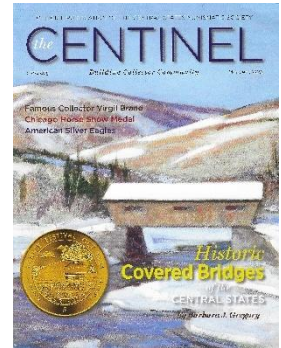


## News of Members

Members sharing their interest in covered bridges through presentations and published articles helps raise awareness of the historic value of those structures. Let us know how you are helping spread the word.

### Barbara Gregory

Many of us have interests beyond covered bridges and occasionally there are times when our other hobbies cross paths with our covered bridge interests. Such is the case with Barbara who is also a member of the Central States Numismatic Society. She is not only a member, but also editor of the Society's magazine, *The Centinel*. The publication focuses on articles related to the midwest and northern plains states. Barb had also served as editor of the *The Numismatist*, the publication of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), for 32 years. She was inducted into the ANA's Numismatic Hall of Fame in 2021. The Winter 2025 issue of *The Centinel* included an article prepared by her about midwestern covered bridges portrayed on tokens and medals with photographs by Bob Watts of examples from Bill Caswell's collection along with photos of the bridges represented on them.



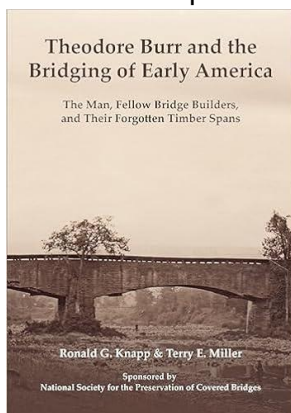
### Pam Mailey

On February 20th, Pam Mailey offered a presentation about Pennsylvania's covered bridges for the monthly meeting of the St. Joseph's Leisure Club in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. About 60 people were in the audience.

## Theodore Burr and the Bridging of Early America:

### The Man, Fellow Bridge Builders, and Their Forgotten Timber Spans

Authors Ron Knapp and Terry Miller collaborated to create a 500+ page story of Burr's bridge-building career and aspects of his personal life discovered during their three years of research. They provide a compelling narrative of a very interesting man who lived during an important period of American history.



The NSPCB is proud to sponsor this significant contribution to the history of covered bridge building in America. Proceeds from book sales are being donated to the NSPCB to be used for covered bridge preservation projects.

The book is divided into three parts.

- An introduction to Theodore Burr and family.
- Chronicles of Burr's bridges with individual chapters dedicated to more significant ones.
- Burr's legacy and use of the "Burr Arch-Truss" after his death.



It is available from Amazon in Kindle, softcover and hardcover versions. Search for it on amazon.com or scan this QR code for additional details.

## 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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CoveredBridgesConservationAssociationNB/)

Indiana Covered Bridge Society (ICBS) ..... [www.indianacoveredbridges.org/](http://www.indianacoveredbridges.org/)

New York State Covered Bridge Society (NYSCBS) ..... [www.nycoveredbridges.org/](http://www.nycoveredbridges.org/)

Ohio Historic Bridge Association (OHBA)..... [oldohiobridges.com/new/](http://oldohiobridges.com/new/)

The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania (TBCBSP) ..... [www.tbcbspa.com/](http://www.tbcbspa.com/)

Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) ..... [www.vermontbridges.org/](http://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.

<b><u>March</u></b>	<p><b>Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup></b> – 1:30 PM, OHBA Meeting, Ohio History Connection Auditorium, 800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., Exit 111 off of Route 71.</p>
<b><u>April</u></b>	<p><b>Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>26 &amp; 27</b> – ICBS Spring Tour in Adams and DeKalb Counties</p> <p><b>Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup></b> – NYSCBS Dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse, 689 N. Clinton St., Syracuse, New York. Doors open at 11:00 AM, Lunch at noon.</p>
<b><u>May</u></b>	<p><b>Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup></b> – 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM, TBCBSP Anniversary Dinner at Yoder's Restaurant, 14 South Tower Road, New Holland, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup></b> – OHBA Spring Tour, Athens County.</p>
<b><u>June</u></b>	<p><b>Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup></b> – VCBS Spring Meeting, Main Street Arts, 35 Main St., Saxtons River, Vermont.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup></b> – NYSCBS meeting, Salisbury Center, New York (exact location TBD)</p> <p><b>Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup></b> – Barrackville, West Virginia, Covered Bridge Festival.</p>
<b><u>July</u></b>	<p><b>Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup></b> – TBCBSP Fundraiser Dinner at Hoss's Steak &amp; Sea House, 3604 Market St., York, Pennsylvania. Lunch at 12:30 PM followed by monthly Business Meeting. A percentage of proceeds will be donated to the TBCBSP Preservation Fund.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup></b> – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS meeting, Ashokan, New York (exact location TBD)</p> <p><b>Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup></b> – 12:00 noon, OHBA Summer Picnic, Salt Creek Covered Bridge, Arch Hill Road, east of Zanesville, Ohio.</p> <p><b>26 &amp; 27</b> – ICBS Summer Tour in Perry and Spencer Counties.</p>

## Updates to the *World Guide to Covered Bridges*

For a complete list of changes, please visit the website at [www.coveredbridgesociety.org](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org) and click on the *World Guide* link.

Page 3, Butte County, add Honey Run Bridge

CA/05-04-01#2 Chico Butte Creek Honey Run 3 230' 2025 Pratt & King

1.7 miles southeast of jct CA32 on CA99, then 1.4 miles left on Skyway Rd., 4.4 miles left on Honey Run Rd., and just right. Closed. N39° 43.708' W121° 42.211'



## Survey Results

Here are the results of the survey included with the Winter mailing. A total of 60 entries were received, 30 paper copies by mail and 30 online surveys.

	Received by mail		Received online			Total		
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Maybe	Yes	No	Maybe
Are you interested in receiving only electronic copies of <i>Topics</i> and the <i>Newsletter</i> ?	4	26	10	18	2	14	44	2
If membership dues were raised to \$25, would you continue being a member?	30	0	28	0	2	58	0	2
Would you be able to help plan a future covered bridge tour?	1	17	6	20		7	37	

Thank you to those who were interested in future tours and for your suggestions. We received quite a variety of answers. Its good to know that there is still interest in the Alabama-Georgia tour that has been on hold for the past couple of years. Responses included:

Alabama	Ohio
Georgia	Southeast Ohio (Marietta area)
(2) Alabama & Georgia	Caledonia & Windsor Co., VT
somewhere in the south	Albert, Sunbury & Westmoreland Co., New Brunswick
Maine	New York
Central Western Maine	Southwest Indiana
Eastern NH & Western Maine	Europe
Carroll & Grafton Co., NH	
(2) Pennsylvania	

## Poster Contest to Celebrate Vermont Covered Bridges

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) is sponsoring a contest open to Vermont residents who are 13 to 18 years old. Design an original 18" x 24" poster and enter it to win one of four prize packages! Submit to [VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org) by May 1, 2025.

VCBS is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025. Our mission is to preserve the remaining covered bridges in Vermont. August 2-9, 2025 has been designated by Governor Phil Scott as Vermont Covered Bridge Week.

Poster must include a depiction of a covered bridge in Vermont and the words: Vermont Covered Bridge Week and the date. It can also include up to 3 additional words, such as celebrate, heritage, etc.

Format required: color, in .jpeg or .pdf format. Cash and merchandise will be awarded to finalists.

Four finalists will be notified by May 15, 2025. Final judging will take place at the VCBS Spring Meeting on June 7, 2025. Winning poster will be reproduced and available for purchase at VCBS events from July 4 to December 31, 2025. A portion of the proceeds from sales will be donated to a Vermont non-profit organization of the winner's choice.

Biography of approximately 50 words and release of rights form is to accompany all submissions. Please direct questions to: [VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org)

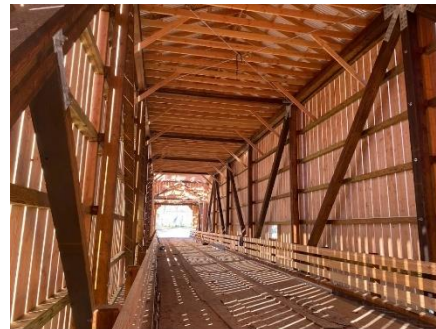
## Covered Bridge News

### California

#### Honey Run Bridge, Butte County – CA/05-04-01#2



We have been reporting on the effort to construct a replica of this bridge since the historic three-span bridge over Butte Creek was consumed by the 2018 Camp Fire. On page 12 of the Fall 2024 issue, we noted that the first span was to be hoisted onto its piers soon. As of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the structure was nearly complete with only some finishing touches left for the bridge and then paving the approaches and cleaning up the site. All of that is expected to be completed by the time you read this. *Action News Now, January 22, 2025. Exterior photo by Walt Schafer. Interior photo posted on the Action News Now Facebook page.*



### Illinois

#### Red Bridge, Bureau County – IL/13-06-01

We previously reported that the bridge was severely damaged by a tractor-trailer on November 16, 2023. A crew from the Illinois Department of Transportation installed temporary shoring in December 2023 to stabilize the roof until a permanent fix can be made. Last summer, Lin Engineering LTD in Springfield surveyed the damage to the bridge. Illinois DOT anticipates that the report will be completed in the coming months. The structure's listing on the National Register of Historic Places requires additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office to ensure the historic aspects of the bridge are not significantly changed during the repairs. District 3 program development engineer Michael Short said that phase one of repairing the bridge is to finalize the report, which can take up to 18 months. He said construction is not expected to begin for a few years. The single-span Howe truss bridge over Big Bureau Creek was built in 1864. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 23, 1975. *Shaw Local News Network, December 2, 2024. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Indiana

#### Melcher Bridge, Parke County – IN/14-61-26

In the Fall 2024 *Newsletter*, we reported that the abutments of this bridge had deteriorated to the point where they need to be replaced. The abutment work is not yet underway so, unfortunately, the bridge was uncovered through the winter. Once the abutment work is complete, work on the wooden structure can be completed. The design work is being done by VS Engineering. The single-span Burr truss bridge over Leatherwood Creek was built by J. J. Daniels in 1896. *Photo courtesy Kurdziel Barker Engineering.*





## Indiana (continued)

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

Restoration of the bridge has been completed. Daniel Kurdziel of Kurdziel Barker Engineering provided the left image before work started and the two photos of the completed project. The single-span 1854 Howe truss bridge over Coal Creek, along with the other two covered bridges in Fountain County, were added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 2021.



*Portal before the work.*



*After repairs were completed.*



*After repairs were completed.*

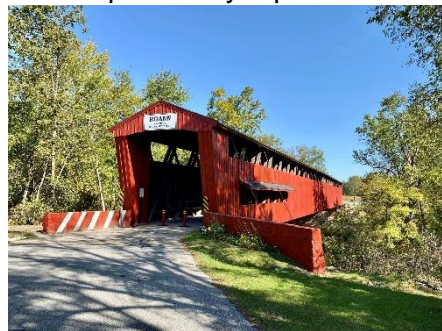
### Bell's Ford Bridge, Hamilton County – IN/14-29-14

Details of the project to construct this bridge were included on page 20 of the Spring 2024 *Newsletter* and page 13 of the Fall 2024 issue. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, we received an update on this project from Daniel Kurdziel of Kurdziel Barker Engineering. The bridge is complete except for application of fire retardant which will occur when the weather warms up a bit. A ribbon-cutting is planned for the Spring. The only example of a Post truss covered bridge spans Fall Creek next to Florida Road on the east side of Fishers at the southern end of Geist Park. The 160' covered span was built with material from the former Bell's Ford Bridge which once stood in Jackson County, Indiana. It is flanked with approach spans to cover the 400' between abutments. *Photo courtesy Kurdziel Barker Engineering.*



### Roann Bridge, Wabash County – IN/14-85-01#4

We previously reported that the 1877 Howe truss bridge was closed after a recent inspection identified



*August 6, 1981. Photos by Gloria Smedley.*

some areas needing repair. The County Commissioners have requested an estimate of the repair cost from their engineers. The NSPCB approved a donation of fire retardant to be applied once the repairs have been completed. The two-span structure over Eel River was added to the National Register of Historic Places on



## Kentucky

### Ringos Mill Bridge, Fleming County – KY/17-35-04

### Grange City or Hillsboro Bridge, Fleming County – KY/17-35-05

Winter weather has created some challenges with ongoing work at these two bridges. In our previous issue, we noted that the superstructures were complete and work was to begin on the abutments. However, that process was impacted when snow and heavy rain resulted in significant flooding in the area. Concrete forms set up to prepare for the abutment work were washed away along with some other materials. The flooding also partially submerged some of the equipment before crews had a chance to relocate it to higher ground. A farmer living near the Ringos Mill Bridge graciously offered drier land where Arnold M. Grāton Associates could relocate and store materials. Even though the Grange City Bridge is now three feet higher than it was before, the floodwaters have reached the bottom of the span. Neither bridge appears to be in any danger at this time. The projects were initially expected to be completed in February, but these setbacks will postpone that until the weather cooperates.

## Maine

### Babb's Bridge, Cumberland County – ME/19-03-01#2

We previously reported that the bridge was badly damaged when a Ford F-750 loaded with crushed gravel 18 tons – six times the posted three-ton weight limit – caused the floor to give way leaving the truck in the Presumpscot River below. Although repairs were not expected to begin until spring, some of the new timbers arrived early and the weather has cooperated so the work was underway in early January. If all goes well, repairs could be complete by the end of March. The company owning the truck was issued a \$2,500 weight violation summons.



The truck's owner, The Driveway Guys of Biddeford, has vowed to do what they can to cover the estimated \$110,000 cost of repairs plus the \$20,000 owed to the towing company and over \$7,000 due to the Gorham Fire Department. A crew from Maine DOT is doing the work.

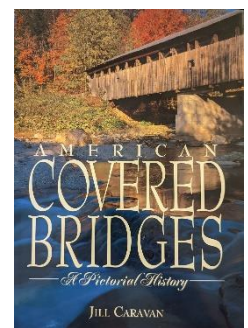
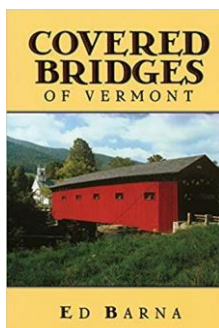
They also expected to replace all the floorboards which were worn and due for replacement anyway. The bridge was re-opened to traffic on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The Gorham Historical Society and Windham Historical Society are planning something for the reopening of the bridge. The single-span queenpost bridge was built in 1976 as a replica of the historic covered bridge lost to arson. *WMTW-TV, January 10, 2025 and Portland Press Herald, January 22, 2025 and February 20, 2025.*



*Left photo from last summer courtesy Gorham Police Department, right photo by Maine DOT.*

## Used Books

We occasionally receive donations that include covered bridge books. While some of the books are added to the Society's permanent collection in the archives in Concord, New Hampshire, others are available for sale. We do not include the list in the *Newsletter* because it often changes and would be outdated before you receive it. There is a list on the website which is updated as new items are received and others are purchased. For more details, visit <https://www.coveredbridgesociety.org/books-used.htm>.





## Michigan

### Langley Bridge, St. Joseph County – MI/22-75-01

The bridge has been closed after two overheight vehicle incidents. There are warning signs for miles alerting drivers to the 7-foot high and 3-ton weight limit. They include solar powered warning lights and height restrictors on both ends. Road Commission officials say that both height restrictors were knocked down and their concrete bases damaged. Early in the morning of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the southern structure was damaged by a construction crew's utility trailer. The bridge was not damaged and remained open to traffic.



Five days later, a pickup truck with an in-bed camper crossed the bridge and struck the northern height restrictor. The camper was knocked off of the truck. The driver left it behind. With both structures damaged, the bridge was closed. Officials will explore additional safety measures, like infrared sensors and additional lights, to help prevent future incidents. Repairs are expected to cost \$10,000 or more. Both drivers were ticketed for disregarding traffic-control devices and are financially responsible for the repairs. The bridge was re-opened on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The three span Howe truss structure was built over the St. Joseph River in 1887. *Sturgis Journal, December 10, 2024 and WLKM, January 7, 2025. Photo by Jim Allen.*

## Missouri

### Locust Creek Bridge, Linn County – MO/25-58-01

On Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced “Locust Creek



Covered Bridge State Historic Site will be closed to the public starting at noon December 24, 2024, to prepare for the bridge's movement to Pershing State Park.” In the Summer 2022 *Newsletter*, we reported that the Locust Creek channel was straightened in the 1950's so the bridge was no longer over a creek bed. Over the years the old channel filled in and by the 1990's the bridge was sitting on dirt.

The bridge was raised six feet and over the last 30 years, additional silt has accumulated leaving less than two feet of clearance under the structure. The DNR press release also stated that “To preserve one of the last four remaining covered bridges in Missouri, the bridge will be moved to Pershing State Park and be placed over water once again. The move to Pershing State Park, located at 29277 Highway 130 in Laclede, Missouri, is scheduled for the end of January to the first of February, depending on the weather.”

KCHI Radio interviewed Park Superintendent Tom Woodward about the project in mid-January. Mr. Woodward indicated that the plan was to move the 151-foot-long Howe truss structure intact and place it on new supports. Then new approaches will be constructed and it will become the trailhead for the park's riparian trail. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, the Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune published this photo of the bridge being prepared for the move. Locust Creek is the longest of Missouri's four remaining historic covered bridges. It was built in 1868 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 19, 1970. *KCHI Radio, January 14, 2025 & Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, February 8, 2025. Upper photo by Bob Hamilton.*



## New Hampshire

### Edgell Bridge, Grafton County – NH/29-05-11

The project to repair the 1885 span over Clay Brook described in recent Newsletters is now underway. The town of Lyme provided the following update. Of the projected \$690,000+ cost, 64 private citizens donated \$294,955, the Lyme Foundation donated \$60,456, the NSPCB donated \$17,425, and the State of New Hampshire Bridge Grants program contributed \$88,589.



The project was delayed when the contractor, 3G Construction, discovered that there were tie rods and turnbuckles keeping the bridge from spreading at the bottom chords and virtually nothing other than the decking keeping the two side trusses from coming together. To correct that, 4" x 8" blocks were lagged to the underside of a number of the floor beams against the bottom cords of each truss. Heavy ratchet straps were used to secure the structure while they straightened its alignment. The bridge had also been leaning upriver which has now been corrected.

New Douglas fir bracing has been added below the floor beams along with galvanized tie rods with turnbuckles. Replacement floor beams and new decking was expected to arrive in mid-January. With the unanticipated replacement of the floor beams, the project is now estimated to be completed at the beginning of April. *Photos Courtesy 3G Construction.*



## Ohio

### Brown County Bridges

In December, the county commissioners contracted for repairs to three of the county's covered bridges: Brown Bridge, Bethel Road or New Hope Bridge and North Pole Road Bridge. All three bridges are closed to traffic. The North Pole Road Bridge needs work on the lower chord and all three need some general maintenance such as new siding, tree removal, graffiti removal and adding bollards. The county has also requested assistance with fire retardant for the spans.

- The Brown Bridge, OH/35-08-04, is a single-span Smith truss built over White Oak Creek in 1878.
- The Bethel Road or New Hope Bridge, OH/35-08-05, is a single-span Howe truss with an arch built over White Oak Creek in 1878.
- The North Pole Road Bridge, OH/35-08-23, is a single-span Smith truss built over Eagle Creek in 1875.



*Brown Bridge  
OH/35-08-04  
Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo*



*New Hope Bridge  
OH/35-08-05  
Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo*



*North Pole Road Bridge  
OH/35-08-23  
Greg McDuffee Photo*



## Pennsylvania

### South Perkaspie Bridge, Bucks County – PA/38-09-05



In the previous *Newsletter* we noted that Wood Research and Development LLC (WRD) was hired for engineering and design consultation services for the rehabilitation of the span. The remnants of Hurricane Ida in September 2021 swept the bridge off its abutments during historic flooding in the park. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) along with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) awarded grant funds for repairs to damage caused by the flooding. WRD's report is expected in early 2025 with a construction contract to be let in the Spring. No local taxpayer

money is to be used to cover the estimated between \$650,000 and \$700,000 cost. If all goes well, the bridge is expected to return to public service by late August 2025. The single-span Town truss bridge originally crossed Pleasant Spring Creek on South Main Street in Perkaspie before being relocated to the park in 1958. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980. *WFMZ, December 29, 2024. Photos courtesy of Scott Bomboy and Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Rudolph and Arthur Bridge, Chester County – PA/38-15-01

In the previous *Newsletter*, we noted that construction has started on the replacement of the 1880 covered bridge which was swept away by floodwaters on September 1, 2021. Sara Beth Kohut visited the site in mid-November and noticed that construction has started and is continuing through the winter.



### Sheeder or Hall's Bridge, Chester County – PA/38-15-12

On Sunday, May 18th from 2 to 3 p.m., there will be a celebration of the bridge's 175th anniversary. Local, county and state officials have been invited to attend along with representatives from nearby historical associations. The single-span Burr truss structure was built over French Creek in 1850. Photos by Sara Beth Kohut.





## Pennsylvania (continued)

### McGees Mills Bridge, Clearfield County – PA/38-17-01

In the previous *Newsletter*, we reported that the Clearfield County Commissioners advertised for bids to repair the timber deck of the bridge. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, the *Clearfield Progress* reported that the bridge would be closed for that work beginning on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The project was expected to be completed within a few days. The single-span Burr truss bridge was built over the West Branch Susquehanna River in 1873. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 17, 1980. *Photo by Michael Rudnick.*



### Bogert's Bridge, Allentown, Lehigh County – PA/38-39-01

On December 16, 2024, PennDOT contacted interested parties with information about the rehabilitation plan for this bridge. NSPCB and the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania both reviewed the plans and prepared statements in support of the project stressing the importance of following the recommendations in the Department of the Interior's 2019 *Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Covered Bridges*. The project will correct the sag in the structure, replace some deteriorated truss members, replace the decking, add a new roof and siding, new abutments, add steel beams for support and apply fire retardant. They are expected to advertise for bids in May with construction to begin in early fall. The Burr truss bridge over Little Lehigh Creek was built in 1841. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1980. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Book's or Kaufman's or Kauffman's Bridge, Perry County – PA/38-50-13#2

After being hit by a vehicle and closed for nearly a year, the single span Burr truss bridge over Sherman Creek was reopened to traffic in November. WGAL-TV reported that the repairs were completed on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The bridge was built in 2004 to replace an historic 1884 span. The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, PA, September 29, 2004, noted that the historic bridge was replaced with a replica that is wider, taller and stronger than the original. The changes, which include support by four steel beams, were made to allow emergency vehicles to pass through the bridge. The original had been closed since 1992. *WGAL-TV, November 18, 2024. Photos by Gloria Smedley.*



## Vermont

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



In the Fall 2024 issue, we reported on damage to the walkway of this bridge from severe weather in July 2024. Jeanne Beaudry provided these photos from late last summer showing that the condition has worsened with a portion of the side of the walkway missing. The bridge was built over the South Wheelock Branch of the Passumpsic River in 1879.



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

In the previous *Newsletter* we reported that the town is working on adding steel beam barriers (what we often refer to as “headache bars”) at each end of the bridge due to the repeated damage caused by oversized vehicles. Foundations were constructed last fall and are awaiting the steel barriers. Town officials have asked the Lyndon Institute’s welding class for assistance to save money on the work and have the students directly involved in protecting the bridge. The class is taught by Ryan Brill, a Lyndon Institute teacher who owns his own welding shop. They designed the structure and were working on it in January. *WCAX-TV, January 21, 2024. Photos of the footings by Jeanne & Marcel Beaudry and bridge photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Village or Big Eddy or Great Eddy Bridge, Washington County – VT/45-12-14

The bridge was temporarily closed after a rental truck became wedged inside the western entrance of this Burr truss span over Mad River on the afternoon of November 19th. “The truck was trying to make a delivery and the driver thought he was going to fit through the covered bridge,” said Jeff Campbell, Waitsfield’s constable. The bridge, believed to have been built in 1833, is one of Vermont’s oldest covered bridges. Temporary repairs were made so the structure could be opened to traffic later that day. Permanent repair work began on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The work was done by Miles Jenness and his crew from Vermont Heavy Timber of Huntington, Vermont. Jenness noted that they will be taking a damaged long hand-hewn timber to their where they will hand-hew its replacement. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 6, 1974. *Vermont Digger, November 19, 2024 and The Valley Reporter, December 5 & 12, 2024. Image from Mad River Valley Television’s live webcam (<https://mrvtv.com/live-broadcasts/live-webcams/>).*





## Vermont (continued)

### Sanderson Bridge, Rutland County – VT/45-11-02#2

The bridge was damaged on the morning of October 4<sup>th</sup> when a tractor-trailer attempted to cross it. On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the bridge was struck by another tractor-trailer. A neighbor told police that the truck backed into a driveway to turn around after striking the bridge. As it was leaving the scene, it forced another vehicle driven by an off-duty firefighter off the road.



Police caught up to the truck and arrested the driver, Almozhon Nebiyev, 32, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was driving for Caravan Logistics LLC, a company based in Pennsylvania. He was cited for one count of negligent vehicle operation and two counts of leaving the scene of a crash with property damage resulting, all misdemeanors. He was also issued civil tickets for driving over a bridge weight limit and failure to obey the five signs he passed alerting him to the height and weight restrictions. Nebiyev has been cited to appear in Vermont Superior Court Rutland Criminal Division on January 6<sup>th</sup>.



photos by Paul Limmer after the October 4<sup>th</sup> incident, lower photo by Beth Brown-Limmer (upper two) and

### Northfield Bridges, Washington County

Members of Northfield's Select Board discussed the challenges of maintaining the town's covered bridges at their November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The bridges need to be repainted, a task that was last done at least 25 years ago. Informal estimates from local contractors ranged from \$180,000 to \$200,000. Knowing that the Vermont Agency of Transportation is planning to rehabilitate these bridges in about five years, they decided that it was better to continue putting the painting on hold until the repair work has been done. Due to the large amount of money needed, the town will need to create a Capital Improvement Plan account in the highway department budget to set aside funds over several years. One Board member noted that the covered bridges are a tourist attraction, especially during foliage season, so they should be maintained properly. *The Montpelier Bridge, December 12, 2024.*



*Slaughterhouse Bridge  
VT/45-12-09  
Philip Caston Photo*



*Upper Cox Bridge  
VT/45-12-11  
Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo*



*Station Bridge  
VT/45-12-11  
Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo*



## Canada – New Brunswick

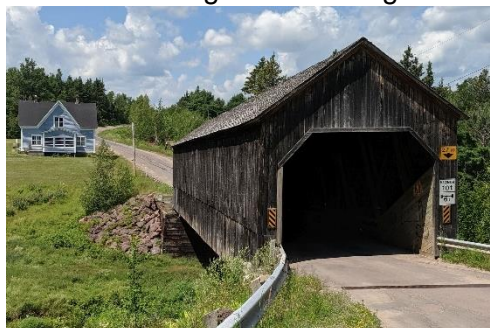
### Hartland Bridge, Carleton County – NB/55-02-07

According to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, bridge crews are repairing the roof including installing new shingles. Repairs are also necessary under the bridge on the east bank. Clearance beams will be added later to help protect it from oversize vehicles. The seven-span Howe truss bridge was built over the St. John River in 1901 and covered in 1922. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

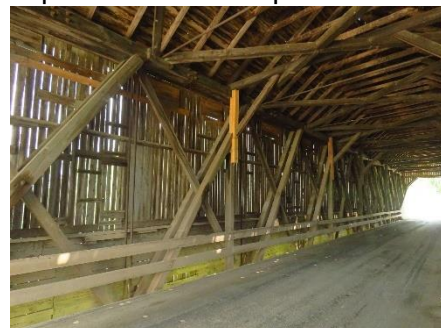


### Cameron's Mill or Kouchibouguasis River #5 Bridge, Kent County – NB/55-05-12

After hearing that the bridge was closed to traffic, we contacted the Department of Transportation and



Infrastructure for information about the project. The area bridge crew is replacing chords and bearings to bring the bridge back to a 10 ton weight limit. The decking is also being replaced. The work is expected to be completed by the end of March if the weather cooperates. The single-span



Howe truss bridge over Kouchibouguasis River was built in 1950. *Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

### Plumweseep or Kennebecasis River #9 Bridge, Kings County – NB/55-06-18

In early February, pictures circulated on social media showing the roof shingles of this single-span



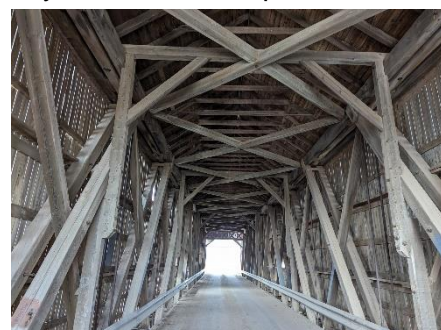
bridge over the Kennebecasis River being replaced. Our contact at the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure informed us that, in addition to the roof repairs, the area bridge crew is also replacing the decking and siding. The work is expected to be completed around the end of February. In recent years, the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure has performed similar routine maintenance on many of the province's historic covered bridges. This span was constructed in 1910 by local bridge builder Albert E. Smye based on his bid of \$1,694.00. The name "Plumwesweep" is a Maliseet word for salmon river. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

### Wheaton or Tantramar River #2 Bridge, Westmorland County – NB/55-14-13

The single-span bridge crossing the Tantramar River was closed on July 11<sup>th</sup> after an inspection raised



concerns about its structural condition. Local officials and residents, concerned that the bridge might be removed, have been contacting local and provincial officials to have it repaired and re-opened without success. During an interview with radio station



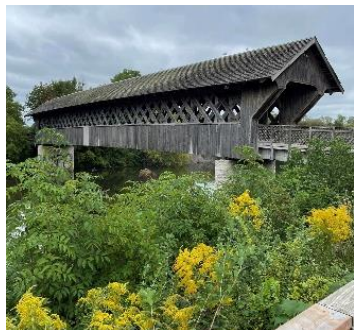
CHMA, Memramcook-Tantramar MLA Megan Mitton expressed her frustration at the lack of progress. *CHMA Radio, February 14, 2025. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Ontario

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

Design of the repairs to this bridge are nearing completion and it is intended to advertise for construction in the spring. Details of the proposed work were included on page 5 of the Winter 2023/2024 *Newsletter*. For the latest information on this project, visit the Region of Waterloo's website at <https://www.engagewr.ca/west-montrose>. *Photo by Gloria Smedley.*



### York Road Park Bridge, Wellington County – ON/59-52-01

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, the City of Guelph posted a notice on their website that the bridge will be closed for about a week beginning on December 10<sup>th</sup> while the stairs and their foundations on the southwestern side of the bridge are replaced. The single span Town lattice truss structure over the Speed River was built in 1992. *Photos by Tony Dowling.*



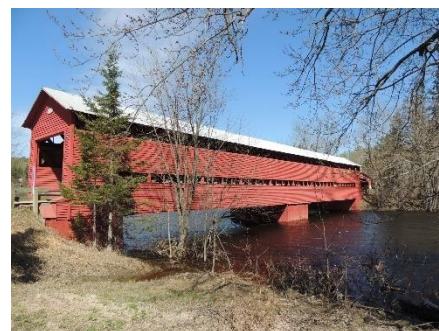
## Québec

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

### Pont Grand pont de Ferme Rouge, Laurentides Region – QC/61-33-02



Robert Peterson reported that a steel height restrictor (aka headache bar) at this bridge has been knocked down. The bridge was not damaged implying that the unknown vehicle left the scene after striking the steel beam. The two-span Québec-style lattice truss structure was built



over Rivière du Lièvre in 1903. *Photos by Gérald Arbour.*

### Pont Narrows, Fitch Bay, Cantons de l'Est – QC/61-69-03

On page 23 of the Spring 2023 *Newsletter*, we reported that the Township of Stanstead has raised property taxes to fund a number of projects including a planned \$1.3 million for work on this bridge in 2024. On January 10<sup>th</sup>, the newspaper *Le Reflet du Lac* reported that the bridge project, now estimated at \$2.5 million, has been postponed until 2026. No details of the work to be done were mentioned. The single-span Town truss bridge was built over Fitch Bay Narrows in 1881 for \$775. The bridge was bypassed and closed to traffic in 1977. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## China

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, China Daily published a lengthy article on covered bridges in Zhejiang and Fujian provinces. Much of the focus of the article was on the work accomplished by Zhong Xiaobo, director of the Wenzhou Covered Bridge Culture Society.

Wooden arch bridges were once widespread in the mountains of what is now southern Zhejiang and northern Fujian provinces, but since the 1960s, they have gradually been replaced by concrete and steel, leading the craftspeople who made them to turn to other professions. By the turn of the millennium, when they regained their cachet, those able to build the bridges seemed to have vanished.

Zhong became interested in the wooden arch bridges while in college in 2000. Unlike the wood truss bridges we are used to seeing in North America, the Chinese spans are mostly built for pedestrian traffic and are places where people gathered to chat, relax, or make religious offerings. These structures use short, interlocking logs to create long arches without nails or rivets, a design that efficiently spreads the load, often without the help of pillars. He launched a website about the structures which got more people interested. Later, he founded the Wenzhou Covered Bridge Culture Society and organized seminars to inform others about them and encourage their preservation.



*Zhong (right) and Zeng Jiakuai, a provincial level inheritor of wooden arch bridge building techniques. Photo provided to China Daily.*

Since Dong and a few other elderly craftspeople were found, the local government has adopted measures, like subsidies for constructing bridges using traditional skills, to encourage the use and expansion of the craft. "Now, the number of new wooden arch bridges in some parts of southern Zhejiang and northern Fujian exceeds the old, a positive trend in development. Given that just two decades ago they were endangered, we can confidently say that the situation has undergone a welcome transformation," Zhong says.

In 2009, the traditional design and practices for building Chinese wooden arch bridges was added to UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. At that time, there were only four people with mastery of the core techniques, all over 75. Now there are more than 40 representative inheritors, aged 56 on average. With the revival of this craft, it was moved to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on December 15, 2024.



*Dabao or Xiaodongxia Bridge, Shouning County, Fujian Province  
Terry Miller Photo*

Originally, the skills to construct the bridges would be passed down within families, or through apprenticeship. In 2003, heritage activists met one of these craftsmen, Dong Zhiji, whose name they'd found on a bridge built decades earlier. At that time he was 78 years old and retired. Dong was asked to help work on the Tongle Bridge, an uncovered wooden arch bridge in Taishun County, Zhejiang Province. He trained several apprentices during that time. Dong's knowledge of wooden arch bridges has made the revival of the then-endangered craft possible.



*Rulong Bridge, Qingyuan county, Zhejiang Province, which dates to 1625. China's oldest woven arch-beam bridge. Ron Knapp Photo*



## Planned 2025 Safari Bridges



*Ashuelot Bridge,  
Winchester, NH, NH/29-03-02*



*Coombs Bridge,  
Winchester, NH, NH/29-03-03*



*Slate Bridge,  
Swanzey, NH, NH/29-03-06#2*



*Thompson Bridge,  
Swanzey, NH, NH/29-03-04*



*Sawyer's Crossing Bridge,  
Swanzey, NH, NH/29-03-05*



*Carlton Bridge,  
Swanzey, NH, NH/29-03-07*



*West Dummerston Bridge,  
Dummerston, VT, VT/45-13-02#2*



*Williamsville Bridge,  
Williamsville, VT, VT/45-13-05#2*



*Creamery Bridge,  
Brattleboro, VT, VT/45-13-01*



*Green River Bridge,  
Green River, VT, VT/45-13-04*



*Arthur Smith Bridge,  
Colrain, MA, MA/21-06-03#2*



*Pumping Station Bridge,  
Greenfield, MA, MA/21-06-02#2*



*Burkeville or Conway Bridge,  
Conway, MA, MA/21-06-01*



*Bissell Bridge,  
Charlemont, MA, MA/21-06-04#2*



*Creamery Bridge,  
Ashfield, MA, MA/21-06-11  
Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



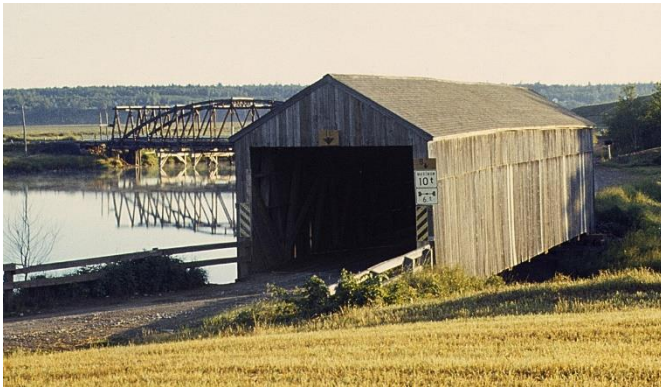
## Historic William Mitton Covered Bridge Demolished

After many years of neglect and dedicated efforts by the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick (CBCANB) to save the bridge by having it relocated to a new home, the sagging single-span Burr truss bridge was demolished early in the morning of February 26th.

The bridge's history is a mystery yet to be solved. One consistent fact is that it was constructed by William Mitton on the road to his farm near Riverview in Albert County in 1942. Local lore used to refer to it as the "traveling bridge," claiming that it floated down the river from Kent County. While it sounds nice, the more likely story is a bit less exciting.

According to William Mitton's grandson, also named William Mitton, who lives within sight of the bridge, the real story is less exciting. Farmer William Mitton was born in Albert County on September 16, 1887. He purchased the bridge and had it dismantled, moved and reconstructed at that location in 1942. Farmer Mitton died on April 17, 1976. Its original location is not yet known but may have been near Sainte-Marie-de-Kent. If that is accurate, it would likely have crossed the Bouctouche River or one of its tributaries. CBCANB president Ray Boucher has identified four potential sites upstream from Sainte-Marie-de-Kent where roads presently dead end at locations believed to have once had covered bridges.

The two photos below taken by Joseph Conwill on July 22, 1976 show the bridge while it was still open to traffic. Also note the uncovered wood truss bridge in the background of the left photo which carried Route 112 over Turtle Creek at the time.



By 1981 the covered bridge was no longer safe for farm truck traffic, so a culvert was built upstream to bypass it. Once the structure was closed to traffic, it was for the most part abandoned and uncared for.

In July 2019, the NSPCB hosted a tour of covered bridges in New Brunswick and this abandoned bridge was one of the stops. It was in rough shape then with many holes in the roof and a failing abutment. Letters of concern were sent to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) and other provincial officials.



In 2021, the CBCANB prepared a proposal for DTI to transfer ownership of the structure to the Town of Riverview and then work with DTI on the long overdue repairs. The bridge is at a strategic location at the western edge of Riverview and visible to those entering the town along Route 112. It was suggested that the town could transform the area into a park to welcome visitors into the town. At the time, the DTI estimated it would cost \$350,000 to fix it. The Town of Riverview was not interested in this idea.



In August 2022, the CBCANB planned a rally to raise awareness of the bridge's condition. By then the bridge was closed to pedestrian traffic with barricades placed at each end. Although it did receive some press, not enough interest was raised to repair the span. Preservation efforts rely heavily on local interest to be successful. While groups like the CBCANB, Association Heritage New Brunswick, NSPCB and others outside the region can write letters advocating for preservation, local support carries much more weight. *Photo by Ray Boucher, Summer 2022.*



Many more years of spring floods caused the abutments on both ends to start caving in. Heavy snow during the winter of 2022-2023 caused the upper chord to fail on one side resulting in a pronounced sag leaving it in danger of collapsing. The failed chord also resulted in a number of the truss braces failing. The collapsing abutment continued to get worse and, by this time, the other abutment was failing too.

In 2023, Association Heritage New Brunswick included the William Mitton Covered Bridge as one of five places in New Brunswick "that are under threat of demolition, neglect, or inappropriate redevelopment. The goal of the list is to increase the chances of conserving these sites for future generations." Their announcement stated, in part, that, "There is great concern that the sagging of the bridge, wood rot, erosion of the riverbank, and leaking roof will eventually lead to the collapse of the bridge, which may cause injuries or other damage."

When Bill & Jenn Caswell visited the bridge on November 25, 2023, a family living nearby showed them photos taken 3 days before their visit and changes were noticeable. Although it seemed like collapse was imminent, the span survived another winter. By the Fall of 2024, the bridge had sagged to the point where about one foot of it was submerged at high tide.



*Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo,  
November 25, 2023*



*Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo,  
November 25, 2023*



*Ray Boucher Photo,  
August 9, 2024*

On February 26, 2025, the bridge was demolished.



*Silas Brown/CBC Photo, Before Demolition*



*CTV Photo, February 26, 2025*