



# The Newsletter

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

Summer 2020



*Recent Repairs to the Packsaddle Bridge, PA/38-56-02*

*Photo Courtesy Rusty Glessner – PABucketlist.com*

*For more details on this project, see page 20*

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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 **September**, therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them by **August 15, 2020**. 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

Margaret Gacki, Cumberland, Maryland  
J.F. Gosselin, Québec City, Québec  
Paul Harvey, Eugene, Oregon  
David Lang, Somerville, New Jersey  
Tom Moroney, Augusta, Georgia  
Karen Nardone-Lemons, Norfolk, Massachusetts  
Jim Poeppelman, Versailles, Ohio

## Meet a Member

At February's Board meeting a suggestion was made to feature articles about some of the people who work behind the scenes to support the Society's mission. For this inaugural issue, the spotlight is turned on Dan Brock of Vernon, Connecticut.

Dan has been responsible for maintaining the Society's list of covered bridges since 2005. He keeps track of not only the bridges listed in the *World Guide to Covered Bridges*, but also other covered structures not included in the *Guide* and OCBI's (structures Of Covered Bridge Interest). He seeks out photos of all these structures and has been compiling the information for a series of books for the Society's Archives.



In preparation for the next *World Guide to Covered Bridges*, Dan reviewed directions and coordinates for all the bridges previously listed and has made numerous corrections.



One of our new members, Jim Poeppelman, was involved in the construction of the Veterans Memorial Bridge in 2018 at Bear's Mill, Darke County, Ohio (#OH/35-19-b).

Photo contributed by Bob DiRenzo.

## Are you Due for Renewal?

The NSPCB membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. Please check your address label to see if you are due for renewal. We look forward to continuing to provide you with covered bridge news and information.

## President's Message

These are certainly an interesting time we are living in. For those of you who are frontline healthcare workers or first responders, thank you for the work you do putting your health and safety on the line for the rest of us. I expect that every one of us has been affected in some way. Some have lost friends or loved ones, some have lost their jobs and some have become homeschool teachers.

The covered bridge community is saddened by the passing of Donna Freeland. Donna was a friend to many of us and dedicated volunteer for the New York State Covered Bridge Society serving as its president for many years and most recently as the Society's historian. We also wish to extend our condolences to member Steve Brown who lost his mother, Jeannette Brown, to the COVID-19 virus on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. And, our condolences to our vice president Karl Olson and his wife Tina for the unexpected passing of Tina's son Harry Stockbridge on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you live near one or more covered bridges, now is a great time to get out and visit them. Jenn and I have been very fortunate to have opportunities to travel while still working full time. While it is always great to explore new areas, we also enjoy visiting the covered bridges near us, particularly those in Cheshire and Merrimack Counties here in New Hampshire. We have had some nice, sunny days this spring, but as I sit at my desk typing this message on the morning of May 9<sup>th</sup>, there is snow falling outside. Warmer weather is on its way and in this time of limited travel, with most of our commitments for the coming months cancelled, we plan to be spending more time on our bicycles exploring the nearby trails and visiting the covered bridges accessible from them.



*Bike ride past the Keniston Covered Bridge (NH/29-07-02) in Andover, New Hampshire.*

In early March, Jenn and I spent a day with Andy Rebman and Greg McDuffee of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society traveling around Parke County to work on plans for the Society's September tour. We tried out portions of the routes and found some adjustments that needed to be made. We returned home just days before many states enacted stay-at-home orders. While at home, we continued refining the routes and continued working on food. By the end of April, it became evident that due to the uncertainty of the future, we had to consider postponing the trip until another time. An email to those who had already expressed interest in attending confirmed that others were thinking the same thing. It was a difficult decision, but we ultimately needed to postpone the trip.

A positive side to the current situation is the increasing prevalence of technology which has been available for years. While some companies and schools were already familiar with video conferencing tools, the sudden need to work and teach from home has catapulted their use into mainstream society. As a result, there is an abundance of new opportunities available. For example, I was excited to hear that Philip Ivester's presentation on the Concord Bridge in Cobb County, Georgia was available through Zoom. Presentations such as Philip's are no longer restricted to local audiences. I am presently preparing a video presentation for the Sandown, New Hampshire Public Library which will also be available to an Internet audience. I hope to hear about more of these presentations to learn from other's covered bridge research.

We would like to offer our congratulations to Scott Wagner whose article on Steuben County, New York's former covered bridges in the Spring 2020 *Topics* was reprinted in the Steuben County Historical Society's quarterly publication, *Steuben Echos*.

As you travel around this Summer, remember to keep us informed of any issues which need our attention. We need everyone's help watching over our historic covered bridges.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robin Mitchell for all the time and effort he contributed towards preparing this *Newsletter* over the past seven years.

Stay safe. We will chat again in the fall.

**Bill Caswell**

## Upcoming NSPCB Meetings & Events

All meetings begin at **1:00 PM** unless otherwise noted. Restrictions on public gatherings due to COVID-19 could cause meetings to be cancelled on short notice. If you plan to attend a meeting, please check the 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 confirm that it will be taking place.

**Sunday, June 28** – Contoocook Railroad Bridge, Main St., Contoocook, New Hampshire. The meeting will be inside the bridge. Bring your own chair.

**Saturday, July 25** – Milhendler Room, Haverhill Public Library, 99 Main St, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

**Sunday, August 23** – Annual picnic at Beaver Meadow Village at the end of Waumbec St., Concord, New Hampshire. The cookout is at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.

**Sunday, September 27** – Hosted by Carmela Sciandra at her home, 201 Russell Farm Road, Lunenburg, Vermont.

**Saturday, October 24** – Annual Meeting at the Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Rd., Grafton, Massachusetts. Dinner at noon, Meeting starting 1:00 PM. Presentation by Tim Dansereau and Arnold Gräton. A reservation form will be included in the Fall mailing.

## Winter Executive Board Meeting

The Winter Executive Board Meeting was held at the Horace Chase Masonic Lodge in Boscawen, New Hampshire on February 22nd. The winter meeting is the time where the Society's officers and committee heads gather to begin planning and setting goals for the coming year.

With the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon disbanding at the end of the year, the group offered a complimentary one-year membership to their remaining members who are interested. Our hope is that some will continue as NSPCB members and help us keep up with the needs of the covered bridges on the west coast. CBSO President Jerry Russell will mention the offer at their next meeting and include it in their June newsletter.



The Board also approved pledges towards two bridge projects, the South Perkasio Bridge (PA/38-09-05) in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and the Cades Mill Bridge (IN/14-23-02) in Fountain County, Indiana. Both pledges are pending until work is ready to begin on the bridges. Photo by Bob Watts.

## Spring Executive Board Meeting

After the cancellation of the March and April meetings, the Executive Board decided to hold their spring meeting via Zoom on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to vice president Karl Olson for hosting the meeting.

The Board discussed adjustments to the meeting schedule which are noted above and on the website. The possibility of using Zoom for a regular monthly meeting was discussed and this option may be used if social distancing will still be in effect at the time of Contoocook meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Board was updated on the status of the projects which the group pledged donations towards at the February Board Meeting. They were also updated on the status of the 2021 calendar which is included on page 10. The possibility of offering a covered bridge puzzle was discussed along with an interest in preparing short videos about individual covered bridges. These ideas will be researched to determine their feasibility.



## In Memorium

### Donna Freeland

Our colleague Donna Freeland passed away on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 68 years. She was born on July 12, 1951 and grew up in Yorktown, NY, attending college in Cortland. Later she owned a Dairy Mart for many years with her partner Linda Fusiak. She recently worked as a courier and as a driver then dispatcher for Joy Medical Transportation in Middletown, NY.

Donna was a long-time member of the New York State Covered Bridge Society and became President of the Society after the previous President, Dick Wilson, resigned in November 2006. Dick was to pass away unexpectedly in February 2007. Since Dick and Jeanette Wilson also planned the group's annual safaris, her first year would now include that responsibility.

The "2007 Dick Wilson Memorial CB Safari" was a success and she was on her way to ten years as president before stepping down due to health concerns. She continued to serve the Society as its historian and this year would have started her term as one of its five trustees.

*Sympathy cards may be sent to:*

*The Freeland Family c/o Linda Fusiak  
34 Dogwood Loop  
Bloomingburg, NY 12721*

According to the New York society's April Newsletter, Donna was not able to overcome complications from a Covid-19 infection on top of her other medical issues. There was no funeral due to the restrictions on social gatherings. Perhaps there will something when the pandemic is over.



### Bryan A. Cuddeback



Bryan A. Cuddeback passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at home in League City, Texas at the age of 77. Bryan was born in North Adams, Massachusetts on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1942. He earned a private pilot license and was accepted into the Naval Officer Candidate School. He saved many lives during his service as a helicopter pilot with the Navy Seawolves in Vietnam. They were the most decorated unit and the Navy's only attack helicopter squadron. On December 20, 1969, he married his childhood friend, Hope Lee, and passed away a few days short of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After his military service, he continued flying fighting forest fires on the West coast, flying the pipeline in Alaska, and oil rigs in the Gulf. The last 10 years of his career were spent flying in Saudi Arabia for an oil company. Bryan is survived by his wife, Hope Lee Cuddeback, two daughters and a granddaughter.

## Archives Update

In March, Jenn and Bill met Jera Tidball in Somerset, Kentucky to pick up 8 albums of covered bridge photos taken by her late father, a former member, G. Thomas Toy of Louisville, Kentucky who passed away on December 1, 2019 at the age of 83. The albums contained photos of covered bridges all over the United States which he had visited mostly in the 1980's. We would like to thank his children for contacting us about these photos.

In the previous issue, we mentioned a request from a member in eastern Alabama who is downsizing and needs to find a new home for a collection of covered bridge items. So far, we have not heard from anyone who might be interested in the collection. It includes photographs, newspaper articles, frames pictures and prints of covered bridges and a number of souvenir items. If you are interested and would like more details, feel free to email Bill at [WSCaswell@yahoo.com](mailto:WSCaswell@yahoo.com).

## New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Announces a Special Honor

Each Spring, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance hosts a dinner to announce its annual achievement awards for outstanding historic preservation projects and preservationists. This year, one of the group’s six awards was presented to Arnold Grāton. They chose him to “share some of the many highlights from your work over time and convey what an outstanding problem-solver and inspiration you continue to be.”

Due to the Covid-19 situation, this year’s event was held as an online Zoom meeting during the evening of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Jim Garvin, retired Architectural Historian for the State of New Hampshire, presented the award and spoke about Arnold’s work while attendees were treated to images of some of the projects that the Grāton family has worked on over the years. After the formal presentation, Bill Caswell offered congratulatory remarks on behalf of the NSPCB.



The group posted a video on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/c43mxWJAFRs>) presenting profiles of all six award recipients. Arnold's segment begins about 21 minutes into the video.

## Concord Bridge Presentation

On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, member Philip Ivester of Smyrna, Georgia, offered a presentation on the Concord Covered Bridge (GA/10-33-02) near his home. The presentation was hosted by the Smyrna Public Library. Due to Social Distancing, the presentation was broadcast through Zoom making it available to a much larger audience outside of this community.

**1876 Project**  
1876-08-18 Marietta Journal: Notice Bridge Builders!  
I will let to the lowest bidder, at Concord Mills, 8 miles south of Marietta, at 10 o'clock A.M., on Thursday, the 31st day of August, 1876, the contract for building a Bridge across Nickajack Creek. The Bridge will be 130 feet in length, divided into 5 spans, four of them 25 feet long each and one 40 feet long. All timbers used must be good sound all heart Pine, Post Oak, or White Oak, free from knots, dots, wind shakes, or other imperfections. The stringers will be 10x12; mud sills 12x12, feet long; caps 12x12, 11 feet long; braces 8x8; posts 10x12; hand rails 4x6, 3 feet long; guard planks 2x10; floor ties 3x8; the flooring to be 2 inch plank, 10 feet and 4 inches long 6 to 10 inches wide; clamps for stringers 2x12, 3 feet long; braces of hand rails 4x4, 3 feet long.  
The builder to give bond and security for the faithful performance of the contract and maintenance of said bridge as is provided for by law.  
The plan and specifications can be seen at my office till day of letting then on the ground at that place.  
H. M. Hammett, Ordinary, August 18, 1876-2t.

**NOTICE  
Bridge Builders!**  
I WILL LET TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, at Concord Mills, 8 miles south of Marietta, at 10 o'clock A. M., on Thursday, the 31st day of August, 1876, the contract for building a Bridge across Nickajack Creek. The Bridge will be 130 feet in length, divided into 5 spans, four of them 25 feet long each and one 40 feet long. All timbers used must be good sound all heart Pine, Post Oak, or White Oak, free from knots, dots, wind shakes, or other imperfections. The stringers will be 10x12; mud sills 12x12, feet long; caps 12x12, 11 feet long; braces 8x8; posts 10x12; hand rails 4x6, 3 feet long; guard planks 2x10; floor ties 3x8; the flooring to be 2 inch plank, 10 feet and 4 inches long 6 to 10 inches wide; clamps for stringers 2x12, 3 feet long; braces of hand rails 4x4, 3 feet long.  
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H. M. HAMMETT, Ordinary, Aug. 18, 1876.—2t.

In 1986, Cobb County created The Concord Covered Bridge Historic District. The district includes many historic structures dating back to the mid-1800s when milling communities developed along the Nickajack Creek. Philip represents the Friends of the Concord Covered Bridge Historic District, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, which researches and promotes the historical importance of the District. The group maintains a website at <http://concordcoveredbridge.org/>

Philip shared findings from his years researching the covered bridge and the area surrounding it. The presentation included many rare photos of the bridge including some from the NSPCB Archives. We are grateful for people like Philip who help research and document their local bridges for future generations.

## Use Smile.Amazon.com when you Shop Online

Do you shop at Amazon? Have you heard of Amazon Smile? It is a program where Amazon contributes 0.5% of your purchases to a non-profit organization. There is no cost to you. In February, we received a donation of \$34.50. That may not sound like much, but every little bit helps. Having more people participate will increase the funds we have available to contribute towards fire retardant and other worthwhile preservation projects. For more details, go to [tinyurl.com/nspcb-amazon](https://tinyurl.com/nspcb-amazon). If that doesn't work, try the original link – [smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6060691](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6060691)

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## Dreibelbis Station Covered Bridge Rehabilitation Work Lancaster County Timber Frames, Inc. (LCTF) Open House

*Contributed by Gloria Smedley*

On February 27th Lancaster Timber Frames Inc. of York, Pennsylvania, the contractor restoring the wooden frame of the 171-foot span built in 1869, hosted an open house for visitors to observe their work on the Dreibelbis Station Covered Bridge. In September 2019, the bridge was lifted by a crane and placed on the bank of the creek. Contractors then transported the frame to LCTF for restoration.

More than 100 guests attended the open house including 27 members of The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA, members of the Berks County Planning Commission and the Berks Historical Society, representatives from both Penn Dot and Lobar Associates, Inc., and a busload of residents from the Lenhartsville area near the bridge. LCTF graciously provided refreshments and a tour of their facility including one truss of the bridge that was almost finished and laid out in their yard. The truss pieces were marked so that when it is disassembled and moved to the site it can easily be reassembled. Visitors could easily see where new pieces of wood had been fitted and attached to the old. LCTF has been diligent about preserving as much of the original wood as possible.



*Examining the Reconstruction of the Truss. Photo by Gloria Smedley.*

Berks County transportation planner Michael D. Golembiewski complimented the contractor. "This is so cool," he said, viewing the restored frame. "It's interesting to see all of the craft work that went into this." (Reading Eagle, March 9, 2020). Gene Ross traveled from Virginia for the open house stating, "It was well worth while attending the open house and getting a better understanding of what's involved in bridge rehabilitation".

George Rothlingshofer of York said "It's unusual to get an opportunity to see a covered bridge restoration. I travel on a motorcycle all over the country to see bridges. I've never been in a shop where they are actually doing the work."



*Drone Photo by George Rothlingshofer*

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, we received word through the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania that at least one truss was being assembled on the ground at the bridge site and concrete was being poured for one of the abutments.

### Indiana Tour Postponed

Although the situation may improve by September, the tour organizers have decided to postpone our covered bridge tour of western Indiana until sometime in 2021. More information will be included in the Fall issue once they have had an opportunity to better assess the situation.

This was a difficult decision, but an uncertain future combined with challenges finding restaurants and charter services willing to commit to a September group event made it seem like the inevitable choice. After consulting with those who had expressed an interest in attending, most of the people who offered an opinion preferred postponing the tour until sometime next year when we will at least have a better perspective on what our new normal looks like. Stay tuned for updates in future issues of the *Newsletter*.

### 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/)
- Covered Bridge Society of Oregon (CBSO) ..... [www.covered-bridges.org/](http://www.covered-bridges.org/)
- Indiana Covered Bridge Society (ICBS) ..... [www.indianacrossings.net/](http://www.indianacrossings.net/)
- 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 (TBCBSPA)..... [www.tbcbspa.com/](http://www.tbcbspa.com/)
- Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) ..... [www.vermontbridges.org/](http://www.vermontbridges.org/)

Due to the COVID-19 situation, meetings could be cancelled on short notice. If you plan to attend, please confirm that the meeting will actually be taking place with the organization hosting the event.

<b><u>June</u></b>	<b>June</b> – TBCBSPA 3-day Safari in southeast Ohio has been POSTPONED.
<b><u>July</u></b>	<p><b>Sunday July 5</b> – TBCBSPA Fundraiser Dinner at Hoss's Steak &amp; Sea House, 100 W. Airport Rd., Lititz, Pennsylvania. Lunch at noon followed by monthly Business Meeting. (20% of dinner cost to be donated to the Society.)</p> <p><b>Sunday, July 5</b> – NYSCBS meeting, Boonville Erwin Park, 13149 State Rt. 12, Boonville, New York. Note change of date from the last issue.</p> <p><b>July</b> – Details of the OHBA Summer Picnic and 60th Anniversary Celebration were not available at press time.</p> <p><b>July</b> – ICBS Summer Tour of Hamilton and Marion Counties has been POSTPONED.</p>
<b><u>August</u></b>	<p><b>Saturday, August 1</b> – 6:30 PM, Dinner on the Medora Covered Bridge. For ticket and updated information, visit <a href="http://www.medoracoveredbridge.com/events.html">www.medoracoveredbridge.com/events.html</a>.</p> <p><b>Sunday, August 2</b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, Pennsylvania. Program: "Past &amp; Present Covered Bridges of Dauphin, Lebanon, Cumberland &amp; York Counties" by Bob Kuether.</p> <p><b>August</b> – NYSCBS Annual Safari, Perry County, Pennsylvania – Considering Postponing at press time.</p>
<b><u>September</u></b>	<p><b>Sunday, September 13</b> – NYSCBS meeting, Grooms Tavern, 290 Sugar Hill Rd, Rexford, New York.</p> <p><b>Sunday, September 13</b> – Noon, TBCBSPA Annual Picnic and meeting at Poole Forge Bridge. Everyone bring a dish to share with 8 to 10 people.</p> <p><b>Sunday, September 20</b> – OHBA Fall Bridge Tour, TBA</p>
<b><u>October</u></b>	<p><b>Date TBD</b> – 10:00 AM, Vermont Covered Bridge Society Spring Meeting will be hosted by Terry and Jane Shaw in Jeffersonville at the Visions of Vermont Art Gallery.</p> <p><b>Sunday, October 4</b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, Pennsylvania. Program: "Our Society's Year in Review" by President Thomas E. Walczak.</p>
<b><u>November</u></b>	<p><b>Sunday, November 1</b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting &amp; Bake Sale at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Manheim, Pennsylvania. Program: "Covered Bridge Photos from our Society's Founder, Vera Wagner" by Fred Moll.</p> <p><b>Sunday, November 8</b> – NYSCBS Annual Dinner and Meeting with Christmas card exchange at the Hamden Community Hall (behind the church) 35806 St. Hwy 10, Hamden, New York. Doors open at 11:00 AM, Turkey Dinner at noon, meeting after.</p>

## Covered Bridges on Trails

Since social distancing has become our new normal, here are some covered bridges you can visit while getting some fresh air and exercise.

### Iowa:

Mark C. Ackelson Trail, Easter Lake Park, Des Moines. This is a paved trail southeast of downtown Des Moines which includes the Owens Bridge (IA/15-77-01). This bridge originally spanned the North River near Carlisle, about 5.5 miles from its current location. The bridge was moved in 1968 for the Red Rock Reservoir project which was going to flood the area.

### New Hampshire:

The Winnepesaukee River Trail in Franklin passes by the 1896 Sulphite Railroad Bridge (NH/29-07-09), the only remaining deck truss covered bridge. New Hampshire photos by Scott Wagner.

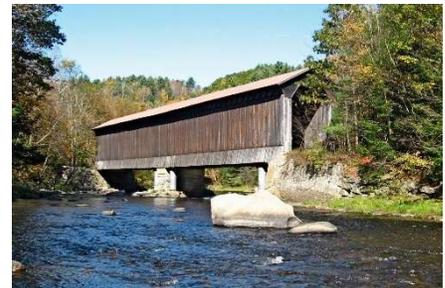
The Sugar River Rail Trail is an unpaved multi-use trail west of Newport, New Hampshire on the former Concord and Claremont Rail line. There are two former railroad covered bridges on this trail, the 1907 Pier Railroad Bridge (NH/29-10-03#2) and the 1906 Wright Railroad Bridge (NH/29-10-04#2).



*Sulphite Bridge*



*Wright Railroad Bridge*



*Pier Railroad Bridge*

### North Carolina:

The Bunker Hill Bridge (NC/33-18-01) is along a trail in Conner Park east of Claremont in western North Carolina. Built in the mid 1890's, this is the last remaining Haupt truss covered bridge. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in February 1970.

### Ohio:

The Maple Highlands Trail north of Middlefield in Geauga County is a paved trail with two covered bridges near where the trail crosses Burton Windsor Road. About ¾ mile south of the road crossing is the Tare Creek Bridge (OH/35-28-02#2) built in 2004. In the other direction is the Maple Highlands Trail Bridge (OH/35-28-04) less than a half mile north of the road crossing.

In Union County, the Pottersburg Bridge (OH/35-80-01) was built in 1868 and then moved to its present location in 2006 on a multi-purpose rail-trail southwest of the town of Pottersburg.



*Bunker Hill Bridge  
Photo by Alan Hartmann*



*Tare Creek Bridge  
Bill Caswell Photo*



*Pottersburg Bridge  
Scott Wagner Photo*

## Covered Bridges on Trails (continued)

### Pennsylvania:

The Union Canal Towpath Trail in Berks County, a bicycle and walking trail, passes by Wertz's Bridge (also known as Red Bridge, PA/38-06-06), built in 1867. It is the longest of Pennsylvania's surviving single-span covered bridges and was added to the National Historic Register in January 1979.

The Twining Ford or Schofield Ford Bridge (PA/38-09-13#2) stands on a horse and pedestrian trail in Tyler State Park in Bucks County. The current bridge was built in 1997 as an exact replica of the historic covered bridge which was lost to arson in 1991.

The only historic covered bridge in a major American city is the Thomas Mill Bridge (PA/38-51-01) in Wissahickon Valley Park in Philadelphia. The bridge can be reached on foot or horseback about a half mile south along the Wissahickon River from a parking area on West Bells Mill Road.



*Wertz's or Red Bridge  
Jim Smedley Photo*



*Twining Ford or Schofield Ford Bridge. Michael Chorazy Photo*



*Thomas Mill Bridge  
Tim McLaughlin Photo*

### South Dakota:

Although not listed in the World Guide to Covered Bridges, if you happen to be in southwestern South Dakota, a 120' long Town truss-supported Trails, Trains & Pioneers Museum Bridge (SD/41-23-a) stands at the Edgemont trailhead of the 108.8 mile long George S. Mickelson Trail.

### New Brunswick:

Visible from the eastbound lanes of Route 1, the 1915 Moosehorn Bridge (NB/55-06-29) can be reached by walking about 1000' from the end of Riverview Drive in Norton. The bridge is at one end of Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark. *Photo by Chris Fortin.*



### Québec:

At the eastern side of Gatineau, two covered bridges cross Rivière Blanche on a bicycle trail. A third bridge on the trail was lost to arson in 2016. The Roland-Houët Bridge (QC/61-25-d) was built in 2009 and its companion, the Pont des Bénévoles, (Volunteer Bridge) (QC/61-25-e) was built in 2016.

## 2021 Calendar

Thank you all who chose to participate in our calendar competition this year. We ended up with over 400 entries which made it quite a challenge for the judges to narrow down the list. It was even more challenging because they could not meet in person as they had in previous years to discuss the entries as a group. After reducing the candidates to the top 100 choices, the group further refined the list by season while attempting to include a variety of states and photographers. The final selections were not available at press time. Since the calendar is to focus on bridge trusses, each month is dedicated to a different truss with one or more examples of that design shown on the page. A brief description of the truss will also be offered. Knowing that some of our opportunities to sell calendars in person will be cancelled this year, we will likely order less than previous years.

## Interpretive Panels for Pier and Wright's Railroad Covered Bridges In Newport, New Hampshire

*Contributed by James Garvin*

The Town of Newport, New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources have partnered to draw attention to two of the rarest covered bridges in the United States. Pier or Chandler Station Bridge (1907) is the longest surviving covered railroad bridge in the nation at 217 feet. Wright's Bridge (1906) is the only surviving covered railroad bridge with laminated wood plank arches clasped between its doubled lattice trusses. Both bridges span the Sugar River in western Newport on the former Claremont Branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad. Both now serve as crossings on the Sugar River Recreational Rail Trail.

The Division of Historical Resources awarded Newport a Certified Local Government grant to pay for documentary and picture research, leading to the design and layout of an interpretive panel for each bridge. The Town of Newport appropriated municipal funds for the actual production of the outdoor signs and their stands. The panels will be installed this summer where they can be read both by trail users and by motorists on the gravel Chandler's Mill Road, which runs parallel to the former rail line. The National Society made available its historic photos of the two bridges for the panels. The Newport Historical Society and the Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society provided guidance, making this a perfect partnership in celebration of both covered bridges and railroad history.

The Certified Local Government grant also underwrote a bus tour to the two bridges during Newport's Corbin Covered Bridge Festival in October 2019, at which master bridgewright Arnold Graton was honored on the 25th anniversary of his construction of the much-loved Corbin Covered Bridge.

### COVID-19 and Extra Time at Home

While the COVID-19 pandemic has provided many with extra time at home, we are grateful to all who continue working to provide us with food and other essential needs. We are especially grateful for the front line health care workers and emergency responders who risk their health daily to care for others.

With travel limited and most public events being cancelled, we have been finding other ways to occupy our time. Along with the home improvement projects that a few have engaged in, a few covered bridge-related items have come to our attention. For example:

Gloria Smedley has taken some rocks and painted them with a variety of designs including some covered bridge scenes. Rocks like this which occasionally include information about the artist have been discovered during bridge trips.



Tina Conn, who has been doing lots of traveling in recent years, has been spending some time working on puzzles. We have heard of a few others tackling puzzles too along with a few working on quilts.

Trish Kane has been spending time organizing photos donated to the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center. She has kept a few of us engaged by emailing unidentified photos for identification. Others have similarly been sorting through collections of photos passed down from family members and sharing unidentified images on Facebook for help determining their location.

Jenn Caswell started making masks for family members, selecting material specifically for each individual. During the process, a small amount of covered bridge material was converted into a half dozen masks which were made available to a few friends like the ones modeled here by Bob & Betty Pauwels in their selfie at the Cilleyville Bridge in Andover, New Hampshire.

However you choose to spend your extra time, we hope that you stay safe and healthy. We look forward to seeing you at our future meetings.



## NSPCB Bridge Database Access Now Available on the Web

*Contributed by Alan Hartmann*

Have you been looking for a way to quickly identify covered bridges in a particular area, keep track of bridges you've visited, plan to visit, or simply have an interest in? Maybe just enjoy a slide show of covered bridge photos?

Those are some of the major features of the NSPCB Bridge Database web site members can now access. If you haven't done so yet, please visit [www.abhdemo.com](http://www.abhdemo.com), and register for access to the system. You will need a valid email address when you register, and you'll need to follow the instructions in the email to gain access to the site.

When you sign in for the first time, click "Contact" at the lower right. Identify yourself as an NSPCB member and the site administrators will elevate your account to "Member" status. The site is open to the public, but some features are restricted to members only. Please be patient, member status may take a day or two to enable, the process is not automated.

We recommend that you use the current version of any major web browser and the most recent operating system for your device. Regardless of the browser or computer choice, the site should work fine. There's always the possibility of an incompatibility or a "bug" in the web site programming though. If you do run into a problem, please use the "Contact" button to communicate with us. Provide as much detail as you can, and we will try our best to get you going.

### Summary of new features since the October 2019 meeting

#### Miscellaneous

- The bridge database has been updated.
- A few bugs have been fixed and cosmetic improvements have been made.
- The site now performs better when accessed via mobile devices.
- A contact form has been added
- Bridge News items from the April newsletter have been added to their respective bridge detail pages.

#### Bridges Detail Page

- Provides a "visit log" to record your visits to bridges. The page displays a "Visited" badge including the date of your most recent visit to a bridge, or an indication that you've never recorded a visit.
- Now provides a "Bridge List" function. You can create multiple lists of bridges to help plan trips or keep tabs on your favorites. The site also supports a "Public List" feature where system administrators can create bridge lists accessible to all users. For example, Bill's list of the bridges for the Indiana trip are currently available via a public list.

#### General Search Page

- Search settings can now be saved and reloaded.
- Search criteria now include whether you have visited a bridge or not, including before or after a particular date.
- Search criteria now can include whether a bridge is listed on one or more Bridge Lists (including public lists).

#### Slideshow

- Slideshow now allows selections of bridges based on Visit Status or inclusion on Bridge Lists.

## Covered Bridge News

### California

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



Fundraising to replace the Honey Run Bridge lost on November 8, 2018 during the devastating Camp Fire in Butte County in northern California continues. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Chico Enterprise-Record reported that a house for the park’s caretaker was completed and awaiting inspection by the county. A caretaker has been hired to watch over the park. The project, funded mostly by a Small Business

Checks and inquiries regarding donations may be sent to: Honey Run Covered Bridge Association, P.O. Box 5201, Chico, CA 95927. For more information visit [www.rebuildhrcb.org](http://www.rebuildhrcb.org).

Administration \$80,000 grant, used only locally based labor. They hope to begin construction of the bridge in June. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

#### Bridgeport Bridge, Nevada County – CA/05-29-01

A press release from the South Yuba River State Park on April 6<sup>th</sup> announced that raising the bridge has begun. Hydraulic jacks have lifted the bridge so that carpentry work can begin to remove and replace major structural timbers. This also allows room to raise the abutments to the bridge’s new elevation. During this time the bridge is supported solely by the metal “Mabey Bridge” that was installed last November. The metal structure also supports scaffolding that runs under, on the sides and on top of the wood bridge to allow access to every area.



*Photo by John Field*

The left photo below shows the jack that was used to lift the iron truss rods out of the structure so they can be inspected. The truss rods have a variety of “Makers Marks” stamped into them providing additional information about the people involved in the bridge’s construction in 1862. The center and right photos show the gin poles<sup>1</sup> used to raise and position each truss section so work can be done on the lower chord. Once repair work is complete, the metal structure and all of the stabilization structures will be removed.



*Photo by Will Truax*



*Photo by Dave Arnstein*



*Photo by Will Truax*

<sup>1</sup> The gin pole uses a cable and pulley at the end of the pole to lift loads. A grip hoist is attached to the cable behind the pole and the upper end is directly above the object to be lifted.

## Illinois

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

On April 10, a press release from the Illinois Department of Transportation announced that “Red Covered Bridge in Bureau County will be closed for repairs starting on Monday, April 13, 2020.” The single-span Howe truss bridge was built in 1863. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Bureau County Republican reported that decking and I-beams under it are being replaced. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Indiana

### Spencerville Bridge, DeKalb County – IN/14-17-01



The 1873 Bridge over the St. Joseph River has been closed since October 2018 after an inspection found rotting timbers under a portion of the span. The Friends of the Spencerville Covered Bridge have been fundraising and hope to meet their goal by the end of May. Member Jim Crouse forwarded us information about the project from the state’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This provided the NSPCB with the opportunity to become a consulting party. As a result, we received additional information from DNR and offered comments on the proposal.

The Indiana Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology ran a four-week long competition for the state’s favorite historic resource. Each week they “introduced themed showdowns that ended in a week of voting, sharing, and loving our historic resources” on their Facebook page. The winner at the end of each week was pitted against one of the other winners the following week. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, the Spencerville Bridge was announced as the overall winner. *Photo by Greg McDuffee.*

Donation checks should be made out to Eastside Area Community Foundation and sent to them at P.O. Box 395, Butler, IN 46721

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

Carol Ann Freese, County Historian, updated us on the project on May 14<sup>th</sup>. After an inspection by engineer Jim Barker and Square & Level Construction’s Dan Collom, the bridge was deemed in imminent danger of collapse. As reported last quarter, Mr. Collom stabilized it in December and will finish the work at an estimated cost of \$150,000. The project is led by the Fountain County Art Council Historic Committee and County Historian. The 18-month process of State and National Register listing for all three of the County’s covered bridges was initiated in fall 2019. The Covington Business Association paid the \$2,000 grant writing fee.



The committee approached the County Commissioners for assistance with a drainage issue contributing to the deterioration as well as removal of some trees and general ground work around the bridge. This should be done during the summer. They are actively raising awareness and promoting the project with brochures, programs and personal contact. The current plan is for completion by the end of 2020 and then to address the needs of the Wallace Covered Bridge. At the NSPCB Executive Board meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Board pledged \$10,000 towards the project. The money will become available once construction is ready to begin. Donations can be sent to the Western Indiana Community Foundation, P.O. Box 175, Covington IN 47932. *Photo by Greg McDuffee.*

### Darlington Bridge, Montgomery County – IN/14-54-01

The Spring issue of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society’s newsletter reported that repairs and upgrades to this bridge appear to be nearly completed. A pair of new windows were added to the northern end to match those previously existing on the southern end. The bridge has received a new metal roof and white siding. By early April, the contractor’s equipment was gone, but the site had not yet been cleaned up. The bridge has a very unusual cut wooden block floor.

## Indiana (continued)

### Jackson Bridge, Parke County – IN/14-61-28

Police are seeking the driver of a large white box truck that damaged support beams of this bridge on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Parke County Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene to learn the box truck tried to drive south across in the bridge in violation of the height limit. The truck struck and broke two of the overhead support beams. The vehicle then backed out of the bridge and left the area northbound. Deputies were unable to find the vehicle. The truck is described as having blue lettering on the box and green striping on the rear of the box section. The bridge was reopened for travel after inspection by the county highway department. The Sugar Creek crossing was built in 1861 by J.J. Daniels. It is the longest single span covered bridge in Indiana and the oldest Daniels bridge still standing. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. *(Terre Haute Tribune-Star, April 21, 2020. Photos by Greg McDuffee.)*



### Houck Bridge, Putnam County – IN/14-67-11

According to an article in the local newspaper, Putnam County Highway Supervisor Mike Ricketts reported on damage to the County Commissioners. On April 9 or 10, wind tore off a significant portion of the metal roof that was installed when the bridge was rehabilitated in 2014. No structural damage was reported. He plans to ask contractors to replace the whole roof, as it has now come off twice in six years. He is requesting that the number of fasteners holding the metal down will be increased. Ricketts also mentioned that he will be getting an estimate for unrelated repairs to the Dunbar Covered Bridge (IN/14-67-07). *Greencastle Banner Graphic, April 22, 2020. Photos by Brennan Ranard.*



### Irishman Bridge, Vigo County – IN/14-84-01

Adam Grossman, superintendent of the Vigo County Parks & Recreation Department, sent us an update on this project on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The work has been a bit challenging at times but is still progressing nicely. Because of the mild winter, the ground never froze which would have made the work a little easier and of course, the pandemic isn't helping matters. Repairs to the timbers supporting the west side are complete and the east side is well on its way too. The water level of the lake under the bridge was lowered to provide room to work under the bridge. Spring rains have brought that up a bit. They are hoping to finish the flooring, sides, and approaches soon so they can let the water rise back up to its normal level. In addition to Adam's report, on May 8<sup>th</sup>, WTHI-TV reported that the floor is back in. The work is being done by Dan Collom's Square and Level Construction. *Photo by Adam Grossman.*



## Michigan

### Whites Bridge, Ionia County – MI/22-34-01#2

Member Jim Allen has been keeping us updated on construction of the new Whites Bridge. His photo (left) from March 1<sup>st</sup> shows the roof well underway and one side covered. An April 11 post on the Rebuild Whites Bridge Facebook page announced that the bridge is complete. The contractor will be finishing the approaches, signing and some other minor details before it can be opened to traffic. It is hoped that the new bridge will be opened to traffic by the seventh anniversary of the arson which claimed its predecessor on July 7, 2013. It is intended to be a replica of the original enhanced to carry emergency vehicles. The center and right photos of the completed, but not yet open, bridge were contributed by Bill Bowser.



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

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the St. Joseph County road commissioners approved a resolution to the Michigan Department of Transportation requesting \$750,000 toward rehabilitation of the 1887 Howe truss bridge. The project, estimated to cost \$2 million plus expenses for engineering, design and inspection, is planned for 2023. For the road commission to receive the \$750,000 from MDOT's program, it must contribute 62.5 percent of the cost. Staff would like to use \$300,000 of the road commission's money and \$200,000 from St. Joseph County's critical bridge fund to meet that match. Managing director John Lindsey does not anticipate the road commission will receive the money from the state this year, but could seek it again in the years



before the project starts. *Sturgis Journal, April 2, 2020. Photo by Jim Allen.*

## New Hampshire

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

As we reported in the Spring edition, this bridge was damaged by an oversized vehicle last December. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation's Bridge Maintenance crew repaired that damage during the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, it was struck again by a box truck on May 7<sup>th</sup> causing cosmetic damage. Sean P. O'Kelly, 30, of Harrison, Maine, was arrested on the scene for driving with a suspended license. He was also cited for failure to obey a traffic control device (sign restriction), a \$62 fine and exceeding the vehicle weight limit on the bridge, a \$240 fine. He is scheduled to appear in Conway District Court on June 23. *NHDOT Press Release, April 21, 2020, Conway Daily Sun May 11, 2020. Jackson Police Dept. Photo.*



## New Hampshire (continued)

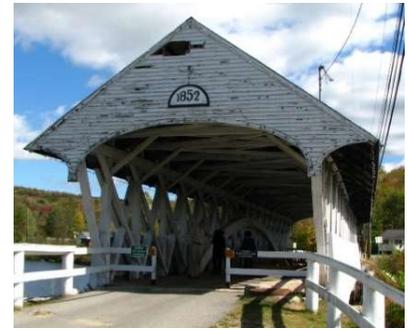
### Saco River Bridge, Carroll County – NH/29-02-03

Conway Police are investigating damage to this bridge caused by a tractor trailer truck on the night of April 16. The police department received a call reporting that a white tractor trailer passed over and struck the bridge heading north toward North Conway. Police found the truck about 20 minutes later. The driver, Brian Mascroft, 27, from Saco, Maine, admitted to driving through the bridge but claimed that he had no idea that he had hit anything. The cab of the truck had brown paint from the bridge and some of the bridge’s roof beams had white paint from the truck. The truck driver will be responsible for the cost of repairs. *Conway Daily Sun, April 20, 2020. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Groveton Bridge, Coös County – NH/29-04-04

Repairs are underway at the 1852 bridge thanks to a \$10,000 Moose Plate grant approved on December 18, 2019. The program provides funds to preserve publicly owned historic properties. Dana Southworth, an owner of Garland Mill Timberframes in nearby Lancaster, recommended repairs including: removing and replacing all the clapboards on the north end of the bridge, removing and replacing at least one strut on the downstream side; and removing and replacing at least half of the boards on south-end gable. New white paint was also recommended inside and out. The bridge was bypassed in 1939 when US Route 3 was reconstructed. *The Berlin Sun, March 30, 2020. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Packard Hill Bridge, Grafton County – NH/29-05-50#2

The Packard Hill Bridge is getting an overhaul from the Graton Associates. Before they could start, a substantial quantity of dirt, sand, salt and other debris needed to be removed from around the lower chord. A reminder that the lower parts of the trusses should be cleaned out once a year to remove areas where moisture can get trapped and deteriorate the wood. The roof and floor are being replaced. The steel rods of the Howe truss and floor system were inspected and replaced as necessary. The lower lateral bracing rods (under the floor) all needed to be replaced. The vertical rods of the trusses are being checked. Many appeared to be worse than they really were. The impacted sand and salt created lots of rust, but most of that was only on the surface. They were not in as bad shape as originally thought. The rods were wire brushed to remove the surface rust, inspected, epoxy coated to protect from moisture and oiled before being put back into place.



Photo courtesy Bob Durfee.



Photos courtesy Arnold M. Graton Associates.

## New Hampshire (continued)

### Bement Bridge, Merrimack County – NH/29-07-03

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, a request for bids was posted on the town’s website to rehabilitate this bridge. Bids were



to be opened on May 27<sup>th</sup>, after this issue had gone to print. Details will be in the Fall issue. Work is expected to begin shortly after the bid opening and be completed by late fall 2020. The project will replace the north abutment with a dry laid stone abutment, rehabilitate the south abutment wingwalls to correct the wingwall bulges, replace the worn deck, replace select floor beams and entire truss lower chord to support a 6-ton live load. Also, truss member repairs and replacements as necessary, installing new knee braces to better brace the truss upper chord and raising the bridge by

approximately 6 inches so stormwater drains away from the bridge deck. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

## New Jersey

### Green Sergeants or Sergeantsville Bridge, Hunterdon County – NJ/30-10-01

The Hunterdon County freeholders reported at their April 21 meeting that the county has been approved for \$1.8 million in bridge infrastructure grants for three projects through the state’s Local Bridges Fund. One of the three projects is \$450,000 project for the rehabilitation of Bridge D-304A, the historic Covered Bridge, on Rosemont-Ringoies Rd. in Delaware Township. *NJ.com, April 26, 2020. Photo by Jim Allen.*



## Ohio

### Christman Bridge, Preble County – #OH/35-68-12

Member Anita Ford shared an article from the March 27th Register Herald noting that the road near this bridge has been closed due to an accident at the bridge. We contacted the Preble County Engineer’s office for more information. The single-span Childs truss bridge was built by Everett Sherman in 1895. *(Photo by Gloria Smedley.)*



### Hune Bridge, Washington County – OH/35-84-27

Last quarter we reported that the Hune Covered Bridge, built in 1878 was again closed to traffic. A



creeping landslip on the southeastern bank of the Little Muskingum River developed between January 5 and 6, following wet weather. County Commissioners minutes from April 9, 2020 noted that they approved funding for Woolpert, Inc. to prepare a study of needed repairs. *Photos by Michael Rudnick.*



## Ohio (continued)

### Washington County Report Released

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Washington County Engineer Roger Wright presented his annual report to the County Commissioners. Page 4 contained the following statement regarding the county's covered bridges:

“With nine County covered bridges, only the Bell Cvd Bridge, built 1888, remains open to vehicular traffic, the Shinn Cvd Bridge closed in 2018 and the Hune Cvd Bridge in early 2020. The Bell Cvd Bridge is scheduled to be by-passed in 2023, as covered bridges were not designed for today's modern vehicles and legal loads. The Hills Cvd Bridge will be rehabilitated in 2022 with federal preservation funds. The department continues to pursue grant funding to rehabilitate our County's covered bridges and preserve them as they are vital to the County tourism industry.”

## Pennsylvania

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

We are providing an update on this project. For full details, please see the Spring 2020 issue. Fundraising by Perkasio Borough, the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society and Perkasio Historical Society has raised \$115,000 towards the project. The groups are awaiting the outcome of a grant request for an additional \$100,000 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Keystone Historic Preservation Construction Grant. That decision is expected around June 1. *Information from Scott Bomboy. Photo by Jim Smedley.*



### Frankenfield Bridge, Bucks County – PA/38-09-09

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bucks County will begin work on this bridge as part of a \$2.5 million plan approved by county commissioners last year to refurbish seven covered bridges throughout the county. They are being funded through the state's Act 13 law that distributes funds from gas well fees and the county's \$5 fee on vehicle registrations. Frankenfield is a two span Town truss bridge built in 1872. It, along with most other Bucks County covered bridges, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Repairs to the Rickert Road bridge in Hilltown is expected to start and finish later this year after being closed since 2011. *Bucks County Courier Times, April 21, 2020. Photo by Tim McLaughlin.*



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

At their May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Clearfield County Commissioners tentatively approved a bid for repairs to the 122-foot-long bridge from 768-Roof of Clearfield for \$119,140 plus \$8,800 extra if masonry repointing is needed. The approval is pending engineering and legal review. The article noted that the bridge was built by Lumberman Thomas A. McGee, who received an appropriation of \$1,500 from the County Commissioners to construct a replacement for a bridge that was destroyed by a flood during the winter of 1872-73. The bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. It was rededicated in 1995 following a collapse on March 14, 1994 caused by the tremendous weight of heavy snow and ice during the winter of 1993-94. *Clearfield Progress, May 12, 2020. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Pennsylvania (continued)

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

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, we received an update on this project from Allentown Parks and Recreation director Karen El-Chaar. Like many other public workers, the COVID-19 situation has changed focus to other tasks. There hasn't been any progress on this project this quarter, but Karen did let us know that the \$375,000 commitment from the City of Allentown is presently still intact. An estimated \$1.5 million is needed to fully restore the bridge. Commitments totaling approximately \$1.165 million have been received so far. Bogert's Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Zimmerman's Bridge, Schuylkill County – PA/38-54-01

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is designing repairs for this bridge which has numerous structural concerns. The Society has received a copy of the Determination of Effects document



which lists the needs of the structure and desired repairs. After reviewing the document, we were pleased to see that PennDOT has given serious consideration to the historic significance of the structure. While some of the timbers are significantly damaged and must be replaced, there are plans to splice new material into timbers which are only partially



damaged. A combination timber and steel floor system which was installed during earlier repairs is intended to be removed and replaced with an all wood system. This is a welcome change from the more common plan to replace floor systems with steel beams. The Society supports the project as it is documented and we hope that it is actually repaired according to this plan. *Photos by Tim McLaughlin.*

### Packsaddle Bridge, Somerset County – PA/38-56-02

According to a report in the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat, this bridge was to be closed for about 60 days for unspecified repairs beginning on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The repairs are being done by Cottle's Asphalt Maintenance Inc. of Everett, Pennsylvania. According to the November 22, 2019 County Commissioners Meeting Minutes, the company bid \$120,435.50 for the job. The project was funded through a State-issued Multimodal Transportation Fund grant with matching funds from the county.



The 48-foot-long multiple kingpost bridge was built in 1870 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Jim Smedley shared an email he received from Andy Fedorko, Structures & Highways Department Manager in the Somerset office of The EADS Group, Inc. which contained additional details. Mr. Fedorko noted that Cottle's Asphalt Maintenance Inc. is "replacing one (1) roof cross-brace, portions of the timber trusses (verticals, diagonals and bottom chords), sideboard nailers and sideboards on both the upstream and downstream side of the bridge that are deteriorated. Any painted members that are replaced, will be painted to match existing timber members."

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat reported that the work was complete, and the bridge was open to traffic. *Photo Courtesy Rusty Glessner – PABucketlist.com.*

## Tennessee

### Elizabethton Bridge, Carter County – TN/42-10-01



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials have postponed Covered Bridge Days in Elizabethton. The event was originally scheduled for June 10-13. A future date has not yet been set but festival organizers are hoping they can hold it near the end of the summer with previously booked performers and vendors. Covered Bridge Days has been a staple for the past 54 years. *Elizabethton Star, April 15, 2020. Photo by Mary Ruden.*

State senators Rusty Crowe and Jon Lundberg along with State Representative John Holsclaw announced that Elizabethton has been awarded a \$797,424 grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation to improve this structure. The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant is for “structural rehabilitation of the bridge.” Details of the repairs were not specified in the article. The TAP program, initiated in 1991, is a competitive grant program to promote non-vehicular transportation by helping fund sidewalks, bike and pedestrian trails along with renovating historic train depots and other transportation-related structures. *Johnson City Press, May 5, 2020*

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*“This bridge is a tremendously important part of our heritage, not only in Elizabethton, but in the state of Tennessee”*

*State Senator Rusty Crowe*

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## Vermont

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

A fully-loaded tractor trailer crashed through the Miller’s Run Covered Bridge in Lyndon around 6:00 a.m. on March 23<sup>rd</sup> damaging both ends. You may recall that the bridge was closed for a few months last year after a similar incident. The bridge was closed to vehicle traffic for several hours and reopened in the afternoon after a town crew made repairs. More extensive work will be needed at a later time. The truck driver from Laval, Québec did not stop after hitting the bridge’s facade with the top of the trailer. Police found the truck in Lyndonville and issued a ticket and a \$12,295 fine for being 71,000 pounds overweight on the bridge.



*(Caledonian Record, March 23, 2020 & WCAX-TV, March 25, 2020.)*

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the selectmen met via Zoom to discuss adding fines up to \$2,000 to the town’s Traffic and Parking Ordinance for damages to covered bridges caused by oversize vehicles. Other methods of protecting the bridge, such as additional or larger sign and flashing lights were also discussed. *Caledonian Record, April 14, 2020. Photo of last year’s damage by Todd Clark.*

## 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.



## Canada New Brunswick

### Flume Ridge or Magaguadavic River #7 Bridge, Charlotte County – NB/55-03-03



In early January, Patrick Toth reported that staging has been erected around the 1905 Flume Ridge Bridge. Since then photos of the staging have appeared on Facebook. Serge Gagnon at the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure informed us that the project replaced missing knee braces, the rods for the portal frames, a top horizontal member, missing side boards and added a new roof. Wooden cross supports between the bottom chords were replaced and the steel bent under the bridge. New 10t load limit signs were added to replaced ones which had gone missing and two 1-lane road signs were added. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

### Bloomfield Bridge, Kings County – NB/55-06-01

The single span covered bridge over Bloomfield Creek between Hampton and Norton was the scene of a head-on collision on March 4<sup>th</sup>. According to the report on Saint John's Country 94 Radio, RCMP Sgt. Janet LeBlanc stated that emergency crews were called to the bridge around 11:30 a.m. One vehicle was about three-quarters of the way through the one-lane bridge when the second vehicle started to drive through. The driver of one vehicle and a passenger in the other were taken to hospital with minor injuries, she said. No charges are expected to be filed. No damage to the bridge was reported. *Photo by Gloria Smedley.*



### Milkish Inlet #1 or Bayswater Bridge, Kings County – NB/55-06-15



Last quarter, we reported that the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) was planning to begin work here in the Spring. Delays associated with the COVID-19 situation have moved the timeline up to a June start. DTI consulted with Timber Restoration Services to raise the weight capacity to 30 tons. The outcome of this project will help determine how they move forward with other weight restricted covered bridges that are vital connections to the local road network. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

### Nelson Hollow or Mill Brook #0.5 Bridge, Northumberland County – NB/55-08-08

Ray Boucher, president of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick alerted us to work at this bridge. Full details are not known, but Facebook photos appear to show repairs to decking near one end and some new siding. This bridge is thought to be the oldest covered bridge in New Brunswick and is also one of only two remaining bridges constructed with the "hip" or "cottage" style roof. The other is the Peter Jonah Bridge (NB/55-01-07) in Albert County. It was closed to traffic in 1938 after being bypassed by a new steel bridge and restored by the Doaktown Historical Society (now Central Miramichi Historical Society) in 1977. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## New Brunswick (continued)

### Patrick Owens or Rusagonis River #2 Bridge, Sunbury County – NB/55-12-05



According to a traffic advisory notice posted on the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure website, this bridge was to be closed for repairs from March 4th until April 14th. An article in the Saint John Telegraph-Journal of March 4th indicated that the 2-span bridge will be having its deck replaced at a cost of approximately \$180,000. Although the closing would require local residents to take alternate routes adding a few minutes to their drive, the ones interviewed by the Telegraph-Journal felt that it was worth the inconvenience to see their

covered bridge repaired. Thanks to Tamara Langstroth of the Covered Bridges Conservation Association of New Brunswick for sharing the newspaper article. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

## Québec

We are grateful to Pascal Conner whose *Blogue sur les ponts couverts* ([pontscouverts.com/blogue/](http://pontscouverts.com/blogue/)) provides most of the Québec news each quarter. Unless otherwise noted, all Québec articles were derived from that website. Also, you may have noticed a change to the way we are listing bridges in Québec. After reviewing entries for the next edition of the *World Guide to Covered Bridges*, it was decided that referring to tourist regions was better than the MRC's (municipalité régionale de comté).

### Pont Bordeleau, Mauricie Region – QC/61-13-03

More than two years after being closed to traffic, the Ministère des Transports du Québec has decided that the bridge will be replaced with a new structure. The covered bridge will be moved off the road and turned over to the municipality. It is expected that the bridge will eventually be turned into a rest stop with picnic tables. (*L'Hebdo du St-Maurice, March 5, 2020. Photo by Simon Pratte.*)



### Pont Leclerc, Abitibi – Témiscamingue Region – QC/61-02-05

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks and Minister responsible for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region Mr. Pierre Dufour announced that the government will invest \$135,133,000 by 2022 to maintain and improve its road network in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region. Included among the 61 projects are repairs to this 1927 single-span covered bridge northwest of the town of La Sarre. No details of the work were included in the press release. *Photo by Pascal Conner.*

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



The bridge was closed for safety reasons in May 2014 after a structural evaluation. The 1898 bridge is one of the longest in Québec. A repair project began in April 2018 and has progressed slowly since then. The original expected completion date of April 2020 will likely be extended. Simon Tremblay visited the site on March 3, 2020 and provided this photo to Pascal Conner for his blog.

## Québec (continued)

### Pont de la Chute-Neigette, Bas-St-Laurent Region – QC/61-58-03



On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pascal's blog announced that the Corporation du patrimoine de Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard (Saint-Anaclet-de-Lessard Heritage Corporation) has developed a path along the river between the 1933 covered bridge and the Chute Neigette waterfall.



Additional work near the bridge such as the addition of plants will be completed for the summer. *Photo by Gérald Arbour.*



### Pont de Milby, Cantons-de-l'Est – QC/61-67-03

Last fall, the 1873 Town truss bridge was damaged and closed after an incident with an oversize vehicle. On April 28th, Pascal's blog announced that it is now open to traffic again. *Photo by Gérald Arbour*

## Updates to the World Guide to Covered Bridges

This section lists updates since the previous newsletter. 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 41, Ionia County, replace, lost to arson on July 7, 2013 and rebuilt in 2020

22-34-01#2 Keene Flat River Whites 1 116' 2020 Brown

3.4 miles south of jct MI-44 on MI-91 to Smyrna, then 2.6 miles right on White's Bridge Rd. N43° 00.88' W085° 17.88'

## Covered Bridge Resources

**Covered Spans of Yesteryear**, [www.lostbridges.org](http://www.lostbridges.org)

Information on all known covered bridges in the United States and Canada with photographs of many of them.

**US Covered Bridge Lists**, <http://www.dalejtravis.com/cblist/cblistus.htm>

Dale Travis maintains an extensive list of existing authentic and non-truss-supported covered bridges throughout the United States and Canada.

**Bridgehunter.com** – Information and photos of all types of bridges

**The Covered Bridge Experience**, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheCoveredBridgeExperience/>

A Facebook page with covered bridge news and photos of many existing covered bridges throughout the United States.

There are many more websites and Facebook pages devoted to covered bridges. Use your favorite search engine to locate them.