



# The Newsletter

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

Summer 2022

## New England College Covered Bridge Celebrates 50 Years



Details on page 28

Photo by Bob Watts

### In this issue

Membership.....	2	Georgia Bridge Returns Home.....	8
NSPCB Meeting Calendar .....	2	Colville Bridge Repairs .....	9
In Memorium.....	3	Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ....	10-11
President's Message .....	4	World Guide Updates .....	11
Archives Update .....	4	A Visit to Delaware and Maryland.....	12
Meeting Summaries.....	5	Bridge News .....	13-27
News of Members.....	6-7	New England College Bridge.....	27-28

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, 2022**. 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

Suzanne Abdill, Salem, New Jersey  
John Anderson, Leesburg, Virginia  
John Audilet, New Bern, North Carolina  
Erin Baker, North Tonawanda, New York  
M. L. Durham, Charlotte, North Carolina  
John Hedges, Reedsport, Oregon  
Jim Kenison, Manchester, New Hampshire  
Megan Rea, Syracuse, New York  
Roann Covered Bridge Association, Wabash, Indiana  
Dianna Stampfler, Gaylord, Michigan  
White Wave Press, Newburyport, Massachusetts

## Welcome New Life Member

#206 – David Wray, Ottawa, Ontario

## 2022 NSPCB Meetings & Events

All meetings begin at **1:00 PM** unless otherwise noted. If you plan to attend a meeting, please check the NSPCB website ([www.coveredbridgesociety.org](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.

**Sunday, June 26** – Contoocook Covered Bridge, Contoocook, New Hampshire. Bring your own chairs.

**Saturday, July 23** – Milhender Room, Haverhill Public Library, 99 Main St, Haverhill, Massachusetts. Presentation by Bill Caswell on covered bridges of the Haverhill area.

**Sunday, August 28** – Annual picnic at Beaver Meadow Village at the end of Waumbec St., Concord, NH. The cookout is at noon and the meeting at 1 pm.

**Saturday, September 24** – Covered bridge event, Lyndon, Vermont.

**Saturday, October 22** – NSPCB Annual Meeting and Dinner, Brigham Hill Barn, North Grafton, MA. Meal at noon, meeting starting at 1:00 PM.

## In Memorium

### Christine Ellsworth

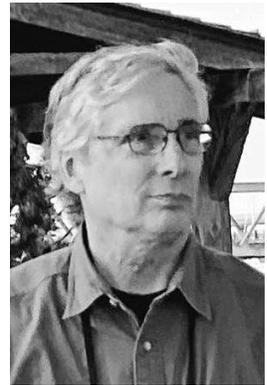
We are saddened to report the passing of a very special member of our organization. Christine Ellsworth was born June 21, 1924 to Leon H. and Nettie D. (Quimby) Bascom in Claremont, New Hampshire. She was educated in Worcester and graduated from Commerce High School.

Christine joined the NSPCB in 1962 and quickly became an active member. She later married Arnold Ellsworth and brought him into the organization. Arnold was the Society's president in 1971 & 1972 before becoming Corresponding Secretary. When Arnold passed away in 1980, Christine took over as Corresponding Secretary and served in that role for the next 29 years. During part of that time, she also prepared the Society's mailings. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

### Stephen Wright Weston

Stephen Wright Weston unexpectedly suffered a fatal heart attack on February 4, 2022, at his home in Winthrop, Maine. He was a seventh generation Mainer, born on March 22, 1951 in Caribou to Donald and Theodora Weston. He grew up in Winterport, Maine, attended both Bangor and Brewer High Schools. After a time studying engineering at the University of Maine he discovered his true calling. At age 20, he began what quickly became a thriving business restoring historic furniture.

He almost immediately branched off into house restoration and through the years, disassembled and saved all, or parts of, twenty 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century houses that would otherwise have been razed, rebuilding and restoring many of them, including the 1842 home in which he last resided. He routinely did work for dozens of antique dealers in Maine and other parts of New England, and did work for museums and historical societies statewide, including extensive restoration and exhibitions for the Maine State Museum and for both the private and public rooms of the Governor's Mansion. Throughout his career, he made all his own paints and finishes. He taught a class at the American Museum of Folk Art in New York City on 19<sup>th</sup> century paint designs. He had numerous other significant accomplishments throughout his life.



Stephen was a cousin of the late David Wright, the previous NSPCB president. Stephen also served as a director of the NSPCB for three years beginning in 2011. He is survived by his longtime partner, Terrilyn Simpson of Winthrop, her children and grandchildren, two brothers and a sister and their families.

### Frank Timmers

Frank A. Timmers of Carmel, Indiana passed away on December 22, 2021. Born October 15, 1942 in



Victoria, Minnesota, he is survived by his wife Mary of 51 years and daughters Sarah of Atlanta, Georgia and Molly of Honolulu, Hawaii. Frank had a great love for American History and belonged to the Civil War and World War II Round Tables and the Covered Bridge and Canal Societies of Indiana.

Frank and Mary were regulars on our fall covered bridge tours. Here we see them entering into the Eugene Bridge in Vermillion County, Indiana, during our tour last September. We will miss them on future tours.



## President's Message

I hope that this message finds you healthy and well. As I write this, we have been abruptly thrown into summer here in New Hampshire. Mid-May is too early for temperatures in the 90's.

We have had to cancel the fall tour in Georgia and Alabama. It was a difficult decision for us. I know many of you were looking forward to it as well. We were very excited about being able to show everyone those bridges. The southern states don't have many covered bridges, but the few they do have are well worth the time to go visit. Unfortunately, we ran into too many challenges to overcome and we were quickly running out of time to work through them. We finally decided that it would just be better to postpone until next year giving us more time to make another trip or two south to finish the planning.

We are saddened to report the loss of two life members this quarter. Christine Ellsworth dedicated many years of service to the Society as corresponding secretary and also preparing the quarterly mailings. I am glad that Jenn and I had the opportunity to visit with her a few times over the years. She was a wonderful woman. We will also miss Frank Timmers who, with his wife Mary, were regulars on our fall covered bridge tours.



*Foxcatcher Farm Bridge  
Cecil County, Maryland*

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

*Bill Caswell*

## Archives Update

There has been lots of activity within the Society's archives during the past quarter. Over 20,000 new images have been added to our digital archives. While each individual collection was well organized, the images now need to be incorporated into the main collection to make it easier to locate photos of a particular bridge.

During the past quarter Michael Delage has continued scanning slides in the archives. During the winter and spring, he scanned over 8,500 slides donated by the late Dick Roy plus a collection donated by Ed and Irene Barna.

We received a large collection of historic covered bridge photos from Jerry Russell. This included the archives from the former Covered Bridge Society of Oregon (CBSO), Jerry's personal collection and that of his parents. The photos note the location and World Guide number of each location. Jerry also provided digital scans of them along with an index to the "Bridge Tender", the CBSO newsletter.

Thanks to Jim & Gloria Smedley for picking up a collection of items donated by Kevin Mahan, the grandson of former member Charles Mahan (1925-2013) of Towson, Maryland. Among the collection of covered bridge books, postcards and NSPCB publications were about 3,400 slides, mostly from 1963 to 2005. The slides are meticulously documented making it much easier for us to add it to the archives collection. Although Charlie was interested in covered bridges and lighthouses, he was best known for the more than seven decades spent researching and documenting the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad, a former rail line running from Baltimore, Maryland to York, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Jim Huey, who has been a member for over 50 years, sent electronic copies of the covered bridge slides he has taken since the mid 1960's. That added over eight thousand new images from throughout the United States and Canada to the Society's archives.

### March Meeting

The March meeting was a combined in-person and Zoom gathering hosted at the Masonic Lodge in Boscawen, New Hampshire. Being the first meeting since October, most of the time was getting caught up on events of the previous 5 months. The group voted to offer fire retardant to the town of Lyndon, Vermont. It will be used for the Randall Bridge northeast of Lyndonville. The Columbia-Montour County (PA) Visitors Bureau is considering a donation to the Columbia County Covered Bridge Association to make significant



restorations on the Stillwater Covered Bridge. We expressed interest in helping as well. We will wait until more details of the repair plan are available. We were approached by a publisher of Coloring Books to draft the manuscript and illustrations for a New England Covered Bridges Coloring Book. Once published, we can purchase them at a discount and resell. We also receive royalties from other sales. After the meeting, some of the attendees chose to visit the Society's archives room. Photos by Scott Wagner.



### April Meeting

Many had conflicts with this date so our group was smaller than normal. Bob Watts announced that he had arranged for us to have a picnic gathering at the New England College Bridge in Henniker, New Hampshire on May 21 to celebrate the bridge's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We discussed potential speakers for the annual meeting. Bill notified the group that he and Jenn were not going to be able to lead the fall tour in Georgia and Alabama this year and were postponing until 2023. In lieu of the fall tour, a smaller event in Vermont is being planned for the September 24/25 weekend. More details elsewhere within this Newsletter. A sample of the coloring book being planned was passed around the room. Ours will focus on covered bridges of New England. If it goes well, there is the potential to expand to other states. Bob Watts, Scott Wagner, Kim Varney Chandler and Bill Caswell are working on that. Books are planned to be available by Columbus Day weekend. The Calendar Committee has reduced the potential 2023 photos from 197 down to 35. Photo by Bob Watts



### Covered Bridge in Estonia

The first covered bridge we are aware of in Estonia crosses the Rannapungerja River in the village of Lemmaku in Ida-Viru County which is in the northeastern corner of the country. Järuska sild (Steep Bridge in English) is 26.4 meters (87 feet) long and was designed by Illimar Kalk, a civil engineer working at the Tallinn University of Technology. It was constructed in 2013 by a group of volunteers from the USA, England, France and Estonia. The project was sponsored by NGO Vanaajamaja, a nonprofit, educational organization which develops training programs related to Estonian traditional building and log house renovations, and OÜ Hobbiton, a company which designs and builds handcrafted log homes throughout Europe. Photos of the bridge can be seen on a Wikipedia page about the structure – [https://et.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%A4ruska\\_sild](https://et.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%A4ruska_sild).

## News of Members

### Fleming County, Kentucky

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, WDKY-TV, the Fox affiliate in Lexington, Kentucky aired a segment on the covered bridges of Fleming County, Kentucky featuring three of our members. The piece showed all three of the county's existing covered bridges and one former covered bridge. It noted the importance of the bridges to tourism in the area.



Brenda Plummer, president of the Fleming County Museum Society was interviewed at the Covered Bridge Museum in Flemingsburg which is run entirely by volunteers. Ginny Reeves, vice president of the Fleming County Covered Bridge Authority, and her husband Woodie Reeves were interviewed at the museum and at covered bridges.

They noted the popularity of the Goddard Bridge (KY/17-35-06) to photographers because of the church in the background. They also discussed the need to repair the Grange City Bridge (KY/17-35-05) which has been the subject of letters from the Society to various public officials over the years. Woodie Reeves was speaking at the Ringos Mill Bridge (KY/17-35-04), where he noted the craftsmanship of the 19<sup>th</sup> century builders.

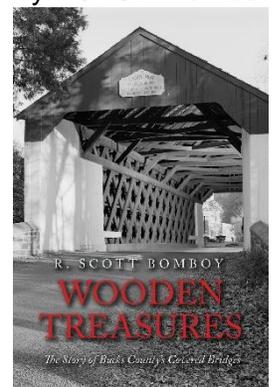


The report included photos of the Sherburne Bridge (KY/17-06-01x & KY/17-35-01x), a two-span structure connecting Bath County and Fleming County built in 1867 and lost to arson on April 6, 1981. Ginny Reeves noted the work done by the Covered Bridge Authority to protect the existing bridges from a similar fate. To assist with that, the Society donated fire retardant for the Goddard Bridge in October 2016.

### Wooden Treasures: The Story of Bucks County's Covered Bridges

*Wooden Treasures: The Story of Bucks County's Covered Bridges* is a new book by NSPCB member Scott Bomboy which went on sale on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Over the years, Scott has researched and written numerous articles on the county's covered bridges and developed a website

At one time, Bucks County had 51 covered bridges. Today, only 12 of those bridges remain. That heritage goes back to Theodore Burr's landmark 1806 covered bridge at Morrisville to the 39 local covered bridges that connected towns by 1875. Scott said that, "Few people today realize the important role covered bridges played in our pre-industrial economy— and how close we came to losing the surviving covered bridges in the name of progress." The book documents each of the 51 covered bridges and includes more than 240 photos and illustrations. The South Perkasio covered bridge's preservation in 1958 led to a policy change toward local covered bridges and the growth of covered bridge tourism in Bucks County, which is still going strong today. The retail cost of the 220-page book is \$29.99. Scott donated an autographed copy to the NSPCB Archives.



## News of Members (continued)

### Covered Bridges of New Hampshire

The fall will bring a new book on New Hampshire's covered bridges authored by member Kim Varney Chandler. Kim spent two years visiting town offices, historical societies and libraries throughout the state to gather information for the book. While there have been many books written about New Hampshire's covered bridges over the years, this one is by far the most comprehensive. Kim has thoroughly researched each bridge and provided documentation to support, and sometimes correct, the stories found in other books and periodicals. Each bridge article includes a photo by the author and most include historic photos from the NSPCB Archives. More details on this project can be found on the book's website at <https://coveredbridgesnh.com/>.



### Covered Bridge Event in Lyndon, Vermont

Bill is working with Nicole Gratton, Planning Director for the town of Lyndon to arrange a day-long event on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The town has been developing plans for promoting its covered bridges which will subsequently help raise funds for their repair and maintenance. Bringing a group to Lyndon for the day will help raise awareness of their efforts. The day will include visits to the five bridges in town plus one or two others nearby with a stop for lunch along the way. At some point during the day we will also have a presentation from the Town about their plans and goals. If you are interested in participating or just want to stay informed as more details become available, please email Bill at [wscaswell@yahoo.com](mailto:wscaswell@yahoo.com).

We are considering a second day to visit some other bridges in northern Vermont. At this time, we are looking into the Montgomery area. Finding a decent, reasonably priced hotel in Vermont which could potentially accommodate up to 40 guests during that weekend has been quite challenging. It is more likely that we can provide a list of options and have each individual make their own arrangements. Then we will set a time and place to meet on Sunday morning to begin that day's tour of the bridges.

 <p><i>Randall Bridge, Lyndon VT/45-03-07 Photo by Alan Hartmann</i></p>	 <p><i>Schoolhouse Bridge, Lyndon VT/45-03-03 Photo by Bill &amp; Jenn Caswell</i></p>	 <p><i>Greenbanks Hollow Bridge, VT/45-03-01#3 Photo by Karl Young</i></p>
 <p><i>Hopkins Bridge, Montgomery VT/45-06-01 Photo by Sue Blanchard</i></p>	 <p><i>Comstock Bridge, Montgomery VT/45-06-04 Photo by Alan Hartmann</i></p>	 <p><i>West Hill Bridge, Montgomery VT/45-06-09 Photo by Bill &amp; Jenn Caswell</i></p>

## Georgia-Alabama Tour Postponed Until 2023

Unfortunately, a number of factors have caused us to postpone the Fall tour of Georgia and Alabama until next year. Watch for details coming next Winter.

### Historic Covered Bridge Returns Home

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Visit LaGrange, a non-profit organization promoting tourism in the city of LaGrange, Georgia, distributed a press release stating that the 1890 Wehadkee Creek Bridge, which has resided at Callaway Gardens since December 1964, returned to Troup County. According to the press release, a covered bridge was constructed on Harmony Church Road over Wehadkee Creek in Troup County by Horace King in 1873. It was destroyed by a flash flood in 1886. In 1890, Horace's son, George King, constructed a replacement and like his father, used a Town truss design.



The 1965 construction of the West Point Dam would have left the bridge underwater. Callaway Gardens officials asked for 60 feet of the 110-foot bridge and placed it in front of the greenhouses at the Pine Mountain, Georgia, location in December of 1964. The bridge was dismantled in 1983 with the intention of reconstructing at a different location.



The bridge was moved back to Troup County to be reconstructed as part of LaGrange's Thread, a non-motorized, multi-purpose trail which will ultimately be 26 miles long. Reconstruction of the bridge was to get underway promptly after its journey back to the county. It will be part of a Mulberry Street Cemetery project.

The cemetery is home to 350 Confederate soldiers, Horace King and his son Marshal, and 425 unmarked graves of, what they believe to be, African Americans. The cemetery was in service between 1863 and 1930 so the thought is that many of those buried there were former slaves. The project includes interpretation of all three parts of the cemetery (soldiers, unmarked graves, Horace King and the bridge), adding walking paths, a pocket park, marking each grave and adding a pavilion.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the LaGrange Daily News reported that crews has started erecting the structure a short distance behind Horace King's grave. The work is being done by the Scott Bridge Company of Opelika, Alabama who was also involved with the reconstruction of a portion of the Salem Shotwell Bridge in Opelika after it was destroyed by a falling tree in June 2005. The article indicated that they expected the bridge to be completed in May.

The city is hoping to have the work completed by September 8 – Horace King's 215<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The historic photo of the bridge at its original location is part of Elna Johnson's collection. Other photos were provided by Visit LaGrange.

### 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.



## Bourbon County's Colville Covered Bridge Damage On Track to be Repaired

by Melissa C. Jurgensen, kybourbonsteward@outlook.com

[Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the Bourbon County Citizen on April 14, 2022.]

Cosmetic repairs are scheduled to begin on the damaged Colville Covered Bridge [World Guide #KY/17-09-03#2] the week of April 11, 2022 . The bridge was originally built in 1877 by the Bower Bridge Company and is the sole remaining covered bridge in Bourbon County. The county once boasted well over 20 covered bridges. Of the 11 covered bridges that remain in Kentucky, the Colville Bridge is one of three that remains open to traffic. I recently had the opportunity to speak with Bourbon County Judge Executive Mike Williams about the upcoming project.



Judge Williams explained, "The repairs were made necessary due to two separate incidents where vehicles of some type were taken through the bridge that were too tall to cross the bridge. The interior roof bracing was damaged and the at one entrance some siding was knocked off the bridge. State Transportation Cabinet bridge engineers inspected the bridge after each incident and declared it safe and that the damage was only cosmetic. The safety of the bridge was the most important factor in keeping it open."

Judge Williams continued, "The Fiscal Court advertised through our procurement process for proposals to perform the appropriate repairs and local contractor, Mattox Built Homes, had the winning bid. Like so many things in the world we are living in today, Mr. Mattox has waited for some time to get lumber his crew needed for the repairs. This unique structure is built with rough cut lumber, and that is not something you can just go to a Lowe's, or a Home Depot or to any lumberyard and buy. It has to be cut specifically for a project based on the dimensions needed. Mr. Mattox notified me last week that that the lumber is finally ready. Right now the intent is to perform the repairs, weather permitting, the week of April 11 through the 15. It will be necessarily to temporarily close the bridge from time to time while they are working for safety's sake. There will be signs to notify motorists of the closure."

News of the repair of the Colville Bridge has garnered positive reactions locally and elsewhere in the State. Betty Rice Allen, Executive Director of Paris-Bourbon County Tourism exclaimed, "We are very fortunate to have one of the few surviving historic covered bridges in Kentucky on Colville Road here in Bourbon County. It is amazing the number of people who come to our community to see this wonderful structure! If the Colville Bridge could talk, oh, the stories it could tell! If you live here and have not seen it you should take the short drive to enjoy it!"

Lori Bevins-Ulrich, the Chair of the Buffalo Trace Covered Bridge Authority added, "After losing the Beech Fork Bridge to arson, we are all a bit on edge. The Grange City Bridge in Fleming County and the Dover Bridge in Mason County were severely damaged in flooding, have been stabilized but are in need of full restoration desperately. We have come to a tipping point with our bridges. It is encouraging to see local officials taking the lead on Colville and I hope this spurs action on other bridges that need attention as well. We went from 13 covered bridges remaining in Kentucky to only 11 in a very short period of time. We don't want to lose more. We can't."

In conclusion, Judge Williams said, "The Fiscal Court certainly recognizes the value of the structure and its historic significant and we want to do everything we can possible to preserve and protect it. There is a significant presence of Amish families in that area and certainly if you are fortunate, you can observe carriages going across the bridge like when it was originally built. It is a unique structure indeed."

The Colville Covered Bridge is located on Colville Road, near Ruddell's Mill off of Highway 1893.



## 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.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 (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>June</u></b>	<p><b>Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup></b> – Barrackville Covered Bridge Festival, Barrackville, West Virginia.</p>
<b><u>July</u></b>	<p><b>Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup></b> – 7:00-10:00 AM, Pancake &amp; Sausage Breakfast, Roann Bridge, Roann, Indiana.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at Hoss's Steak &amp; Sea House, 3604 Market St., York, Pennsylvania 17402.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup></b> – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS meeting, Smithville Fire Hall, Jefferson County, NY</p> <p><b>16 &amp; 17</b> – ICBS Summer Tour of Putnam and Montgomery Counties.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup></b> – 12:00 noon, OHBA Summer Picnic, Salt Creek Covered Bridge, Arch Hill Road, east of Zanesville, Ohio.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup></b> – Big Bridge Dinner, Smolen Gulf Bridge, Ashtabula, Ohio. See <a href="http://www.coveredbridgefestival.org/">http://www.coveredbridgefestival.org/</a> for details.</p>
<b><u>August</u></b>	<p><b>6-7</b> – NYSCBS Safari, Perry County, Pennsylvania</p> <p><b>Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSP Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>20-21</b> – TBCBSP Safari to Bucks County, Pennsylvania.</p>
<b><u>September</u></b>	<p><b>8-10</b> – Roann (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival at the bridge, Roann. For more details, visit <a href="https://roanncoveredbridgefestival.com/">https://roanncoveredbridgefestival.com/</a>.</p> <p><b>9-11</b> – Cumberland (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival at the bridge, northeast of Matthews. For more details, visit <a href="http://www.matthewscoveredbridgefestival.com/">http://www.matthewscoveredbridgefestival.com/</a>.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup></b> – 1:00 PM, NYSCBS virtual meeting.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup></b> – Noon, TBCBSP Annual Picnic and meeting at Poole Forge Bridge.</p> <p><b>23-25</b> – Elizabethton Covered Bridge Days, Elizabethton, Tennessee. See <a href="https://coveredbridgedays.org/">https://coveredbridgedays.org/</a> for details.</p>
<b><u>October</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>6-9</b> – Columbia-Montour County (Pennsylvania) Covered Bridge and Arts Festival. See <a href="https://itourcolumbiamontour.com/covered-bridge-festival/">https://itourcolumbiamontour.com/covered-bridge-festival/</a> for details.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup></b> – Blount County (Alabama) Covered Bridge Festival in Oneonta. See <a href="http://facebook.com/CoveredBridgeFest">http://facebook.com/CoveredBridgeFest</a> for more details.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup></b> – Euharlee (Georgia) Covered Bridge Fall Festival. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.facebook.com/EuharleeCoveredBridgeFallFestival/">https://www.facebook.com/EuharleeCoveredBridgeFallFestival/</a>.</p>

	<p><b>8-9</b> – Ashtabula County (Ohio) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See <a href="http://www.coveredbridgefestival.org/Pages/festival.html">http://www.coveredbridgefestival.org/Pages/festival.html</a> for details.</p> <p><b>8-9</b> – Madison County (Iowa) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See <a href="https://www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival/">https://www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival/</a> for details.</p> <p><b>14-23</b> – Parke County (Indiana) Covered Bridge Festival. Events at various locations. See <a href="https://www.coveredbridges.com/covered-bridge-festival">https://www.coveredbridges.com/covered-bridge-festival</a> for details.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup></b> – ICBS Fall Tour of Rush County.</p>
<b>November</b>	<p><b>Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup></b> – 2:00 PM, TBCBSPA Monthly Meeting at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup></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 dinner.</p>

### Updates to the 2021 World Guide to Covered Bridges

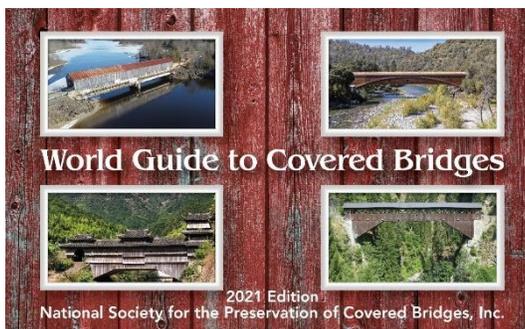
For a complete list of changes, please visit the website at [www.coveredbridgesociety.org](http://www.coveredbridgesociety.org) and click on the World Guide link.

Page 40, Kent County, Michigan. Update the truss type of the Ada or Bradfield Bridge, MI/22-41-01#2, to **Brown**.

Page 79, Morgan County, Ohio. The Barkhurst Mill or Williams Bridge, OH/35-58-15, is no longer closed.

Page 210, Add the Järuska Bridge in Ida-Viru County, Estonia

EE-03-01 Lemmaku Rannapungerja jõgi Järuska 1 26.4m (119') 2013 Town  
 In the village of Lemmaku northeast of route 88 N59° 00.751' E027° 08.279'



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

### World Guide Phone App

In the past we have reported on the website created to provide information on covered bridges listed in the World Guide to Covered Bridges – [www.abhdemo.com](http://www.abhdemo.com). We are still working on merging it with the Society’s website at [coveredbridgesociety.org](http://coveredbridgesociety.org). Alan Hartmann has been working on updating phone apps associated with the website. The Android version has been available for a while and the iOS version is in development. Alan recently updated both versions so they have the ability to sync the database on the mobile device with updated information from the website.

## A Visit to Delaware and Maryland Covered Bridges

by Bill Caswell

During the May 14/15 weekend, Jenn and I spent some time in the mid-Atlantic states. The trip started with a lighthouse cruise out of Cape May, New Jersey. While it was nice to get away for the weekend, the weather during the cruise was not quite ideal – cool with dense fog and occasional rain showers. The next day was similar as we went seeking lighthouses in southern Delaware. After the lighthouse stops, we headed north to visit five covered bridges in Cecil County, Maryland and northern Delaware.

The first stop was at Gilpin's Falls Bridge (MD/20-07-01). The bridge was built in 1860 by Joseph Johnson at a cost of \$2,000. The 119' long, single span structure is Maryland's longest covered bridge. It was bypassed in 1936 and saw little maintenance after that. In 2008, a grant from the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation program along with additional grants plus private donations covered nearly all of the \$1.4 million needed for a full restoration. The NSPCB donated \$8,000 on the condition that changes made to the bridge would be historically correct. Bridgewright Tim Andrews of Barns and Bridges of New England was in charge of the timber-framing portions of the 2009/2010 project which restored the bridge trusses, reintroduced camber and straightened the bridge.



The Foxcatcher Farm Bridge (MD/20-07-02) was built near Jonathan Strahorn's Mill in 1860 by Ferdinand Wood for a cost of \$1,165. In 1927, William duPont, Jr. bought large tracts of land in northeastern Maryland including the area around this bridge. Being on private property, the bridge was inaccessible to most covered bridge enthusiasts until the property was acquired by the State of Maryland in 1975. During our visit we noticed damage that we think was from Tropical Storm Ida last September. The bridge is closed to motor vehicles.



Our first covered bridge stop in Delaware was the Wooddale Bridge (DE-02-04#2). The current structure replaced a former covered bridge built in the late 1800's which was lost during flooding in 2003. The new bridge, a 60' long Town truss structure was built five feet higher above the stream. It opened to traffic on December 15, 2008.

Like the previous Wooddale Bridge, the construction date of the Ashland Bridge (DE/08-02-02) is also uncertain. The State's

Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs thinks it was most likely built between 1850 and 1865 although it could have been as early as 1840. During 1982, rolled steel I-beams were installed under the deck. When we visited, we noticed the damage mentioned in the later news article.



The final bridge stop before turning towards home was Smith's Bridge. The original covered bridge here was named for Isaac Smith who operated a flour and grist mill nearby. It was closed in 1954 after being damaged by an "excessively heavy truck". In 1955, it was re-sided, re-roofed, and re-painted at a cost of \$43,125. The bridge was lost to arson on Halloween 1961. Three youths were each fined \$500 and placed on three years' probation. The current, built in 2002, includes a Burr truss, but is supported by steel I-Beams.

## Covered Bridge News

### Alabama

#### Swann Bridge, Blount County – AL/01-05-05

#### Horton Mill Bridge, Blount County – AL/01-05-07

We were informed that both of these bridges have been closed to traffic. They are still open for pedestrians. We contacted the Blount County Engineering Department for more information. Dustin Stewart, the county engineer, indicated that a recent inspection of both covered bridges revealed some issues that need to be corrected. The county is in the process of collaborating with Alabama DOT to determine what the next steps will be. They hope to correct the issues in the near future, but the necessary funding may not be in place to resolve that immediately. The Swann Bridge is a three span Town truss structure built in 1933 by Zelma C. (or possibly Zelmer) & Forrest Tidwell. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 20, 1981. The two-span Horton Mill Bridge was also built by the Tidwell's in 1935. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 29, 1970, the first covered bridge in the southeastern United States to be added. *Swann Bridge Photo by Jim Smedley.*



### California

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

On April 13th, the Chico Enterprise-Record published a guest editorial from Walt Schafer, President of the Honey Run Covered Bridge Association. He provided a status update on the project to rebuild the bridge which was lost on November 8, 2018 when the Camp Fire destroyed the 131-year-old structure. Phase I (\$1.2 million: foundations, abutments, columns, slope protection) was completed in November 2020. Before each phase can begin, all funds must be raised. Looking ahead, plan design and construction companies are in place for Phase II. Pending funding (\$1.3 million: deck, trusses), Phase II construction could begin in summer 2022. Phase III (\$700,000: siding, roof) hopefully will follow in 2023, pending funding. HRCBA welcomes donations of any size. As a 501(c)3 non-profit, HRCBA continues its dedication to rebuild the Honey Run Covered Bridge. Success will not only be a new Covered Bridge but a testament to this area's unity, determination, and resilience. For more information or to donate, go to <http://www.hrccoveredbridge.org>. *Jenn Caswell Photo of the former bridge.*



### Delaware

#### Smith's Bridge, New Castle County – DE/08-02-01#2

In the previous Newsletter, we reported that the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) announced that the bridge was to be closed for repairs to the "wooden framing components to the bridge 'cover' that were damaged." The repairs may be related to the damage caused by a tractor-trailer attempting to cross the bridge on April 19, 2021, which we reported in the Summer 2021 Newsletter on page 14. Bill & Jenn visited the bridge on May 16<sup>th</sup> and saw that the repairs had been completed. The bridge was built over Brandywine Creek in 2002 to replicate a covered bridge which stood at this location from 1839 until it was lost to arson on Halloween 1961. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell, May 16, 2022.*



## Delaware (continued)

### Ashland Bridge, New Castle County – DE/08-02-02

Member Alan Hartmann visited the bridge on April 14<sup>th</sup> and sent the photo on the left showing some



damage to the bridge. It may have been part of damage inflicted by tropical storm Ida in September. The construction date of this bridge is not yet known. Various dates have been suggested as early as 1840 up to shortly after the Civil War. The single-span Town truss bridge crosses Red Clay Creek in the northeast portion of the state about two miles from the



Pennsylvania border. *Right photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

## Indiana

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

In the Fall 2021 Newsletter (page 13), we reported that this bridge was damaged during a series of storms in late June 2021 when high waters tossed a large tree trunk through the side of the bridge. The bridge is structurally sound, just needs repairs to the side boards damaged by high water. On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Greensburg Daily News reported that Decatur County Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr indicated that the bridge would be closed for repairs. The bridge closure was expected to begin on April 11<sup>th</sup>. An estimated completion date was not provided. This single-span bridge was built in 1880 by A. M. Kennedy and Son, using the Burr design. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 1982. *Greensburg Daily News, April 7, 2022. Photos by Andy Rebman.*



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

The oldest covered bridge in Indiana still in its original location still needs your help. The single-span Howe truss bridge was built in 1854 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 2021. Fundraising is ongoing to raise the estimated \$400,000 necessary to properly restore the bridge. The committee is currently about halfway to its goal. Donations for restoration of the bridge can be made to the Western Indiana Community Foundation, P.O. Box 75, Covington, IN 47932. *Photo by Greg McDuffee.*



## Indiana (continued)

### Duck Creek Aqueduct, Franklin County – IN/14-24-11



On April 19th, the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites distributed information about plans for the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site. The historic site was created in 1946 and has “periodically required a major capital investment every generation or so.” They hired an engineering firm with historic-preservation expertise to evaluate the site’s needs have received estimates of the repair costs and preventative measures for the aqueduct, the waterwheel, the two locks and to acquire a new boat. These are the main components to developing a strategy to resolve both the short-term and long-term issues for the site. The current estimated cost is \$6.6 million for all the work. The Duck Creek

Aqueduct, a National Historic Landmark and the only historic covered aqueduct of its kind still in existence, will cost \$4 million for repairs and reinforcements to help prevent damage in case of severe flooding on Duck Creek. The two locks will cost a total \$2.6 million to repair, the waterwheel \$250,000 and \$1 million for a new boat. The next step is to work with civil engineers, DNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology, the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites board members and the governor’s office to determine a long-term, sustainable strategy based on the current information. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

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

The bridge was closed when a crack was discovered on the inner arch during a routine maintenance check. Officials do not know just how long the bridge will be closed. The single-span Burr truss bridge over Leatherwood Creek was built by J. J. Daniels in 1896. The late Frank Timmers is on the left of this photo taken during our Western Indiana Tour last September. *WTHI-TV, April 6, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Billie Creek Village, Parke County

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, WIBQ Radio reported that the historic village is under new management which plans to revitalize the Rockville tourist attraction. The village was created in the 1960s and consists of a collection of historic buildings relocated to the property. It also has three historic covered bridges: Billie Creek Bridge (IN/14-61-19), Beeson Bridge (IN/14-61-24) and Leatherwood Station Bridge (IN/14-61-25). The new manager, Gregg Larson, plans to start scheduling events at the site in May to start bringing in the visitors. *WIBQ Radio, April 3, 2022.*

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

The Roann Covered Bridge Association is working on raising money for the repair and maintenance

needs of the bridge. Its current needs were estimated at \$1 million. The Association is working with the Wabash County Commissioners who will be in charge of the work. They are planning pancake and sausage breakfasts on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup>. The left photo, from the Association’s Facebook page, chronicled last September’s breakfast event. The two-span Howe truss bridge was built in 1877. It was added to the



National Register of Historic Places on August 6, 1981. *Exterior photo by Greg McDuffee.*

## Kentucky

### Goddard Bridge, Fleming County – KY/17-35-06

Ginny Reeves, vice president of the Fleming County Covered Bridge Authority, informed us that some maintenance work has been done on the bridge. They have repaired the rock walls on the approaches and replaced the wooden wheel tracks which were worn from traffic. The single-span Town truss bridge was originally built in 1864. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 22, 1975. The bridge was bypassed in 1998 and remains open to traffic. *Photo by Woodie & Ginny Reeves.*



## Maine

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

On Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum of Alna, Maine is planning the inaugural run of excursions across the pony truss bridge. This will be the first public excursion



to the bridge which was constructed by Barns & Bridges of New England with grant money received by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges from the National Park Service. WW&F volunteers moved the bridge from the construction area to its permanent location over Trout Brook. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, volunteers at the museum



worked on the track beyond the bridge in preparation for the public opening of that section. *Photos by C. Stewart Rhine.*

## Massachusetts

### Arthur Smith Bridge, Colrain, Franklin County – MA/21-06-03#2

At its April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Colrain Selectboard authorized up to \$2,500 from the Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge Fund to be used at the discretion of the Historical Commission to replace the light fixtures inside the bridge. The current ones have been in place for 20 years and some are in need of repair. The town is also having difficulty finding replacement bulbs for them. The new lights will be about the same brightness as the current ones. The town will also look into a solar switch, which will turn the lights on as the sun goes down, to replace the current timer which needs to be adjusted during the year as sunset times change. They expect to replace the light fixtures as soon as possible. *Greenfield Recorder, April 17, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Missouri

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

In the previous issue we noted that there is interest in moving the bridge. On March 17<sup>th</sup> we received an email from Mike Sargent, Vice President of the Meadville Betterment Association with additional information. 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 to be above the ground again. Over the last 30 years, additional silt has accumulated leaving less than two feet of clearance under the structure. The Association is proposing to move the bridge west approximately three miles to sit over a small creek and beside the road it originally served, Arrow Road (Old Number 8), approximately ¼ mile west of Meadville. The proposal also contains a plan for a small park owned by the city adjacent to the bridge with facilities such as a shelter house, running water and restrooms. The 151' long Howe truss structure is the longest of Missouri's four remaining historic covered bridges. *Photo by Bob Hamilton.*



## New Hampshire

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

The selectmen unanimously approved a motion to contract with Geddes Building Movers for \$27,000 from American Rescue Plan Act funds to move the covered bridge to the east embankment so the west abutment can be repaired. The bridge has been closed since last year after it was discovered that the west abutment was failing. The single-span Town truss bridge was built in 1995. *NH Front Page, part of Salmon Press, April 2, 2022. Paul Chandler Photo.*



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

An email from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance announced the Town of Bradford as their 2022 Preservation Achievement Award winner for last year's restoration and rehabilitation of the bridge along with the engineering firm of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc., and contractor Neil H. Daniels, Inc. "This award recognizes the commitment of the town to save a rare resource, develop a comprehensive rehabilitation plan, and implement creative engineering solutions to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century needs." The single-span bridge was built in 1854 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 21, 1976. *Photos by Kim Varney Chandler.*



## New York

### Cannon Bridge, Wyoming County – under construction

The new covered bridge being constructed in western New York and featured on the cover of the Spring Newsletter, is nearly complete. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, photographer John Kucko, who has been documenting the project since it started, noted that workers are completing the guide rails approaching both ends of the bridge and crushed stone is on site to protect the slopes down to the river from erosion. Paving of the surface inside the bridge will commence next week and then installation of the metal roof. The project is being done by L.C. Whitford Inc. of Wellsville, NY and design by LaBella Associates of Rochester. The Town of Bennington is planning an opening ceremony in the spring. It replaced a metal truss bridge at the location of the former Mosier Covered Bridge built on Schoellkopf Road near Cowlesville, in 1845. The covered bridge was replaced by the metal one around 1933. *Photos by John Kucko.*



## Ohio

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

The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners approved a bid for work on the bridge at a meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The project was awarded to Union Industrial Contractors, for a price of \$6,057,260.50. The project will rehabilitate both the covered bridge and the steel truss bridge. The project will reconstruct the abutments and piers of the structure. Once complete, there will also be sidewalks on both sides of the bridge. The project completion date is December 31, 2023. The bridge was built in 1868 to replace an earlier bridge destroyed by an ice jam. In 1913 floodwaters washed away the land at the north end of the bridge. The 140-foot-long steel span was added to bridge this area. The bridge was bypassed in 1959 and has remained open to local traffic. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 3, 1975. *Ashtabula Star Beacon, March 9, 2022. Photos by Walter Gunter.*



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### Barkhurst Mill Bridge, Morgan County – OH/35-58-15

Member Jim Crouse and his wife Jane Porter Gresham visited this bridge last August and found that it is now open to traffic. They shared this photo from their trip. This single-span bridge was built in 1872.



## Ohio (continued)

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



A project to renovate the historic Lynchburg Covered Bridge began in January and is expected to continue through most of 2022. The bridge will remain closed to pedestrian traffic for the duration of the project. The bridge was built by John C. Gregg of Hillsboro, Ohio at the cost of \$3,138.66. In 1963, plans were made to remove the bridge and replace it with a modern structure. Public support for preservation convinced local officials to bypass the bridge instead of replacing it in 1969. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 16, 1976. *Highland County Press, February 26, 2022. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

### Shade Bridge, Fairfield County – OH/35-23-20x

The bridge, which has experienced its share of hardship over the years, collapsed on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It was believed to have been built in 1871. The Fairfield County website lists the builder as James W. Buchanan, but *Covered Bridges: Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia* by David Simmons and the late Miriam Wood notes the builder as John Shrake. The bridge was closed after being damaged by an oversized truck in 1978. When the County planned to demolish it, Bill Pierson offered to relocate it to his farm. The weakened structure collapsed on July 19, 1980, while being dismantled and the Pierson family retrieved as much as they could. The bridge was reconstructed on dry land on the farm (possibly without its trusses) and used as a museum. In 2015, the Piersons sold the property to Fairfield County Park District. The property has been named Misty Valley Park and not yet open to the public. In 2019, during heavy storms of late spring or early summer two large trees fell onto the bridge. The already-weakened structure was damaged, possibly beyond repair. Then a winter storm with heavy ice and snow during February 3-5, 2022, caused irreparable damage to the bridge. On March 6, it fully collapsed. The Fairfield County Board of Park Commissioners requested bids to carefully remove the structure with the hope that some of its parts could be used elsewhere. *Fairfield County Parks eNewsletter, March 16, 2022. Photo Courtesy Fairfield County Parks.*



### Roley School House Bridge, Fairfield County – OH/35-23-49



After a windstorm knocked it down in 2016, it was given to Fairfield County Park District and put in storage. There are plans to reconstruct the structure as an observation deck on a trail overlooking the heron rookery at the new Wagner Preserve which is not yet open to the public. The 48-foot-long bridge was originally constructed over the Ohio & Erie Canal in 1899. In 1914, it was moved to Roley Road and then to the County Fairgrounds in Lancaster in 1972. *Fairfield County Parks eNewsletter, March 16, 2022. Photo Courtesy Fairfield County Parks.*

## Ohio (continued)

### Spellacy Bridge, Holmes County

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Holmes County Engineer Chris Young held a public meeting to discuss plans to construct a new covered bridge over the Mohican River on the Wally Road Scenic Byway (Route 23) about six miles south of Loudonville (N40.594085°, W82.206858°). It will replace a bridge built in 1993 which has deteriorated. The existing bridge is limited to one lane traffic with a 10 ton load limit, enough for a school bus, but not heavy trucks. The plans were to be complete about two weeks after the meeting. Ideally, he would like to have the project bid and under construction before winter. The \$8.419 million project is being designed by Burgess & Niple of Columbus, Ohio and Smolen Engineering is designing the bridge. It will be 30 feet wide, with walkways on each side along with approach walks to



accommodate pedestrians and bicyclers. *Ashland Times Gazette, April 26, 2022. Rendering provided by Smolen Engineering.*

### Mary Ruffner Bridge, Perry County – OH/35-64-84

In the Summer 2021 Newsletter (page 19) we noted that the Fairfield County Historical Parks Commission was working with the City of Lancaster to find out what permits will be necessary to move this bridge back to Fairfield County. They indicated that the total project should come in around \$200,000. The bridge was originally built in Fairfield County and moved to private property in Perry County in 1986. The current owner is interested in donating it back to Fairfield County where they intend to reconstruct it over Fetter Run on a planned extension to the county’s Sensory Trail. Sensory Trail Park was created to “enhance the lives of individuals with developmental and physical disabilities in the community” by creating areas designed to stimulate the senses through colors, textures, scents, and sounds. The bridge will provide safe wheelchair-accessible access from the trail to a wetland and boardwalk without having to enter areas where there is motorized vehicle traffic. *Fairfield County Parks eNewsletter, March 16, 2022. Photo Courtesy Fairfield County Parks.*



### Eakin Mill or Arbaugh Bridge, Vinton County – OH/35-82-07#2

In the Summer 2021 issue (page 19), we reported that damage to the bridge from a falling tree was to be repaired later in the year. We received this photo from member Jeff Griffen on the Newsletter deadline showing that the bridge is still closed. We will be contacting the county engineer again for an update. He had previously indicated that only the roof was damaged, not the truss structure and funding had been secured.

## Oregon

### Goodpasture Bridge, Lane County – OR/37-20-10

On March 22nd, the Register-Guard newspaper reported that the Oregon Legislature has authorized \$3.6 million to Lane County for the Goodpasture Covered Bridge Rehabilitation project. No other details were provided. The County Engineer was contacted for more details, but we had not received a reply by press time. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



### Office Bridge, Lane County – OR/37-20-39

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Lane County Department of Public Works advertised for bids to “clean, prepare and paint interior and exterior existing painted surfaces of the House and Truss of Office Covered Bridge.”



The cost of the project is estimated to be \$400,000 to \$600,000. Bids were opened on March 22<sup>nd</sup> with Purcell P&C, LLC of Tukwila, Washington receiving the project with their bid of \$542,000 if approved by the County Administrator. The single-span Howe truss



structure was built over the McKenzie River in 1938. *Information from the Lane County Department of Public Works website. Exterior photo by Jerry Russell, interior photo by Bill Cockrell.*

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

A \$2.9 million contract to restore the bridge was approved by Linn County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The contract was awarded to Marcum & Sons LLC based in Redmond, Oregon. Around 90% of the restoration project’s costs will be funded through grant money from the Oregon Department of Transportation. The 130-foot-long Howe truss was constructed over Thomas Creek in 1966. The bridge is expected to be moved off of its abutments on May 25<sup>th</sup> for about two months. During that time, its piers and approaches will be reconstructed. While the bridge is on dry land, its lower chords will be replaced with pressure treated glulam beams. The upper chords and diagonal timbers also need some repair due to decay. The entire truss will be tuned to a desired camber and chemically fumigated to minimize future insect damage. After the bridge is moved back into place over the river, new siding, roof rafters and cedar shingles will be added. Finally, the bridge will get a new coat of paint. The project is expected to run from April 18 through October 26. *Thanks to Jerry Russell, former president of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon for forwarding this information he received from Linn County’s Road Department along with his photos.*



April 23, 2022



May 10, 2022

## Pennsylvania

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

In the Spring issue (page 14) we reported that the Borough of Perkasia was working with FEMA on



funding for the project before awarding the contract from its Request for Proposals last fall. At this issue’s deadline, they were still working through FEMA’s approval process. The 1832, single-span, Town truss bridge was originally built on Main Street in Perkasia Borough and moved to Lenape Park during the summer of 1958 to save it from destruction.



*Information from Scott Bomboy. Photos taken the day after flooding, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, courtesy of Scott Bomboy and Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

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

Our last update on the plans to restore this bridge was in the Fall 2021 issue (page 20). At that time we noted a number of grants that the city had already received towards the project and others still in the works.



An article posted by Lehigh Valley Live on April 20, 2022 announced the award of another grant. The city had applied for and was awarded a \$1.3 million grant from the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) program. The program initially had \$18 million available for 21 projects in Pennsylvania, but more funding was allocated after the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was passed. Karen El Chaar, Director of Allentown’s Department of Parks and Recreation informed us that they now have \$2.6 million available with another \$300,000 request pending with US Congresswoman, Susan Wild, for inclusion in the federal budget. That is enough to get the project underway. The Request for Proposals for Step 1 (design & construction documents) have been issued with an anticipated bid opening date of May 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

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

Jim and Gloria Smedley visited the bridge in May and offered some observations and photos from their vantage point outside of the work area. A number of the vertical and diagonal timbers, portions of the arches and portions of the lower chord have been replaced although it was difficult to tell exactly how much from a distance. It appeared that many of the new pieces were spliced into sturdy sections of the old timbers instead of completely replacing them.



Workers also appeared to be cutting out the metal grated floor which we have heard is to be replaced with a wooden deck. The 70-foot-long span that was reportedly built circa 1825. Lancaster County Timber Frames of York, Pennsylvania, is doing the timber repairs.



## Pennsylvania (continued)

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

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, NorthcentralPa.com reported that a timber-covered bridge on Gray Hill Road in White Deer Township will be rehabilitated. After some research on PennDOT’s website and contacting the person listed as project manager at PennDOT, we learned that the project is actually being managed by Union County. An email was sent to the company providing engineering services for the county but a reply was not received by press time. The single-span bridge over White Deer Creek was built in the 1880’s. *Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*



## Vermont

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



In the Spring Newsletter (page 17) we noted that the town of Lyndon had purchased the bridge and will begin fundraising to obtain the estimated \$1.3 million needed to repair the bridge. Member Steve Brown visited Lyndonville in April and took this photo of the bridge noting that cleanup around the bridge is well underway. The charred remains of the adjacent hotel have been removed and some large trees near the bridge have been removed. The Town will be hosting an event on September 24<sup>th</sup> to showcase their five remaining historic covered bridges along with one or two others in the area.

### Randall Bridge, Lyndonville, Caledonia County – VT/45-03-07

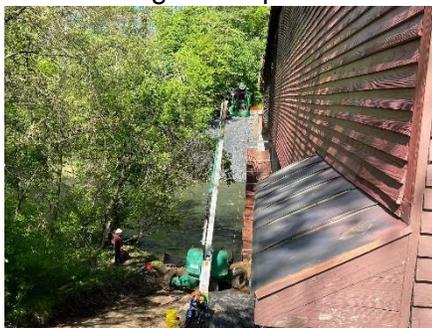
At our March meeting, the attendees approved a donation of fire retardant for the town of Lyndon which will be applied to this bridge. There are a couple different construction dates indicated for this bridge, either 1865 or 1872. It was bypassed by a new steel and concrete bridge in 1965 and remains open to pedestrian traffic. *Photo by Steve Brown.*



## Virginia

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

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is nearing completion of repairs to the historic bridge which has been closed to traffic since it was struck by two vehicles last fall. VDOT crews have been working with private contractors on the project. In addition to the needed repairs, the crew is replacing some of the side boards, power washing it, and re-staining it. The work could be done by the time you receive this



Newsletter. *WHSV-TV, May 2, 2022. Photos by Michael Rudnick.*

## West Virginia

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



The Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Association has been doing a great job of getting the community involved in their efforts to have the bridge repaired. The group will be hosting a festival on June 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be food and craft vendors set up along with entertainment throughout the day. There will be a “Duck Race” and coloring contest for the kids. For more information, email them at [saveourbridge@aol.com](mailto:saveourbridge@aol.com) or visit the association’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SavetheBarrackvilleBridgeAgain>). Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell.

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*Donations to the Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Society can be made out to that organization and mailed to Lion’s Club, P.O. Box 429, Barrackville WV 26559.*

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## Wisconsin

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

Wisconsin’s last historic covered bridge has been closed to all traffic following the discovery of a large crack on one of the bridge’s trusses. State Department of Transportation Bridge Inspectors have



determined that no one should use the bridge at this time. The 120’ long Town truss bridge was built in 1876 and retired from service in 1962. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 14, 1973. Ozaukee County will be reviewing the situation to determine options going forward. Contact Ozaukee County Highway



Commissioner Jon Edgren with any comments or questions at 262-238-8335. *Ozaukee County News Graphic, May 19, 2022. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell.*

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## Canada – 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.

### Pont des Chutes, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region – QC/61-01-25



In May, Mario Germain visited the bridge and noticed that three metal sculptures have been added to the area. One of the three represents the covered bridge. So far, no other information is known about them. The 209' long Québec Town truss structure was built in 1954. It has been closed to traffic since June 4, 2010. After



being damaged by high water during the spring of 2015, the road approaching the bridge has also been closed. *The left photo showing the sculpture was taken by Mario Germain and the right photo by Simon Pratte.*

### Pont du Petit-Quatre, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region – QC/61-02-20

The single-span bridge over Rivière Des Méloizes was built in 1950. It was closed from October to December 2021 for repairs which included replacement of the decking, siding and included some work on the abutments. It was also noted that headache bars have been installed near the bridge. On December 13, 2021, the municipality of Canton Clermont's Facebook page included this photo announcing that the bridge had been opened to traffic.



### Pont Perrault, Chaudière, Appalaches Region – QC/61-06-01

The Municipality of Notre-Dame-des-Pins awarded the contract to repair this bridge to Cité Construction TM of Thetford Mines, Québec with their bid of \$3,652,591. They were the lowest of three bids. The work began in mid-May and will take six months to complete. It will consist of replacing and/or repairing structural elements to bring it back to full capacity. The restoration will be carried out in such a way as to preserve the heritage aspect of the site and respect the strict environmental standards. However, the contract does not include replacement of the exterior covering. That work will be carried out by the municipal council of Notre-Dame-des-Pins when they can obtain additional funds. Funding has come from numerous sources. So far, the Government of Québec has invested about \$3 million. Canada Economic Development is providing \$500,000., the Municipality of Notre-Dame-des-Pins is contributing \$311,500. Other agencies, local businesses, ATV clubs, snowmobile clubs and individuals also made significant contributions. Once the work is complete, the bridge will re-open to pedestrian, bicycle, ATV and snowmobile traffic. Built in 1927, the Perrault Bridge is the longest covered bridge in Quebec at 495 feet. *En Beauce, March 31, 2022 and COOL-FM, May 16, 2022. Photo by Pascal Conner.*



## Québec (continued)

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



On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, *The Charlevoisian* reported that this bridge near Baie-Saint-Paul, northeast of Québec City, was closed in early April after a partial collapse of the roof caused by the weight of winter snowfall. An area resident told the paper that he had contacted the City of Baie-Saint-Paul on March 20<sup>th</sup> asking them to remove the snow. He indicated that they had cleared the roof during the previous winter, but not this year. A later article stated that the Québec Ministry of Transport has confirmed that major repair work will be done on the structure in 2023. The single-span 113' long bridge over Rivière du Gouffre Nord-Ouest was built in 1926. *The Charlevoisian*, April 2, 2022 & April 7, 2022. Photo by Gérald Arbour.

### Pont du Lac-Ha!-Ha!, Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean Region – QC/61-17-04

Radio Canada posted an article about this bridge in mid-April. The bridge has been closed since the summer of 2010. The article didn't mention any specific timeline for repairs to the bridge but implied that the Québec Ministry of Transport will eventually repair the structure and turn it over to the municipality for its future maintenance. The 122' long bridge over Rivière des Ha! Ha! was built in 1934. Photo by Pascal Conner.



### Pont du Sault, Chaudière-Appalaches Region – QC/61-39-01

The Government of Quebec recently announced its action plan for the next three years for roads in the province. The article mentioned numerous projects in the Chaudière-Appalaches Region including unspecified repairs to this bridge. Therefore, the work is expected to be started by 2025. The 129' long bridge over Grande rivière Noire was built in 1943. Photo by Pascal Conner.

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

On May 20th, Phare Ouest and the municipality of Mansfield-et-Pontefract hosted the inaugural lighting ceremony of the bridge following over four years of restoration work. 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 was completed in mid-December 2021 when the bridge was re-opened to traffic. In addition to the needed repairs, the bridge was raised about a meter to help protect it from flood damage. The project to light the bridge got underway shortly after. The bridge, which connects the cities of Mansfield-et-Pontefract and Fort Coulonge, is now lighted inside and out not only making it safer to drive through at night, but also highlighting the 499-foot-long (152 m) structure as people approach it in the dark. *Pembroke Observer*, May 21, 2022. Photo by Gérald Arbour.



## Québec (continued)

### Pont Prud'homme, Laurentides Region – QC/61-72-01

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, SOS Pont Prud'homme posted these photos on its Facebook page. Zooming in on the photo shows a broken lower chord. The Québec Transport Ministry explained that timbers were added under the bridge to help stabilize it offering better protection during upcoming spring floods. The bridge has been completely closed since December 2019. "SOS Pont Prud'homme" is a committee of concerned citizens formed a year ago on May 10, 2021 to campaign for the repair of the bridge. Québec's Ministry of Transport has indicated that the repair work is scheduled for Summer 2023. We look forward to seeing updates on this project.



### Arnold's Bridge

An old poet was asked to write about a well-remembered sight. Fifty years have rushed on by - how rapidly the times can fly! Arnold built this wooden span, for Milton said, "My son, you can!" On the riverbank in the old way, with trunnel pegs hammered to stay, he built the trusses out of wood, and showed the world that, yes, he could; and when the bridge at last was done, on dry land in the summer sun, it was time to move it to cross the flow in the old-time way so sure and slow. The sun was bright, the grass was green when a still-young man came on the scene to watch this feat with his own eyes, as out of the past there did arise a thing that made him stand in awe, for he saw that day the oxen draw the massive structure across the stream. A bridge was moved by a bovine team! The poet's now no longer young, but the builder's praises still are sung, and we can celebrate his worth and what he's done to lessen the dearth of old things that have passed away, replacing them in the present day. It was a half-century past, long ago that he did his first, and now we know, when we behold the works of his hands that grace our beloved native lands, that history's light will not go dark. for the Gratons have left their mark.



Photos by Scott Wagner and Bill Caswell



Poem by Ed Pacht, Poet Laureate of Rochester, New Hampshire

## New England College Covered Bridge Turns 50

On May 21st, about thirty members plus a couple special guests gathered on a beautiful afternoon to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the covered bridge at the New England College<sup>1</sup> in Henniker, New Hampshire. A team of oxen spent 3½ days moving the bridge into place, completing the journey on May 13, 1972. Although the bridge was built as a pedestrian crossing, connecting two portions of the college campus across the Contoocook River, the Town lattice truss span was designed as a full-scale single-lane highway bridge, capable of carrying a fifteen-ton live load.



While serving as the state's architectural historian, Dr. James Garvin wrote, "Recognizing that the span was the progenitor of a series of new covered bridges built in New Hampshire, mostly by the Grāton family, the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources declared the New England College Covered Bridge eligible for the State Register of Historic Places on October 9, 2002. Although structures must generally be at least fifty years old to qualify for the State Register, the Henniker bridge is clearly such a landmark and such an example of superb craftsmanship that the age requirement was waived."

We were very fortunate to be joined by three people who were involved with the bridge's construction. A young Arnold Grāton worked with his father on a number of projects during the previous decade and a half, but this was the first new covered bridge where he led the crew. His father, Milton, was working on other projects including restoration of the covered bridge at Newfields, New York. Don Blanchard was a professor of engineering at the time the bridge was constructed. He was responsible for obtaining some of the permits to allow the project to be built along with advising the engineering students involved with the project. Steve Burritt, an engineering student at the time, designed one of the abutments and spent the summer of 1971 working on the bridge as part of Arnold's crew. All three of them shared stories from the time of the bridge's construction.



*left to right: Steve Burritt, Arnold Grāton and Don Blanchard*



After some time socializing, the attendees were gathered for a group photo and everyone introduced themselves. Vice President Bob Watts read a poem written for the event by Rochester, New Hampshire's Poet Laureate Ed Pacht. A photograph of the bridge by Steve Brown printed on canvas was presented to Arnold & Meg Grāton. Artist Conrad Young also presented Arnold with a sketch of the bridge that he drew in 1971, before it was constructed.

A souvenir booklet prepared by Bill & Jenn Caswell, Bob Watts and Kim Chandler to commemorate the event was provided to the attendees. The booklet includes copies of articles and photos from the planning and construction phases of the project, two poems by Ed Pacht supplemented with current photos of the bridge.

Photos for this article were provided by Jim Kenison, Ken Parnell, Scott Wagner and Bill Caswell.

<sup>1</sup> World Guide #NH/29-07-12