

Fall 2011

October, November, December

# The Newsletter

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

**David W. Wright, President**  
P.O. Box 171  
Westminster, VT 05158  
(802) 722-4040

**Jennifer Caswell**  
**Membership Chair**  
535 Second NH Turnpike  
Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601  
Send membership dues here



**Brian J. McKee, Editor**  
13008 TH 60  
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351-9760  
bjmckee@gmail.com

**Richard E. Roy, Historian**  
73 Ash St. Apt. 2  
Manchester, NH 03104  
dickroycb1@comcast.net

**Robert Watts**  
**Corresponding Secretary**  
21 Hospital Rd.  
Medfield, MA 02052  
(508) 359-8534  
rwatts@nikon.net

**Michelle Andrews, Treasurer**, 9 Damson Lane, Gilford, NH, 03249

---

---



**National Society Members at the Contoocook Railroad Bridge, June 26, 2011**

Front Row L-R: Lorraine & Roland Routhier, Joseph Cohen, June Roy

Back Row L-R: Jenn & Bill Caswell, Bob Salvi, David Wright, Joye & Ken Olson, Dick Roy, Tim Andrews, Bill Greenberg, Bob Watts

## The President's Message

Dear Fellow Members, Greetings:

Due to the press of much other business, this shall be a relatively short President's Message.

**Hurricane Irene:** For those of you who have been watching television or listening to the radio, to say nothing about what you may have gleaned from e-mail or internet traffic, events have occurred during the past few days which can only have been monumentally distressing for all true Covered Bridge aficionados. 'Distressing' is undoubtedly not the right word; 'discouraging' or 'disheartening' would have been a better choice. To say the least, hurricane Irene has been anything but kind to our remaining Covered Wooden Bridges. As I draft this President's Message, that is to say on Friday, September 2nd, 2011, reports are still coming in -- some accurate, some exaggerated, some totally erroneous! -- respecting which spans have been lost in the floods, and which have only been damaged, either slightly or otherwise. Our biggest loss so far has undoubtedly been "Old Blenheim", what was arguably, until last Sunday or Monday, this country's greatest remaining Covered Wooden Bridge. How ironic it is, when one remembers that this span survived the inundations of 1893, 1913, 1927, 1936 and 1938, only to succumb to a breached dam upstream not yet two weeks ago, a structural failure which theoretically at least might well have been prevented through proper -- and timely! -- maintenance.

As for Vermont, where I live, the situation remains confused. In Rockingham, the town just to the north of Westminster in the Connecticut River Valley, one Covered Bridge was lost, the Bartonsville Covered Bridge, and two others damaged, the Worral Covered Bridge, and the New Hall Covered Bridge. Both the Bartonsville Covered Bridge and the Worral Covered Bridge were built to span the Williams River, whereas the New Hall Covered Bridge crosses the Saxton's River, just a short distance downstream from the village of that name.

The Worrall Covered Bridge, which had just recently been renovated for a cost that exceeded one million dollars, is badly damaged, and will now need to be renovated once again. In fact, it is rather a miracle that this span is still in place, given the number -- and girth! -- of the trees which were thrown up against it, and the great violence of last Sunday's flood waters. Whatever one may think about the design of the repairs that were so recently affected there, and in my opinion, they were most unsympathetic, given their failure to take into account the true nature and character of the original span, one aspect of them has turned out to have been quite effective indeed; namely, the Worrall Bridge was so firmly attached to its abutment and pier that even the great blows this span received during the recent inundation were insufficient to knock it off its supports and into the Williams River.

The New Hall Covered Bridge in Saxton's River was also attacked by trees which had been torn out of the ground, where presumably they had been well rooted, by the force of the flood. These trees, on their way downstream towards the Connecticut River, were hurled against the upstream side of this span. Many of them were no mere saplings either, some having diameters of 18, 20, or even 22 inches at the base of their trunks. Several individuals who live near the New Hall Bridge have told me that the hammering sound these trees made as they struck the span was clearly audible over the roar of the Saxton's River, and this even at quite some distance downstream or upstream. Needless to say, the upstream sideboarding of the New Hall Covered Bridge took quite a beating, thanks to these unwanted sylvan attentions. Many sideboards will now need to be replaced, having been broken off or split towards their bottom ends.

In respect to the braces and counterbraces of the Hall span's Town Lattice Trusses, only one brace and one counterbrace in the upstream truss had its bottom end broken off where the bottom end in question projected below the lower chord, thus only the two members so afflicted will need to be replaced as part and parcel of future repairs to the bridge.

Regarding the 19<sup>th</sup> century dry-stone abutments upon which the New Hall Covered Bridge now sits, there has also been some damage. The abutment nearest Vermont Route 121, like the New Hall Covered Bridge itself, was also attacked by floating trees and various other flotsam and jetsam. As a result, the upstream corner of this abutment was carried away in the flood, despite the fact that many of the stones out of which it was built weigh hundreds of pounds. A goodly number of these stones have lodged on the bank of the river not too far downstream from the damaged abutment, and so can be brought back and reset when this abutment is repaired. Fortunately, only the upstream corner of the Vermont Route 121 abutment was displaced. Had it been otherwise, the New Hall Covered Bridge, built by Milton Graton in 1982, would have fallen into the Saxton's River, and, like the Bartonsville Covered Bridge, thereby have been lost to us forever.

### The President's Message (page 2)

In the next **President's Message**, that is to say the one which will accompany the Winter issue of **Topics** and the **Newsletter**, I shall attempt to sort fact from fiction by compiling a more reliable list than some I have seen of those bridges that were lost due to the tender mercies of hurricane Irene.

#### **The Annual Meeting:**

On a more happy subject, it will soon be the time of our Annual Meeting. This year, the meeting in question will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in the French King Restaurant in Millers Falls, Massachusetts. As most of you already know, the French King Restaurant is on Route 2 at the east end of the French King Bridge. It is a beautiful location for an annual meeting; the countryside surrounding this spot is quite lovely, and even towards the end of October, the autumn foliage there is still resplendent. The program this year will be put on by Dick Roy. It is a slide show entitled *Canada's Links to the Past*. Elsewhere in the present **Newsletter**, there is a listing of the various entrees being offered for our luncheon, and the price of each one of them. If you plan to attend the annual meeting, and I certainly hope that many of you do, please make your checks out to the N.S.P.C.B., Inc., and send them along to Bob Watts, our corresponding Secretary, by October 18<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime,

Happy Bridging!!

David W. Wright

### Welcome to Our New Members!

Nancy Lee McDaniel  
136 Coventry Court  
River Ridge, LA 70123-3521

Josée Desmeules  
5030 Adam  
Montréal Quebec H1V 1W6  
Canada

## Meetings, Dinners, Dedications & Events

### October 2011

- 7-9**           **Columbia-Montour Counties CB Festival**
- 7-9**           **Oregon CB Festival in Cottage Grove, OR**
- 8-9**           **Ashtabula County, Ohio CB Festival**
- 8-9**           **Madison County, Iowa CB Festival**
- 9 at 2:00 p.m.**   **Theodore Burr CB Society Meeting**  
at the Alamo Restaurant in Knoebel's Amusement Park, Elysburg, PA

**9th @ 1:00 p.m. NY State CB Society Meeting & Auction at the Glimmerglass State Park**

- 14-23**          **Parke County (Indiana) CB Festival**
- 15 at 10:00 a.m.**   **Vermont CB Society Meeting at the Tollhouse in Windsor, VT**  
Doors open at 9:00 a.m. meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.
- 15**              **Covered Bridge Society of Oregon Meeting**  
at the Methodist Church on the corner of 17th and Nebraska St. in Salem
- 23 at noon**     **National Society Annual Meeting and Dinner**  
at the French King Restaurant, 129 French King Hwy. Rt.2, Erving, MA

### November 2011

- 6th @ 2:00 p.m.**   **Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania Meeting**  
At the Manheim Township Building. A program called "Lets Go Covered Bridging" by Fred Moll
- 13th @ 11:30 a.m.**   **NY State Covered Bridge Society Meeting & Dinner**  
At the Crystal House, 89 Fisherville Rd., Elmira, NY
- 19th @ 1:00 p.m.**   **Covered Bridge Society of Oregon Meeting**  
at the Methodist Church on the corner of 17th and Nebraska St. in Salem
- 20th @ 1:30 p.m.**   **Ohio Historic Bridge Association Annual Meeting**  
At the Norwich Township Safety Services Building, 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard, OH

### December 2011

- 10th @ 11-3 p.m.**   **Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania Annual Christmas Dinner**  
At the Hershey Farms Restaurant in Ronks, PA  
A family style dinner will be served at 11:00 a.m.  
More information will be in the Fall issue of *Pennsylvania Crossings*

## News of Old Authentic Covered Bridges

### Delaware

#### Ashland Bridge 08-02-02

Was closed for repairs on Wednesday, August 3rd, after an oversized vehicle damaged some beams in it. We have no other details about this incident. It is a 52 ft. Town Truss (*CommunityPub.com July 29, 2011*)

### Indiana

#### Medora Bridge 14-36-04

As of June 19th, the bridge restoration was completed except for some landscaping. Please visit the web site at <http://www.medoracoveredbridge.com/> for a great collection of photos and history of this huge project. It is a triple span Burr Arch Truss which measures 462 feet long, if the boxed ends are included. It was built in 1875 and closed to traffic in 1975. It will remain closed, except for pedestrians. *Thanks to Jim Crouse for keeping us informed about it!*

#### Bridgeton Bridge 14-61-04 #2

On May 26th, the town of Bridgeton was struck with a wind storm which damaged some of the roof and siding on the covered bridge. It has now been repaired.

#### Dunbar Bridge 14-67-07

A controversial plan to bypass the historic Dunbar Covered Bridge has been put aside by the Putnam County commissioners who were met with many concerns about the \$5 million project by the local citizens who live near the bridge. The new bypass bridge would have been built about a quarter mile upstream from the old covered bridge and would have caused several problems. For now, the entire project seems to be on hold or perhaps completely abandoned. (from *The Banner Graphic 9-6-2011*)

### Maine

#### Hemlock Bridge 19-09-02

Received a federal grant for repairs

### Massachusetts

#### Pumping Station Bridge 21-06-02 #2

The road was severely damaged, but the bridge itself seems to be in good condition.

### Missouri

#### Union Bridge 25-69-02

To be repaired, painted, and generally “fixed up”. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has begun work on cleaning, repairing and painting Union Covered Bridge State Historic Site near Paris in Monroe County. (*From The Moberly Monitor Index Sept. 23rd.*)

### New Brunswick

#### Stormdale/Mangrum/Becaguimec River #3 Bridge 55-02-10

Was burned and destroyed on August 13th, 2011. It was built in 1909 as a 98 ft Howe Truss and spanned the Becaguimec River. It may not be replaced as a covered bridge.

### Oregon

#### Gallon House Bridge 37-24-01

An article in the “Statesman Journal” dated July 30, 2011, gives us a report of repairs to the Gallon House covered bridge in Marion County. The Marion County Department of Public Works had closed the bridge thru Sept. 23rd. while preservation work was being done to it. The article didn’t give any details. The 84 ft. Howe Truss was built in 1916 and is the only authentic covered bridge in the county.

## News of Old Authentic Covered Bridges

### New York

#### Tuscarora Club/ Demis Bridge 32-13-05

Severely damaged by flood waters and mostly washed away. It was not a truss supported bridge, anyway, but still attracted many covered bridge enthusiasts due to its very scenic setting. It is unknown if the owner will have it replaced. It was moved here from its original site in 1935 and has been maintained as a private bridge by the Tuscarora Club ever since. When it was moved, it was not rebuilt with historic authenticity.

#### Blenheim Bridge 32-48-01

Tragically, on August 28, the world's finest covered bridge was washed away and destroyed when water from a dam was released during Tropical Storm Irene, causing too much water to flow down the Schoharie Creek all at once. It is a monumental loss to the covered bridge world.

The Blenheim Covered Bridge was the finest remaining example of timber truss covered bridges. It was built in 1855 by Nichols M. Powers who used the "Double Long Truss with Arch" for its main support. Its clear span of 210 feet, made it the longest single span covered bridge in the world, just slightly longer than California's Bridgeport Bridge. (This is still controversial). It was also one of the six remaining "double barrelled" covered bridges. In 1964, it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. It was closed to vehicular traffic in 1932 when newer bypass bridge was built near it. There seems to be no discussions of rebuilding it.

### New Hampshire

#### Stark Village Bridge 29-04-05

The 134 ft. Paddleford truss will get a federal grant of \$94,000 to help restore and repair it. The town of Stark will still have to provide \$200,000 for its share of the total cost of \$1.2 million. The bridge will be removed and repaired on the dry ground, then put back once the repairs are done. The project should be completed sometime in 2012. (*From the Berlin Daily Sun 8-24-2011*)

#### Turkey Jim Bridge 29-05-07

Washed away on August 28th, severely damaged. At this time, we don't know if it will be rebuilt. It is listed as "gone".

#### Blair Bridge 29-05-09

Some damage from a tree.

### North Carolina

#### Bunker Hill Bridge 33-18-01

The Bunker Hill Covered Bridge will be getting new surveillance cameras to protect it from "constant vandalism". (WSOC, Charlotte)

### Ohio

#### Buckeye Furnace Bridge 35-40-11

It was recently removed from its original location near the Buckeye Furnace in Jackson County by the Dingy Movers, Inc. from Zanesville, OH. The bridge is currently sitting on concrete blocks on dry land at the Buckeye Furnace site. This 59' Smith Truss was built in 1871 over the Little Raccoon Creek. (*The Jackson County Times Journal*)

#### Bridgeport Iron Bridge

On September 12th, this ornate, historic Parker through truss was demolished by the Joseph B. Fay Co. of Tarentum, PA for \$672,222. Originally a toll bridge, it was also known as the Wheeling & Belmont Bridge. It was built in 1893 for a mere \$65,974.04 by the famous Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, replacing a covered bridge that was built in 1836-1838. The covered bridge was built by the Zane Brothers for \$68,500.00.

A new bridge had been built in 1997, bypassing the old iron bridge and since then, carried all of the traffic across the Ohio River between Bridgeport and Wheeling Island. (*From the Intelligencer/Wheeling News Register 9-12-2011*)

## News of Old Authentic Covered Bridges (Continued)

### Pennsylvania

**Pleasantville Bridge 38-06-01**

This covered bridge in Oley Township has reopened less than a week after a height barrier was damaged by a truck. The barrier on the south side of the historic Manatawny Creek span on Covered Bridge Road was knocked off its concrete foundations by an unidentified truck sometime Sunday morning, Sept. 18th. The truck left the scene. The bridge has been closed several times in recent years because of large trucks damaging either of the two height-restriction barriers. The barriers at either end of the bridge prevent vehicles more than 11 feet 3 inches high from coming onto the bridge. (*from The Reading Eagle 9-23-2011*)

**Rupert Bridge 38-19-33**

Some tree limb damage. Photos by Otto Kurecian were sent by Jim Crouse and Jim Smedley

**Messiah College/Bowmansdale Bridge 38-21-I/38-67-J**

Repairs, such as a new roof and siding, were made by Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber Construction, Inc. back in the summer. Its owner, Messiah College, paid approximately \$170,000 to have the work done. The bridge was originally built in 1867 at Bowmansdale, but moved in 1972 to a place over the Yellow Breeches Creek as an entrance to the college. Its historical integrity was lost when it was moved and it is now listed as a non-authentic timber covered bridge. (*some information from the York Daily Record*)

**Bitzer's Mill Bridge 38-36-04**

It was re-opened to traffic on 8-29-2011 at 1:00 p.m.

**Pinetown Bridge 38-36-05**

Closed and has "No Trespassing" signs on it.

**Hunsecker Bridge 38-36-06 #2**

Was closed for some repairs, mainly to the roadway, but is now open.

**Herr's Mill or Soudersburg Bridge 38-36-21**

This scenic and highly photographed historic covered bridge in Lancaster County is in danger of being removed and turned into "architectural salvage". The current owner is trying to find someone to get rid of it, since they will no longer maintain it. It looks as though a contractor may have already been found to do the work.

We received a letter from David Kimmerly, Field Representative for the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Pennsylvania, describing the problem and he asks us to write a letter to the County of Lancaster, to encourage them to take over ownership of the bridge in order to save it. Mr. Kimmerly's email address is: dkimmerly@preservationpa.org

**Siegrist Mill Bridge 38-36-37**

Washed away during Tropical Storm Irene, but may be repairable. It was a 101 ft. Burr Arch built in 1885.

**Schlischer's Bridge 38-39-06**

The PADOT has plans to replace the historic covered bridge with a new replica bridge sometime in 2013. It was built in 1882 and has been closed since December 2009. The bridge has decayed to the point of being unsafe and is beyond repair. As usual, the PADOT will build a steel I-beam bridge then erect a new wooden structure on top of it. (The Morning Call July 15, 2011)  
Schlicher's Bridge is a 117 ft. Burr Arch Truss over the Jordan Creek in North Whitehall Township.

**Rishel Bridge 38-49-05**

Carl McDaniel sent photos of this bridge showing some damage from debris which flowed down the Chillisquaque Creek.

**Hillsgrove Bridge 38-57-02**

Had some damage from trees and other debris.

**Sonestown/Davidson Bridge 38-57-03**

Had some tree and debris damage.

## Vermont

### **West Arlington Bridge 45-02-01**

Badly damaged by debris and fairly large a tree hitting it. It has been closed until repairs can be made, which will take several months. (*from The Bennington Banner 9-16-2011*)

### **Giorgetti Replica Bridge 45-11-B**

Completely washed away on 8-28-2011. It was 50 ft. long and was built in 1978 as a private bridge over the Tweed River.

### **Upper Cox Brook/Third/Northfield Falls 45-12-11**

It was damaged by debris and tree limbs, but is repaired at this time.

### **Village Bridge 45-12-14**

Closed due to damage to roadway, however it is open to traffic, now. Some damage to the siding boards.

### **Warren Bridge 45-12-15**

Closed for a short time, then re-opened. No apparent damage.

### **Green River Bridge 45-13-04**

Is scheduled for repairs after receiving a \$124,000 grant from the state Agency of Transportation Enhancement Program. The work should be done sometime in 2012. It was apparently not damaged by hurricane Irene back in August. The engineering firm of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates was to be hired to handle this project. They have previously done work on 17 other covered bridges in the New England area. The bridge is a 104 ft. Town Truss that was built in 1870 over the Green River in Windham County. (*Vermont Public Radio & The Brattleboro Reformer July 14, 2011*)

### **Hall/Osgood Bridge 45-13-07 #2**

Closed due to abutment damage.

### **Bartonsville Bridge 45-13-11**

Three weeks after Tropical Storm Irene swept it down river on Aug. 28th, the town of Rockingham is reaching out to bid for bridge repairs, and holding a series of community meetings to discuss options for the historic covered bridge.

Rockingham's select board estimates that a temporary bridge for Bartonsville will cost roughly \$150,000 to \$180,000.

It's unclear if that cost would be reimbursed through FEMA.

Many residents who have an affinity for covered bridges say the Bartonsville Bridge should remain a priority in Irene's aftermath. Town officials say they want to build a new bridge on land, and then place it on the old abutments. (*The Rutland Herald & Vermont Public Radio Sept. 22, 2011*). The Bartonsville Bridge was a 151 ft. Town Truss built in 1870 over Williams River.

### **Worrall Bridge 45-13-10**

Damaged by trees flowing down the Williams River. It was recently renovated. Photos we have seen show severe damage to the surrounding area, although it is not clear to us if the bridge itself was damaged. There is a mountain of debris piled up all around it.

### **Quechee Replica Bridge 45-14-A**

Suffered severe damage which will take a long time to repair. The road was also washed out.

### **Bowers Bridge 45-14-11**

This 48 ft. bridge over the Mill Brook was washed about 100 yards downstream, coming to rest in someone's yard. The town of West Windsor has pledged to spend \$150,000 to repair the bridge. (*from WCAX.COM 9-28-2011*)

### **Dummerston Iron Bridge**

The historic Dummerston Iron Bridge which is located near the Dummerston Covered Bridge has re-opened to public traffic after extensive repairs. It was built in 1892 over the West River on C3062 (Iron Bridge Rd.) It is listed as a Quadruple intersecting Warren Through Truss. It has span length of 198 feet. The Renaud Brothers of Vernon replaced about 50 percent of the steel in the bridge along with about 13,000 wrought iron rivets. Approx. \$3.2 million was spent to complete the project. (*from The Commons 9-14-2011*)

## Québec

### Carrier Bridge 61-01-28

In a sad note from Gérald Arbour, this covered bridge was destroyed by fire on August 18th and is completely gone. This was a fine 100 ft. Town Truss on a scenic dirt road in the former Abitibi Est, however, it is now listed in the new MRC Vallée-de-l'Or (page 195 of the 2009 World Guide).

## Web Sites

- www.lostbridges.org** A very informative and useful web site listing all known historic/authentic covered bridges. It is a wonderful research tool. Maintained by Bill Caswell.
- www.dalejtravis.com** An extensive site listing all existing covered bridges, including replicas, and round barns, and some other misc. items.
- www.bridgehunter.com** A huge database of Historic Bridges of all types, Iron, Stone, Covered, etc. This may be the most well designed web site on the internet.
- www.coveredbridges.com** The official site of Parke County Indiana
- www.coveredbridgemap.com** A wonderful new web site which shows all existing authentic covered bridges on Google Maps. It is very well organized and easy to use.
- www.vermontbridges.com** The Vermont Covered Bridge Society's official web site
- www.mdcoveredbridges.com** A web site devoted to Maryland's covered bridges by Jim Smedley
- www.nycovedbridges.org** Official web site of the New York State Covered Bridge Society

## 50th ANNIVERSARY ITEMS

We still have a few nice items regarding the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the **National Society**

**Tote Bag** — Has the *National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges* emblem in dark blue on front pocket measuring 12 1/2" by 15 1/2" with a top snap and 20" handle straps. Cost: \$15 (includes shipping)

**Ornament** — It's a 3" round glass maroon ornament with the Society emblem in gold. Cost: \$7.00 (includes shipping)

**Pens** — Pens have "I love Covered Bridges – N.S.P.C.B." written on them. Cost \$1.25 each (includes shipping)

### SPECIAL OFFER!!

You may want to have them all. One of each... tote, ornament and pen will be available for only \$20 including shipping! They are great gifts for family, friends and other bridgers enthusiasts!

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS TO N.S.P.C.B., INC. and mail to:**

**N.S.P.C.B., Inc.**

**Joye Olson      5 Allen Street**

**Penacook, NH 03303**

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVERED BRIDGES

On a Single Compact Computer Disc

For several years now we have published an ad offering a copy of the World Guide on a computer disc from member Joe Cohen. Until recently it was \$5. At the request of NSPCB Board of Directors the price changed to \$15 with \$10 going to the Society. Joe has kept the price low as a service to the Society.

The disc contains many more files than just the World Guide. The World Guide is included that is an exact copy of the book. However, since that copy cannot be changed a World Guide file in Word format is included so each copy can be updated. That file is updated as more information is received.

It includes several files of changes to the various editions of the World Guide.

It includes a file of Romantic Shelters, i.e. unauthentic bridges. Many changes were made in the latest World Guide that redefined an authentic covered bridge. Those bridges that were reclassified can be found in the Romantic Shelters file.

The disc contains an index to all copies of Covered Bridge Topics. This includes a table of contents for each issue, a list of subjects, a list of authors and photographers, poetry and obituaries. This is kept up to date.

There is a bibliography of known books that pertain to covered bridges.

Also included are large sketches of common truss types.

There are a few more miscellaneous files.

Send a check made out to Joseph Cohen.

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

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

### The following items are still available through the Society

#### Covered Bridge Polo Shirts

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

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

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

### Winter 2012 Newsletter Deadline

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in December. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit photos, articles, etc., should send them to the EDITOR by **December 1, 2011**. In order to save us from a lot of re-typing, please send your articles by e-mail or on a computer disc (no floppies, please), if at all possible. If this isn't possible, then the regular mail will do just fine, as it always has. If you type the information, please use PLAIN WHITE PAPER. If your submissions are extracted from a published newspaper or  the editor, Brian McKee, 13008 TH60, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351 e-mail [bjmckee@gmail.com](mailto:bjmckee@gmail.com)

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

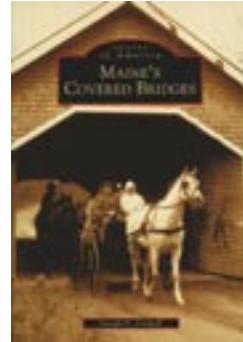
## Books Available from the Society Store

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

**A book by Joseph D. Conwill: The Arcadia Press Images of America Series**

**“Vermont Covered Bridges”**

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



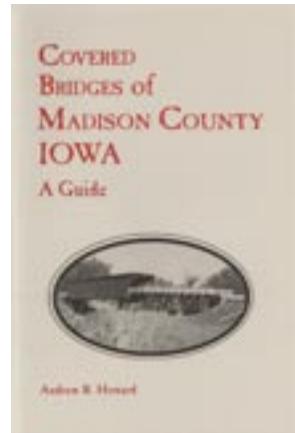
It sells for \$19.99 each plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

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

## Books by Andrew Howard

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

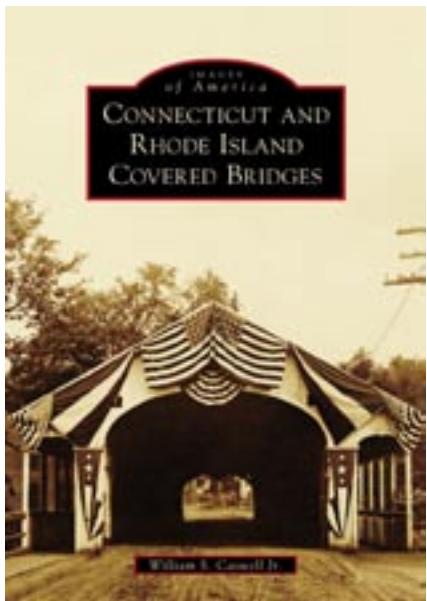
6x9 format paperback, 80 pgs., ISBN 0-940310-03-1

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

All the books above should be ordered from Mrs. June Roy, 73 Ash St. #2, Manchester, NH 03104-4906

E-mail address: [dickroycb1@comcast.net](mailto:dickroycb1@comcast.net)

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



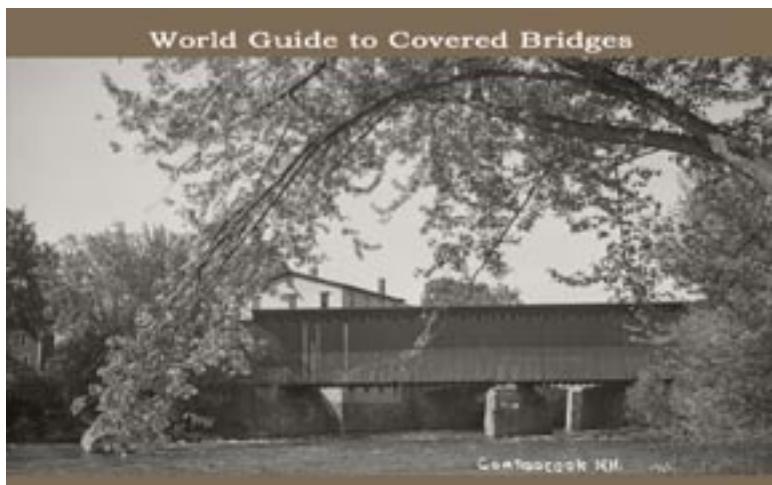
## Connecticut and Rhode Island Covered Bridges

Released September 12, 2011

128 pages containing 200 photos and historical notes

During their heyday in the mid- to late 1800s, more than 150 covered bridges dotted the landscape of Connecticut and Rhode Island. Since that time, floods, fires, and progress have claimed almost all of the historic structures. Covered bridges were heavily concentrated in the hills of northwestern Connecticut, spanning the Farmington, Housatonic, and Naugatuck Rivers. In Rhode Island, most were built by the railroads in Woonsocket, Providence, and other communities in the northern part of the state, though few pictures are known to exist. Connecticut was the birthplace of two of the nation's best-known covered bridge designers: Ithiel Town and Theodore Burr. Half of the covered bridges currently standing in the United States are supported by trusses patented by Town or Burr.

**Would you like your book(s) autographed? Yes  No**



## World Guide to Covered Bridges

2009 Edition

Listing historic and modern wood truss covered bridges in the United States, Canada, and throughout the World.

Questions? email: [bill@lostbridges.org](mailto:bill@lostbridges.org) or call: 603-478-1484

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

Bill Caswell  
535 Second NH Turnpike  
Hillsboro, NH 03244

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Connecticut & Rhode Island Covered Bridges: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$22 each \_\_\_\_\_

World Guide to Covered Bridges: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$4.95 for shipping 1 or 2 books: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Updates to the 2009 World Guide to Covered Bridges (as of August 29, 2011)

### **New York**

#### **Schoharie County**

Page 57, remove, destroyed by floodwaters from Hurricane Irene August 28, 2011

32-48-01      Blenheim      Schoharie Creek      Blenheim      1      228'      1855      Long with  
Arch  
0.3 miles east of CR31 and North Blenheim on NY30, then 0.1 miles right on bypassed section of NY30.  
(NR) N42° 28.32' W074° 26.50'

### **Vermont**

#### **Windham County**

Page 151, delete, bridge destroyed by floodwaters from Hurricane Irene August 28, 2011

45-13-11      Rockingham      William's River      Bartonsville      1      151'      1870      Town  
4.0 miles southeast of jct VT11 and Chester on VT103, then 0.2 miles left on Pleasant Valley Rd. South  
edge of Bartonsville. (NR) N43° 13.440' W072° 32.217'

### **New Brunswick**

#### **Carleton County**

Page 166, remove following entry, bridge lost to arson August 13, 2011

55-02-10      Brighton      Becaguimec River      Mangrum or Stormdale or Becaguimec River #3  
1                98'                1910                Howe  
3.7 miles (6.0 km) east-southeast of jct NB104/570 on Mainstream Rd., then 0.4 miles (0.6 km) right on  
Ashland Rd. East-southeast of Coldstream. N46° 19.58' W067° 23.69'

### **Québec**

#### **MRC Vallée-de-l'Or**

Page 195, remove following entry, bridge burned August 18, 2011

61-01-28      Senneville      Rivière Senneville      Carrier      1      100'      1955      Town  
variation  
4.3 miles (6.9 km) north of Val-Senneville on QC397, then 1.1 miles (1.8 km) left, just south of  
Senneville River highway bridge. (On Rang S 7-8RD) (seasonal access). North of Val-Senneville.  
Formerly listed in Abitibi-Est County. N48° 14.615' W077° 39.541'



## Covered Spans of Yesteryear

by Bill Caswell

As I write this, we are still receiving news of covered bridges lost or badly damaged by Hurricane Irene. Thank you to everyone who has sent information about the damages and losses.

In June, Jenn & I participated in a bridge safari in Virginia and West Virginia. The Sunday tour route passed through Beverly, the home of West Virginia's best-known covered bridge builder, Lemuel Chenoweth. In 1846, he and Daniel Kalar contracted to build the Tygart River crossing at Beverly for the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. The turnpike was an important link connecting the Shenandoah Valley on its eastern end to the Ohio River at Parkersburg. It was designed by Claudius Crozet, a well-known engineer who had served under Napoleon. After arriving in America, Crozet worked as an engineer for the Virginia Board of Public works. He eventually rose to the position of Chief Engineer and was involved with the planning and construction of many major transportation projects throughout Virginia, especially in the mountainous counties that would later become West Virginia.

Kalar built the abutments for Chenoweth's 130-foot long Burr Arch covered bridge. Between 1846 and 1861, Chenoweth and his brother Eli went on to construct two more bridges on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike along with another dozen and a half on the state's other highways. In 1856, Lemuel constructed his new home on a lot overlooking the Beverly bridge. During the Civil War, Beverly was raided several times. On one of those raids, in the early morning hours of January 11, 1865, Confederate General Thomas Rosser and 300 of his men surprised the Union troops. They captured 580 men and all of the garrison's supplies. General Rosser burned the covered bridge and marched his prisoners through the snow back to Virginia.



After the War, Chenoweth rebuilt the Beverly bridge. The new bridge, shown in this photo from Todd Clark's collection, stood until being dismantled in 1952. The following description of the bridge's removal is more fully documented in Randy Allan's book on Lemuel Chenoweth. First, the slate roof, siding and floor were removed. A series of six supports under the bridge were removed to allow the bridge to fall into the river. It didn't drop. Dynamite was placed at the west end where the arch rested on the abutment. The first charge failed to knock down the bridge. Another charge caused the west end to drop into the river. A wrecking crew completed the demolition. It appears that the bridge was still quite sturdy at the time of its removal. Randy Allan is the current owner of Chenoweth's home.

For information about other former covered bridges, visit our website at [www.lostbridges.org](http://www.lostbridges.org). If you have information or pictures of the former bridges in your area, please share that with us. There is still a vast amount of territory to cover and any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Email is usually the most effective way to contact me - [bill@lostbridges.org](mailto:bill@lostbridges.org).

My first book, *Connecticut and Rhode Island Covered Bridges*, was released on September 12<sup>th</sup>. I will be giving a presentation using some of the material from the book at the September 25<sup>th</sup> NSPCB meeting at the Canton Historical Museum in Collinsville, CT, at 1:00pm. I hope some of you can attend. Copies of the book will be available. If you cannot attend the presentation, I would still recommend a visit to the museum to see its great collection of local artifacts.

# National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges

## Renewal Notice



If your address label indicates that your membership is expiring, please renew today to continue receiving Society mailings. You can also renew on-line at <http://coveredbridgesociety.org/>. Click on the "Membership Info" link. If you recently sent your renewal form, thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional Information

Your Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership includes a subscription to *Topics* and the Newsletter. The membership year is from July 1 to June 30.**

Individual or Family	Student.....	\$5.00
US Addresses.....	Individual Lifetime .....	\$350.00
Canadian Addresses .....	Couple Life.....	\$400.00
Other Countries .....	Corporate.....	\$1000.00

**Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_

### DONATIONS: (Tax Deductible.)

Portal .....	\$2.00	Burr Truss .....	\$50.00
Kingpost Truss .....	\$5.00	Town Lattice.....	\$100.00
Queenpost Truss .....	\$10.00	Haupt Truss.....	\$150.00
Howe Truss .....	\$25.00	Whipple Truss.....	\$250.00

**Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you wish to receive a membership card?..... Yes / No**

Make all checks for dues and donations payable to the **N.S.P.C.B. Inc.** and mail to:

Jennifer Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244

Every year, \$1000 is remitted to the Eastman-Thomas-Merritt Fund from optional donations.

Please help keep the fund afloat for covered bridge preservation.

**NSPCB ANNUAL DINNER**  
**Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 12:00 noon**

This is the Annual Meeting and is being held on October 23rd at the French King Restaurant on Route 2 in Millers Falls, MA. See dinner reservations and application below.

The French King Restaurant is located at the east end of the French King Bridge. The well known landmark carries Massachusetts Route 2 over the Connecticut River near Millers Falls, at a very picturesque spot. The dinner will be served at 12:00 noon and meeting will follow at 1:00 P.M.

Dick Roy will be our speaker this year.

Cut off here or reproduce and send along with your check or money order.

-----

Dinner Reservation coupon for October 23, 2011 annual meeting. To be returned with payment as designated below. **Please return no later than October 16, 2011.**

_____	Whole Boneless Breast of Chicken with stuffing and gravy. ....	\$23.95
_____	Yankee Pot Roast. ....	\$23.95
_____	Baked Haddock au Gratin. ....	\$23.95
_____	Fisherman Casserole . ....	\$23.95

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:**

Bob Watts  
21 Hospital Dr.  
Medfield, MA 02052  
rwatts@nikon.net

**Make checks payable to N.S.P.C.B. Inc.**