



The Newsletter

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

Summer 2017

The Covered Bridge

We drove along and over the ridge:
We were looking for an old covered bridge.
Just by chance we turned to the left
And, behold, there it was in plain sight.
We went close to admire this bridge so rare
And the way it had stood the wear and tear.
We walked through it and admired the way it was made.
The craftsmen of old sure knew their trade.
The timbers were old but still very strong,
Considering it had been there so long.
We watched the river as it flowed below.
It's pleasure to view things built long ago.
We took pictures, so the memory will keep.
Then went home to dream of it in sleep.

Robert Garner – Greenfield, MA
NSPCB Archives Poetry Book
[Originally printed in the Summer 1962 issue of the
Connecticut River Valley Covered Bridge Society Bulletin]

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

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Request for Assistance

As Editor of the Society's Newsletter, I take this opportunity to speak not only to the general membership, but more specifically to the various covered bridge societies and organizations that work with the NSPCB to provide information, as well as support efforts to protect and preserve our covered bridge heritage. This Newsletter tries to provide informative and interesting news, notices of upcoming meetings and events, and, report on incidents directly affecting our covered bridges. Not surprisingly, as public interest in our bridges and membership decreases, it is increasingly difficult to report on the activities of different regions, and, unless the news is catastrophic, even media reports are scarce at best. In order to keep all our members better informed, your Newsletter Editor is asking for your help.

While some members have been very good about providing information, I am asking for the assistance of a representative from each society or organization, large or small, to provide a quarterly or semi-annual update including such things as: status of bridges in your area – good, bad, needed assistance for ..., etc.; bridge projects underway or planned – reconstruction, restoration or repair, etc.; bridge fire and vandalism protection programs – in place or proposed - cameras, sprinklers, chemical retardant application, etc.; local events – celebrations, fairs, bridge safaris, etc.; and, programs undertaken to support and encourage new and perhaps younger members to join.

Our covered bridge numbers are slowly dwindling so everyone's help is needed to save and protect those that remain. The information provided by all of you will help me to provide a more complete and enlightening account to all our members letting them know how they might be able to help. As always, information from individual members too is always welcome.

Please, think about how you help. I hope to receive lots of mail from many of you and would ask that your information be sent to me at the address at the bottom of the page for the next (Fall) Newsletter no later than August 10th, 2017.

My thanks in advance to you all.

Happy Bridging!!

Fall 2017 Newsletter Deadline ...

The next Newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in early September. Therefore, anyone wishing to submit articles should send them to the Editor by **August 10, 2017**. **Note the earlier deadline to allow printing & mailing staff to complete their tasks before the Oregon trip.** **Please note:** it is requested that your information be typed or printed on plain white paper, including proper credit information (newspaper, magazine, or web site, etc.), and sent via U. S. Mail to: Rob Mitchell, NSPCB Newsletter Editor, P. O. Box 375, Marshfield, MA 02050 or emailed to nspcb@yahoo.com. Thanks! Please, remember that we always appreciate any news or comments sent in even if we can't ultimately use it.

President's Message ...

Welcome to the summer travel season. We are looking forward to hearing about your travels and the bridges you visit. As you visit bridges, please take notice of damage or deterioration and report that to the appropriate authorities. We can all help preserve them by ensuring that local officials know we care about them.

In this issue, we are saddened to report the loss of two more covered bridges, one historic and the other a recent replacement for the historic structure, one by an act of nature and the other by teenagers with no respect for history or public property. While we aren't able to calm the winds or control floodwaters, we can take measures to reduce the impact of fire and educate others on the importance of preserving the artefacts of our past.

As a Society, we are making efforts to do just that. We have been stressing the importance of applying fire retardant during bridge repair projects, not only through our publications but also through letters to contractors and bridge owners. We have implemented an effort to contribute towards the cost of fire retardant to further encourage its use. As good as that may be, there is still much work to be done. While our information is not likely to be complete, we only have evidence that a small percentage of the historic bridges have received this treatment. There are many more needing this protection. If you are involved with a covered bridge project in your community, as a public official, engineer, contractor or resident, make sure that some form of fire protection is included in the project. It won't guarantee that damage will not occur, but it will reduce the severity of the damage.

We are also tasked with educating the public about the importance of preserving our nation's history. Over the past couple years we have had the opportunity to offer covered bridge educational programs to dozens of schools. With the help of Christopher Marston at the National Park Service, we were able to obtain a significant number of copies of the *Educational Guide to Covered Bridges in the United States* which was produced by West Virginia University's Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archeology, under the leadership of Dr. Emory Kemp, Director Emeritus of the Institute, a well-known bridge historian. Many of our members have helped distribute these guides to schools and teachers. It is my hope that by teaching young people about the history of covered bridges and their role in the development of transportation networks, they will have more respect for them as young adults.

As you may have noticed in the recent *Topics*, Joseph Conwill and Vermont's architectural historian Devin Colman have been corresponding about removing some entries from the National Register of Historic Places. The entries in question are all bridges which were built in recent years to replace historic covered bridges. We feel that maintaining those entries after the historic structure has been replaced by a modern replica degrades the integrity of a National Register listing. Mr. Colman is receptive to our position. However, this is a delicate matter for the towns involved and the Historic Preservation Office needs to handle the public relations carefully.

At the beginning of May, Jenn & I journeyed south for a number of Society-related objectives. On Monday, May 1, we met with some of the individuals involved in organizing Kentucky's covered bridge trail. It was a productive meeting and details are in a separate article. We appreciate that the Committee was able to meet with us while we were in the area since we were not able to attend their regular meeting on March 17 or the upcoming June 19 meeting.

After that gathering we continued westward to Washington County to check on progress at the Beech Fork bridge. Don Walker provided a detailed tour of the work being done. We learned much about the art of timber bridge construction. Unfortunately, contract requirements to increase the capacity of the bridge meant that the lower chords and some vertical posts needed to be replaced with larger timbers even though some of the pieces were still structurally sound. Many of those good timbers are being recut to replace deteriorated wood in other parts of the bridge so those parts are being replaced by historic material.



Don Walker describing recent work at the Beech Fork Covered Bridge to Jenn Caswell. May 1, 2017



Elizabethton, Tennessee, May 4, 2017

After spending a couple days visiting my father in the southern part of Kentucky, we started the second half of the adventure. We headed east to visit the three remaining historic covered bridges in eastern Tennessee. All appear to be well cared for and in good condition. We then worked our way up through Virginia with a stop in Roanoke to pick up a collection of photos for the archives. More on that in the Archives Update. We had heard news about the Meem's Bottom Bridge being damaged and since we were nearby, we stopped to take a look. It appears that the damage has already been repaired.

On Thursday night, we arrived at Jim & Gloria Smedley's with *World Guides* to be distributed to Pennsylvania libraries. We joined them to represent the NSPCB at the May 6th Anniversary Dinner of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. We always enjoy spending time with the Burr Society members and sharing experiences towards our common goal. After a wonderful meal and meeting, we turned towards home. Although it was a lot of territory to cover in a short amount of time, we accomplished everything we set out to do.

We wish you safe travels this summer and look forward to seeing some of you in Oregon in August.

Bill Caswell

NSPCB Project Update...

Moose Brook Bridge:

Since the plans to reconstruct this bridge at the Gorham (NH) Historical Society fell through, we have been seeking an alternative location. The White Mountain National Forest is interested in reconstructing the pony truss bridge at Dolly Copp Campground near Gorham, New Hampshire. At present, the Forest Service does not have funding available to take over the project. The Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum in Alna, Maine has expressed an interest in obtaining the bridge for an expansion of their tourist line. Bill Caswell will be meeting with representatives of the museum on May 15 to discuss this in more detail.

Deck Testing Project:

The testing part of the project to evaluate covered bridge floor systems was complete last July. A report of the results is being prepared by VS Engineering of Indiana. The 40' long Town Lattice structure used for the testing is presently sitting in Campton, New Hampshire and needs to be relocated. The bridge is available to anyone seriously interested in relocating it. With some additional work, it could become a usable covered bridge. Additional details are in an insert to this Newsletter and on the Society's website.

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[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

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Do you shop at Amazon? Have you heard of Amazon Smile? It is a program where Amazon contributes 0.5% of your purchases to a non-profit organization. There is no cost to you. In May, we received a donation of \$9.25. That may not sound like much, but every little bit helps. Having more people participate will increase the funds we have available to contribute towards fire retardant and other worthwhile preservation projects.

For more details, go to <http://tinyurl.com/nspcb-amazon>. If that doesn't work, try the original link - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-6060691>.

Membership

Welcome New Members ...

Nihal Velpanur, Hanover, NH

Wayne & Karen Marshfield, Hamden, NY

Philip Ivester, Smyrna, GA

Ruby Henderson, Independence, MO

Marian Schliestelt, Duluth, GA

Betty Collins, Roanoke, VA

Bess Cotton, McAlester, OK

Welcome New Life Members...

Frank & Mary Timmers, Carmel, IN

Upcoming NSPCB Meetings & Events ...

2017 Meeting Schedule

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

Sunday, June 25 – Contoocook Railroad Depot, Contoocook, NH.

Sunday, July 23 - 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 - Monday, August 26 - 28 – Central Oregon Tour. See details in separate article.

Sunday, September 24 – Hyde Hall Mansion, Glimmerglass State Park, Cooperstown, NY.

Saturday, October 28 – Annual Meeting at the Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Rd., Grafton, MA. Our speaker this year will be Terry Lively who will speak on West Virginia's covered bridges.

Other Upcoming Covered Bridge Meetings & Events ...

Sunday, June 11, 2017 - New York State Covered Bridge Society Meeting at Myers' Gardens, 1071 Michigan Hollow Rd, Spencer, NY. Open at 12 Noon— Bring your own lunch, meeting at 1 PM

Saturday, June 17, 2017 – Virginia Covered Bridge Festival in Woolwine Virginia, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There are live bands, food vendors and numerous artists, craftsmen, authors and others exhibiting their products and works. Wagon and hayrides to the covered bridges are available.

Sunday, July 2, 2017 - Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania Annual Picnic at Historic Poole Forge & Covered Bridge Park Sunday, gather at 12 noon, picnic lunch and meeting shortly thereafter. Everyone bring a dish to share with 8 to 10 people.

Saturday & Sunday, July 15 & 16, 2017 – Indiana Covered Bridge Society Summer tour of Dearborn, Fayette and Franklin Counties.

Sunday, July 16, 2017 - Ohio Historic Bridge Assoc. Summer Picnic at Salt Creek Bridge east of Zanesville off I-70 on Arch Hill Road.

Saturday, August 5, 2017 - The seventh annual Dinner on the Medora Bridge (WG #14-36-04) will be Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner includes: Fried Chicken and Roast Beef, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Broccoli Salad, Grape Salad, Rolls, Homemade Pie, Tea, Lemonade and Water. Tickets can be ordered by sending a check for \$25.00 for each meal to FMCBA, P.O. Box 132, Medora, IN 47260. Please include a self addressed, stamped envelope.

Saturday, September 30, 2017 – Indiana Covered Bridge Society Fall tour of Greene County.

2017 Eric DeLony Scholarship

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges invited applications for the 2017 Eric DeLony Scholarship. The scholarship honors Eric DeLony, who served as chief of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) from 1971 to 2003 and is a noted historic preservationist. Mr. DeLony was particularly interested in the preservation of historic bridges. The application deadline was on April 15 with the award to be determined at the May executive board meeting. Details of that meeting will be included in the Fall Newsletter.

Archives Update

Bob & Betty Pauwels continues to help sorting through donated books and postcards to identify what will become part of the Society's permanent collection and which items will be offered for sale to our membership.

Joseph Conwill is scanning our collection of photographs of covered bridges in Maine. This includes both the Richard Sanders Allen and Richard E. Roy collections.

Michael Delage is scanning a collection of very nicely organized slides donated by Charles Forgue of Tennessee. Mike will likely work on other collections once that is finished.

Joe Cohen, who was *Topics* editor from 1973 until 1992, will be permanently relocating to Florida this fall. In preparation for the move, he has offered to donate his collection of *Topics* and *World Guides*. Val Stegemoen picked up that material.

On May 4, Bill & Jenn visited Betty Collins, her brother Joe Parrish and Joe's wife Nancy in Roanoke, Virginia. Betty and her late husband Bob traveled throughout the country visiting and photographing covered bridges. Now that Betty has moved into a smaller residence, she is downsizing and has donated her covered bridge photo albums to the Society.

We received a donation of slides taken by Harrison (1923-2008) and Virginia Davies (1926-2012) during their visits to covered bridges throughout the country. Their three daughters - Becky, Patty and Pam – offered the slides to us so others could enjoy them.

We were contacted by Mike Mulligan, President of the Railroad Museum of South Florida in Fort Myers who has been sorting the photograph and stereo slide collection of Jeanne Hickam of Cape Coral, Florida. Ms. Hickam passed away in January 2011. He offered to send us the covered bridge portion of the collection. We accepted his offer and received the items in the mail.



Betty Collins of Roanoke, Virginia, with Bill & Jenn as she donated her covered bridge photos to the Society's archives.

Photo by Nancy Parrish.

World Guides Being Donated to Public Libraries

As we begin the process of preparing the next *World Guide to Covered Bridges*, we have decided to donate some of the remaining copies of the 2009 edition to libraries in states which have covered bridges. Donations have been offered to states where they could be delivered without incurring shipping costs to the Society. So far Pennsylvania and Massachusetts libraries have accepted the offer. Bob Watts delivered the copies to be distributed to Massachusetts libraries. Bill & Jenn Caswell delivered *Guides* for Pennsylvania libraries to Jim & Gloria Smedley. The Smedley's, along with Bob & Judy Kuether, delivered them to Harrisburg for distribution throughout the state. Members at our meetings have been distributing them to libraries in New Hampshire.

March Meeting

The March meeting was held at the Warner, New Hampshire Masonic Lodge with 21 members and guests present. Being the first general meeting since October, there were many items to be covered on the agenda. Most of them are discussed in separate articles within this *Newsletter* such as the distribution of World Guides to libraries, status of NSPCB bridge projects, archives update, the (at the time) upcoming Kentucky covered bridge trail meeting, annual meeting details and painting of the Contoocook, NH, covered railroad bridge. In honor of Dick Roy's many years of service to the Society as vice president, director and historian, a motion was made and approved to call the archives room in Penacook, New Hampshire, the Richard Roy Room.

April Meeting

April's meeting was held at the Brigham Hill Barn in Grafton, Massachusetts. We had a good meeting with 20 members and guests in attendance. In addition to the news items mentioned elsewhere within this *Newsletter*, the meeting also included a donation, presentation and surprise birthday party. Wayne Wunschel of Marion, Iowa, donated his late mother's collection of covered bridge items including framed pictures, paintings, ceramic items and other collectibles. Meeting attendees helped themselves to the items in exchange for monetary donations to the Society's Archives fund. After the business meeting was adjourned, attendees arranged an impromptu birthday party for Recording Secretary Joye Olson. She was completely surprised. After the singing, congratulations and cake distribution, President Bill offered a presentation on the covered bridges to be visited during the Oregon tour in August.



Group photo by Rosa Walrath.



Thank you Wayne Wunschel (right) for your donation. Photo by Bob Watts.



Happy Birthday Joye!

September Meeting

The staff of Hyde Hall Mansion near Cooperstown, NY, have invited us to their facility for our monthly meeting on September 24th. The mansion is part of Glimmerglass State Park along with the Hyde Hall covered bridge, the oldest covered bridge in the country.

There is no cost to attend the meeting although pre-registration is necessary to enter the park without paying the admission fees. If you are planning to attend the meeting, please let Bill Caswell know at the email or postal addresses on page 2. Tours of the mansion, which are usually \$15 per person, will be reduced to \$10 for meeting attendees.

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.

Kentucky Covered Bridge Trail Update

by Bill Caswell

Last fall, about 20 NSPCB members joined a number of Commonwealth and local officials for the announcement of Kentucky’s Covered Wooden Bridge Trail. Since then a committee consisting of members of the various Covered Wooden Bridge Authorities throughout Kentucky, tourism representatives and local officials have begun the process of making this trail a reality.



The committee held a productive meeting on March 17. Some of the issues discussed included development of a section of Kentucky’s tourism website dedicated to the Trail, reviewing information on the thirteen covered bridges for accuracy of details, creating a Facebook page for Trail information and availability of signage. Since members of the Buffalo Trace Covered Wooden Bridge Authority were present, concerns were also raised about the condition of the Grange City Bridge.

On May 1, some of the committee members were able to meet with us in Flemingsburg. They summarized the March meeting and provided an update on work done since then. I offered some research I have been compiling with help from Joseph Conwill and Walter Laughlin. I also submitted some corrections to information on the Tourism Department’s website. The next meeting will be June 19 in Flemingsburg. Another meeting will be scheduled in Washington County next winter.

I presented a letter to the Buffalo Trace Covered Wooden Bridge Authority on behalf of the Society stressing the importance of stabilizing the Grange City Bridge before it is too late. The lower chord on the northwest corner has deteriorated to the point where it is not providing adequate support at that abutment. Compound that with the erosion taking place at the north abutment and there is a real potential for the bridge to collapse at that point. They will pass this information along to the Buffalo Trace Area Development District.

As an emergency measure, Arnold Gräton offered to install the steel truss presently supporting the Beech Fork Bridge once that project is completed in the fall. Similar measures were taken at the Cabin Creek Bridge where the steel truss supported the structure until funding was available for a complete restoration. Meg Gräton suggested that the group look into the availability of toll credits to help fund this project.



Views of the north end of the Grange City Bridge showing the erosion behind the abutment.

Without support behind the abutment it is more susceptible to collapse.

Note how the foreground portion of the truss in the right photo is shifted to the left of the background portion. This is in the area where lower chord is broken.

Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell, May 1, 2017

NSPCB Oregon Tour

by Bill Caswell

Our summer tour will take place August 26–28 (Saturday-Monday) and will be based out of the Village Green Resort in Cottage Grove. They have offered us a group rate of \$109/night for their deluxe rooms which is about 1/3 off of their normal August rates. The deluxe rooms are outfitted with a fireplace, private garden patio and refrigerator. Note that all rooms in the resort are non-smoking. The room rate includes a continental breakfast each morning with the usual breads and cereals plus a waffle maker and hard-boiled eggs. Village Green has a restaurant on premises and lounge with live entertainment every night.

To make reservations, call [541-942-2491](tel:541-942-2491) and tell them you are with the "National Society of the Preservation of Covered Bridges" to get the room block and rate. Our block of rooms is only being held until July 25th so we recommend that reservations are made before then. If you have any difficulty making reservations, please feel free to contact the Front Desk Manager at [541-767-4009](tel:541-767-4009). If you are only staying for August 25-28, you can make your reservations online at <https://reservations.moonstonehotels.com/irmnet/login.aspx?resort=12>. Enter the Group ID & Password when prompted. Both are: **NSPCB**.

Thanks to generous donations made by Bob Hamilton and Travel Lane County which covered nearly half of the cost, a 20-passenger mini-bus will be available to transport some of the group. The cost for bus transportation for all three days will be \$55 per person. A registration form is included in this mailing. We encourage you to take advantage of the bus service if possible to reduce the number of vehicles in the caravan and simplify parking at the bridges.

Since most of you planning to attend will be from out of town, the nearest airport is in Eugene, a half hour away. The Eugene airport is served by Alaska Airlines, Allegiant, American Airlines, Delta and United. The next best alternative is the Portland airport which tends to have lower airfares and is served by all major airlines, but is 2½ hours away.



Deluxe Room at Village Green Resort



*Mosby Creek Bridge
Lane County, Oregon*



*Larwood Bridge
Linn County, Oregon*

For those who have never visited Oregon's covered bridges, one thing that will certainly get your attention is the massive size of the structures. Many were built to bear the weight of logging trucks which frequent the roads throughout the region. Structurally, they resemble the railroad covered bridges of New Hampshire and Vermont more than the smaller rural structures of the eastern states.

Another thing you will notice is that the bridges are much younger than the ones we Easterners are used to. Wet weather, insects and heavy traffic take their toll on the bridges. Many are replacements for earlier covered bridges at their locations. Also, due to the prevalence of high quality timber, wooden bridges continued to be built in Oregon long after other parts of the country had switched to steel and concrete.

The first two days will focus on eastern Lane County while the third day will be a journey into Lane and Marion counties. The list of bridges to be visited is on the insert. Some noteworthy examples include:

- the Pengra Bridge which has the longest known timbers for an existing covered bridge. The lower chords are single sticks of wood 16" x 18" and 120 feet long!
- the Office Bridge which is Oregon's longest at 180 feet.
- the Goodpasture Bridge which is the state's second longest at 165 feet and one of the most photographed.
- the Lowell Bridge is an excellent example of Lane County structures with a wonderful interpretive display about the bridge's history.

Cottage Grove officials and the Chamber of Commerce are excited that we will be visiting the area. They have organized a barbeque dinner on the new Chambers Railroad Bridge for Saturday evening. This will be a great opportunity for us to interact with the residents of Cottage Grove and spread the word about our organization.

If you are interested in participating, please let me know and I will add you to my list for updates. Send an email to me at wscaswell@yahoo.com or, for those of you who prefer real paper letters over email, send your postal address to Bill Caswell at the address on page 2.



*Lowell Bridge
Lane County, Oregon*



*New Chambers Railroad Bridge
Lane County, Oregon*

Updates to the World Guide to Covered Bridges

This section lists updates since the previous newsletter. For a complete list of changes, please visit the website at www.coveredbridgesociety.org and click on the World Guide link.

On April 15, the Cedar Bridge in Madison County, Iowa, was a victim of arson. Since it is not yet known if the structure is salvageable or if it has truly been lost, we are not suggesting it be removed from the World Guide until we have more information.

Page 39, Frederick County, Maryland, update bridge number and construction date, bridge rebuilt with mostly new wood

20-10-02#2

Roddy Road Bridge

Built - **2017**

Page 60, Adams County, Ohio, correct coordinates of the Harshaville Bridge, 35-01-02, to N38° 54.47' W083° 32.62'

Page 114, Juniata County, Pennsylvania, delete the Dimmsville Bridge, 38-34-02, collapsed on April 11, 2017.

Page 155, Giles County, Virginia, delete C.K. Reynolds Bridge, 46-35-03, destroyed by windstorm on March 1, 2017.

Covered Bridge Happenings ...

Georgia :

Concord Bridge Work & Website...

The Concord Bridge (WG #10-33-02) in Cobb County will be closed in June to repair damage caused during a number of incidents, especially one last October which has caused the structure to lean to one side. A steel frame will be constructed inside the bridge for additional support. Roof and siding will be repaired at the same time. The project's \$630,000 cost will be funded through the county's special purpose local option sales tax. The bridge is very busy carrying 7,000 to 10,000 vehicles per day.



(Marietta Daily Journal, April 9, 2017. Photo by Bill Caswell)

The 'Friends of the Concord Covered Bridge' have started a web site for this bridge and the surrounding historic district in order to develop community interest in the bridge and its history with long-term preservation in mind. The URL is <http://concordcoveredbridge.org>. This is a non-commercial web site, created expressly for the purposes of protecting and preserving the last covered bridge in use in the Atlanta area. The bridge is regularly facing threats of replacement with a modern structure. The new Atlanta Braves Stadium is nearing completion on the same road, about 5 miles away which is not going to help matters.

(Received from Philip Ivester, March 14, 2017)

Indiana :

Crown Point Restoration...

The Milroy Covered Bridge (WG #14-45-01) was constructed by noted bridge builder Archibald M. Kennedy & Sons in 1878. It was moved to the Lake County Fairgrounds by the Works Progress Administration in 1933 after it was purchased for \$25 by then Crown Point Mayor Col. John Wheeler. County officials are planning to begin a major restoration of the bridge after the close of the annual Lake County Fair in August. Work will include repairs to the stringers and floor beams, the superstructure and deck planking to increase the bridge's weight load capacity.



The roof will be replaced, along with the siding. The bridge will be repainted and minor asphalt and concrete work will be completed to the decking as well. Workers will attempt to reuse as much of the original wood as possible during the restoration. The intent is to be able to open it to light traffic such as Crown Point's Molly the Trolley. The project is expected to take three to four months to complete.

(Chicago Tribune, April 25, 2017. Photo by Andy Rebman)

Rob Roy Work Underway...

County commissioners accepted an offer to fund the repairs to the Rob Roy bridge (WG #14-23-03) in Fountain County from an anonymous donor. Work is underway to repair the damage caused by water at one end of the structure. According to the Friends of Rob Roy Facebook page, there will periodically be a drone (UAV) in the area of the bridge to capture video of the progress. The right photo shows one of the rotted timbers that was removed.



(Photos from the Friends of Rob Roy Bridge Facebook page, March 29, 2017)

Indiana (continued):

Saga of the Shieldstown Bridge Continues...

Work on the Shieldstown Bridge (WG #14-36-02) is still stalled. The bridge has been wrapped in plastic to protect it from the weather, but the covering is tattering as time goes by. We include it so it isn't forgotten.



(Update from Andy Rebman, President, Indiana Covered Bridge Society. Greg McDuffie Photo.)

Iowa:

Cedar Bridge Lost to Arson...



In 2002, the Cedar covered bridge was lost to arson. A replacement bridge was built in 2004. Sadly, the replacement bridge was lost to arson on April 15, 2017. The Madison County Sheriff's Office received a report of the fire at the Cedar Bridge at about 6 a.m. The bridge was fully engulfed by the time fire crews and law enforcement got to the scene, according to a news release from the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

Two teenagers - Joel Davis of Norwalk, Iowa (18) and Alexander Hoff of West Des Moines (17) – were arrested shortly after the fire. Both were charged with first-degree arson, but the charges were later amended to second-degree arson. On May 1, Davis entered a plea of not guilty. His trial is scheduled to begin July 18. On May 2, it was announced that a third teenager, Alivia Marie Bergmann of Des Moines (19), was arrested in South Carolina on charges of second-degree arson and first-degree criminal mischief in connection with fire. She is awaiting extradition back to Iowa. The sheriff says no more arrests are expected in the case. He has not released any motive for the arson

(News compiled from many sources. Photo by Bob Hamilton, March 22, 2017)

Wilkinson Bridge Reopened...

In September 2015, the Wilkinson covered bridge (WG #15-17-A) in Rock Falls was closed after an annual inspection identified a number of problems. The structure has been straightened and reinforced, new beams have been put in and the approach ramps have been repaired. The repairs cost about \$90,000. Funding was provided by the Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors; Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board, a number of foundations and private donations. The original bridge was constructed by volunteers in 1969. It was heavily damaged in a fire in 1997 and rebuilt by volunteers in 1998.



(Mason City Globe Gazette, May 8, 2017. Bob Hamilton Photo)

Kentucky:

Beech Fork Update ...

Work continues on the restoration of the Beech Fork Bridge (WG #17-115-01) in Washington County. With the structure supported by a steel truss, work is progressing on the truss members and abutments. New weight requirements forced the replacement of the lower chords. Some deteriorated vertical posts needed to be replaced and others had to be replaced to accommodate the larger lower chord. The camber of the bridge has been adjusted and a portion of the west wingwall was repaired to improve support. Work is expected to be completed late this year.



Bill Caswell Photo, May 1, 2017

Maryland:

New Roddy Road Bridge Opened...



The new Roddy Road Covered Bridge (WG #20-10-02#2) near Thurmont, Maryland is complete and was opened to traffic on April 17, 2017. Fitzgerald Heavy Timber Construction built the new structure.

The bridge was closed last June after an oversized vehicle damaged the previous bridge beyond repair. Headache bars have been added to help protect the new bridge from future vehicle incidents.

In addition to the bridge reopening, the Roddy Road Park opened too with a parking lot, swings, and walking trail for all of the town of Thurmont and visitors to enjoy. The total cost of the construction was nearly \$150,000.

(Information from the Roddy Road Facebook page and WHAG-TV Newscast, April 17, 2017.
Photo by Jim & Gloria Smedley, April 28, 2017)

Michigan:

Whites Bridge Project Update ...

The group working to rebuild Whites Bridge submitted an application to Michigan DOT for the additional \$375,000 needed for the project. The design has been modified so that the floor beams can handle a 54,000 lb tandem truck. That's a significant increase over the capacity of the old bridge. The increased capacity is all out of sight. "If we didn't tell anyone, no one would know."



(Rebuild Whites Bridge Facebook Page, May 2, 2017, Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)

New Hampshire:

Contoocook Bridge Painting...



The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is looking for donations to help pay for painting of the Contoocook Railroad Bridge (WG #29-07-07) in Contoocook. The bridge was built by the Boston & Maine Railroad in 1889 and is the oldest remaining covered railroad bridge. The project will cost about \$50,000. A grant for \$10,000 has been obtained from the state's Moose Plate program which offers grants to cultural preservation projects. Donations towards the project can be sent to the Park Street Foundation with "Contoocook Covered Bridge" in the memo field. Send the check or money order to: Park Street Foundation, 20 Park St., Concord, NH 03301.

(Information & Photo from Bill & Jenn Caswell)

New York:

New Project Underway...

By the time you read this, Arnold M. Grāton Associates will have begun repairs on the Ashokan Bridge (WG #32-56-05) in Ulster County, New York. The bridge originally spanned the Beaverkill in the town of Hardenburg. In the 1930s it was taken apart and moved to its present location at the Ashokan Center. Ashokan is a 385-acre environmental education organization with facilities for weddings, conferences and retreats. The project includes replacing a number of floor beams, repairing lattice ends and buttresses as necessary, repairing upper and lower lateral bracing, replacing roof shingles and a number of other tasks.

(Information from Arnold Grāton Associates and the Ashokan Center Website)



Trish Kane Photo



Michael Chorazy Photo

Blenheim Work to Begin Soon...

Substantial work is scheduled to begin on the new Blenheim Covered Bridge by the time you read this. Construction crews were expected to begin the removal of the western bridge abutment in April. The erection of a new, reinforced support abutment is expected to be completed in May. The removal of the eastern bridge abutment and erection of a new abutment is slated for May and June. The on-site assembly of the replacement covered bridge is expected to take up the remainder of the year from July through December. The bridge will be completed and then placed by crane on top of the two new bridge abutments. Completion of this phase by the end of the year will depend largely on streambed conditions during the summer and weather conditions in November and December. Work in 2018 will include the installation of concrete sidewalks, fences, and railings, and the final landscaping and cleanup of the site. The project, which is completely funded by FEMA, is expected to be complete by July 2018. The total project should be built for \$8 million or less. The construction portion will be about \$6.7 million.

(Cobleskill Times-Journal, March 21, 2017)

Ohio:

Wyandot County Bridge Repairs...

The Wyandot County Board of Commissioners accepted two bids totaling more than \$1 million for renovations to the Parker Covered Bridge (WG #35-88-03#2) and Swartz Covered Bridge (WG #35-88-05). 80 percent of the funding will come from a federal grant from the Transportation Alternative Program, 15 percent will be provided by the Ohio Department of Transportation's Toll Revenue Credit and the remaining 5 percent is the county's responsibility. The projects will include work on the roofs and siding of both bridges. The work is expected to begin this summer and the bridges will be closed until the projects are completed.



Swartz Bridge, Scott Wagner Photo

(WKTN-TV, May 2, 2017)

Oregon:

Thanks to Bill Cockrell, President Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, for providing Oregon updates.

Linn County to Create a New Park...

The Bilyeu family has offered to donate an acre of their property near the Hannah Covered Bridge (WG #37-22-02) to the county for construction of a park. Linn County officials have stated that it will be similar to a park near the Larwood Bridge which has picnic tables, BBQ grills and pit toilets.

(Albany Democrat-Herald, March 28, 2017)



*Hannah Bridge, Linn County
Bill & Jenn Caswell Photo, February 1, 2017*

Gilkey Bridge to Undergo Repairs...

The Linn County Road Department will oversee repairs to the Gilkey Covered Bridge (WG #37-22-04) this summer. Work is expected to run from June to late October, and the cost is to be funded through the Oregon Department of Transportation’s local bridge program. The project is designed to bring the structural capacity of the bridge up to 40 tons, which will support the crossing of trucks. Its current capacity is six tons. Bids for the project were opened on May 2 and Delta Construction of Eugene is the apparent low bidder at \$1,639,252

The project will include installing new pressure-treated timber bottom truss chords; making epoxy repairs to damaged existing top timber chords; adding steel side plates on existing top timber chords to increase strength; installing a new timber roof truss, structural members and cedar shingle roofing; installing a new timber deck and historic timber guard rail; new timber siding; new paint; and new bridge approach spans. Because of maintenance issues with the existing timber and concrete abutments and pier, they will be replaced with new reinforced concrete and steel ones.

The Hannah, Larwood, Short and Hoffman have all received work over the past five years with engineering design, contract administration and construction inspection completed by the Linn County Engineering staff.

(Albany Democrat Herald, March 15 & May 4, 2017. Photos by Bill & Jenn Caswell, February 1, 2017)



Pennsylvania:

Dimmsville Bridge Collapses ...

After years of neglect and unsuccessful attempts to preserve the bridge, the inevitable outcome has finally become a reality – the Dimmsville Bridge (WG #38-34-02) collapsed on April 11. The 109’ Burr Arch structure over Cocolamus Creek was built in 1902. The road bypassed the bridge in 1964. It had been mostly abandoned since then. Attempts to preserve the bridge and stabilize the failing abutment were hindered by disputed ownership of the structure and inability to access to the property surrounding it. Member Pat Cook visited the site in late April and reported that the remains have been removed from the stream.



(News provided by Stephanie Bates. Bill Caswell Photo)

Pennsylvania (continued):

Work Proposed for Dreibelbis Bridge...



Pennsylvania DOT is working on plans to repair the Dreibelbis Covered Bridge (WG #38-06-07) in Berks County. At present, the plans include replacement of the concrete-encased stone abutments with new concrete abutments and replacement of the historic timber floor support system with steel beams. NSPCB sent a letter to the DOT which was presented at a November 10th meeting to review the historic impacts of the project. On April 11 we were notified that they still consider that replacing the floor system with steel beams will “have no adverse effect” to the historic integrity of the structure.

(Information and Photo from Bill & Jenn Caswell)

Harmony Hill Bridge Damaged...

On March 29, the Harmony Hill Bridge (WG #38-15-10) near West Chester was closed after being damaged. A spokeswoman for Chester County stated that the vehicle apparently lost control inside the bridge and “caused severe internal structural damage.” The bridge will be closed until repairs can be completed.

(Daily Local News, April 1, 2017. Photo by Jenn Caswell)



Repaired Pine Brook Bridge Unveiled...

Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village unveiled the newly rehabilitated Pine Bank Covered Bridge (WG #38-63-35) at a dedication ceremony on May 3rd. About two dozen people, including local and civic leaders, attended the event. The 35-foot-long covered bridge, which was built in 1871, originally spanned a waterway in Tom’s Run, Greene County, before Meadowcroft Village owner Albert Miller moved the structure to its present site in 1962. In additions to structural repairs, the bridge was raised three feet.

The restoration was made possible with three grants: a \$75,000 Keystone Historic Preservation grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; a \$150,000 Local Share grant; and a \$75,000 grant from Washington County Tourism. The work was done by Fitzgerald’s Heavy Timber Construction of Thurmond, Maryland. Owner Dean Fitzgerald said the company disassembled the entire structure, laid out each component in an adjacent field, selected which pieces could be used, and then reassembled the bridge.

(Observer-Reporter, May 3, 2017)

Group Looking to Preserve Beltzville Park Bridge...



Two years ago, the Friends of Beltzville State Park, a non-profit organization, was formed to preserve the historic Bucks Covered Bridge (WG #38-13-01) within the park. The group is working with Carbon County commissioners and other local officials to make sure everything is in order before they begin fundraising for the project.

The bridge is in good condition. However, the group wants to repair some deteriorated sections before they get any worse. They have discovered that some of the wood is chestnut which cannot be replaced in kind. Another variety of wood would have to be substituted.

The bridge was built in 1841 and moved to the park in 1971 when its original location was flooded to create Beltzville Lake.

(Hazleton Standard-Speaker, March 14, 2017. Photo by Bill & Jenn Caswell)

Pennsylvania (continued):

Bitzer's Mill Bridge Repairs...

Last quarter, we reported that repairs to Bitzer's Mill Bridge (WG #38-36-04) in Lancaster County were underway. That work is now complete and the bridge has been reopened to traffic.

(Reported at the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society Meeting, May 6, 2017.
Photo by Anita Ford)



Neff's Mill Repair Under Consideration...



On May 10, Lancaster County Commissioners will decide if they will support repairs to the 1875 Neff's Mill Bridge (WG #38-36-22). The 90' bridge over Pequea Creek carries approximately 1,200 vehicles per day. Of the county's 22 publicly owned covered bridges, this one is in the most serious condition. The proposed \$148,200 contract with Rettew Associates will cover their engineering services and preparation of bid documents. The actual construction will likely cost about \$1 million and would be scheduled for summer 2018.

(Lancaster Online, May 9, 2017. Bill Caswell Photo)

Vermont:

Scott Bridge Repairs Nearly Complete ...

Repairs to the Scott Bridge (WG #45-13-13) in Townsend are nearly complete. The bridge had Town lattice spans with arches and a Kingpost span at one end. The arches were added during earlier repairs and were found to be causing some of the recent problems with the structure. They have now been removed leaving two spans of Town lattice truss. As of this writing, the repairs to the Kingpost span are not quite complete.



(Reported at Vermont Covered Bridge Society Meeting, April 22, 2017. Photo by Bill Caswell)

West Dummerston Bridge Damaged ...



In early February, a WW Building Supply delivery truck damaged roof braces on the east side of the West Dummerston covered bridge (WG #45-13-02#2) causing an estimated \$63,000 in damages. A representative of WW Building Supply notified police of the incident and will pay for the damages. The broken trusses do not impact the capacity of the bridge so it will remain open until repair work begins.

(The Commons, April 5, 2017. Photo by Jenn Caswell)

Virginia:

Reynold's Farm Bridge Destroyed in Windstorm...

On March 1, strong winds destroyed the C. K. Reynolds Bridge (WG #46-35-03) near Newport, Virginia. The bridge was built in 1919 and stood on private land owned by the Thompson family. They had only owned the land for about a year and had previously talked to a contractor about repairing the bridge. Now they are considering rebuilding it.

(WHSV-TV, April 4, 2017, Bill Caswell Photo)



Meem's Bottom Bridge Damaged...



On March 31, the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office received a report of a hit and run at the Meem's Bottom Bridge (WG #46-82-01). A witness helped them identify and arrest Oleksandr Guivan of Georgia for the incident. He is scheduled to appear in court on a number of charges on May 26. The news article stated that the bridge would be closed while Virginia DOT makes repairs. Apparently those repairs have been completed since the bridge was open to traffic during Bill & Jenn Caswell's visit on May 5.

(WHSV-TV, April 4, 2017, Bill Caswell Photo)

Québec:

Saint-Onésime Bridge Damaged by Heavy Snow & Ice...



On March 2, pont du Collège in Saint-Onésime was closed after structural damage to the roof supports, possibly caused by the weight of heavy snow and ice, was reported to municipal officials. The issue has angered local residents who stated that the municipality is not fulfilling its agreement with the Ministry of Culture and Communications to contribute a minimum of \$1,000 per year towards maintenance of the bridge. There are also complaints that the municipality is not clearing snow and ice when it builds up to excessive levels. In 2008, the bridge received significant repairs and was raised to reduce the potential impacts of floodwaters.

Mayor Hélène Laboissonnière indicated that the roof has been supported to prevent its collapse and measures will be taken to repair the damage and reopen the bridge. The bridge was built in 1919 or 1920 and was declared a historic monument in 2002.

(Le Placoteux, March 3 and March 10, 2017. Photo by Gérald Arbour)

Pont de la Calamité Needs Attention ...

In late April, at the request of concerned citizens, La Sarre officials met with representatives of the Ministère des Transports (MTQ) to discuss the poor condition of Pont de la Calamité (WG #61-02-04). The 121' bridge was built in 1927 and has been restricted to light loads. The MTQ is expected to remedy the situation in the near future.

(La Frontière, May 2, 2017. Photo by Pierre Duff.)



Québec (continued):

Floodwaters Damage Gaspé Bridges...

Floodwaters in the Gaspé Peninsula have damaged at least two of its covered bridges. The Heppel Bridge (WG #61-43-02) has been struck and damaged by several trees floating downriver. It will likely be closed for the summer while repairs are made. Farther north, trees carried away by the Petite Cascapédia have damaged the St-Edgar Bridge (WG #61-10-05). The structure had received repairs last year and now needs additional work.

(TVA News, May 8, 2017.

Heppel Bridge Photo by Jean-Pascal Lemelin)



Romania:

The 18th century covered bridge at Coşbuc, in the northwestern part of Romania, is one step closer to being repaired. Catalin Petcu, a Romanian engineer working in Québec, made us aware of the bridge's existence in 2012. The bridge was constructed in 1778 and is the only survivor of an estimated group of 14 covered bridges in the area. The structure is in desperate need of repair. The beams on the west end of the bridge are so rotten that it is in danger of collapse. Numerous holes in the roof allow rain to fall into the structure accelerating the decay of structural supports. The former mayor of Coşbuc had made various attempts to obtain money to repair the structure. He was successful in having an engineering study completed which identified the repairs that will be needed. The bridge is on the List of Historical Monuments maintained by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Romanian equivalent of America's National Register of Historic Places.

Current mayor, Ioan Pavelea, is continuing the work of his predecessor to obtain funding for the bridge. When Mr. Petcu informed us that Mayor Pavelea was applying for another grant, NSPCB sent a letter of support for the project. On April 28, Mayor Pavelea posted photos of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage and a number of other public officials visiting the bridge. Minister Vulpescu assured the mayor that the bridge will be repaired.



Holes in the roof allow rain to pour in and accelerate deterioration of the truss members.



Broken lower chord at the west end of the bridge.



Public officials visiting the bridge on April 28, 2017.

(Information and Photos from Catalin Petcu and Ioan Pavelea's Facebook page)

NSPCB Promotional Items

Show your support for the Society with these items.

All income from sales goes towards preservation projects such as donations of fire retardant.



Water Bottle



Baseball Cap Design

All items are navy blue with the design in white. Prices include shipping charges.

Short Sleeve Tee Shirts.....	\$15.00
Long Sleeve Tee Shirts	\$22.00
Short Sleeve Polo Shirts.....	\$30.00
Crew Neck Sweatshirts.....	\$30.00
Hooded Sweatshirts	\$40.00
Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirts.....	\$50.00
Baseball Cap.....	\$18.00
Water Bottle (25 oz.)	\$15.00

T-shirts and crew-neck sweatshirts include the front and back designs.

Hooded sweatshirts only have the small logo on the front.

Polo shirts have the small logo embroidered on the front.

Baseball caps have a similar design embroidered on the front.

Shirts and sweatshirts are available in medium, large, XL, 2XL and 3XL.

All items are navy blue with the design in white.

Note: Items can only be shipped to US addresses.

Send a check or money order made out to **NSPCB** to:
 Jennifer Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244,
 Credit card orders can be processed on our website by using PayPal -
<http://coveredbridgesociety.org/promotions.htm>
 Have questions? E-mail Bill at wscaswell@yahoo.com