


Pennsylvania Crossings



THE THEODORE BURR COVERED BRIDGE SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Charity Organization.

A COLLECTION OF NEWS ITEMS, REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUMMER 2021 (VOL. 44, NO. 3)

FEATURE BRIDGE

Ramp's Bridge in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

Ramp's Bridge, the last remaining covered bridge in Cumberland County, has recently been rehabilitated. Below is a rare side view of the bridge taken with a drone. The 129-foot bridge crosses Conodoguinet Creek in Hopewell Township.

Photo by George Rothlingshofer, May 31, 2021



THE THEODORE BURR COVERED BRIDGE SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC. normally meets the first Sunday of each month except in January and February when there is no meeting and the May Anniversary & December Christmas Dinners which are usually held on a Saturday. (If a major holiday interferes, the meeting normally is held on the following Sunday.) Other than special locations, meetings are held at the Manheim Community Farm Show Exhibition Center, 502 Adele Ave., Manheim, PA 17545 starting at 2 p.m.

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Annual dues are \$15.00 for an individual, \$20.00 for a family at the same address, \$20 for a group or corporate membership. A paid life membership is available for \$250.00. Life membership for a couple at the same address is \$400. Please make checks payable to TBCBSP. Dues should be sent before October 1 to the Treasurer: Robert J. Kuether, 1080 5th Avenue, Steelton, PA 17113. **You can now pay your dues through PayPal** (only for individual, family or group/corporate memberships). Log into your *PayPal* account, click on send money, enter ebbridge59@verizon.net in the "to" box, the amount to send, click on purchase, then goods, and follow instructions to send the money to our Treasurer to pay your dues. You will receive a receipt for your dues purchase from *PayPal* in your email account.

Membership includes the Society's publications – the magazine, *WOODEN COVERED SPANS*, and the newsletter, *PENNSYLVANIA CROSSINGS*. Publications are not available without membership.

(Material herein shall not be reproduced without prior written permission from this Society.)



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INTERNET ADDRESS

<http://www.tbcbspa.com>

FACEBOOK MEMBERS CAN VIEW OUR PAGE AT

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Theodore-Burr-Covered-Bridge-Society-of-PA/103979279646109>

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY David W. and Gladys Smith

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR CO-EDITORS

We can all hope we are now looking at Covid-19 in the rear view mirror, behind us to stay for good. Although we canceled our March meeting we were able to conduct meetings for April, May and June. Members were very safe with distancing and mask wearing. Fortunately, our new meeting room is very spacious so it was easy to spread out. About 30 members attended each meeting. Please watch for email messages about future meetings and events or check on the Society's website or Facebook page.

As of now our 2021 Annual Safari to southeast Ohio looks like it is going to happen. Your editors visited the area in late May to make arrangement with the motel and restaurants in the area. Please see the insert about the safari and T-shirt order form. Many of these bridges are far off the beaten path and not often visited.

There's plenty of Pennsylvania bridge news this issue. Of special interest is the rehabilitation of Ramp's Bridge in Cumberland County. Unfortunately, in out-of-state news we have lost a couple of bridges. It is so sad to hear about bridges being burned down.

Despite the virus restrictions our calendar contest was very successful. We ordered 400 calendars this year and have already sold over 100.

Remember to register your email address with the Society so that you receive information about our bridges and our members. Through email, you will also receive the electronic **COLOR** edition of *PA Crossings*.

We also want to remind members to check their email boxes on Saturday evening or Sunday morning on the weekend of our meeting for any message about a cancellation caused by inclement weather. Cancellations are also posted on the website home page. If a meeting is cancelled we will make every attempt to notify our members as much in advance as possible. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue.

The deadline for the October Issue of *Pennsylvania Crossings* is October 3, 2021, the first Sunday in October. Please submit any news items to us by that date. Send us material by U.S. mail to: **1143 Sage Dr., York, PA 17408**, by email to: jbsmedley@comcast.net, or by phone: (717) 800-8435.

Jim and Gloria Smedley, Co-editors

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

As of June 6, 2021 we have 378 members, 5 more than one year ago. Please update your roster. Rosters are available to members at any of our meetings or through email to: Treasurer Bob Kuether at kuether@verizon.net.

NEW MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Suzanne Manna, 34 Oaklyn Ave., Eagleville, PA 19403
Martin Pardys, 142 Joanne Road, Holland, PA 18966-2408

CHANGE AND/OR UPDATE OF MAILING ADDRESS

Ronald V. Pullman, 943 Blackhawk Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010-9011
Elaine W. Reiter, P.O. Box 198, Honey Brook, PA 19344-0198

NEW & CHANGES TO EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have an email address to be published, please send it for the next issue.

GET WELL WISHES TO

- Member Christine Weaver who is currently rehabilitating from knee replacement surgery.
- Member Jeannine Ross who is currently rehabilitating from knee replacement surgery.
- Member Anthony Walczak who is currently recovering from a heart attack.
- Member Marianne Calabrese recovering from heart surgery to replace her mitral valve.
- Member Linda Finkelstein rehabilitating from a couple of falls to help strengthen her legs and upper body.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO

- The family of member David Hoke who passed away on November 14, 2020.
- The family of member Olive Jones, who passed away on April 19, 2021 at the age of 101. Olive was a longtime active member.
- The family of member Harriet Unrath, who passed away on December 28, 2020.
- The family of former member Miriam "Mim" Wood, who passed away on May 17, 2021. Miriam was the foremost expert on Ohio's covered bridges.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Anthony & Karen Abramo, Lynn Appman, Dan Baker, Bill & Jenn Caswell, Tim Cohen, James Crouse, Ray Finkelstein, Bob & Judy Kuether, Frank and Pam Mailey, Joe McCarthy, Tim & Connie McLaughlin, Ed Patterson, Dyan Rosario, George Rothlingshofer, Jim and Gloria Smedley, Tom Walczak, Greg Williams

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT MEETINGS

Members are invited to visit our website for detailed minutes of our meetings.

Go to www.tbcbspa.com and click on the "club minutes" link.

November 1, 2020 (approved at our April 2021 meeting)

President Tom Walczak called the meeting to order at 2:13 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and urged all to vote on Election Day.

Members' Reports: Tim & Connie McLaughlin visited Fort Hunter Bridge and Academia Bridge. Gloria reported that she and Jim visited 8 bridges in Juniata, Snyder and Perry counties. Kochenderfer in Perry County and East Oriental in Juniata/Snyder counties are in poor condition. North Oriental and Klinepeter bridges appear to have been recently painted. They also toured 11 bridges in Perry County and noticed Clay's Bridge also looked recently painted. Tina Chandler reported Foxcatcher Farms Bridge in Maryland was heavily damaged by recent flooding.

Officers' Reports: President Tom Walczak visited Banks, McConnell's Mill and Kidd's Mill and all looked nice. 2nd VP Ray Finkelstein stopped by S. Perkasio, Sheard's Mill (floor is in poor condition), Knecht's, Wehr's and Schlicher's bridges. 3rd VP Frank Mailey, as well as many members and officers, said they had a great time on the mini-safari to southern Lancaster County bridges led by member Tony Abramo on October 17th.

Meeting dates for future meetings were announced and also a request for any members who would like to provide a program for our 2021 meetings. Bob Kuether shared a wooden covered bridge light he won at a recent auction and Judy Kuether shared tissue box covers she is making. Everyone enjoyed baked goods brought in by members that were individually wrapped. Members also maintained safe distancing and wore masks.

A program was presented by Fred Moll titled "Covered Bridge Photos from our Society's Founder, Vera Wagner."

December and March Meetings were canceled due to the increase in the Covid-19 Virus Cases

April 11, 2021

1st VP Jim Smedley called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. welcoming everyone. He reminded everyone of the need to continue social distancing and wearing a mask. Jim led the Pledge of Allegiance. He let everyone know President Tom Walczak sends his regards but needed to remain with his ailing dad who suffered a heart attack on February 13th.

Members' Reports: Joe McCarthy visited Bogert's Bridge and said there is a lot of damage under the bridge. Joe also reported rehab for Hassenplug Bridge will begin in July and Bartram's Bridge will start this coming fall. Bonnie Shultz visited Campbell's Bridge in South Carolina and said it looks very nice. Connie McLaughlin stopped by Smith's Bridge in Delaware, and Gibson's and Speakman's bridge in Chester County.

Officers' Reports: President Tom Walczak asked Jim to announce a \$400,000 contract has been awarded for the rehabilitation of Banks Bridge. Work should start in early April. VP Ray Finkelstein noted the abutments at Wehr's Bridge have been damaged. Historian Fred Moll visits Dreibelbis Station Bridge frequently and said it is "shining brightly and in good shape." Recording Secretary Pam Mailey visited Harmony Bridge in Chester County.

Connie McLaughlin informed members about the progress of Cat's Meow Covered Bridge shelf sitters. Ten models should be released soon. Jim announced the schedule changes for upcoming meetings and reminded members about See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridge Week, May 8-16th. The Society discussed the upcoming one-day safari to northeastern Lancaster on June 19th to be led by Tony Abramo, the Society's Annual Safari planned for August 28-30 and Jim announced the 2022 Calendar Contest was very successful. Calendars will be ready at the May meeting. Bob Kuether also announced he has some new Twins Covered Bridge puzzles available.

A program was provided by Bob & Judy Kuether titled "Covered Bridges of Cumberland County, Part 1."

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT MEETINGS**MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER!!!**

Our membership year runs from **October 1 to September 30**. Annual dues are \$15.00 for an individual, \$20.00 for a family at the same address, \$20.00 for a group or corporate membership. A paid life membership is available for \$250.00. Life membership for a couple at the same address is \$400.

Please renew membership before October 1, 2021.

You can now pay dues through PayPal. See page 2 for details.

(Please add \$1 when paying through PayPal to offset PayPal fees)

Please make checks payable to TBCBSP.

All renewals should be sent to our Treasurer, Bob Kuether. His address is on page 2.

May 2, 2021

Our May Anniversary Dinner, originally scheduled for May 1st at Dutch-Way Restaurant had to be canceled because Dutch-Way has not reopened for a buffet meal and could not accommodate our group in a private area for a family style dinner. The meeting was changed to May 2nd and pizza was provided to all of our members. Social distancing and masks were still required and hand sanitizer was available.

1st VP Jim Smedley called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. welcoming everyone to our "pizza party" and Business Meeting. Jim thanked Bob and Judy Kuether for organizing the pizza luncheon. Jim reminded all of the need to continue social distancing/wearing a mask and then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed Jack and Fran Kracek who are attending their first meeting since becoming members.

Members' Reports: Steve and Gloria Wolfhope saw a number of bridges while driving round trip to Texas to visit family. They visited Beech Fork Bridge in Kentucky, Emerson E. Parks Bridge in Tennessee, Alamuchee Bridge in Alabama and Coheelee Creek Bridge in Georgia. Connie McLaughlin stopped by Smith's Bridge in Delaware and noted the bridge did suffer heavy damage from an oversized truck but is structurally sound and open to traffic. Member Joe McCarthy visited Kintersburg Bridge in Indiana County and spoke with Parks Director Ed Patterson about required rehabilitation.

Officers' Reports: 1st VP Jim Smedley informed members of repairs being made to Ramp's Bridge in Cumberland County. Little Gap Bridge was saved when an oversized truck struck the headache bar ahead of the bridge. 3rd VP Frank Mailey, his wife Pam and Bob and Judy Kuether saw Buttonwood and Cogan House bridges in Lycoming County and Knecht's Bridge in Bucks County while delivering display boards to PA Welcome Centers for See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week.

1st VP Jim Smedley read the Proclamation from the Governor's Office for See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week and thanked Tom Walczak for obtaining the Proclamation. Jim also showed the group the SPCBW poster created by President Tom. Covered Bridge items were shared by members including a wooden covered bridge made by Bob Ford and given to Gloria Smedley for her train garden. Connie McLaughlin shared a pewter plate of a covered bridge. Gloria announced used puzzles are available at the back table for "trade" with other members and Bob Kuether brought the new Twins puzzles and calendars for members to purchase.

Our nominating committee this year for 2021-22 officers is Tim and Connie McLaughlin. If you are interested in becoming an officer please contact Tim or Connie. Nominations for officers will be accepted from June through our picnic and meeting in September.

Connie McLaughlin (conniefrancis@icloud.com), Tim McLaughlin (kxpop@aol.com)

THE THEODORE BURR COVERED BRIDGE SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

President.....	(open)	First Vice President.....	Jim Smedley
Treasurer.....	Robert J. Kuether	Second Vice President.....	Ray Finkelstein
Recording Secretary.....	Pam Mailey	Third Vice President.....	Frank Mailey
Corresponding Secretary/		Fourth Vice President.....	(open)
Program Chairperson.....	Pamela Heisey	Historian	Fred J. Moll

*Join us for a Covered Bridge One-Day Safari to
Northeast Lancaster County
Saturday June 19, 2021*

Our safari will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Sheetz Convenience Store located off the Brownstown exit of US222, northeast of Lancaster, PA. We will stop at 8 covered bridges, a rest stop, and a lunch stop at an area restaurant.

Bridges included in the Safari will be Zook's Mill, Erb's Mill, Keller's Mill, Bitzer's Mill, Bucher's Mill, Oberholtzers, Weaver's Mill and Poole Forge.

A group photo will be taken at a bridge.

PENNSYLVANIA BRIDGE NEWS

"Headache Bar" Saved Little Gap Bridge from Damage

On March 25th an oversized Penske truck struck the overhead barrier near the entrance to Little Gap Bridge (PA-13-02) in Carbon County. The driver left the scene in the truck. There is an 8'-6" clearance sign on the barrier. The actual clearance for the bridge at the portal is 10'-6". The barriers were put in place in 2015 at a cost of \$13,637 after the bridge and previously installed wood barriers were struck several times. The steel I-beam barriers have also been struck at least three times since 2015.

The Lower Towamensing Township supervisors plan to install yield signs at the bridge to help slow down traffic.

(Sources: *Times News*, March 26, 2021 and April 12, 2021)

Relocating Wagner & Fowlersville Bridges on Hold

Another covered bridge in Columbia County is looking for a new home. Wagner Bridge (PA-19-15) is currently located near the entrance to Foxtail homes. It was moved there in 1994. The original plan was to relocate Wagner Bridge to the parking lot at the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau but that plan has run into a snag with owners of the parking lot. A plan was developed to move it to the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds but that, too, seems to have fallen through as well as another plan for the Borough of Berwick to find a home for the bridge. For now, the 1856 built, 62-foot bridge will remain at the entrance to Foxtail homes.



Wagner Bridge in June 2019

photo by Gloria Smedley

We reported earlier that the Fowlersville Bridge (PA-19-05) may be moved from Briar Creek Lake Park in Briar Creek Township to North Centre Township Park but sources tell us that move will not happen. Dismantling and rebuilding the bridge is too costly and the cost to move the bridge without dismantling it is unaffordable at nearly \$100,000 as well as approximately 70 wires that would have to be lifted. Fowlersville Bridge will likely remain in Briar Creek Lake Park.

(Sources: *Press Enterprise*, March 29, 2021; *email*, Tom Clymer, North Centre Township Committee, June 2, 2021)

PENNSYLVANIA BRIDGE NEWS***Ramp's Bridge Gets Major Rehabilitation***

Ramp's Bridge (PA-21-11) is the only remaining covered bridge in Cumberland County. Ramp's Bridge is currently undergoing a much needed rehabilitation. Work may be already be completed. Lumber was shipped from Oregon to replace one the Burr arches. The bridge was jacked up and supported with cribbing while the arch was replaced. It appears the project includes most of the bridge getting a new floor, new roof, new siding, replacement of any decayed or twisted timbers and fresh paint. Jay Fulkroad and Sons, Inc. of McAlisterville, PA was awarded the contract for the project.

(Source: *The Shippensburg News-Chronicle*, May 13, 2021)



Top left and bottom right photos taken by George Rothlingshofer
Top right and bottom left photos taken by Dan Baker

Martin's Mill Bridge Vandalized

Martin's Mill Bridge (PA-28-01) in Franklin County was spray painted with graffiti on March 8, 2021. Vandals painted words, symbols and images on the walls and floor inside the bridge as well as the roadway outside the bridge and the gate used to block out traffic. Parks Director Cheryl Walburn quickly painted over the graffiti. Pennsylvania State Police are investigating the incident.

Martin's Mill Bridge was nearly removed in 1962 but the community was successful in lobbying to save the bridge. It was swept downstream during Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972 but was rebuilt. It is one of only two remaining covered bridges in Franklin County.

(Source: *Herald-Mail Media.com*, March 16, 2021)

Martin's Mill Bridge, November 5, 2020.
photo by Gloria Smedley

PENNSYLVANIA BRIDGE NEWS***Kintersburg Bridge Needs Repair***

Indiana County has four covered bridges. All but one are in excellent condition. Kintersburg Bridge (PA-32-05) is in need of repairs and hopefully that may happen soon. Member Joe McCarthy of Lancaster Timber Frames visited the bridge to discuss its condition with Ed Patterson, also a Society member and Director of Indiana County Parks and Trails. At our May Society's meeting Joe informed us the bridge is in dire need of repair. Main trusses of the bridge are completely broken. He submitted a proposal to completely dismantle the bridge and rebuild it. The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges has donated money needed to apply fire retardant to Kintersburg Bridge.

photo by Gloria Smedley June 2018

***North Oriental Bridge Struck by Truck***

On May 18, 2021 an oversized truck broke most of the roof braces in the bridge. North Oriental Bridge (PA-34-05 & PA-55-05) crosses the West Branch of Mahantango Creek and connects Snyder and Juniata counties. PennDOT closed the bridge until repairs can be made. North Oriental Bridge carries over 800 vehicles per day. Fortunately, the driver of the truck that damaged the bridge did stop and report the damage to officials.

(Sources: *PennLive.com*, May 20, 2021 & May 21, 2021)

North Oriental or Curry's Corner Bridge *photo by Jim Smedley October 15, 2020*

***Banks Bridge to Get Complete Makeover***

On March 16, 2021 Lawrence County Commissioners approved a contract with Allison Park Contractors, Inc. of Gastonia to make repairs to Banks Bridge (PA-37-02). Steel and wood repairs will be made as well as a fresh coat of paint at a cost of \$440,000. The bridge was closed to traffic on May 10th and will remain closed until about July 20th when work is scheduled for completion. Banks Bridge and McConnell's Mill Bridge (PA-37-01) are the only two still standing in Lawrence County.

(Sources: *New Castle News*, March 19 & May 4, 2021)

Banks Bridge June, 2018 *photo by Jim Smedley*

Manassas Guths Bridge Damaged

Member Ray Finkelstein stopped by Manassas Guth Bridge (PA-39-03) in Lehigh County to find crews from Bi-State Construction Company repairing the roof of the bridge. We had an earlier report that a truck had struck the bridge. Ray visited the bridge on June 5th and said the roof repair was complete and the bridge reopened to traffic.

Repairs being made to Manassas Guth Bridge on April 20, 2021.

Photo by Ray Finkelstein



PENNSYLVANIA COVERED BRIDGE NEWS***Keefer Station and Rishel Bridges in Northumberland Counties Vandalized***

Northumberland County covered bridges often have a problem with vandals. Rishel Bridge (PA-49-05 #2) is often vandalized with graffiti as well as Keefer Station Bridge (PA-49-02). Siding has also been kicked out of Keefer Station Bridge. Litter, beer cans, and drug paraphernalia have been found at the bridge. Northumberland County Commissioner Joe Klebon asked for volunteers to help remove the graffiti. Klebon is also seeking funds to install surveillance cameras and plans to prosecute anyone vandalizing the bridges. Northumberland County has three covered bridges solely in the county, one they share with Montour County and three shared with Columbia County.

On Saturday, May 15th, the Line Mountain High School Football Team arrived at the bridge ready to paint over the graffiti at Keefer Station Bridge. Two hours later Keefer Station Bridge had a fresh coat of paint and no graffiti.

(Sources: *The Daily Item*, March 2, 2021; *PAHomePage.com*, March 10, 2021; *Fox56WOLF*, May 15, 2021; *WKOK.com*, May 17, 2021)



Photo at left shows damage to Keefer Station Bridge likely from vandals and probably some storm damage at bottom boards. Photo at right shows graffiti in Keefer Station Bridge.

photos by Tony Abramo, April 29, 2021

Shaffer Bridge Gets Roof Repaired

Shaffer's Bridge (PA-56-11) in Somerset County has had its share of problems the last couple of years. Rotted heavy timber has plagued the bridge for a few years. A temporary fix was put in place last year to support the roof so small traffic vehicles could pass through.

The roof is filled with holes. Crews were at the bridge the week of March 15th to install a new metal roof. Although fixing the roof will help protect the bridge from the weather elements it does not address the major problem of stabilizing the bridge. On June 1st County officials obtained a \$100,000 Department of Community and Economic Development grant to replace the failing beams that support the bridge's roof. Hopefully, work will be able to start this coming winter unless conditions push the project to next spring.

(Source: *Tribdem.com*, March 18, 2021, June 1, 2021)

Hassenplug Set for Rehabilitation

Pennsylvania's oldest standing covered bridge will get some much needed rehabilitation this summer. Union County Commissioners approved funding for improvements to Hassenplug Bridge (PA-60-03). Member Joe McCarthy reported to our Society that work is scheduled to start this June or July. Hassenplug Bridge was constructed in 1825 and rehabilitated in 1959.

Bartram's Bridge

We have recently been informed by member Joe McCarthy that Bartram's Bridge in Chester/Delaware counties (PA-15-17 & PA-23-02) will be rehabilitated this coming fall, 2021. We should have more information about the plan in time for the October newsletter.

OUT-OF-STATE BRIDGE NEWS**CONNECTICUT**
Barn Yard Bridge

Bill Caswell, President of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, brought us good news about a new covered bridge in Connecticut. Barn Yard Bridge (CT-07-09) is located in Ellington Township, Tolland County. Barn Yard Bridge is a 56-foot, Town truss bridge built by Great Country Timber Frames. The skeleton of the bridge was put in place on April 7, 2021.

Barn Yard Bridge has a metal roof and Douglas fir was used for the flooring. The bridge is located on the Great Country Timber Frames property and the owners welcome visitors.

photo courtesy Great Country Timber Frames Facebook page

**DELAWARE**
Smith's Bridge Damaged by Tractor Trailer

On April 19, 2021 a tractor trailer attempted to cross Smith's Bridge (DE-02-01 #2) in New Castle County, Delaware. Seems the tractor trailer received more damage than the bridge. The portal boards on the east end of the bridge were damaged but there was no structural damage and the bridge remained open. The driver of the truck was charged with inattentive driving along with several commercial truck violations.

Smith's Bridge was originally built in 1839 but lost to a fire on Halloween night in 1961. In 2002 a new covered bridge was built at this location over Brandywine Creek.

(Source: *WDEL Radio*, April 20, 2021)

photo courtesy Delaware Department of Transportation

**INDIANA**
Trailer Stolen From Spencerville Bridge

A trailer containing nearly \$25,000 worth of tools needed to finish the restoration of Spencerville Bridge (IN-17-01) along with a new historical marker for the bridge was stolen the morning of May 28, 2021. The trailer was found a week later but nearly all of the tools and the historical marker were gone.

Much of the lumber underneath Spencerville Bridge was found to be rotted away while work was being done this past winter. Crews worked through the winter to replace the lumber so they could finish the restoration before a reopening ceremony planned for late June. Completion of the bridge restoration has been delayed. Spencerville Bridge is monitored by a surveillance camera.

(Sources: *WANE.com*, May 28, 2021; *NBC Fort Wayne*, June 4, 2021)

Cades Mill Bridge Restoration Continues

Cades Mill Bridge (IN-23-02) in Fountain County, built in 1854, is one of Indiana's oldest standing covered bridges. Fountain County Art Council wants to preserve the two Fountain County covered bridges that are in need of repair. The Art Council started a fundraising campaign to seek donations for the Cades Mill Bridge restoration. (continued on page 11)

OUT-OF-STATE BRIDGE NEWS

(Cades Mill continued from page 10)

Phase One of the restoration project was to stabilize the bridge with steel supports to keep it from falling into Coal Creek. Work for Phase One was completed in December of 2019. Phase Two of the project is to replace the rotted lower chords and the flooring. Work is scheduled for this summer or fall at a cost of \$292,475. Phase Three is to repair the siding and Phase Four is to paint the bridge and provide signage. Once the project to restore Cades Mill Bridge is complete plans will be put in place to restore Wallace Bridge (IN-23-01).

The Art Council is seeking funds through grants, the county, organizations, businesses and individuals. To donate to the Fountain County Historical Committee Covered Bridge Fund, donations can be sent to: Western Indiana Community Foundation, P.O. Box 175, Covington, IN 47932, with a designation to Covered Bridges Fund. Donations also can be made online at www.wicf-inc.org/donations.php. The Fountain County Art Council is a non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

(Source: *Commercial-News.com*, March 20, 2021)

KENTUCKY***Beech Fork Bridge Destroyed by Fire***

We have lost another covered bridge, likely by arson. Beech Fork/Mt. Zion Bridge (KY-115-01) burned down on March 9, 2021. Sheriff Jerry Pinkston, of Washington County, was alerted to the fire about 11 p.m. As of Wednesday morning, March 10th the bridge was completely destroyed. Beech Fork Bridge had been restored in 2017 by Arnold Graton & Associates of New Hampshire. When the bridge was restored a fire retardant was applied. The fire retardant was not enough to save the bridge from the intensity of the fire. Surveillance video appears to show the bridge was basically “blown up.”

(Sources: *WLKY*, March 10, 2021; *WDRB.com*, March 10, 2021; *Spectrum News 1*, March 12, 2021)



Beech Fork Bridge before restoration
photo by Jim Smedley 2013



Beech Fork Bridge after restoration
photo by Bill Caswell 2018

NEW HAMPSHIRE***Bement Bridge Back in Place, Whittier Bridge Stays Put***

Contractors are simply too busy to place bids to relocate Whittier Bridge (NH-02-08) over Bearcamp River in Carroll County. Whittier Bridge has been closed since 2008. There are only two area contractors qualified to move the bridge and both are simply too busy with other projects. Two efforts to obtain bids to move the bridge have failed. Officials will make another attempt this year to receive a bid to move the bridge and hopefully it will be moved early next year.

Bement Bridge (NH-07-03) in Merrimack County was moved about 50 feet upstream last year so crews could replace the abutments. New granite abutments were built on existing bedrock. Daniels Construction performed the work on the abutments as well as replacing a number of deteriorated timbers. Bement Bridge was moved back over the West Branch of Warner River on April 27th using rollers on a steel frame pulled by winches and cables. Crews will now reinstall the siding. The total cost of the project is approximately \$1.65 million.

(Sources: *Conway Daily News*, April 7, 2021; *Concord Monitor*, April 29, 2021)

OUT-OF-STATE BRIDGE NEWS**OHIO****Good News for Knowlton Bridge**

Knowlton Bridge (OH-56-18) in Monroe County has lost two of its three spans over the last few years. As plans were being made to replace the first span that collapsed, the second span gave way. Monroe County officials are determined to have the bridge rebuilt and likely reopened to traffic. Officials visited a large area of county-owned property in an effort to locate timber that would be usable to rebuild the bridge. They located at least 115 white oak trees that could be used for the project. Use of the local lumber could significantly reduce the cost of the project estimated to be about \$1.3 million. The Ohio Department of Transportation has provided a \$950,000 grant for the project.

ODOT originally required Monroe County to provide \$45,000 in matching funds, but has now considered the use of the local timber an equivalent to matching funds.

ODOT will now provide 100% of the funding for the project providing local lumber is used. The design work for Knowlton Bridge is complete so the next step is to put the bridge rebuild project out for bids. County officials are hopeful work can be started later this year or early 2022.



Knowlton Bridge with its only remaining span.
photo by Gloria Smedley, May 22, 2021

Knowlton Bridge is owned by the county and located in Covered Bridge Park where there is a picnic area. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 11, 1980.

(Sources: *The Intelligencer-Wheeling News-Register*, December 28, 2020; *Times Leader*, March 15, 2021)

Mary Ruffner Bridge to be Relocated

Mary Ruffner Bridge crosses a pond on private property. photo by Jim Smedley, October, 2014.

Owners of the Mary Ruffner Bridge (OH-64-84) in Perry County are willing to have the bridge removed from their property and relocated to another area where it can be enjoyed by more people. The bridge was moved to their property from Fairfield County in 1986. It appears now it may be going back to Fairfield County. Sensory Trail Park was acquired by lease from the Board of County Commissioners of Fairfield County in 2017. The little park would like to have the Mary Ruffner Bridge relocated there. The cost to dismantle, relocate and rebuild the bridge was originally estimated to be \$400,000. An effort to cut those costs has been successful thanks to help from Michael Tharp, Superintendent of Lancaster Parks and Recreation. Quotes obtained by Tharp include \$40,000 to move the bridge and \$150,000 for removal of the roof and awnings for transport, permit

fees, abutment construction, and reassembly costs. Approximately \$100,000 has been raised for the project. Anyone wishing to contribute to help bring Mary Ruffner Bridge back to Fairfield County should contact Fairfield County Foundation, Sensory Trail Fund, 740-654-8541.

(Source: *Fairfield County Park District Newsletter*, March 12, 2021)

VERMONT**Big Eddy/Waitsfield Bridge Struck by Truck**

On May 28, 2021 an oversized Ryder Rental truck struck the Big Eddy Bridge (VT-12-14) in Washington County. The truck was traveling eastbound when it struck the portal of the bridge before becoming wedged inside. Officials have removed the broken portal boards but there was no significant structural damage to the bridge so it remained open to traffic.

(Source: *WCAX News*, May 28, 2021)

OUT-OF-STATE BRIDGE NEWS**WEST VIRGINIA*****Funding Sought for Barrackville Bridge Preservation***

Barrackville Bridge (WV-25-02) is a beautiful bridge located in Fairmont, Marion County. The bridge has deteriorated over the years and is in need of repair. Architectural Engineers declared the bridge in poor condition and suggested repairs should begin as soon as possible. Fortunately, the abutments are in good condition. The Barrackville Covered Bridge Preservation Society will meet on June 29th to discuss fund raising efforts.

(Sources: *Times West Virginia*, April 29 and May 27, 2021)

Interior of Brockville Bridge showing wear in September 2010.
photo by Jim Smedley

**ONTARIO, CANADA*****West Montrose Bridge Set For Rehabilitation***

West Montrose Bridge (59-50-01) is the only remaining covered bridge in Ontario, Canada. The 1881 built, Queenpost truss bridge is also known as Kissing Bridge. Canadian and Ontario governments and the Waterloo Region announced \$6.25 million in joint funding to rehabilitate the bridge. According to an article in *Construction Canada*, "Work will include removing and replacing steel bailey trusses with concealed steel girders, repairing and replacing the roof, and reinstalling the fire alarm system. While under construction, the bridge will be temporarily supported to preserve its structural integrity and heritage design."

(Source: *Construction Canada*, April 1, 2021)

QUEBEC, CANADA***Pont de la Calamité Lost to Fire***

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges sent us late news that de la Calamité Bridge (61-02-04) in western Quebec has been lost to a fire on June 1, 2021. The bridge was reduced to rubble. The fire department is investigating the cause but for now can only say they believe the fire started under the bridge.

De la Calamité Bridge was built in 1927. It was a Town variation truss, 122-foot structure.

OTHER TBCBSP & COVERED BRIDGE RELATED NEWS & EVENTS***National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges Annual Tour***

This year's annual tour and meeting for the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges will be on September 18-20, 2021 in western Indiana. You do not have to be a member of the National Society to be a part of the tour. The current plan is to visit at least 35 covered bridges in Parke County and nearby counties in western Indiana.

Base of operations are at the Pear Tree Inn at exit 7 off I-70 in Terre Haute, Indiana. No discounts are available for staying at the Pear Tree Inn so attendees are welcome to choose any of 9 other motels in the area. Contact number for Pear Tree is 812-234-4268. We suggest you contact Bill Caswell, President of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges at WSCaswell@yahoo.com to let him know you plan to attend. You can also write to Bill for information at: Bill Caswell, 535 Second NH Turnpike, Hillsboro, NH 03244-4601.

OTHER TBCBSP & COVERED BRIDGE RELATED NEWS***See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week***

A special thank you to everyone who participated in providing covered bridge information & display boards to Welcome Centers to help celebrate See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week. Bob and Judy Kuether and Frank and Pam Mailey provided displays to seven Welcome Centers. Connie McLaughlin delivered one to the I-90 W. Erie County Welcome Center in the far northwest corner of the state as well as the I-95 N. Welcome Center in Delaware County. Tony and Karen Abramo traveled to our north to provide the I-81 S. Susquehanna County Welcome Center with a display. Members Jim and Gloria Smedley, Tom Walczak, Ray Finkelstein, Tim McLaughlin and Steve Wolfhope also helped by providing displays to Welcome Centers. In addition to the display boards, our Society provided the Welcome Centers with multiple handouts with information about bridges in the state of Pennsylvania.



Karen and Tony Abramo at the
I-81 S. Center in Susquehanna County



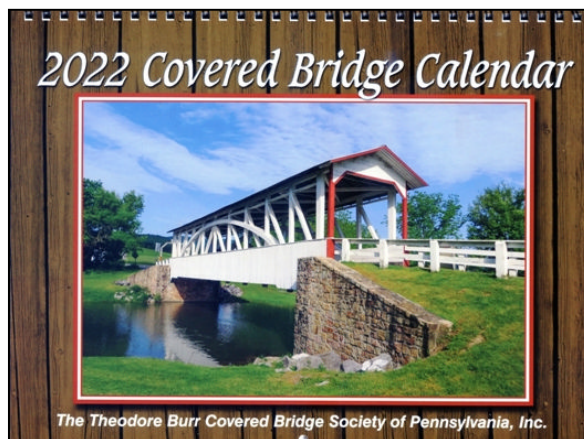
Connie McLaughlin at the
I-95 N. Welcome Center in Delaware County

2022 Covered Bridge Calendar

New 2022 calendar includes 13 color photos of Pennsylvania Covered Bridges
submitted by TBCBSP Members

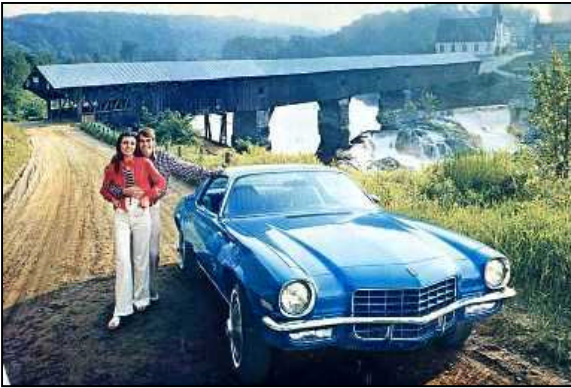
Price \$10.00 plus \$3.00 postage

Calendar is high quality (not thin paper), produced by a professional printer, spiral bound & measures 8-1/2x11



Bridge photos include: Hall's Mill (Cover) (Bedford Co.), Dreibelbis Station (Berks Co.), Shriver (Greene Co.), Kreidersville (Northampton Co.), Cox Farm (Greene Co.), Kidd's Mill (Mercer Co.), King's (Somerset Co.), Kochenderfer's (Perry Co.), Griesemer's Mill (Berks Co.), Plant's (Washington Co.), North Oriental (Juniata & Snyder Cos.), Schofield Ford (Bucks Co.), Red Run/Oberholtzers Mill (Lancaster Co.)

Send orders to: Bob Kuether, Treas., 1080 5th Avenue, Steelton, PA 17113
For postage cost on multiple items order please contact Bob Kuether 717-939-8228
Or email: kuether@verizon.net

OTHER TBCBSP & COVERED BRIDGE RELATED NEWS***Do You Remember?***

The bridge is Bath Bridge in Grafton County, New Hampshire (NH-05-03). The car is a Chevrolet Camaro Sports Coupe, likely early 1970s



Member Greg Williams took this photo of his 1969 Chevrolet Caprice 4Dr Sedan at St. Mary's Bridge in Huntingdon County (PA-31-01)

**← Looking Back ←
Schofield Ford Bridge**

Schofield Ford Bridge (PA-09-13 #2) crosses Neshaminy Creek connecting Newton and Northampton townships in Bucks County. It is also known as Twining Ford Bridge. It is located on a trail system for horse and pedestrian traffic in Tyler State Park. The first bridge at this location was likely built in the mid-1800s and lost to arson on October 7, 1991. The hemlock planks and cedar-shake roof were consumed by fire that destroyed the bridge in less than a half hour.



The first Schofield Ford Bridge in 1977 (left) and 1983.
Courtesy TBCBSP archives

A group of concerned citizens along with State Senator James C. Greenwood headed a fundraising committee to rebuild Schofield Ford Bridge. Money was raised through the sale of color prints, jars were placed in restaurants and stores for donations and various horse shows and bike and hike events were held. By the fall of 1995 the abutments & piers were completed. Construction of the bridge began in the summer

of 1996 by Woodhouse Post & Beam Company of Mansfield, PA. The cost of the project was \$350,000. The new bridge was an exact replica of the first bridge including the series of Queenpost trusses that ran the entire length of the 166 foot, 2-span, Town Lattice truss structure. Schofield Ford Bridge was dedicated on September 6, 1997. It is the longest covered bridge standing in Bucks County.

(Sources: *Lost Bridges.org*; *Wooden Covered Spans*, Fall 1991, Vol. 15 No. 1, Winter 1998, Vol. 21 No.1; *The Advance of Bucks County*, October 11, 1991, September 28, 1995; *PA Crossings*, Spring 1993, Vol. 16 No. 2, Spring 1994, Vol. 17 No. 2)



Schofield Ford Bridge photo at left by Jim Smedley 2009, photo at right by Lynn Appman 2020

PENNSYLVANIA CROSSINGS – SUMMER 2021

James and Gloria Smedley, Co-editors
1143 Sage Dr.
York, PA 17408



FIRST CLASS

16 - PENNSYLVANIA CROSSINGS

SUMMER 2021

A PREVIEW OF THE SOCIETY'S UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| June 19, 2021 | - Event: | A one-day safari to covered bridges in northeast Lancaster County led by Tony Abramo (see page 6) |
| July 11, 2021 | - Place & Time: | Manheim Community Farm Show Exhibition Center, 502 Adele Ave., Manheim, PA 17545 - Sunday 2 p.m. |
| | Program: | "Game Day." Bob and Judy Kuether will lead us in various games like Covered Bridge Bingo, Word Search, Word Scramble, etc. |
| August 1, 2021 | - Place & Time: | Manheim Community Farm Show Exhibition Center, 502 Adele Ave., Manheim, PA 17545 - Sunday 2 p.m. |
| | Program: | "Covered Bridges of Cumberland County, Part 2 by Bob Kuether |
| August 28-30, 2021 | - Event: | Annual Safari to southeast Ohio. (See insert for information.) |
| September 12, 2021 | - Place & Time: | Historic Poole Forge and Covered Bridge Park.
Gather at 12:00 noon, picnic lunch shortly thereafter. |
| | - Event: | Annual Picnic - Everyone bring a dish to share with 8 to 10 people. Bring your own tableware and beverages. |
| October 17, 2021 | - Place & Time: | Manheim Community Farm Show Exhibition Center, 502 Adele Ave., Manheim, PA 17545 - Sunday 2 p.m. |
| | - Program: | "Our Society's Year in Review" by Thomas E. Walczak |

We hope you will join us for our 2021 Safari to southeastern Ohio. Some of the bridges we plan on visiting are not particularly close to the main road so we will be doing some gravel road motoring to the bridges. It will be an adventure for most of us and a chance to see covered bridges not often visited. (If you plan on ordering a safari shirt please note the early deadline of July 11th on the shirt order form.)

*Join us for our 2021 Covered Bridge Safari
in Southeastern Ohio
This will be a three-day safari on August 28-29-30, 2021*

**Headquarters for the Safari will be:
Baymont by Wyndham Marietta, 701 Pike Street, Marietta, Ohio 45750**

Baymont Motel is located just east of exit 1 off I-77
Phone: 740-374-9660

Group Rates: \$60.00 plus tax & fees each night (approximately \$8)
\$10 each person extra for over 2 people in a room
Rooms with 2 Queens or 1 King bed are available
(Motel has two floors but an elevator is available)

**Make your reservations for Friday, Saturday & Sunday nights, August 27, 28, 29.
Call the motel directly to make reservations.**

Tell the receptionist you are with the "Covered Bridge Tour" & mention the \$60 rate.
Twenty five rooms have been reserved. Cut-off date to make reservations is August 17, 2021.
Jim & Gloria Smedley, Bob & Judy Kuether are our Safari Leaders.

We will be visiting all of the bridges in Washington, Noble & Monroe counties and three bridges in Morgan County. Bridge visit plan (subject to change):

Saturday: Manchester, Parrish, Park Hill Road, Milton Dye, Rosseau, Schwenderman's.

Sunday: Harra, Bell, Mill Branch/Barlow, Root, Henry/Goddard, Barkhurst Mill/Williams, Shinn.

Monday: Hills/Hildreth, Hune, Rinard, Knowlton, Foraker
(We will have a brief pre-safari meeting on Friday night at 7:00 p.m.)

For more information contact Jim Smedley, 717-800-8435 or jbsmedley@comcast.net

2021 SAFARI REGISTRATION FORM

Safari Fee is \$10 for each person planning to attend. It includes an 8X10 digital or hard copy photo of all participants at a bridge on the Safari trail, snacks and water & a patch commemorating the Safari.

Name(s): _____ Phone # _____

_____ Reservation(s) at \$10 each person = \$ _____

Total Payment = \$ _____

Send check payable to TBCBSP & registration form to:

Robert Kuether, 1080 5th Ave., Steelton, PA 17113

Or make payment through PayPal to ebridge59@verizon.net

The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA Covered Bridge Shirts Order Form 2021 Safari to Southeastern Ohio

The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA, Inc. is taking orders for our 2021 Safari commemorative shirt. The shirts will have a picture of Root Bridge in Washington County, Ohio on the front. All shirts will contain the Society Logo on the left sleeve and under the logo it will say "SAFARI 2021." (Note the logo on the photo at the right says 2020 but we will change this to 2021.) The shirt color is sport gray and the image is a "direct-to-garment" 9" X 6.5" digital print.

We are taking orders for the shirts to have them available by the August 1st Society's meeting in Manheim.

Orders will be taken through Sunday, July 11, 2021.



Payment must accompany the order. We are unable to order shirts for individuals without pre-payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number or e-mail address in case there are questions regarding your order:

Indicate number of shirts & the cost in the boxes below for each type of shirt ordered:

Gray Regular T-Shirt	Small \$13.00 ea	Medium \$ 13.00 ea	Large \$ 13.00 ea	X-Large \$ 13.00 ea	2X-Large \$ 15.00 ea	3X-Large \$ 16.00 ea
Quantity						
Total \$						

Gray Long Sleeve T-Shirt	Small 15.00 ea	Medium \$ 15.00 ea	Large \$ 15.00 ea	X-Large \$ 15.00 ea	2X-Large \$ 16.00 ea	3X-Large \$ 17.00 ea
Quantity						
Total \$						

Gray Sweatshirt	Small 17.00 ea	Medium \$ 17.00 ea	Large \$ 17.00 ea	X-Large \$ 17.00 ea	2X-Large \$ 18.00 ea	3X-Large \$ 19.00 ea
Quantity						
Total \$						

If you want the shirt(s) shipped to you
include postage of:

\$ 5.00 for each shirt ordered (any style)

Please indicate when you will pick up your shirt(s).....August 1st Meeting: _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Please make check payable to: TBCBSP

OR Safari: _____

Return order form with payment to:

**Jim Smedley
TBCBSP
1143 Sage Drive
York, PA 17408**

