

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 2026 (VOL. 49, NO. 3)

FEATURE PHOTO



Group photo of attendees at Rudolph & Arthur Bridge during our 2026 Safari to Chester County on May 16-17.

THE THEODORE BURR COVERED BRIDGE SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC., normally meets on the first Sunday of each month except in January and February when there are no meetings. (If a major holiday interferes, the meeting normally is held on the following Sunday.) Other than special locations, meetings are held at St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust Street, Columbia, PA 17512 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. 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 1st to the Treasurer: Judy Kuether, 1080 5th Avenue, Steelton, PA 17113. **You can pay your dues through PayPal** (only for individuals, family, or group/corporate memberships). Log into your *PayPal* account, click on send money, enter ebridge59@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>

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR CO-EDITORS

We continue to have an abundance of news about Pennsylvania's covered bridges and our society's events. This issue includes updates on the rehabilitation of Bogert's in Lehigh County, Kintersburg in Indiana County and Bartram's in Delaware/Chester counties. Our 2026 Safari to Chester County was very successful on a beautiful weekend. Our attendance at the safari was fifty-eight, all having a most enjoyable two days seeing fifteen bridges.

Our 2027 Pennsylvania Covered Bridges Calendar is now available. Thanks to our members who submitted photos for the contest. It can be purchased through our Country Storekeepers, Bob and Judy Kuether, or you can obtain one through eBay. It is not too early to think about taking photos of our bridges for submission for our 2028 calendar.

Our members continued to support See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week by setting up displays at PA Welcome Centers and other Information Centers as well as spending time at the centers to greet travelers and talk to them about Pennsylvania's covered bridges. Attendance was excellent again at our Anniversary Dinner in May. Fifty members and sixteen guests attended the dinner.

Please see our articles on applying fire retardant to covered bridges, obtaining grants for placement of Historical Signs, and our successful fundraisers.

We would like to invite members again to write articles for our Wooden Covered Spans Magazine and Pennsylvania Crossings Newsletter. Send your article to us at the email listed below.

A reminder to members to send in their dues for 2026-2027. Dues for members for the upcoming year will remain the same. The last time our dues increased was 2008. Printing and postage have risen significantly since then but members support of our various fundraisers (bake sales, Easter egg sales, raffles, Country Stores sales, eBay sales, etc.) provides enough money to maintain the current dues rate.

We 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 FALL Issue of *Pennsylvania Crossings* is Sunday, October 4, 2026. 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 7, 2026, we have 337 members.

NEW MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Name change: Donna King to Donna McClane
Brian Wilde, Phoenixville, PA

GET WELL WISHES TO:

- Get well wishes to Michael Chorazy who has been experiencing some very difficult and serious health problems. Michael became ill while in Spain recently. He is home now recovering but it will be a long, uphill battle.
- Get well wishes to Ray Finkelstein who broke his arm when he fell last month.
- All our members and their families who may be experiencing health issues.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

- The family of member Jeffrey Hewitson who passed away last year on February 11th.
- The family of member Sandy Adrion who passed away on February 5, 2026.
- The family of member Gene Ross who passed away on March 25, 2026.
- The family of member Cherie Boyer who passed away on May 25, 2026.

In Remembrance

Sandy Adrion



Sandy Adrion, 71, passed away on February 5, 2026, in Pine Hill, New Jersey. She was a member of The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania since 1995. Sandy often provided our society with information about Green Sergeants Bridge in New Jersey as well as Bucks County bridges. She was a member contributor to the Name That Bridge group where covered bridge enthusiasts connected to try to identify a photo of unidentified bridges. Sandy also enjoyed lighthouses.

Sandy is survived by her brother George "Bud" Adrion. Predeceased are her parents George and June Adrion and her loving sister, June. Sandy experienced many medical ailments during 2025 and was heartbroken when her sister passed away in August 2025.

Eugene (Gene) Ross

Gene Ross, 88, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2026, in Chantilly, Virginia surrounded by his loving family. Gene was born on July 26, 1937, in Indianola, Pennsylvania.



He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Gene also earned a Master of Science degree in Engineering Administration from Southern Methodist University.

Gene married his wife Jeannine in 1961 and had three children, Eugene, Jr., Deanna, and Kara and three grandchildren. He is also survived by three of his four siblings. He served 26 years in the United States Air Force retiring as a Colonel. Following retirement from the USAF Gene worked in the space and defense industry for Kaman Sciences and Northrop Grumman.

Gene was a sports fan as well as an athlete. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, soccer, golf, skiing and jogging as well as watching the Pittsburgh Steelers, Penguins and Pirates.

Many of our members remember Gene when he unexpectedly showed up at some of our events and dinners, often with his wife Jeannine. He helped our society decorate Dr. Knisley Bridge in Bedford County in 2008 with wreaths and garland and paint Red Bridge in Perry County in 2019. He joined the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania in 1997 and became a Life Member in 2012. Gene will be remembered and missed by our society. He was always an enjoyable person to be around with his pleasant nature and keen sense of humor.

Cherie Boyer



Cherie L. Boyer, 79, of Montandon, PA, passed away on May 25, 2026. Cherie was born in Williamsport, PA, on February 24, 1947. She graduated from Milton high School in 1964. She was the tax collector for West Chillisquaque Township for many years and was an owner of Century 21 in Milton. She was married to the late Clyde Boyer. Cherie collected salt and pepper shakers and was an avid Phillies Phan.

She is survived by two of her four children, nine grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren.

Cherie was a member of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania since 2001. She generously donated her covered bridge collection to the Burr Society.

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.**

December 7, 2025

The TBCBSP's Annual Holiday Meal was held at Yoder's Family Restaurant in New Holland, PA starting at 11:30am; 64 people attended the brunch buffet followed by the monthly meeting.

President Gloria Smedley called the meeting to order at 1:07pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members' Reports: Joe McCarthy provided updates for repairs to Leaman Place, Neff's Mill, Bartram's, and Kintersburg bridges. Joe is working on a 40-foot, Burr arch truss bridge that will be in a park near Kennedy Bridge and called Clyde Scheib Memorial Covered Bridge.

Sara Beth Kohut mentioned Pine Grove Bridge has been repaired and is open and Bob Griner mentioned it was an honor to see Joe McCarthy's group remove Kintersburg Bridge.

Officers' Reports: 2nd VP Ray Finkelstein reported work has finally started on Bogert's Bridge. The roof and siding have been removed, and the bridge will be raised two feet.

President Gloria Smedley provided an update on all the National Register of Historic Places signs that have been placed at PA covered bridges. Gloria also informed members of a large donation of covered bridge memorabilia from Arleen Bradley who is moving to a health facility in Pittsburgh. Information was also provided on our upcoming safari to Chester County, Easter egg sales fundraiser in March and a planned auction of some of the Bradley donations.

Gloria and Secretary Pam Mailey reported on the Fall Online Fundraiser raising \$391 for our society and the York Christmas Show on December 6th sold about \$300. The booth was manned by Gloria and Pam.

March 1, 2026

President Gloria Smedley called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., welcomed attendees and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members' Reports: Joe McCarthy recently took a road trip south and saw Campbell's Bridge, the only remaining covered bridge in South Carolina. Work has begun on Kintersburg Bridge. Joe managed to save 52% of the existing lumber in the bridge. He has also started work on Bartram's Bridge.

Greg Williams visited Rocks, Sachs, Heikes and Zimmerman's bridges recently and noted Zimmerman's has some graffiti on the bridge.

Officers' Reports: President Gloria Smedley reported she and Jim visited Indiana County's covered bridges and all looked good. Shaffer Bridge in Somerset County and Snooks in Bedford looked nice but Dr. Knisley needs paint. They also visited about 8 bridges in Perry County. All looked good except for a few needing paint. Plans are also in place for providing fire retardant to Waggoner's, Fort Hunter, Bartram's, and Academia bridges.

Gloria thanked everyone who showed up to remove decorations from Poole forge Bridge on January 11th. She also updated the society on the National Register of Historic Places signs in PA which now total twelve signs either already installed or are in the process of ordering.

Gloria showed three new Cat's Meow Shelf Sitters now in the Country Store (Philippi, Knox, and Sachs). Sales of Cat's Meow Shelf Sitters earned our society \$479.90 in commission for four years of sales by the manufacturer of the items. Our society provided photos used to make the shelf sitters.

Bob and Judy Kuether have been inventorying the donated collection from the Bradleys of which many items were included in today's auction. EBay sales from the collection have already exceeded \$250.00.

Greg Williams showed members a plate of Colemanville Bridge he recently purchased and a puzzle by Memory Lane of butterflies and a covered bridge sold by Walmart.

Our society is planning a redesign of our website. We will also soon be revisiting our current Bylaws.

PROGRAM: "Berks County Heritage Center, Including Wertz's Bridge" by Fred Moll.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT MEETINGS

April 12, 2026

President Gloria Smedley called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m., welcomed attendees and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed President of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges (NSPCB) Bill Caswell and his wife Jenn from New Hampshire and Scott Bomboy, Chairperson of the Bucks County Covered Bridge Association.

Members' Reports: Tim and Connie McLaughlin visited Bartram's to see status of repairs. They also saw Gibson's, Jackson's Sawmill, Colemanville, Lime Valley and Neff's Mill; reported all were good.

Scott Bomboy reported Bucks County Covered Bridge Association received 2 grants: First one to update their app to include 250-year celebrations at bridges and Washington's Crossing and the second for September's annual event at Sheard's Mill. He also reported Van Sandt's Bridge is leaning/wobbly with a buckle in 1 corner.

Officers' Reports: President Gloria Smedley reported Adams County wants to add a cap to the wing walls at Sachs Bridge since stones become loose and are stolen. They may seek funding from NSPCB and TBCBSP to help support this effort after checking state regulations about modifying the structure since listed on National Register of Historic Places. Gloria updated the society on National Register signs and plans for fire retardant application at various bridges.

Secretary Pam Mailey reported our society raised \$285 selling Easter eggs. Treasurer Judy Kuether reported sales of \$364 at last month's silent auction of items from the Bradley collection. Historian Fred Moll and Shirley visited Poole Forge, Pleasantville and Griesemer's Mill in March and noted paint is peeling off Griesemer's badly.

1st VP Jim Smedley informed members we had 152 photos submitted by 20 photographers for the 2027 calendar contest. The calendar will include photos from 4 new photographers, 4 bridges that were never in our calendar and will represent 8 counties.

Heather Watkins updated members on the upcoming safari to Chester County and Gloria informed members of plans for the upcoming See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week, May 9-17.

PROGRAM: "Some of the Many Achievements of the Late Arnold Gratton" by Bill Caswell, President, NSPCB.

May 3, 2026

The TBCBSP's Annual Anniversary Meal was held at Yoder's Family Restaurant in New Holland, PA starting at 11:30am; 67 people attended the brunch buffet followed by the monthly meeting; grace given by Eric Wienen. President Gloria Smedley called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests of Joe McCarthy and Carol Wright were introduced.

Members' Reports: Joe's Company is re-building Kintersburg Bridge at his shop. He will advise when trusses are complete so members can view it before being moved to Indiana, PA for rebuild in October.

Tim and Connie McLaughlin saw Speakman #1 and Harmony Hill bridges and said both looked good.

Officers' Reports: 2nd VP Ray Finkelstein reported work on Bogert's Bridge is progressing, but very slowly.

Secretary Pam Mailey and 3rd VP Frank Mailey saw Red Run Bridge which needs siding repairs and paint, and Bucher's Mill Bridge.

Gloria updated members on progress for the Historic Places signs. Four signs have been installed and at least seven more are in process. The Society has received \$21,856 for the placement of Historic signs. Gloria also updated members on our continuing effort to apply fire retardant to bridges in Pennsylvania.

Bob and Judy Kuether provided items for sale from the Clyde and Arleen Bradley collection as well as our new 2027 Pennsylvania Covered Bridges Calendar.

Members were reminded about See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week, May 9-17 Sara Beth Kohut read the Annual Proclamation from the Governor's Office. Judy Kuether mailed handouts and rack cards of updated information to the 4 Welcome Centers with permanent displays. The rack cards now include the QR code.

Christine Weaver distributed Discover Lancaster Visitor's Center "Hospitality Booklets" to members.

PENNSYLVANIA BRIDGE NEWS

Anderson Farm Bridge in Poor Condition

Anderson Farm Bridge (PA-01-05) in Adams County is in dire need of repair. Jim Smedley and Joe McCarthy visited the bridge on March 21st at the request of the owner to determine the extent of damage to the bridge since it was placed over the pond in 1994.

The bridge damage could not be adequately assessed because the pond was near the bottom of the bridge, although it was obvious the lower chords on both sides were fractured. McCarthy determined the bridge must be lifted to dry land to be repaired. The problem is it would likely collapse if it were lifted. He estimated a cost of \$300,000-\$400,000 to repair the bridge.

Anderson Farm Bridge was originally located over Mud Run four miles southeast of York Springs and is also known as Reeser's or Mud Run Bridge. The 1883 built Burr arch truss bridge was moved to Anderson Farm in 1962 after it was heavily damaged by an overweight dump truck in September of 1961. Anderson Farm was sold to Agrow Fertilizers who wanted the land where the bridge resided for expansion. The bridge was moved a second time to its current location about 2 miles south of the Agrow Fertilizer business.



Anderson Farm / Mud Run Bridge
Photo by Jim Smedley, March 21, 2026.

Plans Begin for Griesemer's Mill Bridge Rehabilitation

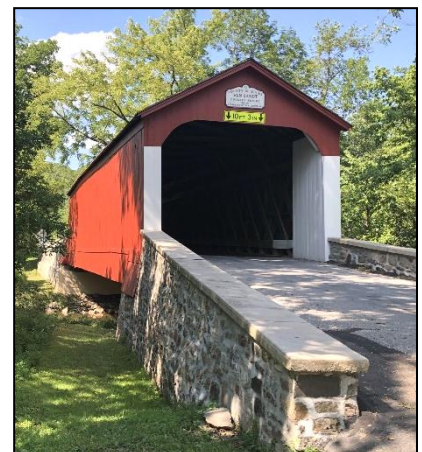
On March 13, 2026, the *Reading Eagle* posted a request for bids for bridge design services for the planned rehabilitation of Griesemer's Mill Bridge (PA-06-03) in Berks County. In part, the article reads: "The County of Berks will retain a PennDOT qualified engineering consultant to provide environmental studies, preliminary engineering, final design, right-of-way acquisition services and construction consultation for the rehabilitation of Griesemer's Mill Covered Bridge, County Bridge #58A, Spangsville Road over Manatawny Creek in Oley township, Berks County. The existing structure is listed on the National Historic Register, is currently weight-restricted at 3 tons and designated as Functionally Obsolete." Bids were to be received by the Berks County Procurement Manager by April 16th.

Griesemer's Mill Bridge was built in 1868 with a Burr arch truss. It is one of five remaining covered bridges in Berks County. The TBCBSP painted Griesemer's Mill Bridge on September 13, 2013.

Community Rallies to Help Protect Van Sandt Bridge

In February, Scott Bomboy, Chair of the Bucks County Covered Bridge Association learned that PECO (Philadelphia Energy Company) planned to remove most of the trees on either side of Van Sandt Bridge (PA-09-03) to install new high-voltage lines very close to the bridge over Pidcock Creek. Power wires do not currently cross the creek or are close to the bridge. The covered bridge and land next to it are all in the FEMA floodway. It appeared PECO planned to push through the project without proper environmental and historical reviews required.

Interaction by members of the community near Van Sandt Bridge and the Bucks County Covered Bridge Association asked PECO to review their plan. In early March, Scott Bomboy was informed by Representative Tim Brennan's office that PECO decided on a plan that eliminated any construction or tree removal near the bridge. They also will reroute power lines, so they are not in the immediate vicinity of the bridge.



Van Sandt Bridge
Photo by Gloria Smedley, August 2020.

PENNSYLVANIA BRIDGE NEWS

Rehabilitation of South Perkaspie Bridge Resuming

After a series of delays, the South Perkaspie Bridge (PA-09-05) is closer to starting rehabilitation. Scott Bomboy, Chair of the Bucks County Covered Bridge Association, provides our society with the latest updates.

The PA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has approved the rehabilitation plan as having no adverse effect on the covered bridge's historical integrity. Under the Section 106 review process, the Delaware Nation, as a consulting party by right, has requested a Phase 1B archaeological investigation. That requires digging some small pits in the area of potential effects (APE) or the footprint of the new abutment structure. FEMA provided the "digging" on May 15th and sent its report to the Delaware Nation on May 22nd. The Delaware Nation should submit its report within 45 days. If there are no adverse effects, and the project then meets congressional approval, funds would then be transferred from FEMA to PEMA to Perkaspie's bank account and work to rehabilitate the bridge should start by mid-August to early September.

Bartram's Bridge Work Near Completion

Eastern Highway Specialists of Wilmington, Delaware was the contractor for the rehabilitation of Bartram's Bridge (PA-15-17 & PA-23-02) in Chester and Delaware counties. Lancaster County Timber Frames, Inc. did the timber repairs for the bridge. Timber repairs began at the end of January 2026 and were finished by early April. Installation of new siding has not been completed as of May 17, 2026. The Newtown Square Historical Society is requesting donations to pay for the siding material. If you would like to donate, go to: www.nshistory.org.



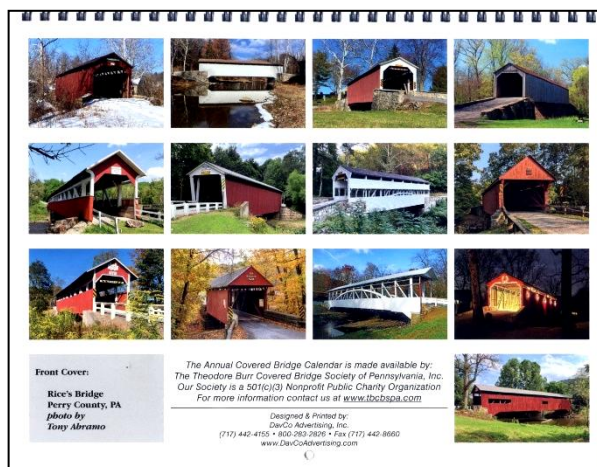
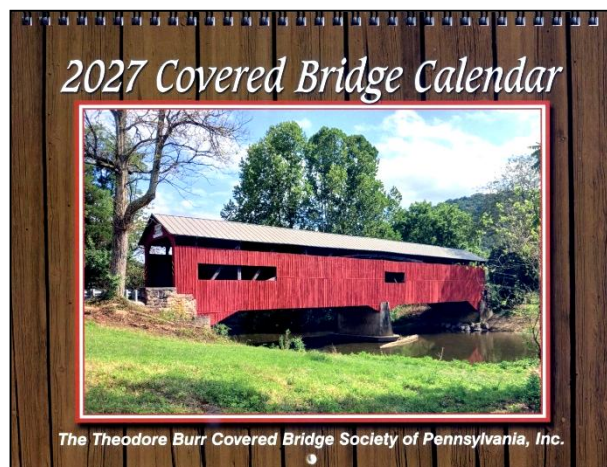
Bartram's Bridge on May 17, 2026
Photo Jim Smedley.

2027 Covered Bridge Calendar

New 2027 calendar includes 13 color photos of
Pennsylvania Covered Bridges submitted by TBCBSP Members

Price \$15.00 (\$11.00 plus \$4.00 postage)

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



Bridge photos include: Rice's (Cover) (Perry Co.), Waggoner's (Perry Co.), Rudolph & Arthur (Chester Co.), Erb's (Lancaster Co.), Schofield Ford (Bucks Co.), Barronvale (Somerset Co.), Thomas / Thomas Ford (Indiana Co.), Knox (Chester Co.), Bailey (Washington Co.), Glessner (Somerset Co.), Jackson's Mill (Washington Co.), Bowser / Osterburg (Bedford Co.), Poole Forge (Lancaster Co.).

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

PENNSYLVANIA BRIDGE NEWS

Kintersburg Bridge Rehabilitation Update

Joe McCarthy of Lancaster County Timber Frames, Inc. and his team continue working on the rehabilitation of Kintersburg Covered Bridge (PA-32-05) in Indiana County. After disassembling the bridge last year, it was brought back to his workplace in York County where it was thoroughly inspected for rotted timber. Unfortunately, more timber than originally anticipated needs replacement. Joe estimated 48% of the timber will need to be replaced. The additional timbers have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in mid-August. Reconstruction of Kintersburg Bridge is set for mid-October.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation gave its approval for the \$1.3 million project and provided funding through its Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.

The Kintersburg Covered Bridge was constructed in 1877 in Rayne Township. It was closed to traffic in 1974. The bridge was named after Isaac Kinter, a local shopkeeper, in honor of his father, John Kinter, a Revolutionary War Veteran.

North Oriental Bridge Damaged

The North Oriental Bridge, also known as Curry's Corner Bridge (PA-34-05 & PA-55-05), connects Juniata and Snyder counties over the West Branch of Mahantango Creek. The bridge was recently struck by an oversized vehicle damaging several knee braces in the roof system. The same knee braces were replaced in 2021 after an accident destroyed much of the roof structure. On May 8th Penn DOT submitted a consulting parties request for anyone interested in the historic aspects of the project to repair the knee braces.

Bogert's Bridge Rehabilitation Delayed

The long wait for the rehabilitation of Bogert's Bridge (PA-39-01) has again been delayed. The rehabilitation plan includes raising and stabilizing Bogert's Bridge so the piers can be worked on. Replacement of timbers will also be made while the bridge is raised. Work on the bridge officially began on September 15, 2025, and is expected to last until at least August 2026. The \$2.57 Million contract was awarded to H&P Construction, Inc., of Kulpmont, PA. It is their first covered bridge project.

By early January 2026, all the siding and roof were removed. Lifting the bridge is a slow process for it can only be raised about an inch a day. Inspection of the bridge discovered more trusses and floor beams rot than originally accounted for. Additional wood had to be ordered. This brought the project work to a standstill.



Work on Bogert's Bridge has been at a standstill for a few months.

Photos by Ray Finkelstein, April 11, 2026.

PENNSYLVANIA BRIDGE NEWS

. Shearer's Bridge Scheduled for Repairs

The Manheim Borough Council had a meeting on April 28, 2026, where they approved a contract for \$23,977 with Stable Hollow Woodworking LLC for repairs to Shearer's Bridge (PA-36-31 #2) in Manheim Veterans Memorial Park.

A news article in *Lancaster Online* on May 1st said, "Stable Hollow will repair arches at the water level. Ben Craddock of Lancaster Civil Engineering said the bridge will be closed to pedestrians while repairs are made." The project start date is not known but it is promised to be completed by October 5th.

Although Shearer's Bridge is closed to vehicular traffic it is often crossed by students from the nearby school as well as many visitors to the historic bridge. Shearer's Bridge was relocated from its original site on Colebrook Road in 1971 to the park.



Shearer's Bridge
Photo by Jim Smedley, July 5, 2025.

Perry County Bridges Rehabilitation Update

Our Winter 2026 Issue of *Pennsylvania's Crossings* announced a rehabilitation project for six of Perry county's covered bridges. The six bridges include: Rice's (PA-50-10) in Tyrone Township, Mount Pleasant (PA-50-12) in Jackson Township. New Germantown (PA-50-11) in Toboyne Township, Enslow (PA-50-14) in Jackson Township, Fleisher's (PA-50-17) in Oliver Township, and Dellville (PA-50-16 #3) in Wheatland Township. No timeline for when the work will start has been provided.

On March 18th P. Joseph Lehman, Inc., Consulting Engineers, provided the following news release: "We are proud to be undertaking the preservation and rehabilitation of six historic covered bridges across Perry County, ensuring these valued iconic timber structures remain functional for future generations. We will be working directly for Perry County with PennDOT District 8-0 oversight. Our effort will include survey, bridge inspection and rehabilitation design, roadway design, environmental clearance, permitting, and traffic control. The project involves critical repairs to truss systems, floor beams, and damaged roof sections, as well as painting, and advanced fireproofing measures. Each project will be meticulously designed to meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, maintaining the bridges' unique historic character while significantly extending their service life. We are honored to serve as stewards for these local landmarks, protecting the county's rich architectural heritage through specialized engineering and dedicated preservation efforts."

Repair Work on Red Bridge

Red Bridge (PA-50-06) in Perry County is in need of some masonry work, roof repair, and wood replacement. The Historical Society of Perry County owns the bridge. Work includes repairing the bridge's foundation, removing graffiti, fixing roof leaks, replacing rotted beams, replacing some of the floor planking, and repointing foundation stones. A major part of the work will include diverting water from the bridge's foundation. The total cost of the project is \$12,401.

On March 26th, all masonry work for Red Bridge was completed as well as diverting the stream.

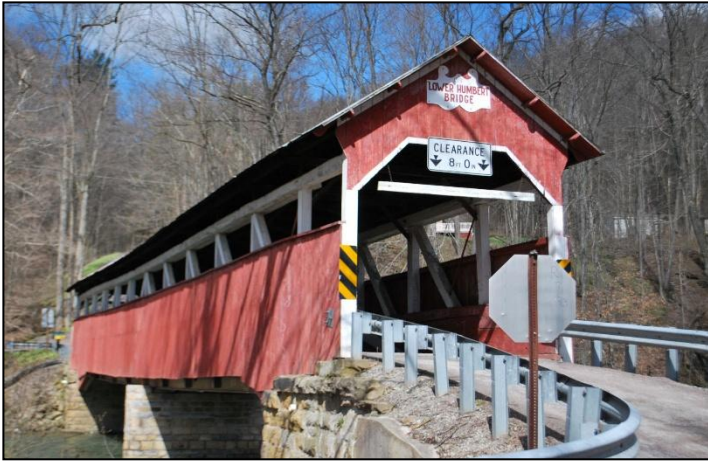
The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA contributed \$1,000 to the project while the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges provided a generous contribution of \$2,950. The Historical Society of Perry County is continuing to raise funds for the remaining work.



Photo of repaired abutment courtesy of
Historical Society of Perry County.

PENNSYLVANIA BRIDGE NEWS

Lower Humbert Bridge Closing for Repairs



Lower Humbert Bridge Photo by Jim Smedley.

Lower Humbert Bridge (PA-56-12) in Somerset County will close this summer for a \$309,360 roof repair project. The contract for the work was awarded to Cottles Asphalt Maintenance of Everett, PA. All roof joists will be replaced. The county received a \$245,000 Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in 2024 for the repair cost. Somerset County work crews will perform some of the work to keep the cost of the project down including painting the bridge and adding an epoxy coating resulting in savings to the county of \$30,000. Somerset County liquid fuels funds will cover the remaining cost. Work is scheduled to begin this summer and will last about three months.

(Source: *The Tribune-Democrat*, March 24, 2026.)

Hubler / Penitentiary Bridge Update

Last summer we reported the floor of the Penitentiary Bridge (PA-60-05) had been removed. We also had earlier reported that the Lewisburg Federal Correction Institution and the owner of the property that shares the bridge with the Penitentiary wanted the bridge to be relocated.

President Gloria Smedley recently spoke with the Assistant Warden at the penitentiary. The floor of the bridge collapsed last year. Plans are being made to rehabilitate the bridge and move it to a more general area within the penitentiary grounds. The warden also said the bridge is very important to the penitentiary. A mural of the bridge is in the prison's dining hall.

Hubler Bridge, built in 1850, is only 33' long with a modified multiple kingpost truss crossing Little Buffalo Creek in Kelly Township.



Penitentiary Bridge in 2019 Photo by Gloria Smedley.

TBCBSP NEWS AND EVENTS

67th Anniversary Dinner

Fifty members and seventeen guests attended our 67th Anniversary Dinner on May 3, 2026, at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland, PA. Our Society has been enjoying Anniversary & Christmas Dinners at Yoder's Restaurant since 2022.



TBCBSP NEWS AND EVENTS

Covered Bridge Safari 2026: May 16-17, 2026

Written by Nicole Jacobson

I went into the TBCBSP Covered Bridge Safari not quite knowing what to expect. Although the safari is held annually, this was my first time attending. I'd heard stories for years from my parents and from my sister and brother-in-law, Heather and Paul Watkins, our dedicated leaders, but I had never experienced it myself. What I discovered was a weekend filled with history, laughter, learning, and the kind of camaraderie that makes you feel instantly at home. Visiting fifteen bridges in two days had sounded ambitious, but with such an organized, enthusiastic group, the time flew by.

On Friday evening I arrived a bit late due to rush-hour traffic, but I managed to catch the end of the opening gathering. Heather Watkins welcomed everyone, shared the weekend's details, and made sure newcomers like me felt included. The country store was set up with TBCBSP merchandise—shirts, hats, visors, and more. I admired Heather's visor later in the weekend and regretted not browsing longer.

Saturday morning dawned warm and bright, perfect safari weather. In the parking lot of the Chester Hotel & Conference Center, our caravan lined up in neat formation. Flags were clipped to each car to notify other drivers we are all in a caravan together, and Paul and Jim Smedley installed CB radios in the lead, middle, and end vehicles to enable the communication necessary to keep the caravan together. Heather conducted roll call with cheerful precision and handed out beautifully detailed driving directions, then answered last minute questions.

Our adventure began with a drive through a pair of "creepy tunnels" rumored to be haunted, followed by a brief standoff with a squirrel who seemed determined to lead the caravan. Built in 1872, Harmony Hill was the perfect first stop. After taking photos, I wandered underneath the bridge to admire the view. Joe McCarthy joined me and explained how many bridges are now reinforced with steel, increasing their weight limits from 3 tons to 20. I had always wondered how these historic structures handled modern traffic—now I know.

Before exploring the Laurels Preserve bridges, we heard from John Goodall of the Brandywine Conservancy, which manages the 905-acre preserve that includes 500 acres of hardwood forest and 160 bird species, in addition to the bridges. Laurels Preserve is normally only open to Conservancy members but thanks to Connie McLaughlin's arrangements, we were granted special access to the Hayes Clark and Mary Ann Pyle bridges. Hayes Clark, originally a Burr Truss bridge, burned in 1963 and was rebuilt as a Queen Post Truss in 1971. Its upright stone wing wall was stunning. Mary Ann Pyle (Speakman #2), built in 1881, spans Buck Run and was full of life, with hundreds of tadpoles swirled in the creek behind it. Both Hayes Clark and Mary Ann Pyle were restored in 2013.



Hayes Clark Bridge

Next, we went on to Speakman #1. This bridge's clearance sign seems to be frequently hit by vehicles, and two of its four chains were broken, presumably due to drivers who disregarded the posted heights.

Then we were on to Mercers Mill. Built in 1880 on the Lancaster County border, Mercers Mill featured beautiful flowers along the wing wall and a unique visibility window for the curved road ahead. Joe shared another gem here: when electricity first arrived, wires were threaded through the bridge, which made me better appreciate modern safety practices.



Mercer's Mill Bridge

After Mercers Mill it was time to eat! Sara Beth Kohut had coordinated a delicious lunch at Russellville Grange. The hall was spacious, the volunteers welcoming, and the coffee much appreciated. Riding in the car with Sara Beth gave me the chance to learn from her about the Grange's support for local farming communities.

Covered Bridge Safari 2026: May 16-17, 2026 (continued)

Pine Grove is Chester County's only double-span bridge and also borders Lancaster County. The views of the Octoraro dam were lovely. Linton Stevens, built in 1875, had a dramatic gash in its portal and even trees growing from its roof. Glen Hope, built in 1889, showed its age. It burned in 1987 and was reconstructed in 1991.

We saved the best for last on day one, wrapping up the day at Rudolph and Arthur. Built in 1880 and rebuilt in 2025, this picturesque bridge became our group photo spot. My parents, Bob and Michelle Jacobson, joined us here, which made the moment especially meaningful for me. Underneath the bridge, I was delighted to find more tadpoles darting through the water. On the bridge, we assembled as Jim carefully set up the camera to capture both the group and bridge. (See cover page for our group photo.)



Paul and Heather Watkins at
Larkin's Bridge

Sunday was another sunny day, but much hotter. Cyclists and hikers filled the roads as we reprised our morning routine and set off again.

The first bridge of the day was Larkin's. Built in 1854 and moved to its current location in 2006, Larkin's now carries a multi-use trail instead of cars. It was peaceful and inviting. Located in Valley Forge Park, Knox was the second busiest bridge of the weekend. Traffic streamed through almost nonstop while a few curious hikers stopped to ask about our group. The bridge had been rehabbed in 2024 after a tree fell through the roof, and the cedar shake roof still smelled wonderfully fresh.

Bartram's is typically kept locked but Ed Johnston unlocked the gates so we could access inside the bridge. Built in 1860, Bartram's straddles Delaware and Chester counties. Restoration was underway, overseen by an inter-county commission. A charming birdfeeder shaped like a miniature covered bridge stood off to the side, and the bridge's gates made for amusing "behind bars" photos.

On the way to Sheeder-Hall, we passed the quirky intersection of White Horse Road and White Horse Road. The bridge itself, built in 1850, had a stepped portal and a trail lined with poison ivy.

Kennedy was the most traffic-heavy bridge we visited. Brian Wilde gave a short talk about its history, including how Clyde Scheib gathered 5,000 signatures to save it from replacement. The restoration of Kennedy used African Bongazi wood, which is fire-retardant but dangerous to work with due to toxic dust. Clyde passed in 2021, but his legacy continues, including plans for a mini covered bridge memorial on a nearby trail. Our final bridge, Rapps Dam, featured ornate gingerbread trim and the only headache bars of the safari.

At nearly every stop, I climbed down beneath the bridge. It was quiet, cool, and peaceful—an ideal vantage point to appreciate the

engineering that keeps these historic structures standing. Occasionally I encountered fishermen, though none seemed to be catching much. Perhaps a caravan of covered-bridge enthusiasts scared the fish away.

Driving through Chester County revealed its remarkable diversity: bustling towns, rolling countryside, equestrian training grounds, and farms whose earthy scent reached us before the fields came into view. I joined this safari because it was close to home and because I'd heard about covered bridges for years. I left feeling grateful for the beauty of the bridges and surrounding scenery, for the knowledge shared with me so generously, and for the warm, welcoming people who made my first safari unforgettable. I would wholeheartedly recommend the experience to anyone who hasn't yet ventured out on a covered bridge safari. *(All photos by Gloria Smedley.)*



Sheeder-Hall Bridge

TBCBSP NEWS AND EVENTS

See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week (May 8-17)

Members set up displays for See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week at official Welcome Centers, Discover Lancaster Visitors Center, and Chester County Visitors Bureau this year. Some of the Welcome Centers have permanent displays.

Every year the Governor of Pennsylvania issues a Proclamation declaring a week in May, usually centering around the second week, as See Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Week. This year member Connie McLaughlin provided a SPCBW promotional poster for members to display at various locations.



From Left to right: Jim & Gloria Smedley's display at I-83 Welcome Center, Pam Mailey's display at I-81 Welcome Center, Sara Beth Kohut's display at Brandywine Valley Visitors Center in Chester County.

Fundraisers

Our society continues to do well with fundraising events. All proceeds go to our General Fund or Bridge Preservation fund. Our online store fundraiser in late 2025 brought in \$391. In December we had a booth for selling items at the York Christmas Show. At our March 1st meeting our auction of just a small part of the donated Bradley collection brought in \$364. That same day \$285 was our profit from Easter Egg sales. Our Bake Sale at our April meeting was not as successful as previous bake sales but it still raised \$156. Calendar sales remain high. Last year we sold 425 of our 2026 Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges Calendars netting over \$2,000. eBay sales from the Bradley collection as well as many other donated items are very profitable.

Our society is very grateful to all our members who participate in our fundraising events and to those donating covered bridge items for us to sell and to members who donate money. We are looking forward to another successful year at our Hoss's Dinner Fundraiser in July and the Bloomsburg Covered Bridge Festival in October.

Community Outreach

Our members provide presentations about covered bridges to community organizations:

Pam Mailey presented "Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges" to the Dallastown Nursing Center Assisted Living.

Jim Smedley presented a program on "Lancaster County's Covered Bridges: Past and Present" to the Chickies Church Senior Group. Jim also presented a program to the Woodcrest Villa Community titled "Covered Bridges in the Civil War" and to the Triple A Chapter of New Oxford, PA titled "Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges with Emphasis on Eastern Adams County."

Gloria Smedley presented "Pennsylvania's Covered Bridges" program to the Windy Hill Senior Center.

Donna McClane provided a program titled "Let's Talk About Covered Bridges" to the Gettysburg Library.

Members also provide presentations at our five monthly meetings each year at St. Paul Episcopal Church. Special thanks to Bob Kuether ("Our Society's Year in Review"), Jim Smedley (Covered Bridges Connecting Bucks County with New Jersey Over the Delaware River), Fred Moll ("Berks County Heritage Center Including Wertz's Bridge"), Bill Caswell ("Some of the Many Achievements of the Late Arnold Graton"), and Donna McClane ("Let's Talk About Adams County Covered Bridges") for presenting the last five programs.

TBCBSP NEWS AND EVENTS

Arson Reduction Incentive Program

Over the years, many of our covered bridges have been lost to arson. To reduce the successfulness of would-be arsonists, the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges (NSPCB) offers an Arson Reduction Incentive Program. This program covers the cost of a product made by Crestline Industries, NoChar, which can be applied to the unpainted interior of a bridge as a fire retardant.

So far this year The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society has submitted requests to the NSPCB to cover the cost of fire retardant for four PA covered bridges: Waggoner's (Perry County), Fort Hunter (Dauphin County), Henninger Farm (Dauphin County), and the longest covered bridge in Pennsylvania, Academia (Juniata County).

Four members traveled to Waggoner's Bridge on Thursday, May 7th to apply NoChar to the interior of the bridge. The owner of the bridge, Mr. Hurst, was quite appreciative of our efforts since his bridge was partially burned by an arsonist just a few years ago and then repaired.

On Wednesday May 20th, eight members gathered at Fort Hunter Bridge in Dauphin County to apply fire retardant. Members always enjoy being a part of any effort to improve or save our covered bridges.



Fort Hunter / Everhart Bridge in Dauphin County



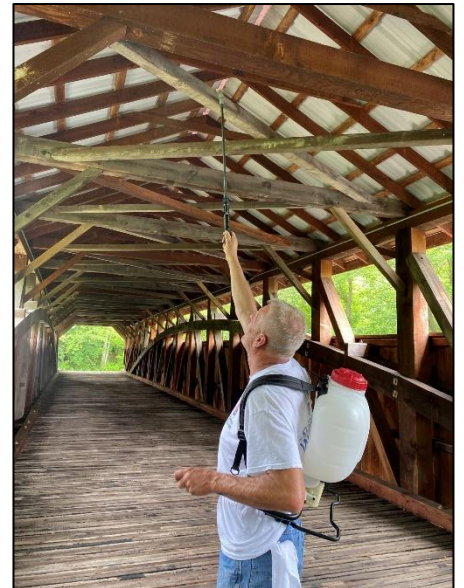
Waggoner's Bridge in Perry County

At 278 feet long, Academia is the longest covered bridge in the state. This was too much for members to do so we are paid our painter, Bill Stockum, \$800 to apply the product. The Juniata County Historical Society held a clean-up on the bridge day on May 16th in preparation for the fire retardant application. It took Bill eleven hours on May 27th to apply NoChar.

The total cost for fire retardant for these three bridges was \$3,414. Using NoChar left over from Fort Hunter, fire retardant was applied to the floor of Dr. Knisley Bridge on June 6th. The interior of Dr. Knisley is painted except for the floor.

The next bridge to be protected with fire retardant is Henninger Farm in Dauphin County. The NSPCB has approved the purchase of NoChar at a cost of \$1,174.33. Our painter, Bill Stockum, will apply the retardant for \$400 and will schedule the work once the product is received. The Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of PA is grateful for this collaboration with the NSPCB in our continuing efforts to preserve our covered bridges.

Bill Stockum at Academia / Pomeroy Bridge in Juniata County



Annual Picnic

Our Annual Picnic will be on September 13th this year since the first Sunday precedes Labor Day. This is always a nice event usually attended by 40 to 50 members using the picnic tables next to Poole Forge Bridge. You can bring your own lunch or bring a dish to share with about 10 members. Gather at noon, followed by lunch and a meeting.

TBCBSP NEWS AND EVENTS

Painting Dr. Knisley Bridge

Our society tries to paint at least one Pennsylvania covered bridge each year depending on available funds. Last year we painted Rice's Bridge in Perry County. This year we chose Dr. Knisley Bridge in Bedford County. We hired Bill Stockum to do the painting for \$8,500. Although Dr. Knisley Bridge's white painted siding only covers about half of each side, it also is painted on the inside including the roof cross beams. The sections of the trusses not covered by siding and roof beams had to be rolled or brush painted.

On the weekend of May 30-31, the owner of the bridge hired a company to paint the metal roof. Bill started scraping off the old flaking paint on June 1st. After finishing scraping, he painted the roof cross beams, trusses and inside boards. On Saturday, June 6th he was almost finished painting one side. The final step will be painting the opposite side, portals, and red trim. The owner of the bridge, Jim Claycomb, (shown in left photo with Gloria Smedley) is planning to have the abutments and wingwalls cleaned once the painting project is finished.



Fundraiser and Dinner at Hoss's Restaurant

**Join us for our Meeting and Fundraiser Dinner at
Hoss's Steak and Sea House in York, PA on Sunday, July 5, 2026.**

Members should plan to meet at Hoss's at 12:30 p.m. for a meal with the meeting to follow at approximately 2 p.m. A percentage of proceeds of what each attendee spends will be donated by Hoss's to our Society. (Everyone is welcome to have dinner anytime between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m.)

You do not have to be a member of our Society to attend the meeting or dinner. All members and friends and family are welcome. You may also attend just the meeting.

Special cards were distributed to members at our recent Society meeting that will be required for attendees to receive the donation OR by the end of June an email will be distributed to members that can be used instead of the card.

Hoss's Steak and Sea House is located at 3604 E. Market Street, York, PA 17402.

From US30, take PA24 (Mt. Zion Rd.) south approx. ½ mile to PA462 (E. Market St.), turn left go ½ mile to Hoss's on your right.

Bloomsburg Covered Bridge Arts & Crafts Festival

The Covered Bridge Arts & Crafts Festival at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds (920 West Third Street) is later than normal this year. The 44th Annual Festival will be on October 8-11, 2026. Our society will have a booth set up in the Arts and Crafts building. The festival is the largest craft festival on the east coast with the four-day annual attendance typically near 150,000 visitors. Admission and parking are free. Handicap parking is available. The festival starts at 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 8th.

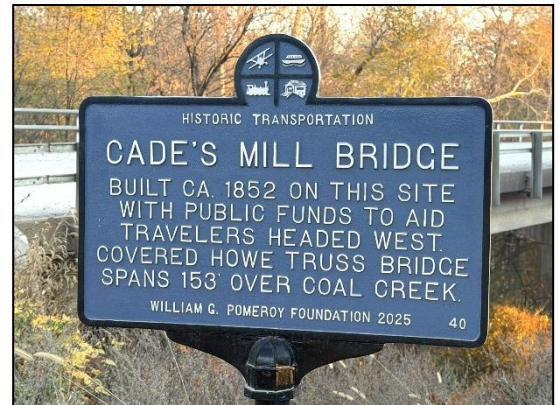
TBCBSP NEWS AND EVENTS

Historic Markers for our Pennsylvania Covered Bridges

Our society continues in our mission to recognize the historical value of our bridges through roadside markers. These markers are provided through grants submitted to The Pomeroy Foundation whose mission is to preserve history through signage. To date, our President, Gloria Smedley has applied for, and our Society has been awarded 11 grants for markers. These include National Register Markers for those on the registry and Historic Transportation markers for bridges with a specific transportation history that can be documented by primary sources. Over \$23,000 in grants has been awarded to our society for these markers.

The National Register Markers have been awarded to nine Pennsylvania Covered Bridges: Hassenplug (Union County), Rice and Red (Perry County), Sachs (Adams County), Wehr's and Bogert's (Lehigh County), Poole Forge (Lancaster County), Academia (Juniata County), and Sheeder-Hall (Chester County). Two Historic Transportation markers were awarded to Poole Forge and Sheeder-Hall. Those signs will look similar to the one awarded to Cades Mill Bridge in Indiana in 2025.

Four signs have been received and installed with Red Bridge in Perry County being installed most recently. All others have been ordered. They should arrive within 8-10 weeks.



Gloria is collaborating with representatives regarding future grant applications for signs for a couple of other Perry County bridges, Sheard's Mill (Bucks County), and Shearer's (Lancaster County). This program will be ongoing throughout the year. We believe these historical markers draw attention to the bridges and serve as a permanent record of their historical significance.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER!!!

2026-2027 DUES FOR MEMBERS WILL REMAIN AT THE CURENT RATE.

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, 2026.

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

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

Make checks payable to TBCBSP.

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

OUT-OF-STATE BRIDGE NEWS

ILLINOIS

Red Bridge Rehabilitation Enters Phase II

An oversized 18-wheeler truck struck Red Bridge (IL-06-01) in Bureau County on November 16, 2023, damaging the roof and portal. The driver ignored multiple warning signs including a 5-ton weight limit and 11-foot, 10-inch height restriction.

Phase I of the plan to rehabilitate Red Bridge defined the scope of the work. Phase II includes the engineering phase with the preparation of a detailed cost estimate followed by a detailed design and construction plan. Repairs include complete replacement of the roof, the bracing, floor beams, siding, new lighting, fire suppression piping, security cameras and a vehicle height warning system including flashing lights and signage warning. The project cost is estimated at \$1 million. Phase II is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

(Sources: *Starved Rock Media*, Jan 10 & May 18, 2026; *Shaw Local*, Jan. 12, 2026.)



OHIO

Germantown Bridge Receives \$1 Million for Rehabilitation Project



Germantown Bridge
Photo by Gloria Smedley, June 9, 2018.

Germantown Bridge in Montgomery County (OH-57-01) will soon undergo major rehabilitation. Germantown is an inverted bowstring bridge. Work will include replacement of the white oak floor beams, overstressed or substandard truss elements will be replaced with steel members, and roof replacement. The existing bowstring suspension system and abutments will be retained. A substantial portion of the work will be to replace and fix the metal arched supports. The preconstruction engineering for the project began in March. Funding for the rehabilitation project comes from the Federal Highway Administration, the State of Ohio. Community Development Block Grants and the American Rescue Plan Act.

The project for the pedestrian bridge is expected to be completed by the end of October. Germantown Bridge was originally built in 1865 and moved to its present location in 1911. (Source: *Dayton 24/7*, March 23, 2026.)

Repairs Planned for Hune Bridge

Hune Bridge in Washington County (OH-84-27) has been closed since early 2020. Extensive repairs need to be made along the foundation of the bridge. The original bidding for the project failed to meet the requirement of being within 10% of the engineer's estimate. The Richter Company rebid the project and was approved for \$2,463,197. The project will be funded 95% federally and 5% locally.

Unfortunately, after completion of the project the bridge will only be open only for pedestrians.

(Source: *News and Sentinel.com*, February 16 and May 4, 2026.)



Hune Bridge Photo by Gloria Smedley.

OUT-OF-STATE BRIDGE NEWS

OREGON

Lane County Bridges

Lane County has taken emergency action to address deterioration of two covered bridges near Cottage Grove, the Currin Bridge (OR-20-22 #2) and Stewart Bridge (OR-20-28). The two bridges are in dire condition causing safety concerns as well as possible collapses. Emergency measures would allow for the immediate repair of the bridges without having to go through the normal bidding process. In February, the county commissioners allocated \$500,000 in Transient Lodging Taxes for the project.

The Stewart Covered Bridge is a 60-foot timber Howe truss bridge and was built in 1930. Parts of the truss rafters and siding were repaired in 1996. Timber decay was noted on the bridge in 2021.

The Currin Covered Bridge was built in 1925 and spans 105 feet. It also underwent restoration in 1995, and decay was noted in some areas in 2014. Both bridges were found to be at risk of collapse in January, when inspectors the county contractors from private engineering firm DOWL, found significant cracking, sign of decay and deterioration.

(Source: *KLCC.org*, April 28, 2026.)



Currin Bridge during 2017 Safari Photo by Jim Smedley.



Stewart Bridge during 2017 Safari Photo by Jim Smedley.

OTHER COVERED BRIDGE RELATED NEWS

Vermont Covered Bridge Society to Fly 250th Anniversary Flags

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) will decorate 87 covered bridges in the state with Betsy Ross 250th anniversary flags on July 4th under a joint initiative with the Society and the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation.

An article in *The North Star Monthly* on May 18th provided the following: "The effort will provide each of the 46 Vermont towns that own one or more historic covered bridges with an official Betsy Ross 250th Anniversary flag and mounting hardware, free of charge. The VCBS has secured \$6,615 to purchase flags and hardware. The society has been coordinating with town clerks and selectboards in all 46 towns on installing logistics. Volunteers will distribute materials to clerks' offices in mid-June, with most towns confirming that highway staff will handle installation.

"Vermont's historic covered bridges are one of the state's most significant tourist attractions," said VCBS President Beth Brown-Limmer. "To dovetail Vermont's historic covered bridges with American pride is a unique experience for residents and visitors alike."

VCBS and the Division of Historic Preservation extended tremendous thanks to the many volunteers, town clerks, town managers, selectboard members and highway staff who have made this project a reality. The project was made possible with a generous discount from Montpelier Stove and Flag Works.

OTHER COVERED BRIDGE RELATED NEWS

Leadership Opportunity at Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center

(Courtesy Bill Caswell, Board Member, Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center)

Many of you are already familiar with the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center in Oxford, New York. For those who are not, the center is located in a building which was built by Theodore Burr and was his residence while living in Oxford. The Resource Center shares the building with the town's public library.

More than a decade after founding the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center with her husband, Bob, Trish Kane is getting ready for a richly deserved retirement. She will step down from her post leading the organization December 31, though she will continue to assist after that.

Trish's wonderful work, and now her coming retirement, has created a tremendous opportunity for someone new to lead the Resource Center into a terrific future. The Resource Center already has a unique role as one of the foremost repositories for material about covered bridges in the world, and the picture is on the verge of becoming even brighter. The Resource Center will soon go live with its first ever website, providing researchers and covered bridgers all over the world with access to tens of thousands of postcards and photographs of bridges. Also, for the first time, every newsletter published by any covered bridge society, current or former, will be accessible in the same place.

We are actively looking for the next great volunteer leader of the Resource Center. The ideal candidate will have an interest in enhancing the website (the person will be the webmaster), educating others, and, most of all, care deeply about covered bridges. Relative proximity to Oxford, New York, where the physical headquarters of the Resource Center is, would be helpful but is not critical as almost all the work can be done remotely.

The Resource Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The new head will be assisted by board members Bill Caswell, president of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Andy Rebman, president of the Indiana Covered Bridge Society, and Noel Rubinton, senior advisor for the Resource Center.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to help advance the work of covered bridge preservation. If this sounds interesting to you or you have questions, please contact Trish Kane, tskane68@gmail.com or Noel Rubinton, noelrubinton@yahoo.com.

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

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| July 5, 2026 | - Place & Time: | Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Sunday 12:30 p.m.
3604 Market St., York, PA 17402. |
| | - Event: | Fundraiser - Plan to meet at Hoss's at 12:30 p.m. for a meal with the meeting to follow approximately 2 p.m. (See page 16.) |
| August 2, 2026 | - Place & Time: | St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, PA 17512 – Sunday 2 p.m. |
| | - Event: | Ice Cream Social. |
| | - Program: | To be announced. |
| September 13, 2026 | - Place & Time: | Historic Poole Forge and Covered Bridge Park. Sunday |
| | - Event: | Annual Picnic – Everyone can bring a dish to share with 8 to 10 people (or you can bring your own lunch). Bring your own tableware & beverages. Gather at noon, picnic lunch and meeting shortly thereafter. |
| October 4, 2026 | - Place & Time: | St. Paul Episcopal Church, 340 Locust St., Columbia, PA 17512 – Sunday 2 p.m. |
| | - Program: | "Our Society's Year in Review" by Gloria Smedley. |

Please note our schedule is subject to change. Check your inbox for emails about changes and our website at www.tbcbspa.com.