

# THE BRIDGER

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter – March 2025

Mark Maddox, Editor



## From the Editor

Welcome to the 100th edition of *The Bridger*! I recently received the 1<sup>st</sup> edition from one of my Historical Society contacts and wow! How things have progressed!

While we are in the middle of winter, we've been busy. In this edition, you'll find out about additions that have been made to our website, planning for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary including a poster contest and getting ready for other events for the year. Keeping with the director's spotlight, this edition will feature former Treasurer Neil Daniels. So, keep reading for these stories as well as others to see what is happening.

Are you aware of our member's portal? There you can find our current newsletter, member's handbook,

bridge watch manual, board of directors meeting notes, the lost covered bridge series (my favorite), and lending library. If you need access, please send an email to [vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com](mailto:vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com) and we can get you set up.

As always, if there are items you'd like to see in *The Bridger* or interesting tidbits you hear about regarding any of our bridges I'd be glad to hear from you.

Cheers!

*Mark Maddox*

([marmad40@gmail.com](mailto:marmad40@gmail.com))

## President's Report

- by Beth Brown Limmer

By the time you read this, Spring will be less than 3 weeks away (on the calendar at least) and I will have two months under my belt as President of VCBS. It's a two year term so there's more in front of me than behind, but we are off to a good start.

My first task was to file the required Biennial Report for nonprofits with the Secretary of State. My second was to file an application with the US Patent and Trade Office for trademark registration of the VCBS logo. It takes on average 47 weeks for this application to be reviewed and the registration to be filed. This cost \$500.00. The Board approved this in December so I got the ball rolling on 1/11/25. Our logo is so unique and awesome that protection of it is now necessary.

At the 1/16/25 Board meeting we sadly accepted the resignation of Terry Shaw, a charter member and long-

time Chairman of the VCBS Legislative Committee. VCBS would literally not exist without Terry as he filed the application for incorporation in January 2000. Thank you, again, Terry for your valuable contributions for 25 years. If anyone has a particular interest in serving as a liaison between VCBS and the Vermont Legislature, please contact me. We need you!

I am very pleased to tell the members of VCBS, that our organization has a very skilled and engaged Board of Directors! Ten of 11 directors attended the 1/16/25 Board Meeting and 9 of 11 were at the 2/20/25 meeting. Every committee chair and officer is working to improve and advance our mission of preserving the remaining covered bridges in Vermont. Read the reports that are elsewhere in this newsletter and see if you don't agree.

**President:** Beth Brown Limmer, 2702 RTE 30, Sudbury, VT 05733, email: [melby5584@aol.com](mailto:melby5584@aol.com)

**Vice President:** Steve Miyamoto, 8 Ridge Rd., Essex Junction, VT 05452, email: [spmiyamoto@comcast.net](mailto:spmiyamoto@comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Mark Maddox, PO Box 296, Saxtons River, VT 05154, email: [marmad40@gmail.com](mailto:marmad40@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Dan Monger, 26 Lake St., Tunkhannock, PA 18657-7128, email: [teelmonger@ptd.net](mailto:teelmonger@ptd.net)

Should you be interested or inspired to join a committee, please let the Chairperson know. We'd love to have you pitch in!

As President, I am giving considerable thought to the strategic plan of VCBS. What are our objectives for the next 1, 3, and 5 years? VCBS has changed and grown in the last three years, but where do you want VCBS to go in the future? It is fabulous that we are engaging with young Vermonters as they are the future caretakers of our covered bridges. Perhaps in 5 years there will be a Junior Bridger arm of VCBS whereby activities and events geared towards youth will be planned and executed by that group? Perhaps VCBS will have more than 1,000 members by 2030? Perhaps all of the 49 Vermont towns which own at least one covered bridge will be municipal members of VCBS by 2028? Perhaps VCBS will be able to grant funds in substantial amounts to towns for repairs and maintenance of their covered bridges? What do you see in the future for VCBS? Please share your vision and ideas with me or any of the directors. There will also be a Vision Box at the Spring Meeting for your suggestions. I hope to have this strategic plan done by the Fall meeting 2025.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Spring Meeting on June 7, 2025 in Saxtons River! Between now and then, I hope to see many of you at the Vermont Statehouse! The date has not been decided yet. However, VCBS members will be recognized as guests in both chambers when Gov. Scott's proclamation is read which commemorates our 25th anniversary. Vermont Covered Bridge Week, August 2-9, 2025, will be announced as well. This is part of what the 25th anniversary ad hoc group has been working on since its inception in June 2024.

Okemo Magazine will have an article in the Spring issue, released late May, which features the Downer's Covered Bridge in Weathersfield and Kidder Hill Covered Bridge in Grafton. Both Neil Daniels, life-long Weathersfield resident, VCBS director and former treasurer, and I were interviewed for this piece. The next podcast/ video, which I organize and produce, will be recorded at Okemo Valley TV studio in late March. Have you seen the first two yet? Available on YouTube, search Vermont Covered Bridge Society. First is entitled: Discovering VCBS. Second is: Exploring with VCBS.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Brown-Limmer

## Vice President's Report

- by Steve Miyamoto

Thanks to our new member Peggy Wilson, we are starting to formulate a style guide for all things VCBS. The goal of this is to present a unified, well-presented presentation for the VCBS.

Peggy is the CEO of Wilson Creative Group in Naples, Florida. She has graciously volunteered her time and expertise on a Pro Bono basis to help us analyze and unify our presence in print and digital media presentation. Make sure to stay tuned and watch for changes as they get incorporated into our branding strategy.

### New website feature:

I have created a new feature for the website called VCBS Covered Bridge Combined Tour. As you may or may not know, there are two categories of covered bridges in the state: *Traditional or Historic* and *Non-Traditional* Covered Bridges.

There are many descriptions or interpretations for what makes a covered bridge *traditional* or *historic*. That is a subject for another time requiring much more detail and discussion. In Vermont, there are around 100 of these bridges and are usually what people refer to as "covered bridges".

The second category of covered bridges are called *non-traditional*. These are typically bridges with covers. They can stand on their own without the cover. It is not required for the bridge but is an aesthetic added to the bridge. Many are small but there are a few that cross roadways and are used to carry traffic. The Quechee bridge in Quechee and the White Capps bridge in Stowe are examples of the larger *non-traditional* bridges.

So, the new **VCBS Covered Bridge Combined Tour** is a collection of all the covered bridges in Vermont. There are a total of 203 bridges currently.

The tour is arranged by county using Google Maps and help from the Randy Major's mapping website. We also have a major contribution from Dale J. Travis for all the *non-traditional* bridge information. You can visit Dale's website Round Barns and Covered Bridges @ [www.dalejtravis.com](http://www.dalejtravis.com).

Start the tour by selecting a county on the map. Once there you can select the bridge of interest.

Please let me know if there is anything not working correctly. Also, let me know if something is not correct. I can be contacted at

[VCBS.Communications@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Communications@vermontbridges.org).

#### VCBS Covered Bridge Combined Tour

Welcome to the Vermont Covered Bridge Society Combined Covered Bridge Tour. This project is provided to share some basic information and facts about all of Vermont's covered bridges: historic and non-traditional bridges.

At this time there are a total of 203 such bridges. 99 of the bridges are considered traditional or historic. The other 104 are categorized as "non-tradition".

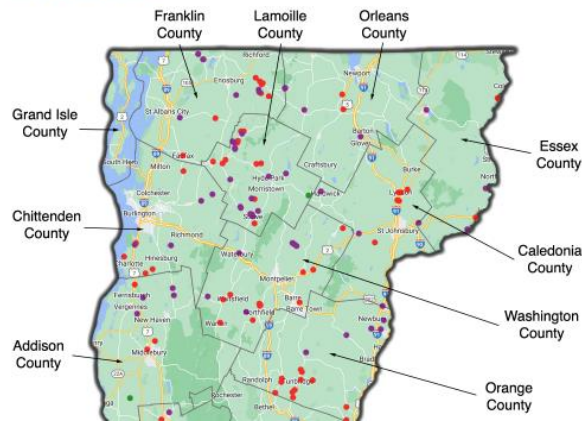
Every county, with the exception of Grand Isle, has covered bridges waiting to be explored. Google Maps for each bridge are provided as an aid to locating the bridge.

This tour is our way of introducing you, the visitor, to one of Vermont's timeless treasures: the covered bridge.

The Vermont state map below will give an interactive experience with the covered bridges in each of the counties. Select the county of interest and you will be on your way to learning about the bridge you may be standing in front of. Take your time and enjoy the tour.

We are pleased to feature bridge pictures by a number of different photographers. The contributors include Joseph C. Nelson, Scott Wagner, Steve Brown, William Caswell, Mel Huff, Phillip Jordan, Steve Bergeron, Gloria Smedley, Jennifer Bushey Parker, Barbara Nowik, J. Peter Cosgrove, and Creeger's Photos. We appreciate their contributions as we work to keep the pictures up to date.

Also included is additional information for the non-traditional bridges courtesy of Dale J. Travis' website [Round Barns and Covered Bridges](http://RoundBarnsandCoveredBridges.com).



#### Communications Committee

**Role Sharing:** Starting in January a handful of roles have changed ownership. Mark Maddox now monitors and responds to emails addressed to [vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com](mailto:vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com). Mark will also handle the Mailchimp account which is used for member communications and for the distribution of the newsletter. (Editor's Note: Mailchimp is a marketing platform that helps us manage our email and allows us to create, send and track the emails we send out.)

Scott Scribner also is using the Mailchimp application to manage the membership distribution listing for everyone requesting email communication.

We are also in the process of transferring the PayPal access to our treasurer Dan Monger.

**Email communication:** In the future, you may see some new email addresses:

[VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org) for education committee emails by our Education Committee chair, Jeanne Beaudry.

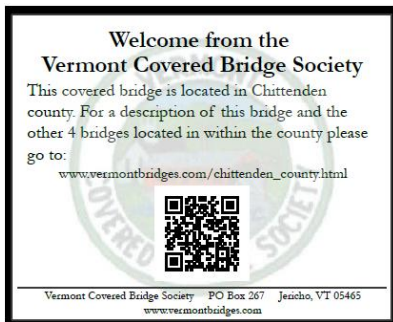
[VCBS.Communications@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Communications@vermontbridges.org) for communication emails by our communication chair, Steve Miyamoto.

[VCBS.Publicity@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Publicity@vermontbridges.org) for publicity committee emails by our communication chair, Liam Mckone.

[VCBS.Membership@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Membership@vermontbridges.org) for membership committee emails by our membership chair Scott Scribner.

#### QR Code Card Feedback:

We are in the process of evaluating the QR code cards that are placed in a number of covered bridges around the state. I'm looking for feedback on this project.



Please let me know if you have tried to use these, if there are bridges missing these cards and/or if the QR code scan was not working. I have a fairly complete listing of the bridges with

these cards but sometimes things change, the cards go missing, etc.

Please send your observations to  
[VCBS.Communications@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Communications@vermontbridges.org).

## Events Committee

- by Beth Brown Limmer, Chair

I hope you all have your calendars marked for Saturday, June 7, 2025! The Spring Meeting will be here before we know it! The location is Main Street Arts in Saxtons River starting at 10 a.m. Our Business meeting will begin at 10:30 and run 75 – 90 minutes. After lunch there will be a special recognition of VCBS Life Members.

Throughout the day ballots can be cast for poster entries for the poster contest detailed below in the newsletter. Winners will be announced at 2 pm. At 2:30 pm, we will leave for a Covered Bridge caravan to visit Hall, Bartonsville, and Worrall Covered Bridge. Hope to see you in June!

If you are looking for lodging in the area, let us know at [vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com](mailto:vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com).

While we are focused on the June meeting, plans for the 2025 Fall Meeting are coming together. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, I visited the town office and meeting hall in Weathersfield. It has easy access off I-91, ample off-street parking, ADA-accessible entrance and restrooms, wi-fi, a well-equipped kitchen, and spacious meeting / eating space. We are looking at two possible Saturday

dates - 9/27 and 10/4. If you have a strong preference for one or the other, please let me know by 3/10/25. I'll tack it down soon thereafter. There are 3 covered bridges within a short radius from this venue: Downer's, Best, and Bower's, for caravan purposes.

Did you know that just by coming to VCBS meetings and going on the caravan at the end of the day, you will eventually visit all of Vermont's covered bridges? Since Fall 2022, we have visited: Brown in Shrewsbury, Bridge at the Green in West Arlington, Lincoln, Middle, and Taftsville in Woodstock, Holmes Creek, Quinlan, and Seguin in Charlotte, Warren Village, Great Eddy and Pine Brook in Waitsfield. Add Hall, Bartonsville, and Worrall in June 2025, and 3 more in the Fall, that makes 17! And what a great way to top off a day spent with fellow covered bridge enthusiasts!

We will have other events in 2025, trust me. See the Fundraising Committee Report for more details.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Beth Brown Limmer  
 Events Committee Chair

## Fundraising Committee

- by Beth Brown Limmer, Acting Chair

Winter is not when we go to sales events, but we are planning for another successful season! Suggestions have been received about going to the Champlain Valley Fair and the World's Fair in Tunbridge. I will research these and have more to tell in our June newsletter. I

have already submitted the application to return to the Chester Festival which is September 20 -21. We have new members in the Rutland area who have expressed a desire to help at the State Fair at Rutland August 12-16.



There will be several new items for sale this year, two of which were spawned by the 25th year ad hoc group (Karen Tryon, Jeanne Beaudry, Sally Cleveland, Nancy Hodgson, and myself) which was formed in June 2024. This group has had 10 meetings thus far. No grass is growing under our feet!

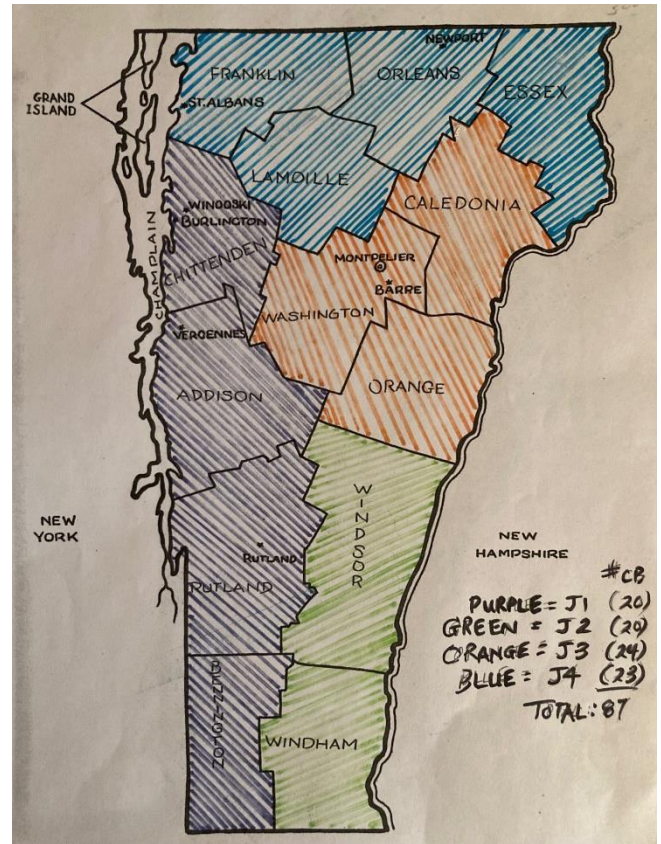
T-shirts with the VCBS logo, adapted for the 25th anniversary, were offered to members in Fall 2024 for the first time. 37 were sold. Those that have them, love them, and we just ordered another batch. We added a few in children's sizes and colors other than dark green. Adult sizes will now be sm, med, lg, xl, and xxl and only in dark green. Plan to get yours at the Spring Meeting on June 7. Need one sooner? Contact me:

[Melby5584@aol.com](mailto:Melby5584@aol.com)

John Knox's photo notecards (a fresh supply), stationary with a Northfield, VT CB, bumper stickers, lapel pin featuring Chiselsville Covered Bridge, DVD (New England CBs), 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle (6 VT CBs), decals and cloth patches of VCBS logo, holiday ornament featuring Cooley CB, and books by Nelson, Howard, and NSPCB (World Guide) will all be sold again in 2025. Some of these are available at our online store at [vermontbridges.org](http://vermontbridges.org). Have you been there lately? Search the menu for Marketplace.

Our 2026 VCBS calendars are going to the printers in March. Thanks to Steve Brown Photography in Farmington, NH for formatting the calendar. It will be available to buy beginning in June at our Spring meeting.

NEW in 2025 will be regional "bridging journals", each containing 20-24 covered bridges. See the colored map of the four regions. These will be the size of the World Guide and have a spiral binding, but they will be much thinner. They will each showcase Vermont's iconic and historic covered bridges and have plenty of space for each traveler to sketch or write their own account as they go. GPS coordinates and the vertical clearance for each covered bridge is listed, along with photos by Steve Brown Photography. These were compiled in response to a request for an "in my hand souvenir" of a day of bridging in Vermont. They offer a "bite-size" experience, a smaller time and money outlay, and a faster sense of accomplishment. Complete one, buy the next, and keep



going! That's the idea. Who said coming to Vermont had to be expensive? Come, visit our iconic covered bridges, and enjoy the landscape and villages as you go.

We will continue to sell Joe Nelson's book, *Spanning Time: Vermont's Covered Bridges*, which contains all 100 covered bridges in Vermont, for those that want them all in one hardcover book. We also sell Howard's booklets on Covered Bridges in MA, CT, and VA. These are only \$3.00 each.

Lastly, we will sell ballcaps with the VCBS logo embroidered on the front. We are considering buying a heavier weight cap, but the Fundraising Committee must meet to discuss and decide about those.

See you at the Spring Meeting! Bring your Christmas list! It's never too early to start shopping!

Respectfully submitted,  
 Beth Brown Limmer  
 Fundraising Committee, Acting Chairman

# Education Committee

- by Jeanne Beaudry, Chair

## North Country Supervisory Union Science Fair:

On Thursday February 20th, North Country Supervisory Union held their 3rd annual Middle School Science Fair with 8 schools participating. Students from the High School STEM club provided challenging and fun interactive stations for students to complete, for grades 5 through 8.

I was invited to set up a station at the event which included posters and the covered bridge model that my husband Marcel had created. In addition to our display, we provided 2 activities that students could choose to take part in. The first being bags that students could take home which consisted of materials (popsicle sticks)

and directions on how to build a truss. Many students took advantage of this free item.

The second was a “read and learn” scavenger hunt. With the information displayed on our posters, along with Marcel’s bridge model, the students had to answer questions about Vermont Covered Bridges and the VCBS. One completed form from each grade level was chosen as the winner who will be receiving a 1 year student membership in the VCBS. Students were excited about the possibility of winning a membership.



*VCBS display at North Country Supervisory Union Middle School Science Fair - photo provided by Jeanne Beaudry*

## Collaboration with 4-H:

Every spring, 4-H youth have the opportunity to participate in non-livestock competitions held in their county and/or region. Their entries can include more than one project area such as photography, sewing, table tops (like a health fair), posters, performing arts, public speaking presentations, fashion review, action exhibit, maker/tinker and smart shopper. This year, Vermont 4-H and the Vermont Covered Bridge Society are teaming up for these competitions.

NEW for State Day 2025, Vermont 4-H is encouraging youth to consider entries incorporating the covered bridges in their community or throughout the state.

Specifically, youth are encouraged to create a table top highlighting some aspects of the bridges in their region. Additionally, a youth could submit a photo of a Vermont covered bridge. Vermont covered bridges could be the subject of their informative poster entry.

Vermont 4-H youth could include the topic of Vermont Covered Bridges in any other competition categories. Representatives from the Vermont Covered Bridge Society will be at State Day as judges. Following the March and April regional and county competitions is the State Day competition. Youth move on with their same project, often with improvements and modifications. This year the State Day competition is scheduled for

Saturday, May 17 from 9 am-2 pm at the Barre Auditorium in Barre, Vermont.

For more information, please contact Amy Miller, Assistant 4-H Director at amy.miller@uvm.edu or 802.294.3226.

## Membership Committee

- by Scott Scribner – Chair

The new year has kicked off to a busy start. Everyone should have received either an email or letter reminding you that the member dues are due for the year. If you are unsure, just send an email to [scottscribner@earthlink.net](mailto:scottscribner@earthlink.net) and I will check it out. If you have already sent in your dues or are a life member, you are all set.

I must pass along a lot of heartfelt gratitude with the number of members who have already responded. I have received many emails, notes and most impressively, donations along with the membership dues. I have had members send in postage stamps to cover the mailing of the Bridger Newsletter (if they can only receive the hard copy version). Wow! All I can say is we have an impressive group of members, and I thank you!

Let's take a moment to Welcome our new Members since our last newsletter:

Doreen Beaudry – Individual Membership (VT)

Tom Bodio -Individual Membership (MA)

Eric Boozan – Individual Membership (VT)

Travis Maloy - Individual Membership (VT)

Stephen Mills - Individual Membership (MA)

Scott & Trisha Mitchell – Lifetime Couples Membership (CA)

Paulette Thompson -Lifetime Individual Membership (VT)

Kyle Vallee – Individual Membership (MA)

Finally, A special note to Life Members. If you could please send me an email confirming your mailing address I would appreciate it. We are planning on doing something special for you this year.

## Poster Contest to celebrate Vermont Covered Bridges

- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee

Vermont Covered Bridge Society (VCBS) is sponsoring a contest open to Vermont residents who are 13 to 18 years old. Design an original 18" x 24" poster and enter it to win one of four prize packages! Submit to [VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org) by May 1, 2025.

VCBS is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025. Our mission is to preserve the remaining covered bridges in Vermont. August 2-9, 2025 has been designated by Gov. Phil Scott as Vermont Covered Bridge Week.

The poster must include a depiction of a covered bridge in Vermont and the words: Vermont Covered Bridge Week and the date. It can also include up to 3 additional words, such as celebrate, heritage, etc.

Format required: color, in .jpeg or .pdf. Cash and merchandise will be awarded to the finalists.

Four finalists will be notified by May 15, 2025. Final judging will take place at the VCBS Spring Meeting on June 7, 2025. Winning poster will be reproduced and available for purchase at VCBS events from July 4 to December 31, 2025. A portion of the proceeds from sales will be donated to a Vermont non-profit organization of the winner's choice.

A biography of approximately 50 words and release of rights form is to accompany all submissions.

Please direct questions to:  
[VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org](mailto:VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org)



## Directors Spotlight

- By Mark Maddox

In this edition of the newsletter, I want to introduce you to Neil Daniels, past treasurer of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society.

I visited Neil along with Beth Brown Limmer a few weeks ago at his home in Weathersfield, VT. We sat at the dining room table talking bridges and looked through a stack of covered bridge photos trying to identify which bridges they were.

Neil, now in his 90s, was born in Weathersfield, VT. Neil's first trip away from home was when he went to Cincinnati University in 1955. He boarded a Greyhound bus in Springfield, VT for the 48-hour trip to Cincinnati. Imagine being 18, leaving rural VT and stepping off the bus all alone in a new city. The following year, Neil purchased a car to go back and forth to Vermont.

After graduating as a civil engineer, Neil began his career building bridges. He was employed by Kiewit company, first in Indiana and then in Omaha. In 1965, Neil and his growing family moved back to VT where he built his own home on a hill overlooking the boyhood home where he was born. He started his own business, Neil H Daniels, Inc., a heavy construction company that continues to build bridges today in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Neil served several decades on the Weathersfield Select Board. It was during that time in the 1980's when the Select Board decided to save the Salmond Covered Bridge. The bridge had been moved out of the way of a flood control project and was being used as a shed to store salt. The Select Board decided to save the bridge and move it a second time to a new location over a small creek. They used \$10,000 in federal funds to help pay the \$32,000 cost to move the bridge to its present site.

Neil became involved with the Vermont Covered Bridge Society being the Society's first Treasurer. Due to the

flood control project which also saw the Salmond Covered Bridge moved, a number of covered bridges in Weathersfield had been lost. Neil felt the need to be involved as a Vermonter to help maintain the remaining covered bridges. As part of his preservation effort, Neil would take his backpack blower to the Salmond Covered Bridge and blow out the dirt and debris to help keep the bridge maintained.



*Neil Daniels at home - photo by Mark Maddox*

During his career, Neil worked on a number of covered bridges. Some of those were the Downers Bridge, 3 or 4 bridges in Tunbridge including the Mill Bridge (Neil's personal favorite) and Johnson Bridge as well as bridges in Woodstock.

One of the most difficult covered bridge projects he worked on was on the Kidder Hill Bridge in Grafton. To support the bridge, large, laminated beams had been built and needed to be incorporated into the bridge. Maneuvering the beams into place was a difficult problem which he was able to overcome.

While retired, Neil is still involved in the business of the company he founded and attends their board meetings. As we wrapped up our discussion, I asked Neil what advice he would give. He quickly replied, "when you go to school, learn more than they teach."

Thank you Neil for all of your work helping to preserve Vermont's covered bridges!



# Hyde Hall Bicentennial Celebration

- by Wayne Marshfield

America's oldest covered bridge, Hyde Hall bridge in New York's Glimmerglass State Park, will turn 200 years old with a grand celebration on Saturday, October 11, from 10am to 4pm.

Hundreds of visitors from around the country, including many from covered bridge societies, are expected to attend the free events. Activities will range from speeches honoring the bridge that was built in 1825, special presentations about the history of covered bridges, the unveiling of a model of the Hyde Hall bridge and historic photographs of it, music from old time music specialists and students at Cooperstown (NY) High School, a classic car show, and children's activities.

A newly-created souvenir booklet about the Hyde Hall bridge will be available, along with a special edition post card with a unique cancellation in honor of the bridge's celebration and a special license plate with the bridge included. Food and drink will be on sale.

On Saturday evening, plans are being made for a dinner at a nearby restaurant for covered bridge aficionados to socialize.

The Cooperstown area offers many [other attractions and places to stay](#). Camping sites can be reserved through [Reserve America](#).

New York State Parks' Glimmerglass and the Hyde Hall State Historic Site are hosting the events along with the New York State Covered Bridge Society, the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center, and the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges.

Hyde Hall bridge, 53 feet long and with unusual horizontal siding, was built to give access to the Hyde Hall estate of George Clarke. Some of the notable visitors who crossed the bridge to visit the estate include Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Samuel F.B. Morse, and Juliette Gordon Low. The rain date for the celebration is Sunday, October 12.

For more information, please contact Wayne Marshfield at [w.marshfield1947@gmail.com](mailto:w.marshfield1947@gmail.com).

## Bridge Watch Program

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society, in its mission to preserve Vermont's covered bridges, has long had a Bridge Watch Program across the state. Bridge Watch areas have been identified in communities that have covered bridges, which are usually owned by the towns in which they are located.

The purpose of this program is to promote covered bridge preservation, along with the help of local residents, who share the benefits and costs of maintaining their historic spans. As taxpayers and voters, they can go to their municipal government to advocate for the preservation of the covered bridges.

A Bridge Watcher monitors a covered bridge for changes to the bridge wrought by the weather, vehicles, and the public.

Many bridge sites can present dangers. VCBS volunteers are not trained to investigate those dangers. Bridge Watchers must always perform their checks from a safe distance and location, including all observations and photos. Nothing more is required than to pass such information and photos on to the persons responsible and qualified to do more.

Bridge Watchers should NEVER attempt to go under any structure. Nor should they attempt to handle or inspect bridge components in any way. The Bridge Watcher's task is strictly one of observation. All observations should be recorded on the Bridge Watch Check List and forwarded to the Chapter Chairperson and Bridge Watch Coordinator. The process will be put in motion, and appropriate action will be forthcoming.

We have a number of Covered Bridges in Vermont where members have volunteered to be Bridge Watchers. However, there are still gaps in our coverage with bridges that don't have a dedicated watcher. The following list shows covered bridges where no watcher has been assigned. If you'd like to become a bridge watcher or would like more details, please contact us at [vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com](mailto:vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com). Also, if you are a Bridge Watcher but your bridge is listed, please let us know so we can correct our records.

Thank you for considering to participate in this program. It cannot exist without local volunteers who take ownership of their covered bridges. Stay safe and enjoy the program.

| Town           | Bridge (s)              |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Arlington      | Bridge at the Green     |
| Bennington     | Henry, Paper Mill, Silk |
| Sunderland     | Chisleville             |
| Westford       | Brown's River           |
| Enosburg       | Hopkins                 |
| East Fairfield | East Fairfield          |
| Fairfax        | Maple Street/Village    |

|                 |                                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Montgomery      | Creamery/West Hill, Fuller, Hutchins, Longley, Comstock |
| Johnson         | Power House, Scribner                                   |
| Morristown      | Red                                                     |
| Stowe           | Gold Brook (Emily's)                                    |
| Wolcott         | Fisher Railroad (off road)                              |
| Chelsea         | Moxley                                                  |
| Thetford        | Union/Village, Sayres                                   |
| Tunbridge       | Flint, Larkin, Mill, Cilley, Howe                       |
| East Montpelier | Coburn                                                  |
| Marshfield      | Martin                                                  |
| Waitsfield      | Village/Eddy, Pine Brook                                |
| Warren          | Warren                                                  |
| Grafton         | Kidder Hill                                             |
| Guildford       | Green River                                             |
| Hartland        | Martin's Mill, Willard, Willard Twin                    |
| Springfield     | Baltimore                                               |
| Weathersfield   | Salmond, Downers, Stoughton (off road)                  |
| Windsor         | Bests, Bowers                                           |
| Woodstock       | Lincoln, Middle, Taftsville                             |

## Board of Directors Meetings

- by Mark Maddox

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Board of Directors have started meeting more frequently. Instead of printing a complete copy of the minutes in the newsletter, a synopsis will be included. Full copies of the minutes are available on the Vermont Covered Bridge Society website under the member's portal.

Our December, January and February meetings are as follows:

### December 19, 2024

#### **Item 1: Review slate of officers for January, 1 2025 – January 1, 2027 term**

- Beth Brown Limmer –President, Steve Miyamoto – Vice-President, Dan Monger – Treasurer, Mark Maddox – Secretary, Joe Nelson awarded title of President Emeritus
- Board unanimously voted for list of officers.

#### **Item 2: Review 2025 Budget**

- Reviewed budget provided by Treasurer Dan Monger.
- Several changes made to budget submitted.
- Board unanimously approved amended budget

#### **Item 3: VCBS email addresses/business cards with [vermontbridges.org](http://vermontbridges.org) designations**

- Agreed that Board Members who want a VCBS email can notify Vice-President Steve Miyamoto to create an independent mail box that can be listed on their business cards.

#### **Item 4: Newsletters to towns with covered bridges**

- Agreed that we will send our electronic newsletter to towns that have Covered Bridges
- Jeanne Beaudry will make a list of the towns that have Covered Bridges and will include highway dept emails.

- d. Will create letter to go with March newsletters inviting them to join the VCBS.
- e. Create Mailchimp list for municipalities separate from paid membership.

**Item 5: Bridge-Watch recruitment: identify membership in the vicinity of covered bridges**

- a. Identify where we have bridge watchers.
- b. Identify gaps where there are no bridge watchers.
- c. Appeal to the membership in email or newsletter to fill gaps.

**Item 6: Bylaw Updates**

- a. President Emeritus – make a voting member of the board.
- b. Education Committee, minor grammatic updates
- c. Governance of VCBS Logo – remove list of items required for the applicant to provide. Will include in separate area.
- d. Bylaws approved unanimously by the board as amended.

January 16, 2025

**Item 1: Officer Reports**

**a. President's Report – Beth Brown Limmer**

- a. See this edition's President's Report

**b. Vice-President's Report – Steve Miyamoto**

- a. Transfer of items to Mark and Dan
- b. Peggy Wilson is a publication person who has joined VCBS and an enthusiast for Vermont Covered Bridges. Working with Steve on branding effort for VCBS. Coming up with branding strategy for VCBS. – Graphics, fonts, colors, etc.
  - i. Unified look for VCBS – consistency through the organization
  - ii. Will not impact our logo trademarking

**c. Secretary's Report – Mark Maddox**

- a. Taking on responsibility for monitoring VCBS gmail box, Mailchimp
- b. Donation process
  - i. All donations will be tracked by Mark, regardless of amount

**d. Treasurer's Report – Dan Monger**

- a. Revised 2025 budget
  - i. Board approved to take \$7,500 to place in a CD at Union Bank
    - 1. Dan to get CD set up
- b. Theodore Burr Resource Center in NY requested donation for \$500 for new website for resource center
  - i. New website to do research on covered bridges. Currently under development. – approved unanimously
- c. Revise Save-A-Bridge fund in bylaws to reflect only donations will go into the Save-a Bridge fund.
  - i. Board approved unanimously

**Item 2: Committee Reports**

**a. Bridge Watch – Miles Jenness**

- a. Working on writing newsletter article to get Bridge Watchers for every bridge
- b. Depot Bridge in Pittsford received damage to the weatherboard however no structural damage
- c. Damage to Taftsville bridge is unknown if fixed
- d. Westford waiting for grant for Browns River Bridge
- e. Sandborn Bridge, request for proposal not putting until April or May but hoping to get it done this year.
- f. Great Eddy bridge – all structural repairs done, waiting for warmer weather for roofing, did repair some rot that was found
- g. Sanderson bridge not yet repaired
- h. Working to find out about getting headache bars installed on more bridges
- i. Millers Run Bridge in Lyndonville has not had the metal installed on the concrete piers yet

**b. Education – Jeanne Beaudry**

- a. Will attend High School science fair – February 21st
- b. 4H state day will include covered bridges as one of their topics – May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**c. Membership – Scott Scribner**

- a. Brandon Chamber membership - won Brandon Reporter ad for this month

- b. Will be checking with new members on how they heard of us.
- c. Put information regarding the member portal in the newsletter
- d. List new members in the newsletters
- d. Publicity - Liam McKone
  - a. Cambridge Junction Bridge – would like to adopt policy to keep bridge closed to traffic – Liam to present VCBS board opinion to Selectboard
    - i. From 9-18-24 board of directors email the following was recommended
      - 1. Shall VCBS encourage the permanent closure of the Cambridge Junction Covered Bridge to motor vehicles?
      - 2. Pass: 8 yes / 1 no
  - b. Events – Beth Brown Limmer
  - c. Making progress on spring meeting in Saxtons River – 6-7-25
- e. Fundraising – Beth Brown Limmer
  - a. Big E in Springfield Mass. – apply for a spot in Vermont Building

## February 20, 2025

### Item 1: Officer Reports

- 1. **President's Report – Beth Brown Limmer**
  - a. See this edition's President Report
- 2. **Vice-President's Report – Steve Miyamoto**
  - a. See communications committee
- 3. **Secretary's Report – Mark Maddox**
  - a. Reviewed donations received so far in 2025
  - b. Bylaws change for Save-a-bridge fund wording uploaded to website
- 4. **Treasurer's Report – Dan Monger**
  - a. High interest online savings account – Capital One (3.7%) vs PayPal (4%)
    - i. Steve will continue to work with Dan on transferring PayPal account
    - ii. Motion made to set up \$6,500 in high interest saving account with PayPal

- 1. Unanimously approved by the board
- b. Save-a-bridge fund set up in Union Bank?
  - i. \$7500 CD created 1/17/25 for 6 months at 4.03% APY at Union Bank

NOTE: I asked Dan off-line if the \$500 donation the board approved on 1-16-25 for the Burr Resource Center (to go toward their new website) had been made. He will be sending it 2-21-25. mm

### Item 2: Committee Reports

- 1. Education – Jeanne Beaudry
  - a. Today had booth at middle school science fair. See education committee report
  - b. Will again work at Derby School for bridge building 4-15 to 4-17.
  - c. Beth to meet with scouting troop leader to work on pollinator garden at the Eureka Schoolhouse / Brooklyn Covered Bridge in Springfield.
- 2. Publicity - Liam McKone
  - a. Will investigate having a presence at Champlain Valley Fair in Essex Junction.
  - b. Beth brought up that we will not be going to the Big E this summer due to the cost of a point-of-sale system requirement and that we'd need more insurance coverage than we have now.
  - c. Liam waiting to discuss closure of Cambridge Junction bridge to traffic once the new select board chair is elected in March.
  - d. Grant funding opportunities (from 11-21-24 meeting)
    - i. Community center in Cambridge Junction – might be able to add covered bridge presence
- 3. Fundraising – Beth Brown Limmer
  - a. Cost of ball caps going up so will shop around
  - b. 2 boxes of covered bridge stationary available to sell
  - c. Note cards from John Knox will be available for sale



- d. Will have fundraising meeting to discuss what we are going to sell
- e. Crowd funding – Liam asked if we can use this to help with restoring bridges.
- f. Venmo – Steve working to see if we can use the iPhone we were given for this
- 4. Events – Beth Brown Limmer
  - a. June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in Saxtons River
  - b. Weathersfield will probably be the location for the Fall meeting but Beth is investigating. Will be 9-27 or 10-4
  - c. Tunbridge Worlds Fair – Dan asked if it would be worth attending. Right around time of Chester festival. Maybe more of a carnival type but Beth to investigate.
- 5. Membership – Scott Scribner
  - a. Sent renewal reminder
  - b. Currently have 355 members, 134 are lifetime members,
    - i. waiting on 162 responses for renewal.
    - ii. Doing proof of life on lifetime membership
    - iii. Are charter members lifetime members? – No
      - 1. CM is really contributing member, not charter. Don't pay money but are contributing in-kind
- 6. Bridge Watch – Miles Jenness
  - a. Browns River bridge – will probably be working on that
  - b. Reached out to town of Lyndonville but not heard back if they had any issues on the headache bar for Millers Run
    - i. Jeanne will go and see if the headache bar is finished
  - c. Waitsfield bridge done except for roofing
  - d. Heard from Charlotte road foreman that the Quinlan Bridge had been hit but haven't heard if any work will be done to fix it. Other bridges in Charlotte also need work.
  - e. Joe asked about Schoolhouse bridge in Lyndonville – no response yet from the town
    - i. Miles could do the work there, maybe just remove the walkway that is in jeopardy. Will follow up with the town
  - f. RFP for Sanborn still to be out in April/May - Lyndon
  - g. Beth to follow-up on Taftsville bridge to see if repaired
  - h. Sanderson bridge still not repaired – Brandon
  - i. Would like to make sure that bridges are repaired with the species of wood that was used at the time the bridge was built for historic preservation and using the techniques (e.g. hewn timbers)
  - j. Discussion regarding bridges on historic register that may not be old – e.g. authentic replication
    - i. E.g. Longley bridge
- 7. Communications – Steve Miyamoto
  - a. Email addresses being worked on for board members who want a VCBS address
  - b. Website – new feature – Combined Covered Bridges
    - i. Broken up by county for Historic, Romantic Shelters (non-traditional), Authentic – worked with Dale Travis for non-traditional bridges

### **Item 3: New items**

- 1. 4H request to use Logo
  - a. Board unanimously approved
- 2. Should VCBS join Lamoille County Ec Dev Chamber - \$75 for Mar 2025 – 2026
  - a. Decided not to joining the Lamoille County Ec Dev Chamber
  - b. Liam will take the lead on the organization of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Cambridge Junction
- 3. Letter inviting municipalities to join
  - a. Beth and Scott will work on this
- 4. QR subscription
  - a. Steve sent presentation showing how this works.
  - b. Have discussion regarding this in the March meeting.



PO Box 83  
Brandon, VT  
05733-0083



## Vermont Covered Bridge Society Membership Application

Dues and donations are used to promote the preservation of Vermont's covered bridges

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

**Membership:** ☐ New ☐ Renewal  
☐ Student (\$10) ☐ Individual (\$15) ☐ Couples (\$20) ☐ Life (\$200)  
☐ Life-Couple (\$300) ☐ Business/Organization/Municipality (\$15)

(Memberships are valid to the end of the current calendar year)  
 (New memberships purchased in the fourth quarter are valid through the next calendar year)

### Donations:

☐ Palladio (\$2) ☐ Palmer (\$5) ☐ Hale (\$10) ☐ Burr (\$25)  
☐ Powers (\$50) ☐ Town (\$75) ☐ Tasker (\$100) ☐ Long (\$150)  
☐ Paddleford (\$200) ☐ Whipple (\$250)  
☐ Other Amount (\$\_\_\_\_\_)

(The Vermont Covered Bridge Society is a 501c3 organization)

### Newsletter Delivery:

☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email  
☐ Opt-out

### Receive VCBS Email:

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Return completed application with payment to:** **OR Visit our website to join:**

Vermont Covered Bridge Society  
PO Box 83  
Brandon, VT 05733

(Checks payable to Vermont Covered Bridge Society)



[www.vermontbridges.org/membership](http://www.vermontbridges.org/membership)