



THE BRIDGER

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter – September 2025

Mark Maddox, Editor

From the Editor

Welcome to the 102nd edition of *The Bridger*!

It has been an exceedingly busy Summer for the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. In this edition you'll find highlights of the activities we participated in during our first annual Covered Bridge Week. We were also at the Rutland Fair and the Best of Vermont in Ludlow where we spread the word about Vermont's Covered Bridges. To close out the summer, we'll be at the Tunbridge World's Fair, the Chester Festival in September and Tap to Table in Cuttingsville on October 5th. Following closely on the heels of those events will be our fall meeting in Weathersfield, VT.

We also have some sad news to pass on regarding the passing of 2 members of our Bridge family.

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)

President's Report

- by Beth Brown-Limmer

Greetings!

Since the June newsletter, I have had the pleasure of seeing many of you in person and/or talked with you on the phone. I hope the summer has been kind to you, giving you time to pursue warm weather hobbies and spend memorable time with family and friends.

It has been an extremely busy three months for me and my husband, Paul. We have been bridging a bit in NH and upstate NY, usually in conjunction with running errands for VCBS. We will get away for a couple weeks after Columbus Day activities in Cooperstown, NY, celebrating the Hyde Hall Covered Bridge's 200th birthday. (The Big Eddy CB in Waitsfield will turn 200 in 2033)

There have been two Board of Directors meetings: July 24 and August 21, 2025.

Board changes: Peggy Wilson approved as Publicity Committee Chair on May 15, 2025. Scott Scribner replaced Steve Miyamoto as Vice President on June 20, 2025.

At the upcoming Fall meeting on October 4 in Weathersfield, the following bylaw changes will be on the agenda:

1. Donations of less than \$50 to VCBS will be added to the general operating checking account to defray the cost of operating expenses. (Larger donations go to the Save-a-Bridge Fund)
2. Creation of Assistant Treasurer position. Duties: To assist the Treasurer with accounting, payments, record keeping, and investments of VCBS. Will attend Board of Director meetings in the absence of the Treasurer and vote in lieu of Treasurer. Check (and other instruments) signing privileges and online banking capability will be granted to Assistant Treasurer.

President: Beth Brown Limmer, 2702 RTE 30, Sudbury, VT 05733, email: melby5584@aol.com

Vice President: Scott Scribner, 69 Park St, Brandon, VT 05733, email: scottscribner@earthlink.net

Secretary: Mark Maddox, PO Box 296, Saxtons River, VT 05154, email: marmad40@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dan Monger, 26 Lake St., Tunkhannock, PA 18657-7128, email: teelmonger@ptd.net

3. VCBS President shall appoint Assistant Treasurer and renew the appointment after each election cycle.

These changes are needed as VCBS continues to add new members, has more events, receives more donations, sells more merchandise, and makes further investments. We have “growing pains” and an assistant to the Treasurer will lighten the load on one volunteer.

On June 7, the Spring meeting was held. Business meeting started promptly at 10:30 a.m. and covered quite a bit of ground in 90 minutes. There were 33 members in person, and four via Zoom. It poured rain the whole day, until the second covered bridge of the caravan in the afternoon. Many thanks to the Events Team: Karen Tryon, Mark Maddox, Paul Limmer and the banner deliverers: John Knox, Bob Underhill, Phill Gatenby, Marcel and Jeanne Beaudry. Eleven life members in attendance were awarded their life member pins. The regional bridging journals and the 2026 VCBS calendar made their debut. Caravan leader was Phill Gatenby.

In July, I was a guest on the podcast, *The Thought Card*, with Danielle Corbet. She and I met at the Vermont Tourism Summit in late April. Her podcast features travel destinations. Vermont’s covered bridges certainly qualify as that. I recorded the podcast on July 8. It went live on August 28 and is “*the ultimate guide to visiting covered bridges in Vermont*”. Find it in Season 6, Episode 202.

Our own VCBS podcast continues every other month and is recorded at the Okemo Valley TV studio in Ludlow. In May, the title was *Collaborating with VCBS*. It

is available on public access TV and radio throughout Vermont. The 4-H educator for Rutland and Bennington counties, Mooney Shorey, and Mark Maddox were the guests. Vermont 4-H and Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce are but two of the organizations VCBS has formed collaborations within this last year. In July, the podcast title was *Celebrating with VCBS*. My guest was Peggy Wilson who talked about the future of VCBS publicity and marketing, our new website, the 5-yr strategic plan, and Covered Bridge Week in Vermont. In September, Phill Gatenby will return as a guest to give a status report on his video series and FB group he began 10 months ago. He has made nearly 40 videos now, each one a covered bridge in Vermont. It will be entitled: *Checking in with Vermont’s 100 Covered Bridges producer*.

You may have seen me on WCAX *Across the Fence* show on July 25, 2025. Ella Renaud, the poster contest winner, was with me. We talked about the events planned for Covered Bridge Week in Vermont, August 2- 9. Many thanks to Keith Silva and WCAX for their outstanding coverage of VCBS projects and events since my first appearance on ATF in October 2024.

Going forward, September will find us at the Tunbridge World’s Fair and Chester Festival on the Green. See Events Report for details. We hope to have a new Treasurer by the time I see you all at the Fall Meeting in early October. My deepest gratitude to Dan Monger for serving as Treasurer for so many years! (Your wish for a replacement has been granted, at long last!)

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Brown- Limmer
VCBS President

Committee Reports

Communications – Steve Miyamoto

Wilson Creative Group is in the process of creating the phase 1 design for the new VCBS website. Expected time of release will be this Fall. This new design will be mobile-friendly with optimization for small devices being a priority. Much of the current information will be regrouped or consolidated. Phase 2 will take on the task of organizing some of the more technical information in a new format. We don’t have a timeline for this currently. Peggy can provide more information.

Coming soon, digital download of the John Knox thumb drive. John has given us 103 Vermont covered bridge photos that we offer for sale. Currently these photos are available on a thumb drive. Watch for an email announcing the availability.

Historical – Steve Miyamoto

We continue to get covered bridge collections. Liam McKone has passed along a collection of his containing archival material he has accumulated over the years. We welcome all covered bridge collections whether it be photos, post cards, newspaper articles, or anything else related to Vermont Covered Bridges.

To donate a collection, send an email to vermontcoveredbridgesociety@gmail.com.

Membership – Scott Scribner

The last couple months have been a blur as we have completed Vermont Covered Bridge Week and now is festival time. I have had a great time being able to be out and meet a lot more people and talk with them about becoming members. Since the beginning of this year, we

have added 68 new members, which has been amazing. It was nice meeting and talking with you all and please tell your friends as it is a goal to surpass 100 new members this year. We still have time!

Publicity – Peggy Wilson

Super coverage from our statewide media sharing our schedule for Covered Bridge Week, follow up success story to release is pending.

As we anticipate next year's Covered Bridge Week, the goal is to grow further awareness and encourage covered bridge towns to have their own events and have a ripple effect on our efforts.

The board welcomes Adam Karle as a publicity committee member. Looking forward to your support, as needed.

Education Committee – Jeanne Beaudry

With the beginning of the school year, I have been in contact with various schools. Plans are in the works to visit a number of schools. The Education Committee needs YOU. If you are interested in sharing your love of covered bridges with Vermont's youth (Schools, 4-H, and/or Scouts), please contact me at VCBS.Education@vermontbridges.org

Events and Fundraising – Beth Brown-Limmer

The report of the 2025 Spring Meeting in Saxtons River, VT on June 7, 2025, is found in the President's Report. Between the donations collected for lunch, the Silent Auction, and the Teacup Raffle, the cost of the venue rental (Main Street Arts) and lunch were defrayed significantly. Once again, I thank everyone who spent their time, gas, and oil to attend. Special thanks to Mark Maddox for securing the venue at a reasonable price, set up and breakdown, and myriad other tasks!

Next up was Covered Bridge Week in Vermont! The week began on August 2 with two events, one in Montgomery and another in Pittsford, followed by three events / venues on Aug 4 for Maple Monday. Tuesday found us in Northfield, Wednesday in Springfield, and Thursday in Brattleboro. There are lots of photos in this newsletter for you to enjoy. On Friday, 8/8, VCBS was in Brandon at the Farmer's Market, and Saturday the week's finale was in Jeffersonville village and Cambridge Junction Covered Bridge. A good time was had by all! The weather was perfect every day! Between sales of VCBS merchandise and donations, nearly \$3,000 was raised. Thanks to the sales team: Scott and Barbara Scribner, Mark Maddox, Jeanne and Marcel Beaudry, Paul and I, and the support crew: Phill Gatenby, Jill

MacMenamin, Adam Karle, Peggy Wilson, Bob Underhill, and Steve Brown. Many thanks to those who donated, purchased, participated, attended, and showed so much support for VCBS!

What about next year? Well, that's already in the planning stages! Several towns with covered bridges are already standing up committees and thinking of fun events that they can do. Sat. August 1 – Sat. Aug 8, 2026, will be Covered Bridge Week in Vermont. How do you want to help? Let me know!

The State Fair at Rutland was August 12 – 16, 2025. It was hot and humid, the dog days of Summer. Despite a very slow first two days, Thurs, Fri, and Sat were good for traffic and sales. VCBS has been in the same spot in Vermont Building for the last 4 years with the same vendor rate. In this day and age, that is remarkable, and we thank Heidi Congdon, Concessions Supt., and her fabulous crew. We ended up with a net profit of just over \$1,100.00 for the week. As tight as money is, that is fantastic! Sales crew of Karen Tryon, Barbara and Scott Scribner, Mark Maddox, Paul and I were pleased. Having this fair on the heels of Covered Bridge Week was physically taxing for me, and to do it next year, more evening help will be needed. 2026 Fair dates are: Tues – Sat. August 11 – 15.

Should we think about going to Addison Fair and Field Days in late July? Or perhaps Lamoille County Field Days in June? Who wants to help VCBS go to more and different areas of Vermont? We have the merchandise and the ambition if we have the volunteers to help. September 10, 2025, will be set-up day at the Tunbridge World's Fair. Open 9 – 9 on Sept 11 – 15, VCBS booth will be in Heritage Hall. This is the first time for us at this epic Vermont event. The sales crew (Sally and Ed Cleveland, Steve Brown, Mark Maddox, Scott Scribner, and Paul and I) will be geared up for education, recruitment, and sales! Come see our full line of merchandise on display!

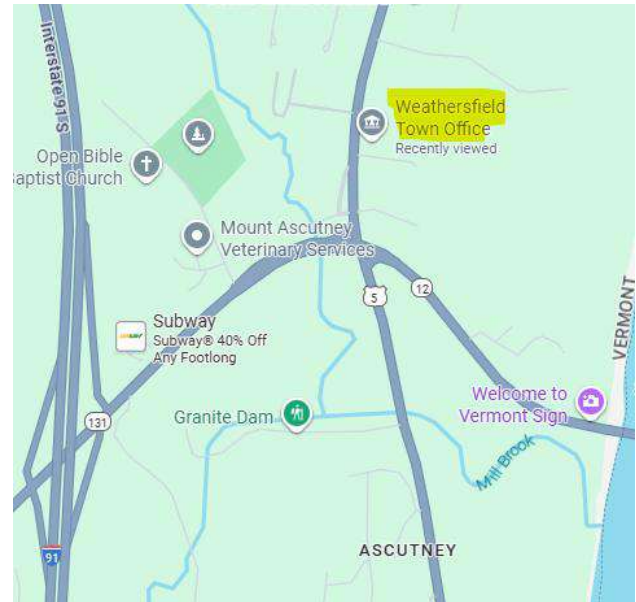
Chester Festival on the Green has welcomed VCBS back as a non-profit vendor (one of a handful) for the third year. Sat. and Sun. Sept 20 -21, 2025. This is an extremely busy and profitable event for us, requiring 2 cashiers and 2 salespeople. If you can fill a slot, for 2-3 hrs either day, please let me know. And then you can go see what the other nearly 100 vendors and exhibits are all about!

Did you know VCBS is going to the Big E?! (New England Exposition in West Springfield, MA) Mark Maddox will represent VCBS on Mon. Sept 22, 2025, in the Vermont Building on the Avenue of States. No sales are allowed

but VCBS brochures will be available to fair goers throughout this 18-day event. That is free publicity, thanks to Mark’s willingness to go and do a shift. Thank you, Mark!

It’s a way off, but the Pittsford Craft Show on Sat Nov. 15 at Lothrop School and the Moonlight Madness in Brandon the first week of December are on the VCBS dance card.

Don’t miss the Fall Meeting in Weathersfield, VT on Sat. October 4, 2025, at the Weathersfield Town Office! Arrive at 10 a.m. Business meeting 10:30 to 11:45 ish. Lunch at noon. Brainstorming and recognition: 1 – 2:30. Things to consider: Should VCBS have one meeting per year during Covered Bridge Week in August? Is it time for VCBS to consolidate committees? Publicity and Communications committees be one committee? Renamed Outreach Committee? Events and Fundraising to be one committee? Renamed Activities Committee? This would reduce the size of the Board of Directors. Should VCBS plan a covered bridge safari in 2026? What other ideas do members have? Please come and enjoy the day with fellow covered bridge enthusiasts!



Weathersfield Town Office: 5259 US-5, Ascutney, VT 05030

Lastly, VCBS will be a first-time vendor at Tap to Table on Sunday, Oct 5, 2025, from 10 - 4. This is the fifth year for this wildly popular event in Cuttingsville, VT. Sponsored by Stewart Maple, we are excited to enjoy a splendid Autumn day with local craftsmen and small businesses of Vermont.



Saturday, August 2nd - Montgomery and Pittsford

On Saturday the 2nd, the Vermont Covered Bridge Week kicked off simultaneously in Montgomery and Pittsford.

Montgomery: VCBS was at the Montgomery Farmer’s Market. Jeanne Beaudry, Marcel Beaudry, Doreen Beaudry and Mark Maddox staffed the VCBS booth doing fundraising, information dissemination and membership building.

In addition, the Montgomery Historical Society featured *A Brief History of Montgomery’s Covered Bridges*. This presentation explored Montgomery’s history, the Covered Bridges of Montgomery and the Jewett bridge-



L to R - Gerald Jewett Jr. and Sherman Jewett

building family. As we chatted with people, we were surprised by the appearance of 2 great-grandsons of Giles Jewett. Great-grandson Gerald Jewett shared that Giles used to log the woods in Montgomery to harvest the materials for the bridges as well as lumber for other items.



L to R - Jeanne Beaudry, Misty McCartney (Montgomery resident and schoolteacher), Marcel Beaudry

Pittsford: Beth Brown-Limmer and Paul Limmer, tended the VCBS booth at Pittsford Day. Again, selling merchandise, providing information and working on adding to the VCBS membership.



VCBS booth in Pittsford

They also had a surprise visit by a Stormtrooper from the future Galactic Empire.



L to R - Stormtrooper, Beth Brown-Limmer and 2 guests

Maple Monday, August 4th

Continuing with our simultaneous events, on Maple Monday we were present at 3 covered bridges around the state. This was an opportunity to bring together 2 icons of Vermont – Covered Bridges and maple products.

In **North Shrewsbury at Brown Covered Bridge**, VCBS partnered with Stewart's Maple of Cuttingsville. Here Peggy Wilson, Beth Brown-Limmer and Paul Limmer provided information regarding the VCBS and sold merchandise alongside Alyssa Stewart of Stewart's Maple products.



L to R - Paul Limmer, Beth Brown-Limmer, Alyssa Stewart, Bob Underhill – Brown CB



L to R - Peggy Wilson and Alyssa Stewart – Brown CB

At the **Mount Orne Covered Bridge in Lunenburg**, Scott and Barbara Scribner provided information on the VCBS and Vermont's Covered Bridges along with Nate from Nate's Maple Syrup.



L to R - Scott Scribner, Barbara Scribner, and unknown customer - Mount Orne CB



Nate of Nate's Maple Syrup, Scott Scribner, Jeanne Beaudry and unknown customer – Mount Orne CB



Barbara Scribner at the VCBS table - Mount Orne CB

The final location of the day on Maple Monday was at the **Bartonsville Covered Bridge in Rockingham**. We set up a table in VCBS member Marvie Campbell's front yard. Mark Maddox provided information on Vermont's Covered Bridges while Adam Karle, joined by his 2 children, dished out Maple Walnut ice cream from Stewart's Shoppe in West Rutland. Sugar Bob from Sugar Bob's of Chester provided a wide range of maple products available for sale.



VCBS at Bartonsville Covered Bridge. If you have the 2026 calendar for the month of July, this scene should look familiar

Tuesday, August 5th - Northfield Farmers Market, Northfield

VCBS made their presence known at Northfield with Beth Brown-Limmer, Paul Limmer and Barbara and Scott Scribner.



Northfield Historical Society

Wednesday, August 6 Springfield Town Library – August Armchair Adventure to Covered Bridges

On Wednesday, Beth Brown-Limmer treated the audience at the Springfield Library to an informative presentation of 12 covered bridges around Springfield. We were joined by several VCBS members as well as VCBS director Neil Daniels. The presentation included both Vermont and New Hampshire covered bridges that were nearby.

Included in the presentation was a video from Phill Gatenby on the Bowers Covered Bridge which was swept down river during Hurricane Irene in 2011 and restored.



Beth Brown-Limmer discussing the Baltimore Covered Bridge



L-R VCBS member Marvie Campbell, VCBS Director Neil Daniels, 2 guests, VCBS member Steve Brown

Thursday, August 7th Creamery Covered Bridge - Brattleboro

On Thursday, August 7th, VCBS was at the Creamery Covered Bridge in Brattleboro. Here we paired with the Brattleboro Parks and Recreation Dept & Brattleboro Elks Club who provided ice cream that was served by the Brattleboro Garden Club. The Brattleboro Garden Club also provided free flower arrangements to guests. Mark Maddox, Peggy Wilson and Beth Brown-Limmer provide information regarding the VCBS and Vermont's Covered Bridges. Inside the bridge, Phill Gatenby premiered his film: *Covered Bridges of Southern Windham Count, Vermont*. If you missed it, Phill's video is on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcbjelCznW8>



L to R - VCBS Members Jill MacMenamin, Peggy Wilson, Mark Maddox, Phill Gatenby and Beth Brown-Limmer



Visitors watching the video inside Creamery Covered Bridge. Phill Gatenby is second from the left (as well as on screen.)

Friday, August 8 - Brandon Farmers Market, Brandon

On Friday of Covered Bridge week, VCBS was at the Brandon Farmers Market. VCBS was represented there by Beth Brown-Limmer, Paul Limmer, Scott Scribner and Barbara Scribner. They were visited by local members of government, Representative Todd Neilson and State Senator Brian Collamore. There was easy trivia with prizes for those who wanted to try their skill.



L to R - Rep Todd Neilson, Paul Limmer, Scott Scribner, Barbara Scribner, Beth Brown-Limmer, Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins, State Senator Brian Collamore



L to R - State Senator Brian Collamore, Beth Brown-Limmer, Barbara Scribner, and Scott Scribner

Saturday, August 9 - Jeffersonville Art Jam, Jeffersonville

On the final day of Covered Bridge Week, VCBS was up at Jeffersonville for their Art Jam. There, Jeanne and Marcel Beaudry along with Mark Maddox staffed the VCBS booth. Marcel's model of the Lord's Creek Covered bridge was a big hit for attendees and helped start the conversation on Vermont's Covered Bridges.



L to R – Mark Maddox and Marcel Beaudry with Marcel's covered bridge



L - Jeanne Beaudry discussing a bridge project with a student and her mother

Saturday, August 9th - Cambridge Junction Plaque Dedication

Vermont Covered Bridge Week concluded Saturday afternoon at the Cambridge Junction/Polard Covered Bridge. It was the condition of this bridge that caused the Vermont Covered Bridge Society to come into being. The Society was founded to address concerns about the loss of Vermont's historically significant wooden spans.

The plaque, donated by Jeanne and Marcel Beaudry reads: "This plaque recognizes the unsafe condition and closure of this covered bridge in 1993, along with the need to preserve these Vermont historic wooden spans, was the driving force behind the formation of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society, incorporated February 2, 2000. US Senator Jim Jeffords of Rutland, Vermont was instrumental in securing federal funds used to restore the bridge which reopened on July 4, 2004." Founding members listed are Joseph Nelson, Ed Barna, William McKone and Terry Shaw.



Plaque donated by Jeanne and Marcel Beaudry - Photo by Drew Bressell of Brezel Photography



L to R - Marcel Beaudry, Jeanne Beaudry, Joel Page (President of Cambridge Historical Society), Scott Scribner, Mark Maddox, Nick Thielsen, Joe Nelson, Hannah Haley, Liam McKone, Steve Miyamoto. – Photo by Drew Bressell of Brezel Photography



L to R - Marcel and Jeanne Beaudry with plaque

Joining founding members Joe Nelson and William "Liam" McKone were a number of members of the VCBS as well as 4 members of the Board of Directors. Laim spoke about the founding of the VCBS prior to unvailing of the plaque.



L to R -Marcel Beaudry, Eric Boozan, Mark Maddox, Liam McKone, Joel Page (President of Cambridge Historical Society), Joe Nelson, Jeanne Beaudry, Scott Scribner, Nick Thielsen, Hannah Haley, Steve Miyamoto Photos by Drew Bressell of Brezel Photography

Passages

A Tribute to Ed Barna

– by Irene Barna and Beth Brown-Limmer

A renown Vermont journalist and avid covered bridge advocate died on July 12, 2025. He and his wife, Irene, devoted many years to the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. Irene served as Secretary for 20 years.

Ed was born in Middlebury on December 23, 1947. He grew up in his beloved Vermont and left only to attend college in Massachusetts.

In one of his books is this Author's Note:

After graduating Magna Cum Laude with a degree in English Literature from Harvard, Ed was selected to be the poet-in-residence at Robert Frost Farm in Derry, NH during the years it was being converted into a state park and historic landmark. He then went on to a distinguished career in journalism, reporting for both Vermont newspapers and magazines. His book, *Covered Bridges of Vermont*, is the most comprehensive guide to these links to Vermont's history.

Ed's byline is well known to readers of The Rutland Herald. He wrote for that daily newspaper for over 30 years. His book about Vermont's covered bridges was solicited in the mid-1990's by The Countryman Press in Woodstock, Vermont. After years of researching the history and stories of the covered bridges, his guide book was first printed in 1996. It is in its fourth printing and still available today, now distributed by W. W. Norton Publishing.



Photo of Ed Barna: From his book, A Reporter's Vermont, Volume One

When the VCBS was first thought of in the late 1990's, Ed Barna was called. As an author, prolific journalist, and native son, he was "all in" on the formation and incorporation of an organization dedicated to the preservation of Vermont's covered bridges. His name appears on the "founders' plaque" now affixed to the Poland Covered Bridge at Cambridge Junction, Vermont. A dedication ceremony was held on August 9, 2025, as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of VCBS.

Montgomery Historical Society & Richford Historical Society

Present
"Covered Bridges Of Vermont"

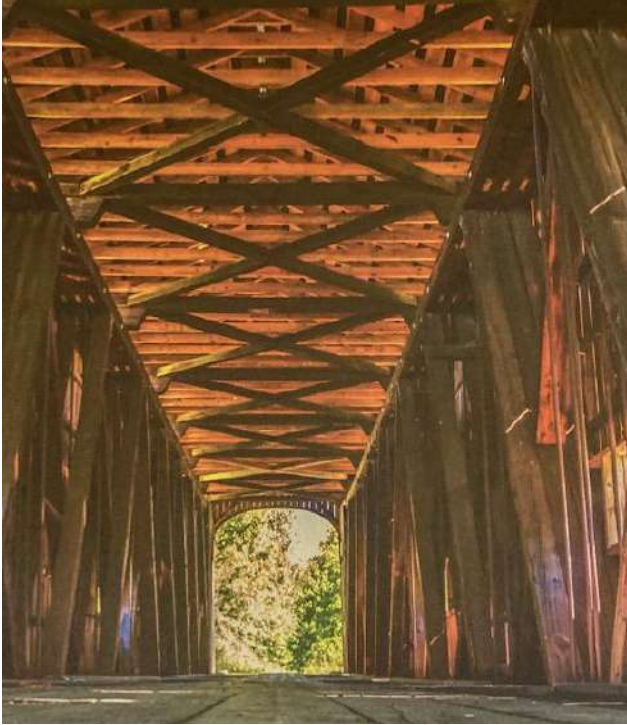
A Discussion and Slide Show
 by
Ed Barna,
 author and poet

October 17, 2003
 7:00 p.m.
 Pratt Hall
 Main Street
 (Route 118)
 Montgomery Village,
 Vermont

Please Join Us. Admission is free.
 Donations gladly accepted. Call
 326-4869 for more information.

Ed traveled the state to speak about covered bridges as a member of the speaker's bureau for the Vermont Historical Society.

Recently, the Brattleboro Floral Arts and Garden Club gifted a cobblestone to VCBS. It will be engraved: Ed Barna, journalist, VCBS founder, and placed at the Creamery Covered Bridge in Brattleboro, Vermont.



Ed and Irene were married inside the Shoreham Railroad covered bridge on August 18, 2001.

Arnold Milton Graton

5/29/37-5/6/25

Arnold Milton Graton was a Master Covered Bridge-wright. He passed away at his home with his wife, Meg, at his side.

Arnold devoted his life to preserving America's architectural heritage through the restoration and construction of covered bridges and historic structures. Arnold was a problem solver and excelled at tackling difficult projects. He was widely respected for his commitment to traditional craftsmanship and historical accuracy. Arnold was a man of few words but often offered a dry sense of Yankee humor.

Throughout his notable career, Arnold built 16 new covered bridges and restored more than 65 others.

Arnold's experience extended well beyond covered bridges to varied undertaking such as relocating a round barn to Shelburne Museum in VT, work on the timber frame at the James Madison mansion in VA, restoring a church in SC, repairing NH fire towers, building timber

bridges on Mt. Washington's Tuckerman's Trail and work on the Mayflower II at Mystic Seaport in CT.

Arnold was known for his quiet humility and demeanor, allowing his work to speak for itself. His integrity was evident in every project he undertook – his handshake, a reflection of his honesty and determination. Arnold preferred to go about his work to the best of his ability without seeking the attention, awards and accolades often associated with such accomplishments.



Bridgewright Arnold Milton Graton

He was more at ease working with wood and building a bridge than he was talking about his ability and knowledge. He was happy to discuss details of his projects with anyone interested in listening, not out of pride, but to educate others about his methods so they could learn from his lifetime of experience.



Bridges in the News

- By Mark Maddox

Miller's Run Covered Bridge – Lyndon – In multiple incidents over the last several months, the recently installed bridge barriers, or headache bars, at the Millers' Run Covered Bridge are doing their job to protect damage to bridge. One incident occurred on June 19th when the exhaust stacks of a tractor trailer struck the newly installed barriers. Minimal damage was done to the truck which backed away and no damage was done to the bridge.



A tractor trailer being stopped by new crash barriers at the Miller's Run Covered Bridge.

Then on August 25th, a box truck attempting to navigate the bridge hit the barrier taking about 6 feet of the truck roof off and damaging the barrier. The driver of the truck was following her GPS and ignored the warning signs posted on the way leading up to the bridge.



Damage to Box Truck - courtesy WCAX 3

The driver was cited for failing to obey traffic control devices. The barrier damage included a bent top beam and decorative features, twisted legs, and several sheared bolts. One of the concrete piers also appeared

to be damaged. It is uncertain whether the barrier will withstand another strike.

Fines that apply to bridge strikes do not apply to the bridge barriers. The Lyndon Select Board wants the bridge fines to extend to the barriers and is investigating how to implement that.

Sanderson Covered Bridge – Brandon – VCBS member Paul Limmer reported that the portals on the Sanderson Covered Bridge were repaired by Naylor and Bream of Brandon around July 23rd.



Photos by Paul Limmer

Creamery Covered Bridge – Brattleboro – During the last week of June, Dick DeGray and his wife Missy Galanes took on the job of repainting the Creamery

Bridge. They assisted the Public Works and the Recreation Department of Brattleboro to get the job done. The new coat of paint was just in time as VCBS celebrated Vermont Covered Bridge Week on the bridge.



Dick DeGray painting - courtesy Brattleboro Reformer

Slaughterhouse Covered Bridge – Northfield – VCBS Bridge Watch Committee Chair Miles Jenness met with the Select Board in Northfield and the Agency of Transportation to discuss the condition of the Slaughterhouse Covered Bridge. The bridge was in danger of collapsing. Due to its location, it was not

practical to close the bridge for repairs. Miles and his team from Vermont Heavy Timber were able to do emergency stabilization work to the bridge to prevent a collapse and closure of the bridge.



Slaughterhouse Covered Bridge - photo by Joe Nelson

Hyde Hall Covered Bridge – Cooperstown NY – While not in VT, don't forget the 200th birthday party for Hyde Hall Covered Bridge October 10-11!

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.

Abbreviated minutes from our July and August meetings are as follows:

July 24, 2025

Item 1: Officer Reports

1. Presidents Report – Beth

- a. Across the Fence show will be shown on 7-25 with poster contest winner
- b. Swept out Rutland County bridges with the exception of Sanderson with insurance group.

- c. Covered Bridge Week banners have been delivered, 24 sold of the 25 purchased
- d. Calendar sales going well
- e. Journals are with Mark to ship
- f. Increased price on ball caps
- g. Chester festival
- h. Fall meeting in Weathersfield

2. Vice-President Report – Scott

- a. New bridge watch person in Lunenburg
- b. Added a few towns as members due to the banner sales
- c. All life member pins have been sent out

3. Treasurer's Report – Dan

- a. Sent sympathy card to Irene Barna

4. Secretary's Report – Mark

- a. Speakers bureau requests
 - i. Tunbridge
 - ii. Lunenburg

Item 2: Committee Reports

1. Publicity - Peggy
 - a. Press release sent out and picked up by news outlets
2. Communications – deferred discussion on combining with Publicity
3. Bridge Watch – Beth for Miles
 - a. Sanderson CB repaired, banner will go up on bridge
 - b. Slaughterhouse bridge in Northfield in poor condition, recommending it be closed or have a beam installed, in danger of collapsing
4. Education - Jeanne
 - a. Working on program in schools to work with 4th grade on history and 5th grade on stem project
5. Historical - Steve
 - a. Met with Ralph Henry and got a binder of pictures of bridges and will get potentially more

Item 3: New items

1. Coverage Bridge Week – quick review per schedule
2. Order additional Life Member pins
3. Discussion of continuing to use PayPal, or other less expensive options such as Zeffy, etc.
 - a. Moton made to continue to use PayPal as merchant processing tool.
 - i. Unanimously approved
4. Up or down vote re: Venmo.
 - a. Would need a separate phone.
 - b. Motion to not use Venmo as a payment processing tool.
 - c. Unanimously agreed.
5. Review website expenses
 - a. Termly automatically renewed 6-24 for \$180. We are not certain if we will go with it but to be decided what to do with new website.
 - b. Zoom - will talk about at a later date
 - c. Flip book – not paid for, donated
 - d. U-Haul storage – continually increasing.

August 21, 2025

Item 1: Officer Reports

1. **Presidents Report** – Beth
 - a. Aug 2, received official resolution of Covered Bridge Week
 - b. Trademark has some issues. Mark to send letter on trademark to Beth & Peggy

- c. Treasurer's duties – Maurene and Joe Mitchell are willing to be co-treasurers
 - i. Change bylaws to state that the role of Officer may be filled by more or more individuals simultaneously.
 - ii. Need to bring the changes in bylaws for last changes brought up to the general membership in October
 - iii. Vote in September to bring 1 person on as Treasurer and then co-treasurer in October

2. **Vice-President Report** – Scott

- a. Scott working with Dan on deposits that we've received from events

3. **Secretary's Report** – Mark

- a. New Speakers' bureau requests
 - i. Green Mountain Foster Grandparents of Rutland and Addison County – 9-24-2025
- b. Big E – Mark will be there on 9-22 at the information booth in the Vermont Building
- c. Bridge Listing – Vermont Chamber of Commerce has asked for a listing of VT's 100 bridges.
 - i. Scott has list that Steve prepared.

Item 2: Committee Reports

1. Events
 - a. Meeting Oct 4 in Weathersfield
 - b. Covered Bridge week events were successful
 - c. Tunbridge World's Fair – Sept 11 – 14
 - d. Chester Festival – Sept 20 - 21
2. Fundraising
 - a. Reordered life member pins – 100
 - b. Purchased more puzzles
 - c. Purchased playing cards – same design as puzzles
3. Publicity/Communications
 - a. Working on tracking publicity from Covered Bridge week
 - b. Working on publishing recap of Covered Bridge week in journals
 - c. Working on Vermont Country Magazine partnership
 - d. Adam Karl has joined the publicity committee
 - e. Initial version of the website redesign has been created – 2 pages being reviewed

4. Bridge Watch – From Beth
 - a. Miles met with select board in Northfield and AOT regarding Slaughterhouse CB. Miles stabilized the bridge so it wouldn't collapse
 - b. Miles is working on design for headache bar on big Eddy – Waitsfield CB
 - c. Sanderson CB bridge, work is being done to install a headache bar – PVC bar with alarm
5. Education
 - a. Covered Bridge week allowed Jeanne to network with teachers
6. Membership
 - a. Have signed 61 new members so far this year

Item 3: New items

1. Clarification of communication committee purpose
 - a. Potentially falls under the umbrella of marketing – points us in a direction
 - b. Peggy has developed a Marketing Chair for this for the board to review
 - i. Committees would fall under the Marketing Chair
 - ii. Will discuss further in next board meeting
2. Vermont Short Term Rental Alliance (VSTRA)
 - a. Beth has a podcast to talk about VCBS and the Journals
3. Brochure reprint

Spring Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2025

- by Mark Maddox

These are the abbreviated minutes from the Spring Meeting in Saxtons River on June 7th. During our Fall meeting in Weathersfield, the full minutes will be presented to the members for approval.

I. Call to Order

1. Meeting Kick off – 10:30 am by Beth Brown-Limmer, President
2. Introduction of the attendees – 33 attended the business meeting in person, 4 via Zoom
3. Housekeeping items – free magazines, stationary

II. Officers' Reports

1. **Minutes** - Approve minutes from Fall Meeting – September 28, 2024
 - a. Minutes not read on but voted to approve based on prior distribution
 - b. Jeanne made motion to approve, Bill seconded – approved by group
2. **President report** - Beth Brown-Limmer – President
 - a. Discussed Trademark registration – in process, approval probably in January of 2026
 - b. 25th anniversary update
 1. Covered bridge week proclamation, Montpelier in May
 2. 150 state representatives, 11 VCBS members in attendance
 3. Poster contest – voting today, winner announced this afternoon
 4. 25th anniversary T-shirts – available for sale now
 5. Travel Journals (4 regions) – special sale price today

- c. April 29th Tourist summit – asked to join a podcast to discuss the journals in July
- d. Strategic plan – what kind of ideas do the members want to add
 - Box available for members to add ideas

3. **Treasurer's Report** – Dan Monger, Treasurer
 - a. currently purchasing merchandise for our summer events, which makes a net loss for now until we start sales
 - b. Motion to approve, seconded and approved

III. Committee Reports

1. **Publicity Committee/Speakers Bureau** – Peggy Wilson - Chair
 - a. Peggy thanked Liam for past involvement as publicity chair
 - b. Branding
 1. Completed rebuild of the digital logo for greater flexibility in reproduction
 2. New brand strategy is in place. Adding “photography use and “supplemental graphics” sections soon.
 3. Website redesign is underway. Steve Miyamoto has completed the sitemap. Currently auditing and editing the copy for optimizing keywords.
 4. Phase 1 to be completed this Fall.
 - c. Press Coverage – Proclamation in February for Vermont Covered Bridge Week Aug 2-9

1. Approximately 8 news outlets from distribution sent in March
 2. New wave sent June 5, 2025
 3. Follow up release to be sent 2 weeks prior to CB week
 4. Tracking who and when the stories are picked up
 - d. Podcast for Okemo Valley TV
 1. 4th in series of the podcast done last week – collaborating with 4H and affiliation with Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce
 - e. Seeing the World on a Budget podcast - recording July 8th
 - f. Across the Fence episode on WCAX - recording on July 9th
- 2. Education Committee** – Jeanne Beaudry - Chair
Happenings since last Falls membership meeting:
- a. Marcel and Jeanne did a presentation at the Dailey Memorial Library in Derby with about 25 people in attendance
 - b. Attempted a cake baking/decorating contest but little interest
 - c. District-wide Middle School Science Fair
 1. Students received packets to build a covered bridge truss
 2. Scavenger hunt for students to answer questions about covered bridges
 - a. 3 winners chosen who received a 1-year Student Membership for the VCBS
 - d. 25th anniversary Poster contest for high school students
 1. 75 high schools contacted, only received 7 entries from Hazen Union High School in Hardwick, VT
 2. Members in attendance voting on the winner after the business meeting
 - e. Vermont 4-H State Day –
 1. Joe Mitchell and Jeanne Beaudry were judges in Barre
 - f. Northland Journal will have a number of articles in July and August regarding covered bridges in recognition of the 25th anniversary of VCBS.
 - g. Looking for additional volunteers for Education Committee, especially in Southern Vermont.
- 3. Membership Committee** – Scott Scribner – Chair
- a. Working on keeping membership list up to date
 - b. 22 new members: 7 students; 3 couples (1 life); 5 individuals (1 life); 6 towns; 1 business
 - c. 356 current total (couples counted as 2) - 13 students; 96 couples (38 life); 138 individuals (44 life); 6 towns; 7 businesses
 - d. Reached out to most life members and found out there were 8 who had died
 - e. 150 people have not renewed the membership
 - f. Majority of memberships are mailed in 88% mailed in vs 12% PayPal
- 4. Communications Committee** – Steve Miyamoto –Chair
- a. Discussed the mobile friendliness of the website or lack thereof with our website
 - b. Working on new website conversion with Peggy
- 5. Historical Committee** – Steve Miyamoto - Chair
- a. Received archival info from Bill Carroll (via Jim Kenneson)
 - b. Hoping to get more of the data cataloged – need to add the open source that will be used
- 6. Events Committee** – Beth Brown-Limmer - Chair
- a. Actively seeking someone to take on the chair of this committee
 - b. Fall meeting will be in Weathersfield on 10-4
 - c. Spring 2026 meeting will probably be in Middlebury
- 7. Fundraising Committee** - Beth Brown-Limmer – Chair
- a. Looking for someone to take on the chair of this committee
 - b. New items in merchandise: - t-shirts, journals, John Knox cards
 - c. Reviewed 2025 events
 - d. Miles Jenness (our Bridge watch Chair) is currently working on the Brown’s Covered Bridge
 - e. Work on 2 bridges delayed due to budget cuts – including the Salisbury Station (also known as Cedar Swamp Creek and Salisbury-Cornwall) Covered Bridge
- IV. New Business**
1. Special Guest – Dela Stoddard-McGrath’s
 - a. When he was 4, created a sign for the Millers Covered Bridge telling drivers to stop and back up if you are too tall for the bridge.

- b. Link to story can be found here:
<https://www.wcax.com/content/news/4-year-old-makes-sign-to-protect-covered-bridge-from-damage-559937421.html>
- 2. After lunch, caravan will go to Hall Covered Bridge, Worrell Covered Bridge and Bartonsville Covered Bridge
- V. Meeting adjourned at 11:53am

Afternoon session

- I. Scott handed out pins to life members that were present.
- II. Winner of the poster contest was announced - Ella Renaud from Hazen Union High School
- III. Beth announced towns that have purchased the Bridge week banners
- IV. Review of 2025 Covered Bridge week events



Winning poster from poster contest by Ella Renaud



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)

- Newsletter Delivery:** Postal Mail Email Opt-out
- Receive VCBS Email:** Yes No

- 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)

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