

The Bridger



The Vermont Covered Bridge Society Newsletter **Special Edition**

ANNOUNCING THE VERMONT COVERED BRIDGE SOCIETY!!

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society, Inc., incorporated in February, 2000, is now open for memberships. The Society was founded to address concerns about the loss of Vermont's historically significant wooden spans. We hope you will join us in preserving, exploring, and enjoying our unique collection of covered bridges.

The Society owes its existence to William McKone, resident of the Town of Cambridge, member of the newly organized Cambridge Historical Society, and member of the local Chamber of Commerce. Cambridge is the home of two covered bridges, one of which is badly in need of restoration. When Federal funds for restoring covered bridges became available through U.S. Senator James Jeffords, Bill McKone set aside his other affairs and began to aggressively rally concerned people to found a covered bridge society in Vermont.

McKone first recruited Joe Nelson, author of the book "Spanning Time: Vermont's Covered Bridges." He then approached Ed Barna, author of the book "Covered Bridges of Vermont." Ed Barna joined the cause with enthusiasm. Senator Jeffords' staff used photographs from Nelson's book in the Senator's presentation to the U.S. Senate for the adoption of his funding bill. After passage of the bill, Jeffords' staff consulted Ed Barna on which of Vermont's covered bridges were most in need of funds.

Bill McKone, Joe Nelson and Ed Barna thank Richard Wilson, David Wright, Richard Roy, Terry Shaw, and Douglass Porter for joining the VCBS Board of Directors. Dick Wilson is President of the New York Covered Bridge Society, David Wright and Dick Roy are President and Vice President of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. These two organizations have long been watching Vermont's covered bridges with loving concern and the VCBS will gratefully benefit from their long experience with speaking and acting for the preservation of historic bridges. Terry Shaw is a concerned citizen and Cambridge businessman and

Doug Porter, a new resident of Cambridge, is a consultant in the field of the preservation of historic architecture.

With the infant VCBS only a few weeks old, there couldn't be a better time for people who have a special place in their hearts for covered bridges to join. There are openings for every kind of talent.

If you don't have the time for an active roll, that's all right, too; VCBS needs people who enjoy the covered bridges and want to keep them for our posterity. The Society plans to sponsor social activities for all of the friends of covered bridges. We need your ideas and enthusiasm.

VCBS Board of Directors

- Ed Barna.....Founding Director & Vice President
..... 80 Park Street, Brandon, VT 05733-1149
..... 802.247.3146 gotobarna@sover.net
- Shirley E. Hill..... Treasurer
..... 27 Marble Street, Brandon, VT 05733
..... 802.247.6095 hill002@sover.net
- William McKone Founding Director & Acting Secretary
..... 110 Campground Dr., Jeffersonville, VT 05464
..... 802.644.2126 wmckone@mail.sover.net
- Joseph Nelson.....Founding Director & President
..... 2 Sugar Hill Road, Underhill, VT 05489
..... 802.899-2093 jnelson@together.net
- Douglass Porter..... Director-at-large
..... 92 Church Street, Jeffersonville, VT 05464
..... 802.644.5939
- Richard Roy..... Advisory Director
..... 73 Ash St., Manchester, NH 03104-4906
..... 603.623.8406 dickroycb1@juno.com
- Terry Shaw Director-at-large
..... P.O. Box 311, Jeffersonville, VT 05464
..... 802.644.2028 shawcharles@msn.com
- Richard Wilson..... Advisory Director
..... 6342 Martin Drive, Rome, NY 13440
..... 315.336.6341 rjwil@borg.com
- David Wright..... Advisory Director
..... P.O. Box 171, Westminister, VT 05158
..... 802.722.4040

The purpose of the VCBS is twofold:

- 1) To preserve Vermont's Covered Bridges!
- 2) To provide fellowship for Bridgers!

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society, Inc. was incorporated in February, 2000 to address concerns about the loss of these important symbols of our heritage: Vermont's covered bridges. We hope you will join us in preserving, exploring, and enjoying our unique collection of covered bridges.

The number of covered bridges in Vermont have dwindled from more than 500 to fewer than 100 today. While many were lost to the flood of 1927, significant numbers were lost to modernization and some to vandalism. The old bridges, built of timbers from long-gone forests, fashioned by long-gone craftsmen serve now as a monuments to early times. Popular with visitors, perhaps because they have an extraordinary ability to evoke the spirit of the past, taking viewers back to the days of horses and buggies, sleigh rides, and a simpler way of life. The Vermont Covered Bridge Society wants to keep them that way.

When a bridge is in trouble, and repairs are on the agenda, the VCBS will be there to help preserve what makes a covered bridge valuable by lending its voice to advise town officials on the subject of preservation, help with fund raising, and to inform the public.

To help keep a covered bridge healthy and in service, VCBS volunteers see that the bridge gets the attention it needs by working with the town; brush clearing, sweeping, painting, fire proofing, removing graffiti, and keeping watch.

The VCBS helps find funds to provide signage to direct the public to the bridges, and present historical data for bridge viewers;

The VCBS Provides volunteers to maintain Bridge Watches against vandalism and to notify authorities when a bridge needs attention;

The VCBS Publishes a Quarterly Newsletter for the members of the society and for the historical societies and town administrators where the bridges are located;

The VCBS Maintains liaison with other preservation organizations to lend voice in support of preserving covered bridges and to share resources.

The Vermont Covered Bridge Society can do none of these things
without volunteers to support its programs!

The VCBS needs:

Bridge-Watch Area Chairpersons to act as activities coordinators for each of several Bridge-Watch Areas;

Adopt-a-bridge Group members to adopt a bridge and work with the town with clearing brush, sweeping, painting, fire proofing, removing graffiti, and keeping watch;

A desk-top staff to publish "The Bridger." the VCBS Quarterly Newsletter;

Bridge-a-spondents, community based reporters to gather local historic bridge news for the newsletter staff;

People are needed for the **Events Committee**, which consists of representatives from the bridge-watch areas, to plan gala bridge excursions, picnics, dinners and work parties;

People are needed for the **Legislation Watch** to maintain liaison with federal, state and local decision-makers, and to apply for grants to fund bridge preservation;

The Society needs **Dues-paying members** to help fund the VCBS programs.

Join the VCBS now to help, in any way you are able, to preserve Vermont's covered bridges.
Join the fellowship of other "Bridgers" in celebrating the old spans! Membership is open to **ALL!**

For more information about the Vermont Covered Bridge Society see www.vermontbridges.com

Join The Vermont Covered Bridge Society

Send this form and your check to the address below.

Please sign me up as a member of the VCBS.
My check is enclosed.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

My e-mail _____

Check type of membership:

Individual Associate Junior
 Family Life Business

Check type of donation:

Palladio Palmer Hale Burr
 Powers Town Tasker Long
 Paddleford Whipple

I volunteer to participate in the following
preservation program(s):

Bridge-watch Area Chairperson.
 Adopt-a-bridge group.
 Newsletter Staff.
 Bridge-a-spondent.
 Events Committee
 Legislation Watch
 Member-at-large
 I would like to be a member of the Board of
Directors

MEMBERSHIP DUES (\$ US)

Individual Active.....\$10.00
Family Active.....\$15.00
Associate..... \$8.00
Junior \$5.00
Business\$25.00
Life\$100.00

(All Memberships include quarterly news letter)

DONATIONS:

(Named for historic bridge builders/designers.)

Andrea Palladio..... \$2.00
Timothy Palmer..... \$5.00
Enoch Hale.....\$10.00
Theodore Burr.....\$25.00
Nicholas Powers.....\$50.00
Ithiel Town.....\$75.00
James Tasker.....\$100.00
Stephen Long.....\$150.00
Peter Paddleford.....\$200.00
Squire Whipple.....\$250.00

(Dues and Donations will be used to promote
preservation of Vermont's covered bridges.)

Make all checks for dues and donations payable to the
Vermont Covered Bridge Society. Mail to:

The V.C.B.S., Inc.
Attn: Treasurer
P.O. Box 97
Jeffersonville, VT 05464-0097

Letters to the Society Should Be Addressed To:

The V.C.B.S., Inc.
Attn. Corresponding Scty.
P.O. Box 97
Jeffersonville, VT 05464-0097