

2014
COVERED
BRIDGE
Festival



"The cool thing about the bridges is it's a year-round opportunity,"

Mark Winchell

Ashtabula County
Convention and
Visitors Bureau director



Star Beacon photos

THE CREEK Road Covered Bridge was built over Conneaut Creek in Conneaut. The bridge is 125-feet long and features Town Lattice construction.



THE NETCHER Road Covered Bridge was built in 1998 over Mill Creek in Jefferson Township. The bridge is 110-feet long and features timber arch with Inverted Haupt walls.

Covered bridges boost tourism

By **STACY MILLBERG**
Staff Writer

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Ashtabula County's 18 covered bridges round out a

trifecta of opportunity for tourism in the county.

The three major drivers of tourism in the county include Lake Erie, the area's wineries and the covered

bridges, said Mark Winchell, director of the Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"The cool thing about the bridges is it's a year-round opportunity," he said. "So much of the tourism in the county is seasonal."

Winchell said the bridges offer something different during all four seasons.

"The bridges don't just appear the weekend before the festival and disappear the weekend after," he said.

While there is no concrete way to track how many people come the county specifically to visit the covered bridges, Winchell said he has heard there have been

upwards of 50,000 people visiting the festival.

"There is no point of entry for the bridges," he said. "Some people may not even visit the fairgrounds during the festival and just drive around to see the bridges."

The strength of the Covered Bridge Festival, which is held Oct. 11 and 12 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, is the bridges themselves, Winchell said.

The bridges are a massive draw for visiting Ashtabula County, he said.

"Definitely one of the top 10 reasons in the county for drawing folks in," Winchell said.

The covered bridges

appeal to a wide spread group of people. The bridges evoke an agricultural and cultural heritage, he said.

"The bridges provide this time warp for people," he said. "You can replicate a stay at a Comfort Inn, but each bridge is so unique."

Winchell said the fact Ashtabula County is home to both the longest and the shortest covered bridges in the country draws a whole other group of people to the area.

"The Smolen-Gulf Bridge and the Liberty Bridge provide a whole different opportunity to promote tourism in the county," he said.

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COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11

9 a.m.
Gates to fairgrounds
in Jefferson open

9 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast
Expo Center
by Conversation
Station

9 a.m.
Craft Buildings Open

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Children's rides
and games by
Ohio Amusements

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Area resident John
King as Abe Lincoln
strolling grounds

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Chain saw carving
demonstration

**10 a.m. to 10:30
a.m.** Jungle Terry
and his animals
show

**10 a.m.
to 10:45 a.m.** Regis-
tration Queens Lun-
cheon
at A-Tech
(visiting royalty only)

10 a.m.
Registration for
Buckeye Pedal
Tractor Pulls
All ages

Noon to 2 p.m.
Buckeye Pedal
Tractor Pull

**12:30 p.m.
to 1:30 p.m.**
Chain Saw Carving
Demonstration

1:15 p.m.
Lonesome Meadow
show

1:30 p.m.
Parade leaves
high school

2 p.m.
Parade arrives
at fairgrounds

2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Scribbles
and Giggles

**2:30 p.m.
to 3:30 p.m.**
Chain saw carving
demonstration

3 p.m.
Introduction of
Queen and her
court, along with
visiting Royalty

4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Lonesome Meadow

5 p.m.
Gates Closed

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12

9 a.m.
Gates open

9 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast
Expo Center by
Conversation Station

9 a.m.
Craft Buildings Open

9:30 a.m.
Church Service
by Circle of Friends

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Children's rides
and games by
Ohio Amusements

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Chain saw carving
demonstration

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
John King
as Abe Lincoln
strolling grounds

Noon
Lonesome Meadow

**12:30 p.m.
to 1:30 p.m.**
Chain saw carving
demonstration

**12:30 p.m.
to 1:30 p.m.**
Scribbles
and Giggles

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
The Great Brad
magician

2 p.m.
Lonesome Meadow

**2:30 p.m.
to 3 :30 p.m.**
Chain saw carving
demonstration

3:30 p.m.
The Dixieland Band

5 p.m.
Gates Close

Schedule is subject to change without notice

DAILY DISPLAYS

IN THE EXPO BUILDING

Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival souvenir booth,
mini-covered-bridge contest and scarecrow contest.

ON THE GROUNDS

Small engines, antique cars, Ashtabula County Bi-Centennial Bell,
Covered Bridge Historical Display, Mini Bridge,
Lowes kids activity tent (Saturday Only),
Civil War encampment by the 29th Ohio Civil War group.

OCTAGON BUILDING

Quilt Show presented by Megan's Quilt Parlor of Albion, Pa.

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Covered Bridge Manual

PUBLICATION NO. FHWA-HRT-04-098
APRIL 2006



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Research, Development, and Technology
Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center
6309 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101-2296

Wooden covered bridges require special care

By **MARK TODD**
Staff Writer

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JEFFERSON — Wooden covered bridges are a special symbol of Ashtabula County that receive special attention from the county's highway department, said County Engineer Tim Martin.

The iconic spans are in very good shape, thanks to the highway department's bridge crew, a team that tends to all of the 900 bridges and culverts in the county's inventory, Martin said. "Any repair, replacement or maintenance is done by the crew," he said.

Despite appearances, repair to covered bridges can be less challenging than conventional cement-based structures, Martin said. Trusses, for example, can appear above the driving surface, improving access for workers, he said.

"It makes inspections a little easier," Martin said.

Special talents are asked of the crew when covered bridges require care. Timbers need to be cut and fitted, a skill not usually found in many highway employee job descriptions.

"They have to double as carpenters," Martin said.

At one time, the county had a crew

devoted exclusively to the care of covered bridges. But as soon as the new spans were built and the old ones refurbished, the squad wasn't needed, Martin said.

"Once the bridges were up and operating, (the county) disbanded the crew," he said.

Due to the county's diligence, no major covered bridge repair projects are on the agenda, Martin said. Workers keep busy removing graffiti from the spans, a chore that requires sanding and staining the wood, Martin said.

Crews may also occasionally have to replace a structural member due to rot. The newer bridges, however, have been built with treated timber and "species-select" siding that can resist weather and decay, Martin said. The county maintains a stockpile of timbers in case sudden problems pop up, he said.

Given the level of tender, loving care lavished on the landmarks, bridge buffs can expect to see their favorites — even the oldest ones — for the foreseeable future, Martin said.

"I don't know why not," Martin said. "With the proper care and maintenance, they can stand a very long time."

THE TRANSPORTATION Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) as amended by the TEA-21 Restoration Act established the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program (NHCBPP). This program includes preservation of covered bridges that are listed, or are eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places. The development of the Covered Bridge Manual is one of the research projects funded through NHCBPP.

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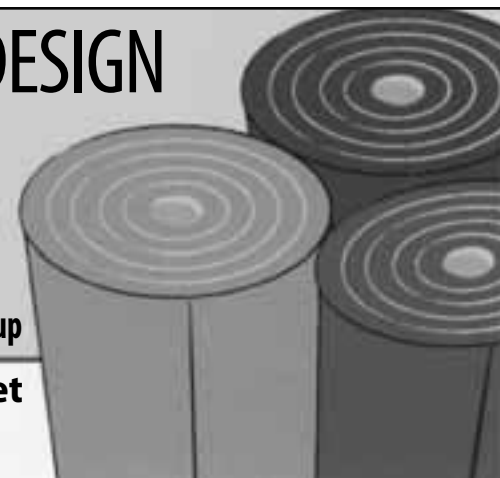
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Graham Road Bridge featured at festival

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

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JEFFERSON —The Graham Road Bridge in Pierpont Township is one of 18 that will be featured in the 31st Annual Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival.

Festival coordinator, Ginger Whitehead, says 10,000 people are expected at the festival, slated for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the weekend of Oct. 11. Each bridge will host its own activities, featuring music, food and beverages.

“We are blessed to have 18 covered bridges in Ashtabula County,” she said. “We are hoping for beautiful Indian summer weather, with lots of sunshine.”

Local author and photographer, Carl Feather, and the Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Trail will be sponsoring the Graham Road Bridge. There will be a barn quilt raffle and dedication of the new barn quilt at Graham Road at 2 p.m. Oct. 12.

There will be more carnival rides, souvenirs for sale, exhibits and food vendors at the fairgrounds, the headquarters for the Covered Bridge Festival.

“We will have lots of souvenirs for sale, including a beautiful calendar,” Whitehead said. “I encourage visitors to see the covered bridges one day and go to the festival (at the fairgrounds) the other.”

Free admission to the fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday; parking is \$5 per car, \$2 for motorcycles.



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Covered Bridge Tours

North & Eastern Tour

This is a tour of the north & east part of the County. The tour begins in the center of Jefferson and travels east on East Jefferson Street. Approximate round trip of this tour is 69 miles. There are 12 bridges in this tour.



1. Netcher Rd. - 1544 Netcher Rd., 44041 • Clearance 14'6" (2.7 mi. from center of Jefferson) The bridge is constructed over Mill Creek in Jefferson Twp. and features a timber arch with inverted floor walls. The "Neo-Victorian" design structure is 110 ft long, 22 ft wide and 14 ft, 6 inches high. Construction was funded by an ODOT Timber Grant and was opened to traffic in 1989.



2. South Denmark Rd. - 2670 S. Denmark Rd., 44047 • Clearance 9'7" (2.7 mi. from Netcher Rd. Bridge) Built in 1880 the Town Lattice bridge spans Mill Creek. The 81 ft. structure was ty-passed in 1915 but is easily accessible.



3. Caine Rd. - 4099 Caine Rd., 44047 • Clearance 11'0" (6.7 mi. from South Denmark Rd. Bridge) The first Pratt Truss bridge in Ohio was built in 1885 in honor of Ashtabula County's 175th anniversary. The 124 foot long bridge traverses the west branch of the Ashtabula River in Pleasant Township.



4. Graham Rd. - 4648 Graham Rd., 44047 • By-Pass (5.8 mi. from Caine Rd. bridge) The Graham Road Bridge, which was built from remnants of a bridge washed downstream in the 1913 flood, now sits in a small park on the south side of the road. The 57 ft. Town Truss was over the west branch of the Ashtabula River in Pleasant Township.



5. Root Rd. - 4681 Root Rd., 44030 • Clearance 9'4" (3.9 mi. from Graham Rd. bridge) A 114 foot Town Lattice built in 1888, Root Rd. Bridge crosses the Ashtabula River. It was raised 18 in. during the rehabilitation in 1952-53 and new laminated girders and a corner concrete pier were added.



6. Middle Rd. - 910 Middle Rd., 44030 • Clearance 13'6" (6.3 mi. from Root Rd. bridge) This 136 ft. Howe Truss bridge was built in 1868 over Conneaut Creek, which is the longest river in eastern Ashtabula County. It was reconstructed in 1984 with the help of 7 volunteers and 4 college students.



7. State Rd. - 5889 State Rd., 44049 • Clearance 16'2" (5.1 miles from Middle Rd. bridge) Containing 97,000 feet of southern pine and oak, the State Road Bridge was erected in 1983 across Conneaut Creek. The 552 foot Town Lattice span was the first covered bridge designed and built by County Engineer John W. Stroten, Jr. A four foot tall window extends the length of the bridge showing the Town Lattice construction. The dedication of the bridge in 1982 was the forerunner of the Covered Bridge Festival.



8. Creek Rd. - 371 Creek Rd., 44030 • Clearance 11'4" (3.4 mi. from State Rd. bridge) The construction of this 125 foot Town Lattice bridge is unknown. It sits 25 feet above the Conneaut Creek and was extensively renovated in 1994.



9. Benetka Rd. - 4500 Benetka Rd., 44024 • Clearance 11'0" (7.5 mi. from Creek Rd. bridge) A 136 foot Town Lattice with Arch bridge, Benetka was built about 1900, spanning the Ashtabula River. It was renovated in 1995 when a laminated arch 9 in. wide, 36 in. thick, spanning the length of the bridge, was added.



10. Olin Bridge - 1880 Dewey Rd., 44034 • Clearance 12'11" (2.5 mi. from Benetka Rd. bridge) Located on Dewey Rd. in Plymouth Twp., Olin is the only bridge named to a family. Olin's have owned property next to the bridge since it was built in 1873. The 115 ft. Town Lattice structure over the Ashtabula River was renovated in 1985.



11. Stroten-Gulf - 7021 State Rd., 44034 • Clearance 14'6" (2.6 mi. from Olin Bridge) The longest covered bridge in the United States is of Pratt Truss construction. Engineering and structural design was done by John W. Stroten, Jr. (former County Engineer) and architectural design was done by Timothy J. Martin (current County Engineer). The bridge was dedicated on Aug. 26, 2008. It is 613 ft. long and stands 53 ft. above the Ashtabula River. With a clear width of 30 ft. it will support full legal load traffic and has a life expectancy of 100 yrs.



12. Giddings Rd. - 1399 Giddings Rd., 44047 • Clearance 15'6" (6 mi. from Stroten-Gulf Bridge) Pratt Truss construction was used for this 157 foot bridge built in 1985 with funding from an ODOT Timber Grant. It crossed Mill Creek in Jefferson Township. At this point the tour returns to Jefferson via Jones Road, Route 167 and Route 46. It is approximately 3.5 miles back to Jefferson.

South & Western Tour

This is a tour of the southern and western part of the county. The tour begins in the center of Jefferson and travels north on Rt. 46, then west on Rt. 307 to Doyle Rd. Approximate round trip of this tour is 69 miles. There are 6 bridges in this tour.



13. Doyle Rd. - 1300 or 1440 Doyle Rd., 44047 • Clearance 13'6" (7.8 mi. from Jefferson) A 94 foot long Town Lattice bridge built in 1868, Doyle spans Mill Creek. Mill Creek is a tributary of the Grand River. This bridge was renovated in 1987 when a laminated arch was added.



14. Liberty Street - 94 W. Liberty St., 44041 • Clearance 15'0" (10.6 mi. from Doyle Rd. bridge) The shortest covered bridge in the United States spans only 18 ft. Its design is one-of-a-kind. The structure is supported by a single Kingpost and its roof is a Scissor Truss which gives the bridge a lighter, open feeling. The roof has a more pronounced slope than a typical timber covered bridge. This, along with the extended overhangs, eaves and sakes, give the bridge a floating appearance. The bridge includes a toll-keeper booth to remind visitors of pioneer days when travelers often had to pay for the privilege of crossing a bridge. The timber for the bridge was created from locally grown timber. The bridge was modularly constructed by students on the campus of the Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School.



15. Harpersfield - 7122 Harpersfield Rd., 44041 • Clearance 10'9" (3 mi. from Liberty St. bridge) This two span Howe Truss bridge is 226 feet long and is the second longest covered bridge in the State of Ohio. It spans the Grand River which is the primary drainage channel of western Ashtabula County. The bridge was built in 1868 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A flood in 1973 washed soil away from the north end of the bridge and changed the river channel. The steel bridge was then attached. A walkway was added in 1991-92 when the bridge was renovated.



16. Mechanicsville Rd. - 1153 Mechanicsville Rd., 44041 • Clearance 10'10" (4.6 mi. from Harpersfield bridge) The largest single span covered bridge in Ashtabula County, this 156 ft. Howe Truss with Arch was built over the Grand River in 1867. The arch is 15 layers of 2x6 lumber and is encased by large beams which form the X's of the Howe Truss. Believed to be the oldest of the County's covered bridges, this bridge was renovated and opened to traffic in the Fall of 2003.



17. Riverdale Rd. - 3349 Riverdale Rd., 44084 • Clearance 9'10" (8.2 miles from Mechanicsville Rd. bridge) This 114 foot Town Lattice bridge sits high above the Grand River. It was built in 1874. The floor was rebuilt in 1981 and gusset laminated wood girders were added. Center steel bracing had been replaced under the bridge in 1945. The road at the east end of the bridge washed out in 1957 and a new concrete abutment was built for added support.



18. Windsor Mills - 7626 Warner Holton Rd., 44099 • Clearance 11'3" (14.2 miles from Riverdale Rd. bridge) Located in a very picturesque area of the County, Windsor Mills Bridge is 120 ft. long and spans Phelps Creek, a tributary of the Grand River. Built in 1867 the Town Lattice sits atop cut stone abutments with unique center supports. One is from sandstone that was quarried nearby and the other is made from creek stone. Windsor Mills Bridge is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This bridge was renovated in 2002-03 and was opened to traffic in the Fall of 2003.

At this point the tour returns to Jefferson by way of Route 322, Route 45 and Eagleville Road. It is approximately 24 miles back to Jefferson.

Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival

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Use the list below to locate the the corresponding number icon on the map for these wineries

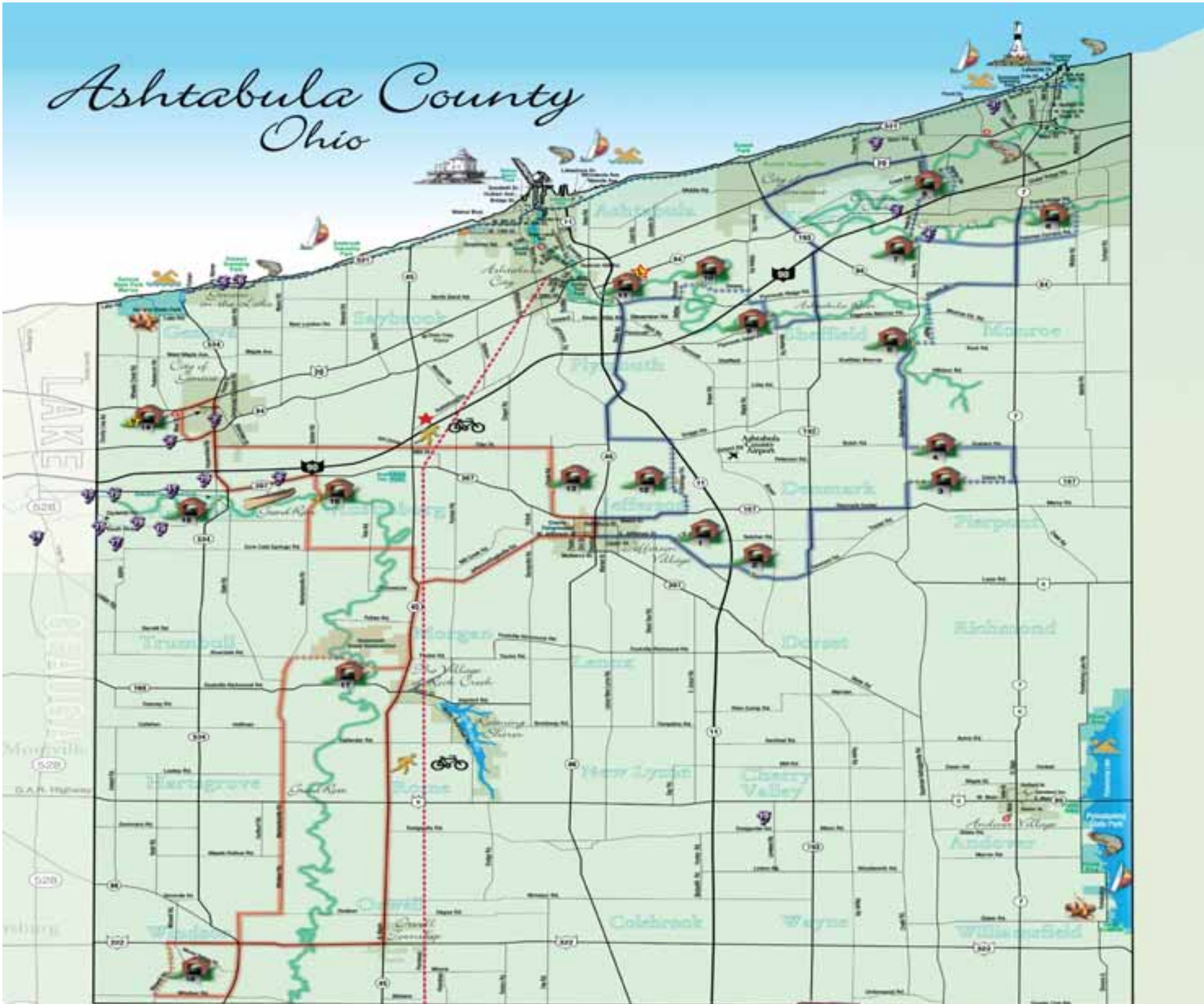
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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Biscotti's Family Winery | 7. Old Mill Winery | 14. Grand River Cellars |
| 2. Buccia Vineyards | 8. The Winery at Springhill | 15. Debonne Vineyards |
| 3. Markko Vineyard | 9. Laurelo Vineyards | 16. M Cellars |
| 4. Tarsitano Winery | 10. Deers Leap Winery | 17. Virant Family Winery |
| 5. Lakehouse Inn & Winery | 11. Ferrante Winery | 18. South River Vineyard |
| 6. Old Firehouse Winery | 12. Harpersfield Vineyard | 19. Emerine Estates |
| | 13. St. Joseph Vineyards | |

Scenic Byway Tour

Dark blue water kissed with white tipped waves roll toward the shoreline before crashing into the limestone break walls along the Ashtabula County Shoreline. Ohio's newest scenic byway named the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Byway, offers breathtaking views of those waves. This journey begins in Conneaut and runs through the Ashtabula Harbor and Geneva-on-the-Lake along our 3D miles of Lake Erie shoreline. Leaving the harbor headed west, the coal and iron ore freighters are easy to spot and follow along the lakeshore. With two lighthouses, four public beaches and "Ohio's First Summer Resort" this is a spectacular drive.



Ashtabula County Ohio



LEGEND

Landmarks	Special Interests
Ashtabula Lighthouse Covered Lighthouse Lift Bridge Boating Camping Area Climbing Area Fishing Area Winery Swimming Beach Covered Bridge Largest in America Smallest in America Point of Interest	Bicycling Hiking State Office School
Road Types	Other
Road Type 1 Road Type 2 Road Type 3 Road Type 4 Road Type 5 Road Type 6 Road Type 7 Road Type 8 Road Type 9 Road Type 10 Road Type 11 Road Type 12 Road Type 13 Road Type 14 Road Type 15 Road Type 16 Road Type 17 Road Type 18 Road Type 19 Road Type 20 Road Type 21 Road Type 22 Road Type 23 Road Type 24 Road Type 25 Road Type 26 Road Type 27 Road Type 28 Road Type 29 Road Type 30 Road Type 31 Road Type 32 Road Type 33 Road Type 34 Road Type 35 Road Type 36 Road Type 37 Road Type 38 Road Type 39 Road Type 40 Road Type 41 Road Type 42 Road Type 43 Road Type 44 Road Type 45 Road Type 46 Road Type 47 Road Type 48 Road Type 49 Road Type 50 Road Type 51 Road Type 52 Road Type 53 Road Type 54 Road Type 55 Road Type 56 Road Type 57 Road Type 58 Road Type 59 Road Type 60 Road Type 61 Road Type 62 Road Type 63 Road Type 64 Road Type 65 Road Type 66 Road Type 67 Road Type 68 Road Type 69 Road Type 70 Road Type 71 Road Type 72 Road Type 73 Road Type 74 Road Type 75 Road Type 76 Road Type 77 Road Type 78 Road Type 79 Road Type 80 Road Type 81 Road Type 82 Road Type 83 Road Type 84 Road Type 85 Road Type 86 Road Type 87 Road Type 88 Road Type 89 Road Type 90 Road Type 91 Road Type 92 Road Type 93 Road Type 94 Road Type 95 Road Type 96 Road Type 97 Road Type 98 Road Type 99 Road Type 100 	Groveport Trail Dashed Red Line Bicycling Hiking State Office School



For your convenience there are two covered bridge tour routes indicated on this map. The North and East tour features 12 covered bridges and spans 69 miles. The South and West tour includes 6 covered bridges and spans 66 miles. Watch for the roadside Bridge Tour signs shown here. They are up all year long.





SUBMITTED ART

BENSON'S BRIDGE is the name of the barn quilt pattern selected for an 8-by-8-foot barn quilt installed on the Graham Road covered bridge in Pierpont Township. The barn quilt will be dedicated 2 p.m. Oct. 12.

Barn Quilt Trail adds new quilt at Graham Road covered bridge

PIERPONT TOWNSHIP — The Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Steering Committee will dedicate the county's first 8-by-8-foot barn quilt during the Covered Bridge Festival, Oct. 11 and 12.

The dedication ceremony is 2 p.m. Oct. 12 at the bridge, which is in the Graham Road Metropark, west end of Graham Road, off Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road.

In September, the county's first barn quilt on a covered bridge was installed on the north side of this Town lattice bridge. The quilt's pattern is "Benson's Bridge" and was selected by members of the Benson family. The Benson family donated

the land for the Metropark when it was removed from the byway in 1971. Without the donation of land from Bob and Helen Benson, the bridge probably would have been lost.

Bob Benson, 92, has since mowed the grass around the bridge and kept watch over the structure, which was erected in 1913 over the Ashtabula River.

The bridge has special meaning for Benson: His grandfather was on the crew that re-constructed it over the Ashtabula River, he said.

The steering committee funded the barn quilt, valued at \$500. It was painted by Karen Rose and installed by Jeffrey Scribber of Artistic Woodworks and several vol-

unteers.

In addition to dedicating the barn quilt Oct. 12, the steering committee has adopted the bridge for the festival. On both days, there will be live music, food and special guests at the bridge. Specifically:

- Hot dogs roasted over apple firewood (for a donation);

- Assorted beverages;

- Covered bridge popcorn for a donation. A special blend of colorful, Ashtabula County-grown popcorn from Covered Bridge Gardens, will be used. The colorful popcorns will be available for purchase.

A replica of the Benson's Bridge quilt will be raffled off during the festival. This 2-by-2-foot barn quilt is a replica of the barn quilt on the covered bridge. It was produced by Jeffrey Scribber of Artistic Woodworks. Tickets are \$5 each and the winner will be drawn 4 p.m. Sunday at the Graham Road bridge.

For more information on the barn quilt trail, visit barnquiltsashtabulacounty.com

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 Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival logo.

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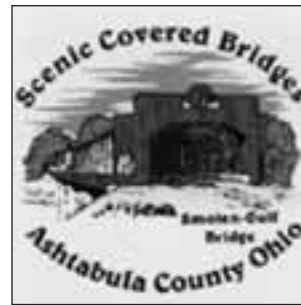
MAGNETS
Doyle Road Magnet
 White background ceramic 2" x 2" with 2 sturdy magnetic strips on back, design matches the coffee mug.

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INSULATED TRAVEL MUG
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CHEYENNE KATHERINE FISCHBACH

Cheyenne is 16 years old and in the 11th grade at Geneva High School. She is the daughter of Beth Cheney. Her sponsor for the pageant is Styling on Broadway.

ASHLEY NICOLE RAY

Ashley is 16 years old and in the 11th grade at Pymatuning Valley High School. She is the daughter of Joe & Jennifer Ray. Her sponsor for the pageant is Yuhasz Brothers.

HANNAH LAIRD

Hannah is 14 years old and in the 9th grade at Edgewood High School. She is the daughter of Robert & Stephanie Laird. Her sponsor the the pageant is Holiday Bell Florist.

VANESSA SUZANNE FRANK

Vanessa is 15 years old and in the 10 grade at Geneva High School. She is the daughter of Karl & Nancy Frank. Her sponsor for the pageant is Penn Ohio Corp.

CATHERINE MARIE VAUGHN

Catherine is 16 years old and in the 11th grade at Geneva High School. She is the daughter of Scott & Theresa Vaughn. Her sponsor for the pageant is Super Power Shower.

Five contestants vie for Covered Bridge Pageant

By **WARREN DILLAWAY**
Staff Writer

JEFFERSON — Five area high school students spent a week preparing to compete for the opportunity to represent the Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival throughout the state of Ohio.

“The purpose is to crown a queen and a court so they can be ambassadors for the festival,” said pageant director Darla Painter. She said the contestants are freshman to seniors at three area high schools.

“They have been all in here practicing Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, she said prior to Saturday’s competi-

tion.

Three judges from festivals outside Ashtabula County picked the court and queen using a 10 minute interview prior to the competition, an introduction in front of the crowd, a “commercial” about one of the festival’s the out-going court attended and an evening gown contest, she said.

Painter said the judges bring their own criteria to evaluate the four parts of the competition and reviewed them with each other on Saturday afternoon.

In addition to traveling around the state of Ohio the court and queen will also serve the area community in different ways.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

OUTGOING 2013 Ashtabula Co. Covered Bridge Festival Queen Brooke Varner.

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Contestants work together; grow friendships

By **WARREN DILLAWAY**
Staff Writer

JEFFERSON — The Ashtabula County Covered

Bridge Festival has crowned nine queens in the 31 year history of the event that highlights the county's 18

covered bridges. Cheyenne Fischbach, a junior at Geneva High School, earned the 2014 honor to represent Ashtabula County at festivals throughout the state of Ohio during the next year.

Fischbach replaced 2013 winner Brooke Varner; who received the crown from 2012 winner Lisa Kalas.

The other six contestants were crowned from 1986 to 1991 after which the pageant went on a 21 year sabbatical.

The Jefferson Junior High School Auditorium was host to the pageant that included five contestants including Fischbach; first attendant Vanessa Frank and second attendant Hannah Laird as well as contestants Ashley Ray and Catherine Vaughn.

The royalty from a variety of area festivals also attended the pageant and shared information about the events including the Grape Jamboree, Winterfest and Austinburg Country Days.



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

CHEYENNE FISCHBACH (center), a junior at Geneva High School, was crowned Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Queen on Saturday night at Jefferson Junior High School Auditorium. Hannah I. Laird (left), was crowned second attendant and Vanessa S. Frank (right) was crowned first attendant.



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

CHEYENNE FISCHBACH (left), a junior at Geneva High School, is crowned Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival Queen on Saturday night at Jefferson Junior High School Auditorium.

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