

Memorial Tribute: **Remembering David C. Fischetti, P.E.**  
**Second National Covered Bridge Conference, Dayton Ohio, June 7, 2013**  
William J. Collins, RLA Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

Thank you Christopher Marston for the honor of remembering our friend and mentor David Fischetti, who is with us in spirit today.

How many people knew Dave personally or knew of him ? (most)

Everyone who knew Dave has a Fischetti story. Mine today are focused on our friendship and collaborations of at least a dozen projects over 12 years. Common to all Fischetti stories are his brilliance, his bravery, and his caring.

I met Dave in Guelph, Ontario where I went to work with the Timber Framers Guild to learn how to design and build a covered bridge, and bring those skills back to rebuild our hometown Tohickon Aqueduct. When I told the lead bridgewright, Jan Lewandoski of my goal and he said without hesitation, "You need Dave Fischetti."

At our first meeting, Dave's sense of humor struck me blindsided when he assured me that the name of his firm – DCF Engineering, stood for his college grades.

We soon found out that we shared some favorite, obscure things... like the new Volkswagen beetle, and Brazil. Not the country.. the movie...by Terry Gilliam. Dave's favorite character in that film was played by another dashing action figure with a Brooklyn accent...Robert DeNiro, as the renegade engineer whose crime was to actually fix what was wrong in people's lives and escape by zipline before authorities could catch him. Like Dave, his decisive actions made him a wanted man.

Dave quickly assumed heroic proportions in my eyes and today I am wearing his uniform– a blue blazer, in tribute. He became my friend and mentor.

I started working with Dave on the timber Tohickon Aqueduct rehabilitation, and quickly found out that Dave could handle just about anything. Whatever I brought him, he'd say, "We can do that. Here's how." These few images of our collaborations are only a small fraction of the diversity of his structural capabilities.

Dave Fischetti was blessed with an extraordinary combination of abilities: He had the brain of an engineer; the eye of an architect; the heart of a preservationist, and an artist's soul.

Dave loved his family dearly and especially cherished children. His dear friends Arnold and Meg Graton are here with us today. Dave changed the course of my career. He got me on the team to move the Cape Hatteras lighthouse – Dave's "hometown" project, where Dave was the one who performed the preliminary calculations to convince the National Park Service that it could be done. I know that Dave

made every project personal and the Tohickon Aqueduct was as important to Dave as it was to me and my community. He honored it with a chapter in his book and it stands as one of Dave's masterworks.

So as we say pay tribute to our friend Dave, I suggest that:

If you push yourself to the top of your profession.

If you have the self-confidence to work fearlessly.

If you love your work and care about people, and

if you collaborate to protect our cultural heritage.

You will be remembering our friend David Fischetti.

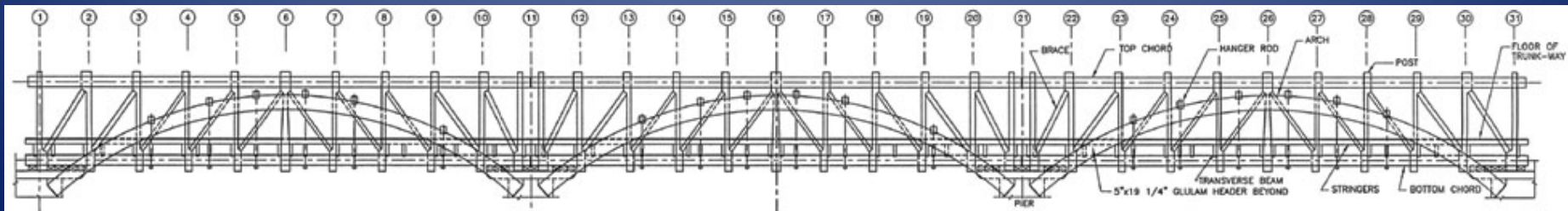
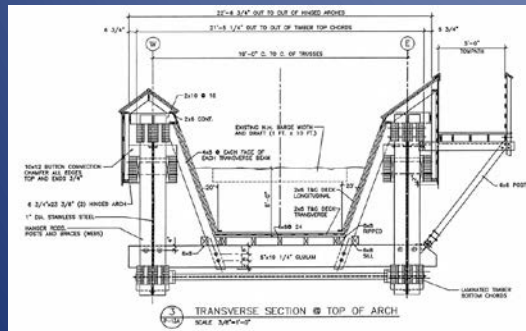
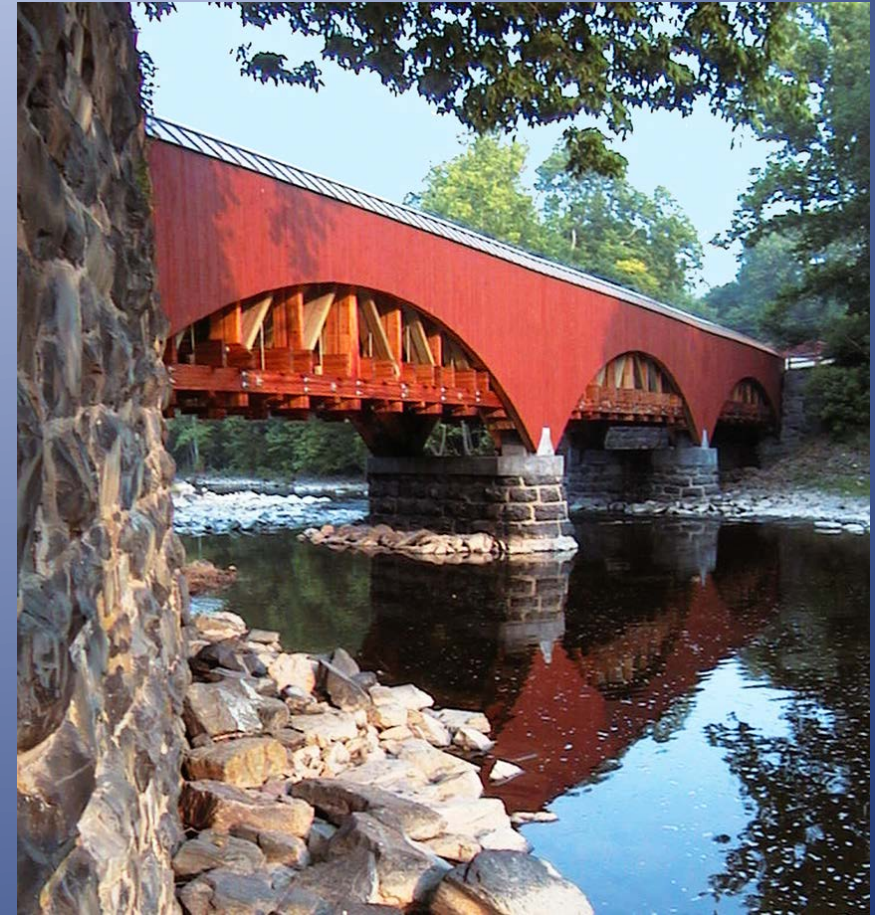
Thank you.

# Remembering

David C. Fischetti, P.E.



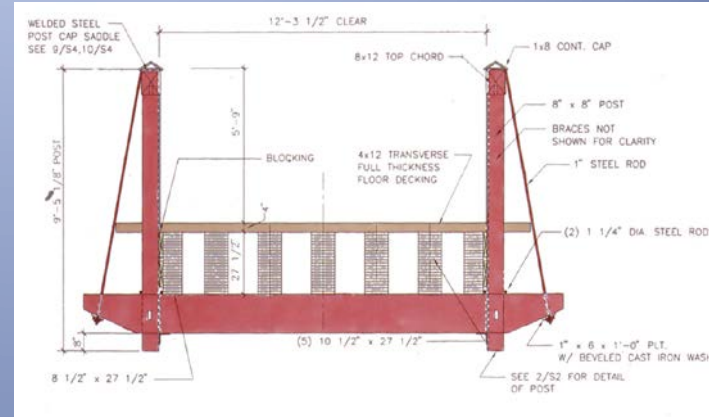
# Tohickon Aqueduct, Delaware Canal National Landmark, Bucks County, Pennsylvania



Brazil... by Terry Gilliam



# Camelback Bridge, Delaware Canal National Landmark, Bucks County, Pennsylvania



Burnt Cabins Grist Mill National Historic Register site , Fulton County, Pennsylvania



*Weigh scale  
rehabilitation*



Burnt Cabins Grist Mill National Historic Register site , Fulton County, Pennsylvania



Log barn rehabilitation





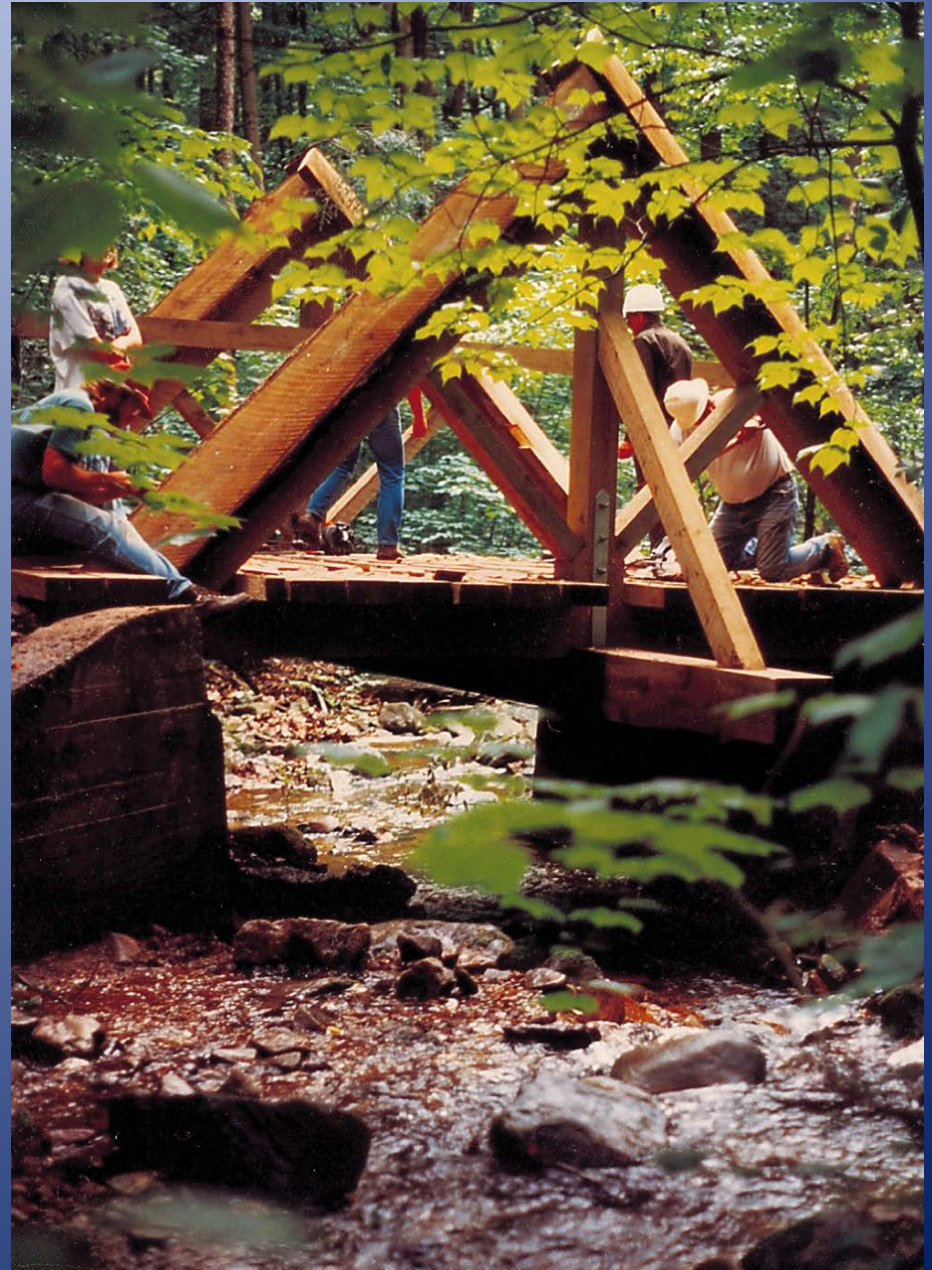
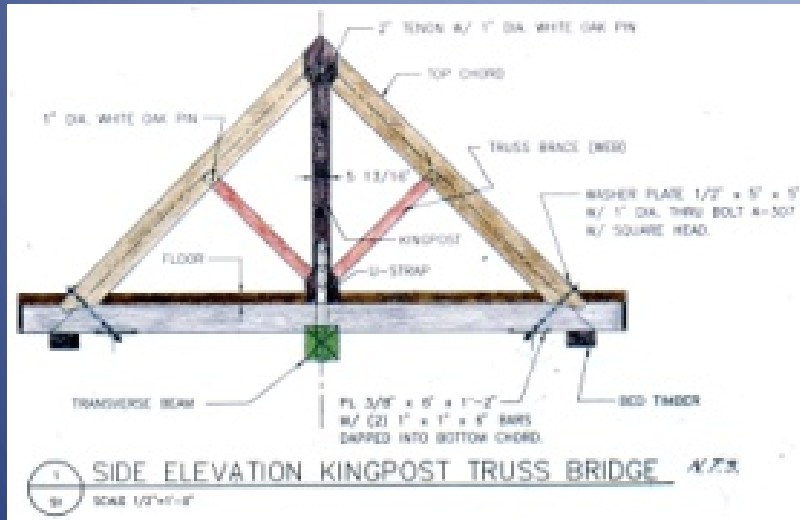
# Burnt Cabins Grist Mill National Historic Register site , Fulton County, Pennsylvania



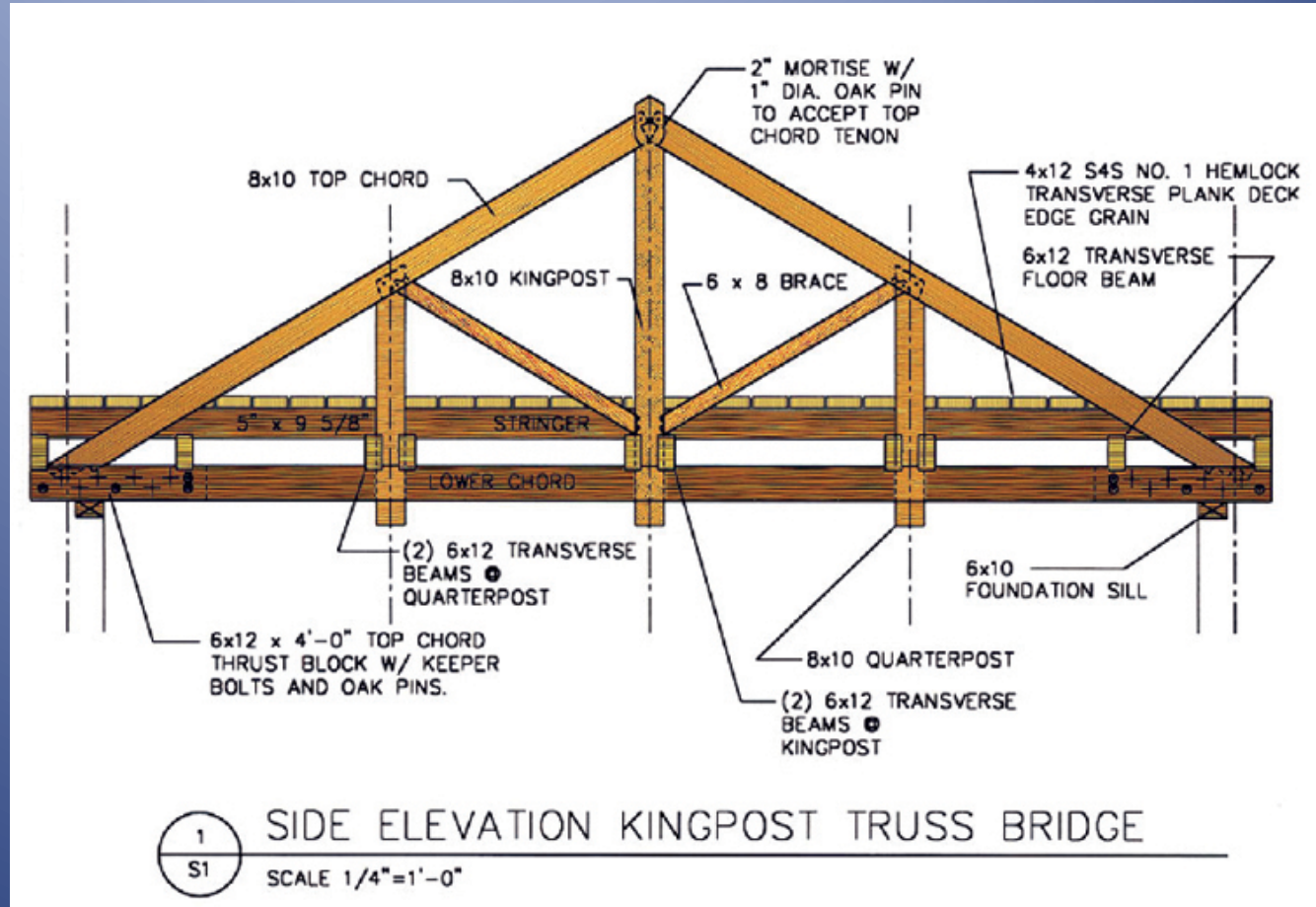
Forebay rehabilitation



# Linn Run Trail Bridges, Forbes State Forest, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

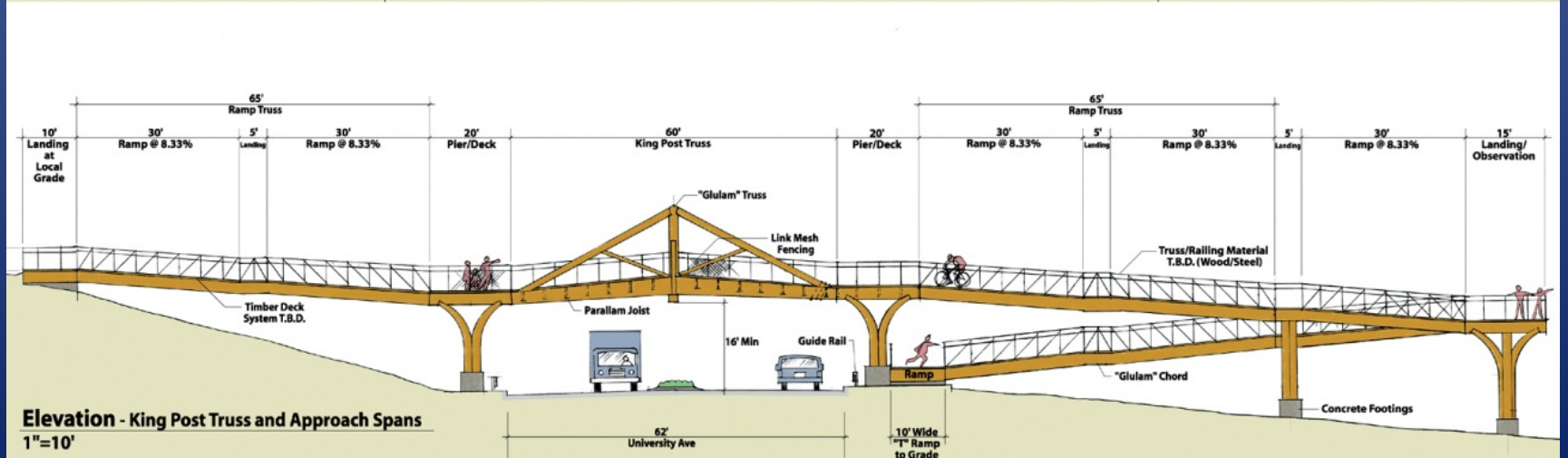
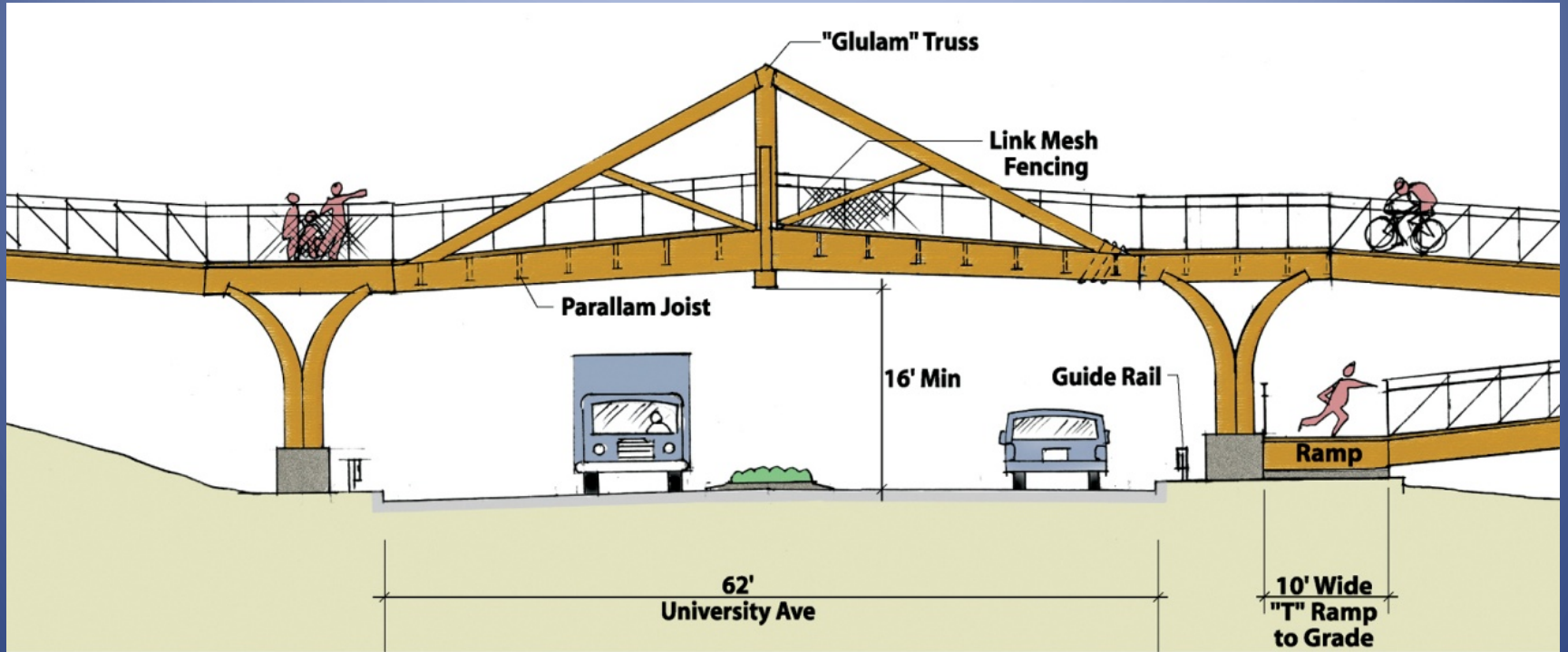


# Concept for Picnic Bridge rehabilitation over Saw Creek, Grey Towers, Milford, Pennsylvania



*Ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot and historic Headquarters of the US Forest Service*

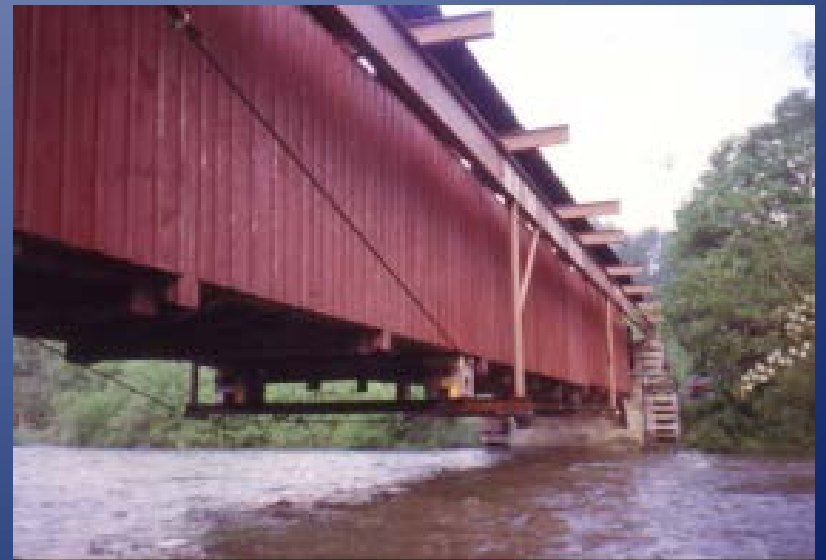
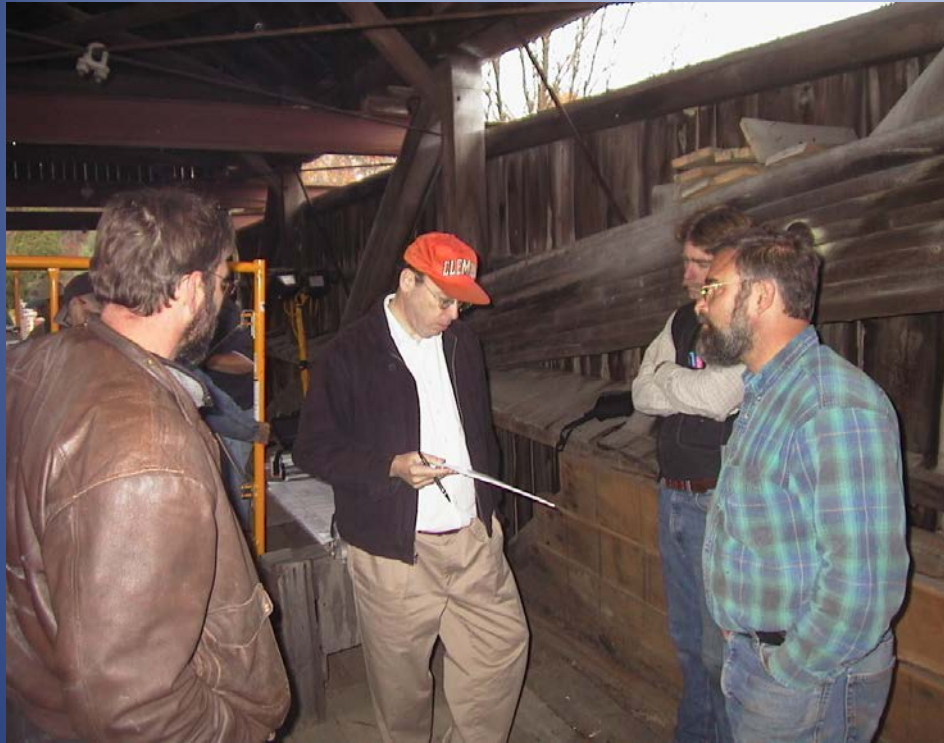
# Concept for timber pedestrian bridge, Morgantown, WV



Elevation - King Post Truss and Approach Spans

1"=10'

# Kings Covered Bridge Stabilization, Somerset County, Pennsylvania



# Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Relocation, National Park Service, North Carolina





David C. Fischetti, P.E.