



Above: Camp Caraway Bridge in Sophia. Photo by Ken Hall.

Ashley Fetner



## Pisgah Covered Bridge *Randolph County*

The Pisgah Covered Bridge is one of the two remaining covered bridges in North Carolina. In the early 1900s, Randolph County had about 60 covered bridges, about half of all covered bridges in the Piedmont. In 1911, the county paid J. J. Welch \$40 to construct the covered bridge across the West Fork of the Little River in the Pisgah community. In the 1950s, a new bridge was built but the covered bridge remained and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. After years of neglect, the North Carolina Zoo Society in 1998 partnered with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, The Piedmont Land Conservancy and the Land Trust for Central

North Carolina along with the residents of the Pisgah community to raise over \$73,000 to refurbish the bridge. In 2003 a flash flood of the Little River destroyed the bridge. A local effort, including help from Randolph EMC personnel and equipment, salvaged about 90 percent of the original materials to restore the bridge once again. A walking trail and picnic tables have been added. The bridge is located about 12 miles south of Asheboro.

– Kay Fetner

Ashley Fetner



## Bunker Hill Covered Bridge *Catawba County*

This is the other surviving covered bridge in the state. In 1894, the Catawba County Commissioners asked the owners of the Bunker Hill Farm in Catawba County to build a bridge to cross Lyle's Creek near their farm. The creek was on the old Island Ford Road, a former Native American trail. The bridge was built in 1895 and is the only remaining example in wood of the Improved Lattice Truss that was patented by Gen. Herman Haupt. It was designated a National Civil Engineering Landmark in 2001. Originally the Bunker Hill Bridge was constructed as an open span bridge and in 1900 was covered with wooden shingles. In 1921, the 91-foot wooden shingle roof was replaced with a tin roof. In 1985, the Bolick family donated the bridge to the Catawba County Historical Society. With the expertise of master bridgewright Arnold M. Graton, from Ashland, N.H., the bridge was restored. It is located off Hwy. 70 east of Claremont.

– Kay Fetner

Ashley and Kay Fetner are members of Randolph EMC.

[www.ashleyfetnerportraits.com](http://www.ashleyfetnerportraits.com)

# A Passion for Covered Bridges

## Pisgah Covered Bridge

Art by Dempsey Essick



The first time I walked to the Pisgah Covered Bridge, I stopped in my tracks as I looked at the wood boards and the rock foundation stones with all the shadows from the streamside trees. I listened to the ripple of the stream flowing under the bridge. The scene captured my imagination so that I could not wait to get started painting. Thousands of shadows cast from different directions created an image of abstract shapes that had wonderful order. I actually sat right there on a

rock for a long time and breathed all this in. I wore out several brushes doing this painting. This painting took a lot out of me with 560 hours of painting time. (Look for the hidden hummingbird.)

*Dempsey Essick is a member of EnergyUnited.*

### Giclee Print

Image size: 20 x 15¼ inches

Price: \$120 (NC residents add \$9.30 for sales tax)

*Mention Carolina Country and receive free shipping*

### Dempsey Essick Gallery

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## Eddie Hough keeps on rolling

A native of Moore County, Eddie Hough over the years has combined his hobby of photography and appreciation of rural life to make pictures of his surroundings, even though it has never been easy for him.

Now 63 and confined to a wheelchair since his hips and vertebrae failed him a few years ago, Eddie taught himself just about everything he knows. "They considered me retarded," he says. "All I got was a grade-school education. I taught myself to read books and taught myself to type, taught myself photography and to play my Martin guitar."

He shoots film and slides with equipment that is 30 to 40 years old, roaming when he can in a 1979 Chevy Nova, and "holding on to the car door or sticking my camera out the window." He rigged gears to his enlarger so he can work sitting down in his homemade darkroom, setting trays on planks over his bathtub. "I do not let being a cripple prevent me from my pursuit of photography." 📷

*Eddie Hough is a member of Randolph EMC and can be reached at 4683 Robbins Circle, Asheboro, NC 27205.*



Seth Cheek, The Courier-Tribune

*Eddie Hough in his library shows his print of Parker's Mill.*



*Eddie Hough made one of the last photos of Skeen's Mill Bridge, the state's oldest covered bridge, which spanned the Uwharrie River near Flint Hill northwest of Asheboro. It fell down in 1987.*