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June 2011 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA



**JOIN US ON
FACEBOOK!**

MORE Canal news
not seen here!

**ANSWERS to your
questions about canal
history!**

**OTHER
UPCOMING
EVENTS**

**Tues.-Wed., June 28-29,
9am-3pm
ArchiCamp**
Fun for kids, ages 8-12!
Registration deadline is June
21.
[Details and application
form>](#)

**Sat.-Sun., July 2-3
Canal Days**
Celebrate Independence Day
Weekend with us!

THIS Saturday, June 4 Volunteer Recognition Day AND National Trails Day

We invite you to join us this Saturday, June 4 for two special events at the Wabash & Erie Canal Park.

National Trails Day is every year on the first Saturday in June. If you have not yet enjoyed Delphi's 10 miles of groomed trails, take the opportunity this weekend! Whether you prefer walking or [biking](#), our trail system is a true gem. [Download our new trails map](#) or **pick up a full brochure version at the Center.**

[Explore our trails online>](#)

Some volunteers have amassed hundreds and even thousands of hours of service. **Volunteer Recognition Day** honors those involved this past year on construction and maintenance projects, as well as those who served as tour guide/docents and tour boat crew members. Once a year, we invite their families and gather for lunch and a recognition ceremony.

A free lunch, provided by the local Psi Lota Xi sorority, will be served at the Shelter House at 12 noon for all who have volunteered with the Canal and Trails work.

Special recognition will also be given to the youth groups, Scouts and 4-Hers that have been involved during this past year.

Immediately after the recognitions at 1:00 pm there will be a free ride on the popular Canal Boat.

[More details>](#)



During our annual **CANAL DAYS FESTIVAL**, you can learn about the process of old-fashioned brick firing at our newest park exhibit. Kiln builder and operator, Bill Hendrix, will be on hand during the festival and once a month on weekends through the summer. Other artisans of 1800s work will also be featured at Canal Days.

[More event details>](#)

A NOTE FROM OUR NEIGHBORS...

The Delphi Opera House has been selected for the 2011 This Place Matters Community Challenge! [VOTE HERE](#) today to help them win the \$25,000 cash prize!

You are cordially invited to attend a Grand Opening Weekend (Fri-Sat, June 17-18) at [Beyond My Garden Gate Tea Room](#) in Delphi.

BIKE AND BOAT RENTAL!

[Noble Bikes at the Canal](#) carries many types of bikes, as well as kayaks and paddleboats. Enjoy our extensive trail system or a leisurely excursion in the canal!

The Scale Shed Arises

M-W-F Crew Continues Work



Last fall the volunteer crew cut these massive posts from a big White Oak log with a portable sawmill. Then in the winter the M-W-F guys cut the mortise and tenon joints indoors. Finally the crew was able to see it all fit together as the prefab panels are being raised over the finished ground level 8 ft. x 14 ft. platform scale.



Carroll County REMC came to the aid of the crew with high lift capacity and a very skilled operator, Len Brown. Our thanks to Stan Quinn, Supervisor, and Kenny Boone, Foreman, for this grand way to upright the building.



HELP US CREATE THE TOTAL CANAL EXPERIENCE!



Bring history alive by sponsoring an exhibit or interpretive panel.

[Find out more>](#)

BECOME A MEMBER

Your financial partnership restores and preserves a rare, important piece of early American history and provides hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages.

[Find out more>](#)

VOLUNTEER



Bracing is used for safety and the beams are then drilled and "pegged" together and the Scale House takes shape.



Here is a close up of the interlocking beams just as the upper brace is being put in place over the extending piece of tenon from the lower post. Once in place the joint is drilled and secured with 1" round oak pegs.

Do you enjoy sharing history with others? We need docents to take groups on guided tours throughout the year. **To find out more, contact us at 765.564.2870.**

We have many volunteer opportunities to suit your skills and time!

[Find out more>](#)



Next, they cut the rafters from more logs donated for this project. The M-W-F crew stacked fresh cut 2x10s from Rollin Graybill's portable sawmill (seen in the background.)



Rafters are placed to make the Scale House a "shed" attachment to the Canal Boat's home along the canal.



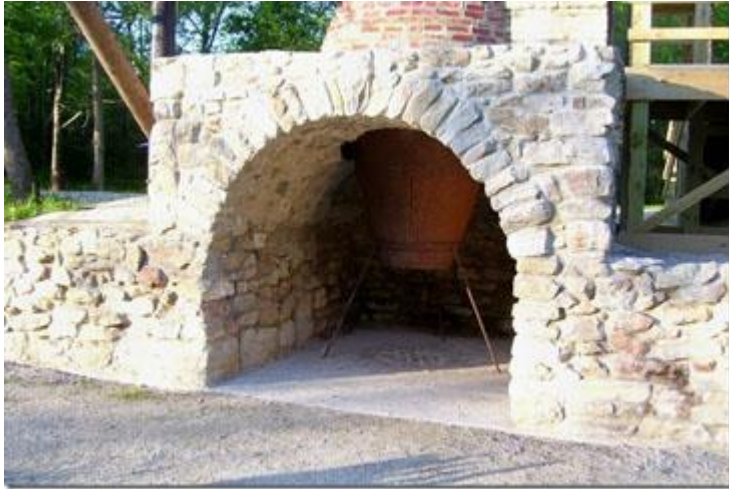
Board and batten siding was also cut from white oak to fill in the sides. Later, a picket-style lower side railing with gates will allow entry of cargo to be weighed.



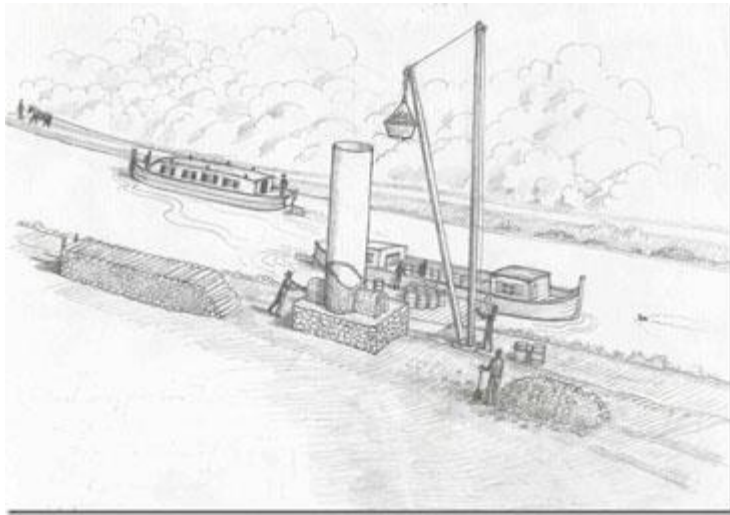
Near the scale is the completed Lime Kiln exhibit. As the M-W-F crew worked on the scale, 4th graders were being hosted by volunteer guides Vickie Sickler and Deidre Duncan. Here Vickie explains how the lime kiln was fired with wood to heat the pieces of rock that had been loaded in the top.



Students eagerly wait to inspect the firebox that provided heat to make the limestone become powder. The final products of the process were plaster, mortar and whitewash.



Kilns like this operated during the Canal era of 1840 to 1874. The giant wrought iron funnel inside allowed the powder to drop down through the stack past the firebox as stone became powder.



During its heyday Delphi had 22 kilns producing up to a half million bushels of burned lime. This scene is being developed as an interpretive panel for explaining the operations at this site where the students inspected the structure. More signage is needed at many important historic sites along the canal towpath. If you are interested in supporting one of these outdoor signs contact the Wabash & Erie Canal Association or look at our [list of sponsorship opportunities](#) online.

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