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Currents



MARCH 2015 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA



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There is more than CORN in Indiana!

**THE OPENING OF CANAL TRAFFIC
COMES MAY 16th on
HISTORIC TRANSPORTATION DAY**

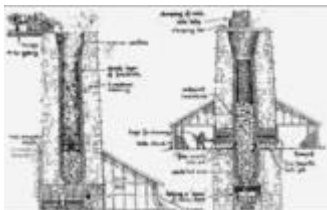
**CANAL ACTIVITIES DON'T STOP WHEN IT
GETS COLD**

LIME KILN

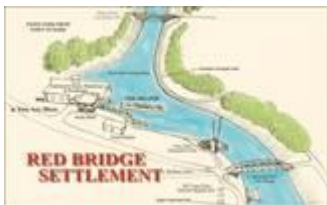


This scale model of a
nineteenth century
outdoor Lime Kiln will allow

children and adults to interact with its process. Missing will be the actual "heat" from burning wood but instead glowing lights will provide the illusion of this operation. Nearby historic kilns of the canal era produced three basic products: plaster, mortar and whitewash. Delphi was a major producer and canal transit provided the means for marketing the products.



Lime processing was done in massive kilns. Heat, strenuous work and caustic conditions were perils.



Two blocks north of Canal Park is the site of original Hubbard and Harley Lime Kilns in Red Bridge Settlement. This frequently visited outdoor site is a favored place to see a reconstructed remnant of this canal era industry. After visiting the model in the museum visitors can then "go see it" outdoors along the Towpath Trail.



A Canal Board member gets recognition for volunteerism. Annadell Lamb (center) was awarded a Bison Financial statue commemorating her years of involvement with the Wabash & Erie Canal Association. Attending the recent presentation in Lafayette were (from left): Al Auffart, Carl Seese, Frances French, Vicki Sickler, awardee Annadell, Mary Crary and Barry Nichols. Also attending from the Canal Association were Linda Cooper and Dan McCain.



Canal Board officers meet to discuss policy and make directional decisions. This meeting in late February brought (from left): VP of Operations Vicki Sickler, Secretary Frances French, VP of Finance Al Auffart, VP of Administration Annadell Lamb and Treasurer Steve



In late February Canal Board President Dan McCain traveled to Metamora to speak to the Whitewater Canal Association's Annual Meeting. This is an active historic canal town venue in Southern Indiana. Metamora contains a restored section of the Whitewater Canal with a canal boat, grist mill, merchants with unique shops and the local non-profit organization's interactive museum much like ours in Delphi.



Inside the Whitewater Canal Association's museum are several excellent examples of a grist mill, lock and packet boat built in miniature by local merchant and craftsman Paul Baudendistle.



Fascinating details of the grist mill's machinery and

Gray to the table. Collectively these Vice Presidents are responsible for sixteen specific committees. Each of these committees has an appointed Chairman. Committee members are always being sought. If you would like to get involved let your availability be known -- call [765-412-4308](tel:765-412-4308)

The M-W-F Crew is Keeping Busy



Monday-Wednesday-Friday (MWF) volunteers began assembling the newest interactive museum exhibit for the indoor museum -- a lime kiln. Work goes on three mornings a week on many projects by this crafty crew. In winter volunteers work in the Duke Mule Barn but avoid the very coldest "numbing" days.

structure are recreated in great detail in this display.



This indoor scale model of the wooden aqueduct over Duck Creek at Metamora illustrates how the watered canal channel crossed OVER the creek. The full size outdoor structure does exist nearby and was rebuilt by the State several years ago using an Amish crew and native timber.



A model of the Lock in the Whitewater Canal museum was also built by Paul Bodendistle. Details of the gates and features of the "composite" wood and stone lock reveal cutaway details of how it was constructed.

VOLUNTEER AT CANAL PARK!



Volunteers make our popular canal boat rides possible. Here



Several years ago the MWF crew rebuilt this kiln. The firebox is being placed.



On a cold March morning the MWF crew carted the

Dan McCain crew member and Mary Crary narrator are in costume as the boat approaches the dock. Other volunteers that run the boat (it takes two) are coordinated by Capt. Steve Gray. He is asking for more help for next year's tours. If you are interested in becoming crew for this venture contact him at steve1948@aol.com or 765-427-2912.

BECOME A MEMBER



Mike and Pam Luenz are Life Members and they also like to come to Canal Park and help us with "acting out" the Canal era. Mike likes to tell stories or converse with the crowd and Pam is often found in the One Room Log Schoolhouse as the Schoolmarm.

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.

JOIN TODAY!

Did you know...

beginning model into a warmer place to work inside the museum. Here the vehicle used is the recently completed railroad station cart built a month earlier.



Long time MWF volunteer Roy Patrick from Lafayette is innovating a mechanism to lift the likeness of chunks of bedrock (styrofoam with embedded pieces of iron) into the model kiln chamber. This mechanism will become the crane with dangling magnet to pick up the raw material. The exhibit visitor will place these chunks in the top of the heating chamber with the "gin pole" being crafted by Roy. He is also crafting small hand operated winches.



To develop the likeness of the original outdoor kilns along



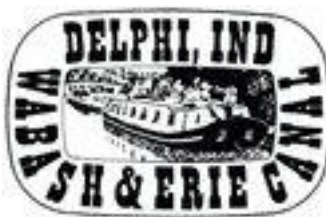
Did you know you could hold your wedding, party, meeting or conference at the Canal?



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the canal in the Red Bridge Settlement styrofoam underlayment coated with fiberglass and resin is being applied. This will be spray painted to look like a mound of earth with grass cover.



The volunteers review the site where this Lime Kiln model will be placed. The green and yellow half scale farm wagon will be moved to the Livery gallery and the kiln will be placed on the platform where Vern Cripe and Al Auffart are sitting. Dave Smith explains how the model will operate as Roy Patrick and Brice Crowel watch. In the background other types of manufacturing and shipment are highlighted in this gallery that features local canal era industry.



In the meantime this winter five of the MWF construction crew went to an old one room schoolhouse north of Delphi, once owned by Brice Crowel (right), to contemplate whether disassembly and restructuring this 22 by 33 foot building would enhance experiences in Canal Park. Inspections of available historic relics like bridges, buildings and canal features have been subjected by the crew to the "WOW" factor. When the volunteers first see a new potential structure the WOW factor could be a YES (we want to do this) or a quieter "wow" it's too big to even consider. The past has usually netted.....WOW lets do it !!

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