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Currents



MAY 2018

NEWS & INFO FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL - DELPHI, INDIANA

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To say the least April was a month that was almost always too cool. We had a Volunteer Callout and had to move inside a cabin to keep the chill off. As always we are looking for more volunteers in the many arenas that we cover – school groups, boat operations, trail work, construction, entertaining the public, and being open every day. If you would like to

**April was a
really month! "cool"**



PROJECT W.E.E.D. or otherwise known as Wabash and Erie Earth Day is an annual spring event for cleaning up the residues from last fall and winter and this year brought out the early arrival of 20 local high school students led by Football Coach Josh Strasser plus additional youth from a local Cub Scout Troop led by Laura Stigers as well as other adults. Overall the work crew that day totaled 51 participants and the Psi Iota Sorority provided a *free lunch* for all volunteers.

get involved contact
garystanley1@frontier.com



Another cool day for the **Wednesdays in the Wilds** hike. A Lafayette group comes about once a year to hike Delphi Historic Trails and learn of our natural environment and this day the walk was on the Monon High Bridge Trail. A stop at the new Bicentennial Monument near Freedom Bridge was highlighted with an interpretation of the early 1800s era by David McCain.



Then with pride the Canal Association presents its Annual Meeting and this year's featured speaker Kevin Stonerock. He portrayed a Hoosier Pioneer character and related the ways of life in the early 1800s. The Association had a short business meeting to elect directors and present the business of the past year.



One of the areas of work for the high school contingent was to refresh the area around the Centennial Monument east of Delphi along the Monon Trail. The pathway to the Samuel Milroy homestead and monument was cleaned of weeds and sticks then redressed with crushed stone.



And the crew was blessed with mechanical assistance offered by **One Source Rentals**. One of the students Asa Cohee brought and operated two pieces of machinery that his father William donated. The work was greatly enhanced with the power of the students and the equipment.



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Tree planting was a task that took some muscle and
toil. Here the students are planting a Tulip Poplar which is
the State Tree near the site of the Bicentennial
monument. Other native species like Yellow Wood and Oak
will be added too. Linda and Peter Cooper, Master
Gardeners, provided the plan and workday supervision. To
be involved with gardening on the trails or in the park contact
lrcooper@outlook.com or allenfour@comcast.net



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UPCOMING NEWS

May 12th is Opening Day of "The Delphi", the one of a kind, replica canal boat.

Our public rides will begin Saturday, May 12th and Sunday, May 13th at 1:30, 2:30 & 3:30 PM

These rides last roughly 40 minutes and run every Saturday & Sunday through Labor Day.



Volunteer help makes the cleanup of Canal Park and its many buildings come back to life. Here Riley Earhart uses a power blower that helps brush off the leaves and grime of winter at the shaded waiting area entrance to the boat dock.





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Second in command to Steve Gray as Canal Boat coordinator is John Polles. The first thing happening as the boat is being prepared for spring duty is to pressure wash the hull. **"Full stream ahead"** is John's motto. The coordinators are looking for more volunteers to operate the boat this summer – contact jspolles@icloud.com or steve1948@aol.com



Second to John Polles is volunteer Bill Lapcheska from Lafayette who has been painting and just finished with touchup as he is about to close the top of the **"bright yellow"** paint in the can by his feet.



Another new building? Yes this is the Post Office that once was a main building in Sleeth, one of Carroll County's early towns. Rollin Graybill helped pick up the building and

**For additional information
regarding all canals in
Indiana, check out the Canal
Society of Indiana.
<http://indcanal.org>**



Trying on the “hat” (roof) of the new kiosk at Delphi Body Works factory in Delphi. These five new kiosks will be set at strategic points of entry to the primary Delphi Historic Trails entry points and will lockdown the new video camera recording equipment which is part of the Trail Security Project.

**The Wabash & Erie Canal E-
Newsletter
is brought to you by:**



Delphi Properties, LLC
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transport it to Canal Park. Now setting is facilitated with his versatile trailer.



The Monday-Wednesday-Friday crew Al Auffart, Mac Carlisle and Rollin Graybill are setting the Post Office on its permanent foundation and beginning an assessment of the repairs needed to make this another interesting addition to the array of historic structures in Canal Park. If you would like to work with this crew contact amauffart@gmail.com



M-W-F volunteer Mac Carlisle is an artist with his skills in creating/repairing exhibits. Here part of the water model display needed to be renewed. This part of the display features the “mill” with a wheel that runs when water is diverted into a millrace by a visitor.



Now Mac on his back looking for the leak that has plagued the canal boat water model earlier. This is an important central display in the dozen galleries of the Interpretive Center. Note the Mill model to the right that Mac just finished restoring. The national award winning museum attracts thousands of visitors annually.

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