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



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questions about canal  
history!**

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**Sat.-Sun., May 14-15  
BOAT SEASON BEGINS!**  
Join us for the first boat tours  
of 2011. Special guest,  
[Hogeye Navvy](#) will perform  
from 1-3 pm on May 14.

**Saturday, June 4, 12:00 pm -  
1:00 pm  
National Trails Day &  
Volunteer Recognition**

**Sat.-Sun., July 2-3  
Canal Days  
Celebrate Independence Day**

## Help Us Launch Another Great Season!

*Our 2011 canal boat tour season begins on Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15! We'll kick off in celebratory style with a concert by Hogeye Navvy, an acoustic musical group from Indianapolis. Their Celtic and early American music, blended with British and American sea chanteys, are sure to make for a great afternoon. [MORE DETAILS>](#)*

*This is the third season for the "Delphi", our 54-foot replica canal boat that takes visitors on a 40-minute narrated boat ride on the last accessible and watered portion of the historic Wabash & Erie Canal. [MORE DETAILS>](#)*

### NEW THIS YEAR...

#### **More demonstrations, crafts and food!**

*On opening day and weekends this summer, guests will have expanded opportunities to take guided tours of [Pioneer Village](#) and the [Reed Case House](#), as well as see artisan demonstrations.*

- **Back to school** - In Pioneer Village, our schoolmaster will hold class in the log schoolhouse for kids of all ages to illustrate how school during the canal era differs from today.
- **Artisans** - Other Village buildings will be open, offering demonstrations as well as crafts for sale.
- **Food** - Buy sandwiches and iced tea at the Snack Shack in Pioneer Village. At the toll booth, purchase tasty new sandwiches and other treats from Noble Bikes at the Canal.

*As always, enjoy the Interpretive Center, canal boat playground and access to Delphi's beautiful 10 mile trail system!*

*Hope to see you soon,*

Weekend with us!

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For more information and events, check out our [EVENT CALENDAR>](#)

## 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!



## HELP US CREATE THE TOTAL CANAL EXPERIENCE!



Bring history alive by sponsoring an exhibit or interpretive panel.

[Find out more>](#)

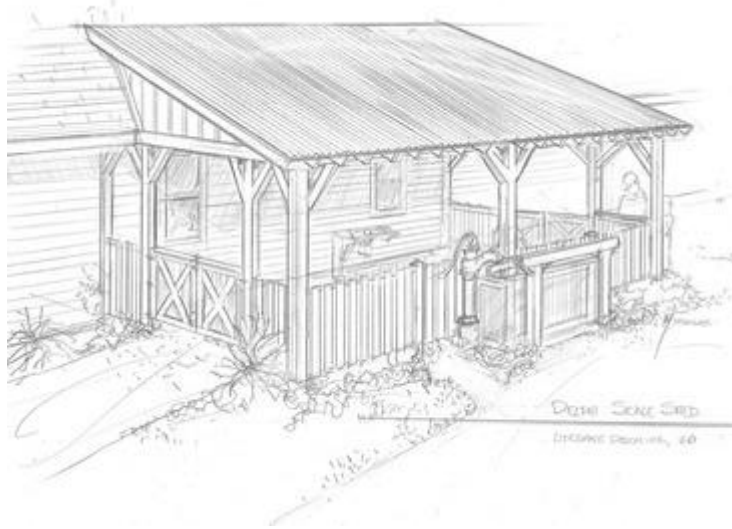
## BECOME A MEMBER

Your financial partnership restores and preserves a rare, important piece of

Dan McCain  
President, Wabash & Erie Canal Association

## Platform Scale Shed Takes Shape

*Played Important Role In The Canal Era*



The process of weighing cargo to be carried by canal boats in the early days will be illustrated at the Scale Shed located alongside the Hubbard & Harley Lime Company Warehouse in the Red Bridge Settlement just north of Canal Park.



While he was living, Ernie Avery, a retired farmer from Michigantown (Clinton County), gave the Canal Association this very old scale. It had been on his farmstead since he was a boy. Ernie helped his father move this scale and said "it was old then." Avery used it to

early American history and provides hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages.

[Find out more>](#)

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## **VOLUNTEER**



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>](#)

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weigh grain and hogs.

This interactive life-size exhibit, big enough to weigh a farm wagon, is being rehabilitated by the M-W-F crew. They are using donated oak logs that were cut in the woods last fall using a portable sawmill. The outdoor exhibit is being [sponsored](#) by Ken and Julie Pyle from Danville in memory of her father and grandfather.

In canal days, products (often in barrels) were delivered to the warehouse. Products might be salt pork, flour, cornmeal, or lime freshly made at the adjacent kiln. Even livestock and bulky things could be weighed for shipment.

Once the exhibit is completed, a docent guide could demonstrate how shipping fees were determined by weighing a class of 4th graders (for example).



Beneath the scale shed is a pit that contains the metal beams that will "float" or balance the 8 by 14 foot ground level platform. Farmers could easily pull their wagons over the scale to be weighed. The oak beams shown form the parameter of the pit and the weighing platform itself will be suspended over this opening.



Former Indiana First Lady, Judy O'Bannon recently visited the



construction site and viewed plans for the scale project with M-W-F volunteers, Al Auffart and Dave Smith. She was here in Delphi to speak to the Annual Meeting crowd April 19th. In her remarks she congratulated the volunteers for their diligence in creating the array of [TOTAL CANAL EXPERIENCE](#) exhibits.



Al Auffart is standing on planks that define the platform covering the pit with the “working parts” of the scale. The approach to the platform--where Clay Sledd is standing--is being covered also with planks. Shorter planks in the foreground will provide space for the upright cabinet containing the scale's brass slide that will ultimately determine weight.



The M-W-F crew unloads the beams for the upright “post and beam” shed onto the completed platform of the scale. The matched mortise and tenon members that were created during the winter months while the crew worked indoors.



As Roy Patrick drills holes Brice Crowel drives the pegs to secure the mortise and tenon joints. While flat for this task, they will later be raised. No nails are needed in this post/beam construction process. This is the way older barns were built.

***NEXT ON CANAL UPDATES...***

***See the raising of this shed. You can help us with projects like this, part of the [Total Canal Experience](#), by sponsoring an exciting exhibit like the scale.***

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