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May 2013 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Heritage Transportation Festival & Boat Season Start Sat., May 18

10 am to 4 pm

2013 boat season kicks off with tours on the Delphi, exhibits, live demos in Pioneer Village, dulcimer music, good food and more! Stay for a great meal from Dan's Fish Fry (4-7 pm.)

[More info>](#)

And mark your calendar...

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Heritage Transpo Fest & Boat Season Start on May 18!**
- Project W.E.E.D. recap
- What's new at Canal Park?

Projects Are A'Bloomin At Canal Park!



As we prepare for our 2013 boat season to begin on May 18, the *Delphi* has cleanup needs. That includes checking the batteries, controls and life jackets, as well as cleaning the surfaces in the passenger and crew areas. Volunteers Steve Gray, our crew coordinator, and John Polles, are a part of the "make ready" crew.

Canal Days Festival
Sat.-Sun., July 6-7
Don't miss our annual event!

BIKE AND BOAT RENTAL!



Noble Bikes at the Canal is pleased to offer bikes, kayaks and paddleboats for rent to enhance your fun at Canal Park. Don't miss their tasty concessions, either! Find them at the dock-side ticket booth and bank barn, right here in Canal Park!

Earth Day Recap



Our Earth Day workday included building a fenced-in herb garden designed by Master Gardeners Peter and Linda Cooper from Lafayette. They are new to the canal volunteer cadre and will be seen here on summer weekends as craftsmen in a nearby cabin.



Volunteer Clay Sledd tackles the job of hand-washing the steps. He has sometimes served on our M-W-F crew to build some of our unique outdoor exhibits. Clay was a professional carpenter.



A new arrival for our Interpretive Museum is the new model canal boat for our water display. Last year, we secured a grant from the Carroll County Community Foundation to have this scale model of the *Delphi* created and built by Blue Rhino Studios in Minnesota.



Despite the cool weather, a small but aggressive crew worked diligently on the trails and in Canal Park. We thank Delphi's Psi Iota Xi Sorority for the free lunch, enjoyed here by some of the workers inside the Fouts Log House.

HELP US CREATE THE TOTAL CANAL EXPERIENCE!



Bring history alive by sponsoring an exhibit or interpretive panel.

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BECOME A MEMBER



Last month the M-W-F crew built the frame and placed cedar shingles on the replica Mill building, another hand-crafted interpretive exhibit for Canal Park. This model will be placed on a site near the boat warehouse in the Red Bridge Settlement. It will have an mill wheel that operates to give the illusion of how mills were powered by water.



Volunteer Roy Patrick installs some of the poplar siding that was taken off the Burrows Log House (see below) by volunteers. Old as it was, the siding still has plenty of life left in it. Our resourceful M-W-F crew seldom wastes any of the materials given to us. The many nails in the old siding were removed and the boards were run through a table saw to trim them down narrower (and remove the nail holes) so the boards would be a narrower lap on the little Mill.



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.

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[VOLUNTEER](#)



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

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***Spring Showers
Brought A Bit Of
Mayhem...***



This is the Burrows Log House donated by Jim Mullin. The poplar siding had protected the logs for most of the years that this building existed. It is believed to be in the 1850s period and will be moved piece by piece (log by log) to Canal Park by the M-W-F crew. The sill logs and several others will require replacement timbers.



Recently, two trees were moved by arborist Phil Austin to provide much-needed shade at the dock site on the canal. One tree was a well established Washington Hawthorn and the other a Tulip Poplar. A grant for this project, which also includes planting ground cover and new trees, was secured from the Sierra Club by Jim Ebrite.

Gray Bridge Project Moves Along



Recently the Wabash and Deer Creek were at flood stage. This early spring flood was the highest since 1958, and it inundated most of the southern trails in the Delphi Historic Trails system. Here, Dave Smith is inspecting an area where he had taken his tractor with blade and swept away corn stalks, logs and sometimes whole trees that sat on the trail after the flood receded.



Several large trees along the canal bank had to be cleared to make way for the placement of the Gray Bridge later this summer. The foundation "footer" for one end of the bridge will be located near where this burning brush pile is. In the meantime, the M-W-F crew continues to work on repairing, cleaning and painting individual pieces of the steel bridge.



On the towpath beside the recently cleared site are two retired Civil Engineers. R.L. "Bud" Weidner from Monticello and Charles "Chuck" Scholer from West Lafayette have volunteered to design the foundation footers for the Gray Bridge.

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