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Currents



June 2014 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Kid's Day at the Canal
June 21, 11am-3pm

Canal Days Festival
July 5, 10am-4pm
July 6, noon-4pm

**Community Services/
Awareness Day**
August 16, time tba

[MORE DETAILS HERE>>](#)

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NEW THINGS TO SEE DURING YOUR NEXT VISIT...

Whether you're joining us this Saturday for Kids' Day or during Canal Days (or both!)...you'll enjoy seeing new things around Canal Park!

Loom House Project



Year 'round the M-W-F volunteers tackle projects like this. The Loom House project began last year with the discovery of this 1850s log house in the Burrows area in northeast Carroll County. Our volunteer

KIDS LOVE CANAL PARK!



Warm weather brings many boat riders – young and old. This group was a 4th grade class on a school outing. Many groups, organizations and clubs schedule a 40 minute “charter” boat ride is both fun and narration highlights the historic 1850s canal adventure



Frequently visitors with parents and children come to the award winning museum in the Canal Center. Interactive exhibits like this canal boat cabin in the midst of the galleries intrigues the minds of young and older alike.

Don't miss Kids' Day at the Canal on Saturday, June 21st! [SEE DETAILS HERE>>](#)

VOLUNTEER AT CANAL PARK!

crew disassembled it piece by piece and are now re-erecting it in Canal Park's Pioneer Village.



Busy as bees, the M-W-F crew places cedar shingles on the roof and chinks the space between logs. Next will be the placing of “gob” (mortar) to complete the weatherizing before it can be used as the Loom House.



Inside the Gray Barn on a rainy day the M-W-F crew makes a door for the entry to the Loom House. These planks were “scabs” cut off the tulip poplar Canal Lock timbers from the 1830s. They had been in the ground for over a century and a half east of Fort Wayne. Our volunteer sawyer cut down the massive timbers to fit the spaces we needed replacement logs.



Volunteers make our popular canal boat rides possible. Here narrator Kathy McGraw is in costume as she approaches the dock. Other volunteers that run the boat (it takes two) are coordinated by Capt. Steve Gray. He is actively asking for more help for these tours. If you are interested in becoming crew for this venture contact him at steve1948@aol.com or 765-427-2912.

There are other volunteer opportunities, too! From clearing brush to sharing history with students, volunteers make Canal Park a place that visitors are talking about! Contact us at (765) 564-2870 for more info.

BIKE RENTALS AND MORE!



Our partner, [Noble Bikes at the Canal](#), stands ready to greet visitors and outfit them

Join Us July 5 For The Gray Bridge Ribbon Cutting!



The canal boat now passes under the most recent addition to the waterway – the Gray Bridge. John Polles from Lafayette is at the tiller and operates this beautiful replica. The bridge connects parkland on both sides and ultimately joins the new Gateway Trail to downtown (under construction by the City of Delphi).

Join us for the grand opening “ribbon cutting” of this sturdy pedestrian span on Saturday, July 5th at noon during Canal Days Festival!



The bridge historian that brought this span to the attention of the Canal Association for restoration and placement is Jim Cooper. He lives in Greencastle (Putnam County) near where the span had set over Big Walnut Creek for almost a century. Jim has a knowledge of

with plenty to take full advantage of the canal and trails! Rent bikes of all kinds, plus kayaks and paddleboats, right in Canal Park, throughout the summer.

If you've got your own bike but find it needs a good tune-up, they offer those services as well!

[Visit their website for more info>>](#)

IT'S PICNIC SEASON, TOO!



[Have you seen our picnic shelters?](#) They are perfect for larger planned gatherings and can be reserved. Or, just set up at one of the tables alongside the canal like these early spring guests did.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)



Your financial partnership

historic bridges all over Indiana and has been a tremendous asset to our flair for iron bridges.



Another great friend and dedicated former M-W-F volunteer, until he moved to Chicago to be with his extended family, is Ron Dust. His specialty was mechanical engineering and his career involved paint applications. We put him to good use with his skills for two historic bridges. He and his wife Maxine were recently in town to attend Ed Gruber's funeral.

Railroad Depot Project



One rainy spring day the M-W-F crew dug out the gear for several railroad station baggage carts we had been given by Shirley Willard, a historian from Rochester.

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

[JOIN TODAY!>](#)

Farewell To A Friend...



With are saddened at the May 9th [passing of Ed Gruber](#), one of our long, long term M-W-F volunteers and a great friend. We are grateful for Ed and his work at Canal Park. Through the years, he was often featured here in Currents.



We agreed with Shirley to restore two carts from the various parts and then give one completed cart back to the Fulton County Historical Society and keep one here for our next big project – the restoration of the Leiters Ford RR depot.



This picture shows the color and style of a Railway Express Cart. We have parts enough to restore two carts. Anyone remember seeing one of these sitting at the railroad depot in your hometown?

Freedom Bridge Project



Too big for our M-W-F crew is the 300 foot long bridge from Freedom, Indiana. Contractors for the City of Delphi and INDOT are reassembling this span to become the pedestrian crossing over the new four lane Hoosier Heartland Highway. The trail and span follow the old railbed east a mile to finally encounter the Monon High Bridge over Deer Creek.



The long bridge in the background (on the other side of the highway) is Freedom Bridge, fully assembled on land. Placement of the span over the four lane highway by huge cranes is planned for July 8th (weather permitting). On this side is the plaza also being constructed for the City of Delphi. It will also become a starting point for hikers on the Monon Trail. Another new local organization, Heartland Heritage Incorporated (HHI), and Deer Creek Township are in agreement to continue to develop and enhance the trail portion owned by the Canal Association. Ultimately the trail will include a Deer Creek overlook utilizing the 1880s Monon trestle as well.

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