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Currents



JUNE 2018

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

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Boat Captain Bill Lapcheska watches as a forth grader blows the horn signaling the departure of his classmates riding in the boat. This season has produces some very busy days with 660 students coming from six regional schools. More will be coming in the Fall. This Spring dedicated volunteers include coordinators Vicki Sickler and Cecilia Henning utilizing talents of docents in the museum, a schoolmaster and numerous crafters in Pioneer Village.

MOVING INTO SUMMER



Work on the tiny Post Office building is nearing completion with a grant from Tippecanoe Arts Federation (TAF). The origin of this structure was in the unincorporated town of Sleeth in Northwest Carroll County. The site now is at the back of Canal Park near the Railroad Depot.



Next season's events are already being planned for the Village. Linda Cooper (far left and with her Collie) is eager to get organized with the crafters and hosts needed to portray the 1850s lifestyle to the many visitors coming to Canal Park. Linda was just elected Vice President for Programs by the Canal Board and will be anxious to gain even more volunteers for these venues. Contact her at lrcooper@outlook.com

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Become a Member Today!



The M-W-F volunteers have taken time lately to look at several sources of old buildings to consider for moving or salvage of the lumber. Here a very old log barn near Flora is being evaluated by Mac Carlisle and Brice Crowell. If you would like to join the year 'round exciting ventures of this construction crew that works three times a week but only in the mornings, contact amauffart@gmail.com



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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David Kelly (center) has been our chief archivist for over a decade. Recently he had to step down from our Canal Board due to health concerns but has remained active with his computer connection at his home in Monticello. Dave was recently honored in Fort Wayne with an award for his thirty years with Junior Achievement (JA) leadership activities that he started as a teacher in Twin Lakes school. Beside him on the left is Tom Castaldi who also has offered his archival talents to us for years and likewise was in a leadership role in Northern Indiana JA activities.



Important Trail Security facilities installation comes now. Here at Trailhead Park is the first of five information kiosks being installed. The structure bases were built by Delphi Body Works and the roofs built by the Canal's Monday-Wednesday-Friday volunteer crew. Here the top is just being lowered in place. The big black panels below the roof will contain colorful full size inserts that contain trails and safety information.



UPCOMING NEWS

"The Delphi",
is a one of a kind,
replica canal boat.

Our public rides will run
every Saturday
and Sunday,
at 1:30, 2:30 & 3:30 PM

These rides last roughly 40 minutes
and run through Labor Day.



Fourth grade students captivated by
the works of a Blacksmith watch
intently as Tom Johnson pounds on
hot metal in his shop.



Chris Clark, video camera installer, is fixing the position of the pole that will contain up to four cameras. Beneath Chris inside the triangular base will be the locked box that contains the video recording equipment. Funding for the kiosks to be placed at trail entry points came from North Central Health Services and the camera equipment funding was part of the fund drive last year that netted the match for a State grant. That grant is being administered by the City of Delphi.



Trail posts like this are also part of the security project. These posts with routed coding and set each tenth of a mile will allow identifying where a hiker is along the ten miles of Delphi Historic Trails. In an emergency a call to 9-1-1 could net responders coming to the site.



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Another old building to disassemble and move to Canal Park has been offered. It was made from timbers that were removed from the Monon Railroad bridge over the Wabash River at Pittsburg. Considerations of future uses for log structures like this might yield a simple cabin that could be rented out to persons that would like to stay overnight near the RV Park where there are already restroom facilities.



Behind the Canal Conference and Interpretive Center is the RV Park. The current Camp Hosts are Norm and Debbie Anderson. They are "full timers" as they live year around in their big rig and they spend the winters in South Texas. Norm is currently helping with adding more electric hookup sites to fulfill the needs of our patrons. If you have questions about RV space contact them at debandnorm@sbcglobal.net

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

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



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Finally the last room of the 1844 Case House in Canal Park is finished. The creation of a "hired domestic's" bedroom was coordinated by Annadell Lamb (left) with bedroom furniture and this trunk being donated by Rosella Gushwa. She was originally from Delphi but now lives in Oregon. Every room in this beautifully restored two story Federal style house has been sponsored by an individual, a group or organization.



Gary Stanley, one of the Vice Presidents of the Canal Association is installing new manilla rope on the dock where the Canal Boat loads/unloads its passengers. The very popular replica boat runs every Saturday and Sunday through Labor Day at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm. The special big festival event CANAL DAYS is coming July 7th and 8th



The Wabash & Erie Canal at 468 miles was the longest canal ever built in the Northern Hemisphere and second longest to the Grand Canal in China.
