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May 2012 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA



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UPCOMING EVENTS



**Opening Day, 2012 Boat
Tour Season**

Sat., May 12

Canal Park

May Day Flower Planting

Sat., May 12

Canal Park

Bring your tools, even some
plants, and help us beautify
Canal Park!

**Heritage Transportation
Festival**

Sat., May 19

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Prep for May 12 Opening Day
- Heritage Transportation Festival Info
- Project W.E.E.D. and Annual Meeting recap
- M-W-F crew begins work on kids' exhibit

Canal Park Is Ready For More Visitors!

*Volunteers Finish Work To Boat And Park
Grounds For May 12 Launch*



Once our replica canal boat, the Delphi, was docked last fall, our volunteers kept busy all over Canal Park throughout winter and spring to make improvements for this tourist season. Our boat crew

Live entertainment! Lots to see! Stay for the Fish Fry...

[More info>](#)

BIKE AND BOAT RENTAL!



Noble Bikes at the Canal is now offering discounts on all bike and boat rentals to Canal Park campers. Noble Bikes has recently been approved as a Jamis Bicycle Dealer and will soon have Jamis brand trail and street bikes available at the bank barn.

Enjoy concessions at the ticket booth:

- Stewarts Classic Sodas - variety of snacks and ice cream treats
- beef cheese and kraut dogs with Indiana Artisan Certified, naturally fermented krauts

CALL ALL ARTISANS!

We seek artisans interested in demonstrating historical crafts on weekends throughout the canal boat season, May 12 through October 20. **Contact Jean Howell of Noble Bikes & Concessions, LLC., at (765) 427-3320.**

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

has taken several test runs and completed work to make sure she is in tip-top shape and ready for service!



Most recently, the Delphi got a thorough cleaning, an exterior paint touch up, and some maintenance work. These batteries propel the boat with extra quiet electric motors.



Don Goyer, another volunteer with the M-W-F crew, has rigged a power (pressure) sweeper to move floating material into the aquatic weed harvester owned by the Canal Association. Don has become our mechanic and has reworked several pieces of equipment through the winter and spring months.



Annual Meeting speaker Kent Schuette (left) visited the Red Bridge Settlement with Terry Lacy before the April 17 program. Kent is a Landscape Architect from Purdue and had several good comments and pointers for the meeting crowd. He could envision linking with Lafayette on a more regional Historic Transportation planning mission. Lafayette and Purdue have so much early history of transportation to relate. He congratulated us on getting our museum done long before Tippecanoe County.

HELP US CREATE THE TOTAL CANAL EXPERIENCE!



Bring history alive by sponsoring an exhibit or interpretive panel.

[Find out more>](#)



We have new plans for a pivot or "swing" bridge like would



April saw the completion of the Fouts House in Canal Park. This 1838 story log structure called the Noah Fouts House was moved from France Park in Cass County last summer and need a good deal of repairs. The M-W-F volunteer crew changed out numerous lower logs, built new plank doors, installed new windows and build a massive fireplace. Note the shingle work around the protruding new stone chimney. A grant for most of these items was secured from Tippecanoe Arts Federation.



When all was cleaned up around the Fouts Home (pictured), we spread and leveled the soil before seeding the area with grass seed. Mulch was then added to protect the young grass when many visitors come this summer. Other Park improvements included burying electrical wire to run to the Fouts Home and Crafter's Cabin, and improvements to the Case House. Besides interior work, we replaced a doorway to put the 1844 home back in vogue with what it had looked like when Canal Superintendent Reed Case built the home for his young family.

have been used in the Canal days. The M-W-F crew started the construction of this conceptual "kid" sized interactive exhibit.



MF crew members are beginning the frame for the deck of this pivot bridge. Metal was surplus from the restoration of the Blue Bridge several years ago.



The function of a pivot or "swing" bridge will intrigue our younger crowd when completed. It will be placed over a narrow (shallow) slip of water near the Boat House in Red Bridge Settlement.

BECOME A MEMBER

We welcomed 20 new members in 2011, from individuals to corporate sponsors!

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.

SEE ALL THAT IS NEW AT CANAL PARK! BRING FRIENDS, COME OUT, AND ENJOY OPENING WEEKEND WITH US!

Many Pitch In At Canal Park For Earth Day 2012



Our annual Earth Day work day in Canal Park has been a regular springtime venture for scouts, 4-H groups and community volunteers. Here, a flower bed was established using some donated Rhododendron plants.



This flower bed planting adds just the right touch to the base of a split rail fence near the center of the Pioneer Village. The volunteers will also add an old fashioned style to allow children to experience crossing a fence without touching it.

Over 40 people came out to Canal Park for Project W.E.E.D. (Wabash & Erie Earth Day.)

[JOIN TODAY!>](#)

VOLUNTEER



We have many volunteer opportunities to suit your skills and time! Some needs include:

We have other opportunities, too!
[Find out more>](#)



Young "helper" Scouts are busy cleaning up the grounds in Pioneer Village at Canal Park.



Some volunteers worked at a site across the canal to plant a windbreak screen of spruce. Tom Van Sickle and his wife, Pam, directed the Scouts and others to plant and mulch 35 nice trees.



Every year, the Psi Ote Sorority in Delphi treats our volunteer workers to a free lunch at noon.



These Boy Scouts enjoyed lunch after working way out on the trails near Trailhead Park.

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