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



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Old-Fashioned Christmas at the Canal

Saturday-Sunday, December 8-9

Sat 10am-4pm

Sun noon-4pm

[More events and details>>](#)

APPLE DUMPLINGS FOR SALE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Old Fashioned Christmas At The Canal
- Gray Bridge Details
- New Interpretive Panels
- New Project?

Enjoy An Old-Fashioned Christmas At The Canal!



Don't miss this weekend's festivities! You'll find the finest handmade gifts, plus hot apple dumplings, live artisan demonstrations, festive music and more! St. Nick will spend his weekend at Canal Park, too...and a photographer will be on hand to take his photo with the kids. [SEE EVENT DETAILS HERE>>](#)



Don't miss out on our delicious apple dumplings! They are available made with sugar or Splenda, while supplies last. Dumplings sell for \$2.75 each or \$2.50 each for two or more. Pick up extra to have on hand and bake fresh for guests! Available any afternoon at the Canal Center at 1030 North Washington Street, Delphi. All proceeds benefit the Wabash & Erie Canal Association.

BECOME A MEMBER

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.

[JOIN TODAY!>](#)



This interesting scene from the Canal Boat highlights a reconstructed lime kiln in the Red Bridge Settlement. This is a special district where the commerce of the 1850s comes to life. The lime industry, was bustling in the canal era with the production of plaster, mortar and whitewash in the huge kilns. At the dock, barrels loaded with these lime

Gray Bridge Project Continues



Before the Canal Association ever received Bridge #146 from Putnam County, our volunteers went to inspect it while it still stood over Big Walnut Creek. Six of our M-W-F crew were on the deck near Greencastle, and they all had the same reaction – WOW this would be a great project! That was nearly two years ago. Today we have the bridge here in pieces and are working on it. It's a really BIG project and will ultimately span the historic waterway in Canal Park.



Our M-W-F crew has been busy throughout the summer and fall with metal repairs and painting of completed bridge parts. Here, we heat with a torch the zone between rivets and prepare to pound out the "pack rust" that has accumulated between the flat plate and the side rails of this upper chord member. Pack rust accumulates as the bridge ages and eventually buckles the plate.

products were sent on their way via canal barge.

SPONSOR AN EXHIBIT



This summer, our M-W-F volunteers completed a working pivot bridge. It is scaled down to 2/3 size, and kids love to operate it.

Share history by sponsoring one of our many hands-on interpretive exhibits.

[Find out more>>](#)

VOLUNTEER



From boat crew for next season to desk help year around, we're looking for volunteers.

We have other opportunities, too!

[Find out more>](#)

M-W-F Crew Looks At Another Potential Project



Immediately after heating the space between the rivets the M-W-F crew hammers down the bulge. Note the lighter gray color across from the row of rivets where that side had already been heated and hammered to drive out the rust. This action takes time, lots of crew effort, and sometimes even sweat in the heat of last summer.

Interpretive Panels Add Interest Along The Trails



This colorful, informative sign is one of the new interpretive panels funded by the Tippecanoe Arts Federation. Located in the lower portion of the VanScoy Towpath Trail near Deer Creek, it tells the story of the Irish Construction Camp and the many hundreds of workers that labored to build the canal and structures in the "muck, mire and rattlesnakes" of the bottoms along the Wabash.



Another "wow factor" day... this time near Burrows, Indiana where we look at a two-story log home that is available if we want to take it. Al Auffart (left) coordinated the restoration of the recently completed Fouts Log Home and is anticipating how to take this one apart rather than transporting it whole. Time will tell if we decide to accept this challenge. After we rehabilitate the iron bridge and get it in place, there would be room for this structure.

Stay tuned!

BIKE AND BOAT RENTAL!



Noble Bikes at the Canal rents a variety of bicycles, as well as kayaks and paddleboats, out of the Bank Barn in Canal Park (in season.)



This interpretive sign is about a thousand feet to the north, at Lock #33 along the VanScoy Towpath Trail. It tells the story of the operation of this mammoth device called a lock. There was a lock-keeper and his home beside the towpath. The family was responsible 24 hours a day to maintain and service the lock for the many boats that passed through.



Here, the M-W-F crew installs one of the newest interpretive signs. This one is just in front of the Canal Boat's Warehouse in Red Bridge Settlement park. The volunteers build the stands in winter months. There are now 21 such interpretive signs adorning the trails and in our parks.

You can sponsor an Interpretive Panel! [Find out more>>](#)

More New Additions To The Trails



Boy Scouts (and brothers) Michael and Steven Rose designed these attractive mile marker posts. This towpath mile marker is at the Washington Street Stone Arch Bridge. Find out more about this project, and another Scout project, next month...

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