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November 2021 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA

## HISTORY SPEAKS



For a canal to function properly, the engineers designed it to maintain a constant level of water of 4-5 feet deep. Normally, the problem was getting enough water into the canal but, like a modern bath tub, you had to have a way for the excess water to be safely released. For instance, on the Wabash & Erie Canal at Defiance, Ohio, a waste weir was built into the bank of the canal. Once the water level filled to the opening, excess could be safely directed into a nearby waterway.



For additional information regarding all canals in Indiana, check out the Canal Society of Indiana.

<http://indcanal.org>

## FALL TRAIL HIKE ANNOUNCED



On Saturday November 6th, beginning at 1 p.m., a walk featuring two very special archaeological discovery sites along the trails will leave from the parking area at Blue Bridge 100 yards west of Delphi's Pizza Hut. The public is invited. Narrated by Lois Johnston, this easy, level hike on stone trails will be two hours and will follow the visible prism of the Wabash & Erie Canal following the VanScoy Towpath Trail.

This two-mile easy trail walk features many fascinating archaeological discoveries that were documented twenty years ago by Dr. Wayne Bischoff. These National Register sites make this section one of the most unique areas along any canal in America.

Three National Register sites along this trail. The section highlights the mystique of the canal's 1840-1874 era. Background historical information will be highlighted by viewing the colorful interpretive signs at the individual sites of the Paper Mills, Canal Lock #33 and the adjacent Lockkeeper's home, the Irish Canal Workers campsite at Sunset Point and finally, the site of the Deer Creek Dam. On the return, the hike will follow the Obear Millrace Trail with its overlook of the Wabash River and back to the pre-Civil War-era water-powered mill sites.

Finally, just before the hike gets back to the parking area, the hike will pass the visible zone where canal water was diverted to



Our Annual Meeting was a great success and a wonderful opportunity to connect as one, big group. We recognized volunteers, remembered those who are no longer with us, and tended to the business of keeping our organization healthy and resilient.



Don Cox, who has been a crucial part of our maintenance team, took the initiative to renovate our campsite shower with new tiles and waterproofing. We are thankful to have him on board!



Mac and Tom repaired the entrance sign's landscaping, building a beautiful spot where we could install a new sign in the spring.

## **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.

<http://wabashanderiecanal.org/become->

power multiple mills at the upend of this race. The hike will end at the point where a "side cut" exited the main canal and took canal boats to the foot of Delphi's Main Street to load and unload passengers. That's where the new BP gas station now exists.

## **FALL CANAL PARK CLEAN UP DAY**



The "new guy", Executive Director Mike Tetrault, works on the fall cleanup day. This is the Prairie Plot that needs renovation or moved next year as the shading has become too much to support native colorful prairie vegetation.



Some of the many volunteers on the Fall Workday, October 23rd.



The Little White Church makes a perfect space for small weddings and family events. With its location across the bridge from Pioneer Village and the setting as a rural church of the 1880s it is impressive in its ambiance.



And for Sarah and James the church was the setting for their wedding--then a boat ride on the adjacent canal. Wedding receptions and group tours offer this option as part of historical setting of Canal Park. Contact [reservations@canalcenter.org](mailto:reservations@canalcenter.org)



Inside the Little White Church is seating for 50 and an old foot pump church organ on stage.

### Did you know...



One day, the seniors from Delphi Community High School gathered for a class picture on our playboat.



Monday-Wednesday-Friday, volunteers tackled a repair job on the unique 1874 iron trail bridge. Some damaged deck planks were replaced.



Here are several more volunteers from our Fall Cleanup Day, clearing out brush from along the dock area.



Did you know you could hold your wedding, large meeting or conference at the Canal? Think Christmas party with a catered meal for your office staff or extended family.



We offer a variety of options for each different type of event and can seat up to 300 at tables.

**[Save your date today!](#)**

Contact Jeanine at 765-564-2870 or email [reservations@canalcenter.org](mailto:reservations@canalcenter.org).



For days on end throughout the summer, our volunteer gardener, Diana Allen, helps to beautify our Park. Other gardeners also volunteer throughout the summer but we always need more. Contact Linda Cooper, coordinator of Canal Park events at [lrcooper@outlook.com](mailto:lrcooper@outlook.com).

**The Wabash & Erie Canal E-Newsletter  
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