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NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA  
April 2022



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**Volunteer Spotlight:  
Carl Seese**

Each month, we want to highlight one of our many volunteers in recognition of their service and to share ways that you can get

**May 7: Join Us for Outdoor Fun**



Our first event of the season is just over the horizon! Mark your calendars for the morning of **Saturday, May 7**. From **9:00 AM to noon**, we will band together and tackle a variety of jobs in our park and on our trails to get everything ready for a busy new season at the Canal.

Please **meet at the Speece Picnic Shelter in the middle of the Pioneer Village at 9 AM**. From there we will get our assignments and instructions. We will wrap up our day at noon, when the Carroll County Psi Otes will graciously provide a free lunch to all our workers. To RSVP, please send a quick email to [lrcooper@outlook.com](mailto:lrcooper@outlook.com) and let us know how many will be attending so we have enough food on hand.

involved in our mission of preservation, education, and recreation.

This month, we'll hear from Carl Seese.



**What is your volunteer role at the Canal?** I enjoy narrating and crewing rides on the canal boat. I also work with the Archives Committee and occasionally docent in the Reed Case House. In the past, I was on the Board of Directors as well.

**How many years have you been volunteering, and how did you get involved?** I've been volunteering since I moved back to Delphi with my family in 1993. I took the kids to some events happening at the Canal, perhaps a harvest festival. We also got involved in cleaning and building trails through Dan McCain. We got involved as a family, and I became more involved as time went by.



**What is your favorite part of volunteering at the Canal?** I really enjoy seeing people light up when they discover the wonder of the Canal and the activities and places we



Thanks for your support and help as we work together to create a vibrant, beautiful space that visitors from around the country and around the block can enjoy. Our section of the Wabash & Erie Canal wouldn't be the gem it is without the incredible volunteers who make this place so special.

## Telling Our Story Near and Far



A few weeks ago, President Emeritus Dan McCain and Executive Director Mike Tetrault had the privilege of speaking at the spring conference for the Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council (MOMCC) in Springfield, Illinois. The topic of their session was "Volunteers Make the Difference," and it was a wonderful time of sharing projects and accomplishments of the past while looking forward to the future. There were representatives from all sorts of organizations similar to ours, whose passion lies in telling the stories of our past while providing an engaging experience for visitors. In fact, after the conference we were able to share the template from former trail projects so others can develop trails in their own community!

The following week, Dan and Mike shared the story of the

have here that they are learning about for the first time.

**What is your favorite Wabash & Erie Canal fact?**

Our canal is the longest in the history of the western hemisphere!

**What should others know about volunteering with us?**

There are opportunities for all personality types, skills, and interests. I'm not particularly extroverted, but there are ways that I can help!

*For more information about volunteering with us, click the link below.*

**VOLUNTEER TODAY!**



**Spring Cleanup Sponsors Needed!**

We are on the lookout for businesses or organizations that would like to partner with us for our May 7 Spring Cleanup Day. If you would like to join us and get the word out about your company all at the same time, please email: [director@canalcenter.org](mailto:director@canalcenter.org).

**Rescue Our Train!**

Canal at the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association (WALLA) in West Lafayette, and we ran into several current and former volunteers there! We are truly blessed to be able to share local history and serve our community.

**The Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew Works Their Magic**



Even though the springtime warmth has been slow to arrive, our illustrious MWF Crew has been making things happen in and beyond our park. Above is a photo from a recent visit our team had with Rollin Graybill, who generously helped us turn a fallen tree into lumber for future projects! Our Loom House has a log needing replacement, and it looks like we will have a perfect piece to swap in there. Below is a photo of our team with a trailer full of fresh, high-quality lumber!



Another recent project was to install some logs, tethering them along the high-traffic areas of the restored canal in our park. Below is a photo of Brice Crowel, who formulated the idea and led it to completion! Our goal is for the logs to provide a perfect



Are you a model train enthusiast? Are you a fan of solving puzzles and tinkering with cool stuff? You may be the perfect candidate to help save our train exhibit!



The exhibit demonstrates how railroads replaced canals, and most of the pieces are custom-made and totally unique. Sadly the track is out of order, and we have not been able to find anyone with the knowledge of train sets to resurrect this fun interpretation of history!

If you have interest, or know someone who may be up for the challenge, please email: [director@canalcenter.org](mailto:director@canalcenter.org).

### Did you know...?

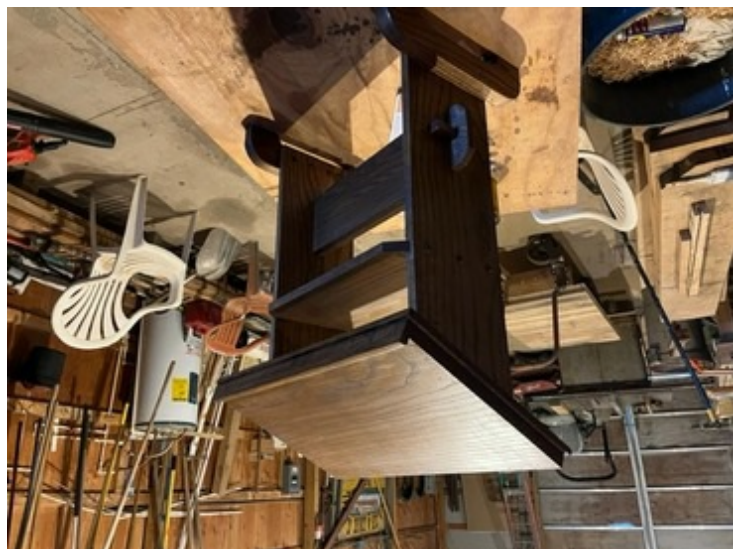


You can hold your wedding,

spot for turtles to rest and catch some sun while also allowing visitors to enjoy the wildlife that passes through our park.



Another fun project, which was formulated by our archivist Rosie Wilson and designed by Mac Carlisle, is a lectern that will be used to display a beautiful German Bible in our German Lutheran church. We hadn't been able to locate the correct style and size of lectern for displaying the Bible, so the Monday-Wednesday-Friday crew decided to just build one! The display should be up and ready for viewing once the season kicks off starting Memorial Day Weekend. Below is a photo of the lovely lectern.



## Brawling Canawlers

corporate meeting, or birthday celebration at the Canal Center?



We offer a variety of options for each different type of event. We offer free wifi and can accommodate up to 300 guests!

[Save your date today!](#)



For a complete list of activities please visit us at [www.wabashanderiecanal.org](http://www.wabashanderiecanal.org)

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If you were applying to be a crew member on a canal boat during the Canal Era, what sorts of skills would you put on your resume? Perhaps your attention to detail, your punctuality, or your seafaring experience? According to Dora Mayhill's *Old Wabash and Erie Canal in Carroll County*, those skills wouldn't get you too far! Mayhill writes, "Captains chose their men for their fighting ability rather than for their skill in navigation."

How is "fighting ability" relevant? As the saying goes, "time is money," and a crew that can make good time is a valuable crew indeed. If two or more boats arrived at a lock in the canal at the same time (and locks take some time for each vessel to pass through!) it was *theoretically* up to the lockkeeper to decide who would pass first. But in reality, "the first boat through the lock was the boat whose crew could lick the other crew."

There was a system of rules and fines in place to prevent unscrupulous behavior, but this wasn't always a sufficient deterrent. One underhanded technique was for captains to literally shove their boat ahead of other boats into the lock. The aggressive captain would have his money in hand, hop off the boat to pay the fine, then continue along his merry way, shaving valuable time off their voyage!

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