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



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**Volunteer Spotlight:  
Karen Bradshaw**

Each month, we want to highlight one of our many volunteers in recognition of

**Our Season is OPEN**



On May 28 we opened our season for the summer, and it was a smashing success! This year we will be focusing our energy and attention on Saturdays, and the activities go from 1:00-4:00 PM each week. Make sure you stop by some Saturday afternoon soon if you haven't already been!

their service and to share ways that you can get involved in our mission of preservation, education, and recreation.

This month, we'll hear from Karen Bradshaw.



**What is your volunteer role at the Canal?** I'm involved with the festivals, working on the trails, and I have been the volunteer coordinator for the museum and gift shop manager since 2003. Currently I am the Board Secretary, volunteer at the museum, organize kids crafts, and organize a gift shop in the Bowen Cabin twice per year.

**How many years have you been volunteering, and how did you get involved?** I began volunteering at the Canal around 1989. I wanted to make a contribution to the community, which I love. During one of the clean-up days, Dan McCain asked me if I would be interested in becoming a board member, and it has been a wonderful experience. It has been exciting to witness and participate in the growth of the Pioneer Village, the addition of the Conference Center and Museum (2003), the addition and renovation of the iron



Each week, we have crafters and demonstrations in the Pioneer Village, the museum is open, and *The Delphi* runs a couple or few rides, depending on demand! You can find more information on our website at the [Events page](#), and you can also watch [this video on YouTube](#) for a snippet of what you can expect on a Saturday visit.

## Mark Your Calendars: Canal Days



On Saturday, July 2 we will celebrate with our biggest festival of the year: Canal Days! The festival will run from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and it will feature all the things you know and love about the Wabash & Erie Canal in Delphi. The canal boat will be running rides all day, the Pioneer Village will be bustling with activity including crafts and games for kids, the Reed Case House will be open for tours, the sound of live music will fill the air, and we will welcome several vendors with wonderful products to enjoy!



bridges, and the miles of hiking trails.



**What is your favorite part of volunteering at the Canal?**

My favorite part of being a volunteer is the opportunity to meet so many interesting visitors from all over the United States, and a few foreign countries. I enjoy working with all our volunteers; they are wonderful people.

**What is a Canal fact that you find fascinating?**

I think the story of Hoggees is interesting. A Hoggee was a young boy and sometimes a girl. The Hoggee walked next to the mule to make sure the mule continued pulling the canal boat. Often these children were orphans, and in need of shelter and food. The Hoggee walked six hour shifts each day. They also wiped the mules down, fed the mules, and tended to the mules' wounds or sores. This was a long, hard day for a young child!

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

I would encourage people to volunteer in their community. Volunteering does not have to be a big commitment of time. Many volunteers work only



Speaking of vendors, you will have quite a selection of goods and products to browse. For food, you will be able to choose from the delightful offerings of the French family in the Summer Kitchen, the BBQ masterpieces of Treasures in the Woods, or even some soft-serve ice cream from the Lafayette Lions Club! There will be several crafters selling their goods as well, including Wees Bees which specializes in honey and beeswax products. We'll have Creative Experiences on site selling their handwoven pieces. May's Tatting will sell various tatted jewelry items, shawls, purses, and more! John R. Oilar will be doing realistic ink portrait sketches for people (or for pets!), and the Hoosier Leather Guild will demonstrate leather stamping along with their offerings of leather products.

There will be something for everyone at Canal Days, and we hope you can join us!

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## **Historic Trades and Crafts Classes at the Wabash & Erie Canal**

three hours per month!

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

## **VOLUNTEER** **TODAY!**

### **Lilly Scholars Network Grant**



The Wabash & Erie Canal was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Lilly Scholars Network through their Lead Forward Community Grant program! This exciting opportunity will support some much-needed hardware upgrades to our information technology setup, specifically through replacement of two computers and the expansion of our online archives.

## **Archives Committee in Action**



In early June, the Archives Committee met for the first time this year, and it was a pleasure to be back in the same room working together once again! The team voted



Have you ever strolled through the Pioneer Village and been amazed at the skills and creativity of the various crafters? Have you ever wanted to learn one of these skills and add an exciting hobby to your life? In August and September you'll have the chance to do just that!



Classes will include basket making August 6), broom making



to accession several different items into our collection, including the swinging crib and the ear trumpet pictured above.



Another interesting addition is the bucket-mounted anvil pictured above! We are always looking to expand our team of volunteers. If you might be interested in joining the Archives Committee, please get in touch! You can use the "Volunteer Today" link above, or you can email: [director@canalcenter.org](mailto:director@canalcenter.org).

### Did you know...?



You can hold your wedding, 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

(August 13), coopering (September 8-9 or 15-16), hearth fire cooking (September 8 or 15), wool felting (September 9), and weaving (September 10 or 17). Our instructors will be some of our stellar craftspeople whom you have already seen in the Pioneer Village!

Prices, skill levels, supplies, and times will vary, so please email [classes@canalcenter.org](mailto:classes@canalcenter.org) if you'd like more information on any of these options! We will have more information posted on our social media pages and website as the classes approach.



Once you have some experience in your preferred historic trade, we would love to have you join us in the Pioneer Village some Saturday in the future!

### Reed Case House Maintenance



Are you interested in preserving history while working with a team to accomplish an objective? We would love to enlist your help as we take care of some routine upkeep at the historic Reed Case House in Canal Park! Our goal is to re-open the Case House for Canal Days on July 2, and if you might be available to assist the team with

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)

- [Camping](#)
- [Activities](#)
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springing up the home sometime in June, please email Mike Tetrault, our executive director ([director@canalcenter.org](mailto:director@canalcenter.org)). He will connect you with the team that will spearhead the effort!

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