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



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Volunteer Spotlight: **Brice Crowel**

Each month, we want to highlight one of our many

Canal Days Festival Is Back!



Our grandest event of the year was in full swing on July 2, and it was quite a day! Our park was full of visitors from near and far, plus we had the historic Reed Case House open for the first time this season! Above, we see Mark Smith who reported a full house through much of the day as he interpreted Reed Case.

volunteers in recognition of 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 Brice Crowel.



What is your volunteer role at the Canal? I work on the Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew, and I also work at the Railroad Depot.

How many years have you been volunteering, and how did you get involved? I am Delphi born and raised and I've lived on the same farm for 82 years north of town. I've been volunteering since 2011. I had retired from farming, and I was wanting to help do something. I came to a volunteer callout, and I knew they were building things. I can relate to moving and restoring buildings better than other jobs. Plus, three half-days per week seemed like a good schedule.



For the first time since pre-COVID, we were able to welcome vendors to the park as well! There were lots of products to browse, including beeswax candles and honey from Wees Bees, shown above. Just about every building in the Pioneer Village had one of our incredible volunteers to show visitors around. All in all, it took over **50** volunteers to make Canal Days a reality this year!



The French family worked their magic in the Summer Kitchen, serving up delicious food to visitors throughout the day. And there were indeed plenty of guests to feed--we ran a record **seven** full boat rides. The boat crew's efforts paid off in a big way!



What is your favorite part of volunteering at the Canal? I like that you learn a lot of stuff as you're working on things. There's always something new to try.

I also enjoy the process of restoring old buildings. The process of seeing a ragged building get disassembled, moved, and reassembled... it's great. The incredible complexity of the structures we have--these buildings have a lot of work involved to get them to proper form!



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

[VOLUNTEER](#)
[TODAY!](#)

**Register for
Historic Classes!**



Above you can see Tom Baugues, our expert organ grinder, who provided music and fun for kids and families who passed by on the towpath. We were also privileged to have Jamison Colagrossi playing hurdy-gurdy in the village and Joe Newlin playing pump organ in the Reed Case House! Below we see one of our newest volunteers, John Aebi, demonstrating some woodworking.



The Canal is pleased to offer historic trades classes this August and September in our Pioneer Village! You can learn how to weave, make baskets or brooms, and much more. Please [view the class brochure to find more information](#). You can print, fill out, and mail us the paper registration, or you can [visit this link to fill out the online registration form](#).

Hope to see you at Canal Park for some historic learning fun!



Pedestrian Zone Towpath



Here at the canal, we want to ensure a safe environment where visitors



We are truly grateful for the support of all our members, volunteers, and donors who make our educational and family-friendly programming possible. Thanks to our combined efforts, we saw hundreds of people come to learn our local heritage while also making memories together. And the best news: there are still more Saturday afternoons to enjoy this season!

Canal Park in the News



One of the biggest surprises from Canal Days this year was the bonus publicity that seemingly appeared out of nowhere! WLF1, our local CBS affiliate station, has been airing remote broadcasts for their noon news show from time to time, and they asked to do a live show entirely from Canal Park!

can enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of our trails and outdoor spaces. If you visit, we need your help to make this a reality!

We have begun implementing a pedestrian-only zone on our towpaths in the park, except for authorized vehicles.

Of course, we encourage visitors to use our outdoor spaces for recreational purposes, and we allow fishing along our restored section of the canal. However, we ask that all vehicles remain in our spacious parking lot so the towpath remains a pedestrian zone.

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 and can accommodate up to 300 guests!



The crew rigged up a main set adjacent to the Reed Case House, and there were also live interviews at the Blacksmith Shop, the Cooper Shop, and on *The Delphi*. In addition to the Friday broadcast, WLFJ also aired a live interview earlier in the week with our executive director, Mike Tetrault and a recap broadcast from Canal Days.

If you missed these broadcasts, [you can see the recap story they aired here at this link.](#)

Camp Tecumseh Pitches In



In mid-June, we were glad to welcome a team of CILTs (Campers in Leadership Training) from Camp Tecumseh. The students swept through the south trails, clearing litter, debris, and pruning vegetation to keep the trails in top shape.

Tom Elliott, associate executive director of programs, said that this two-week program is formative because students get hands-on experience with community service. They also get to learn teamwork through various projects. We are thankful that they chose to work with us for this particular project!

[Save your date today!](#)



For a complete list of activities please visit us at

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The campers did an amazing job and we were able to cover all the south trails (O'Bear Millrace, VanScoy Towpath, Robbins, Happy Jack's, and the Interurban) in a single morning! At one point, they really went the extra mile as a student went *into* the canal near the Wabash River to remove a tire!

There will be another team of CILTs coming in early August, and our goal is to re-deck the Blue Bridge on the VanScoy Towpath Trail!

Joyful Noise in the White Chapel



Last month Canal Park hosted its first-ever event in partnership with Brokerage Brewing Company. The event was Beer & Hymns, and it has been a monthly gathering at their brewery in West Lafayette since they opened in 2018.

While it may seem an unorthodox pairing, it filled the White Chapel with visitors who had never been to Canal Park before, several of whom have returned for our Saturday events! Guests enjoyed singing together and learning the history of the chapel and canal along the way. If you haven't been in the chapel yet, make sure you stop by some Saturday and experience the wonderful acoustics within!

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