



[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

**FORWARD** this message to a friend.

If you received this e-mail from a friend and would like to subscribe, [JOIN OUR MAILING LIST.](#)



online  
*Currents*



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



[www.wabashanderiecanal.org](http://www.wabashanderiecanal.org)

### Connect with us!

[FACEBOOK](#)

[INSTAGRAM](#)

[YOUTUBE](#)

### IN THIS ISSUE!

- *Golden Hoosier Award*
- *Volunteer Spotlight*
- *Kids' Day Success*
- *Art at Canal Park*
- *Blue Bridge Makeover*
- *I&M Canal Group Visit*
- *Archives Callout*

### Volunteer Spotlight: Nancy Mears

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

## A Golden Hoosier Among Us



We are delighted to announce that Dan McCain has been named as a recipient of this year's Golden Hoosier Award. This award is a collaboration between the office of Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana FSSA, and it is the highest honor bestowed upon a senior citizen of Indiana. It is in recognition of those who have devoted their lives and services to help fellow Hoosiers and improve their communities.

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

This month, we'll hear from Nancy Mears.



**What is your volunteer role at the Canal?** I operate the Summer Kitchen on Saturdays, and my husband Martin is the village blacksmith. I'm kind of a spokesperson for him because it's hard to do blacksmithing while talking to people. I also talk to visitors about things going on at the park.

**How many years have you been volunteering, and how did you get involved?** I think it has been four years of volunteering at the Canal. My husband volunteered to do blacksmithing, and I got tired of staying home. I'm used to being busy! Because of my teaching career, I enjoy being around people. I'm used to dealing with the public. I had planned to volunteer a lot after I retired, but with my low vision that plan changed. I have found ways to volunteer at the Canal.



It isn't hard to see why Dan merits this award! He has been in leadership at the Canal since his retirement, and his countless hours have all been as a volunteer. He brought many projects to fruition through his tenacity and his good will, including the grant which built our Conference and Interpretive Center in Delphi.



One of Dan's favorite areas of interest is the trail system that he helped develop over the years through a vast coalition of volunteers. Even today, he is still known to work on the trails and help keep them pristine and ready for the public to enjoy.

Dan's mother, Rosalind, was one of the founding members of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc., and it is a sure bet that she would be immensely proud of how Dan has continued the work of restoring and sharing the canal with new generations of Delphi residents and visitors.



**What is your favorite part of volunteering at the Canal?** I would say my favorite part is being part of the volunteer team. It's like a community and everyone has always made us feel welcomed. People are glad to see you here!

Martin's mother used to do tatting here. Mary Mears did spinning here as well. There have been many years of involvement throughout the family!

**Anything else you'd like to share about your volunteer experience?** I was particularly glad that I could fit in someplace. I didn't know much about blacksmithing or the history, but I've enjoyed the learning process. Martin and I like history, so it's a fun thing to do together.

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

---

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

---

**Register for  
Historic Classes!**



As you can see above, Dan has been busy recently, appearing in some video productions that will preserve local history well into the future!

The Golden Hoosier Award ceremony will be held Monday, September 26 in Indianapolis at 1:00 PM Eastern time. If you would like to attend, you can do so virtually by visiting the following website: [www.in.gov/ig/2532.htm](http://www.in.gov/ig/2532.htm) and clicking on the "Golden Hoosier Award ceremony" icon. We hope you can (virtually) join!

---

## The Blue Bridge Gets a Makeover



If you visited the Blue Bridge earlier this summer, located near Pizza Hut on Bicycle Bridge Road in Delphi, you may have noticed that the decking was showing its age! Thanks to a generous donation from Carolyn Short, Jim Black, and Barb Mayfield in memory of their parents, Richard and Marilyn Black, we were able to purchase the materials to replace the aging planks with new, pressure-treated lumber.



The Canal is proud to offer historic trades classes in September in our Pioneer Village! We have completed our broom-making and basket weaving classes, but you can still learn how to weave, cooper, and much more. Please [visit our website to find more information](#). You can print, fill out, and mail us a 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!



## Painting at the Park



In late July, local artist Rena Brouwer visited Canal



The Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew prepped the bridge and made sure all the pieces were ready for swift removal. Then, we were pleased to welcome a team of CILTs (Campers in Leadership Training) from Camp Tecumseh to remove the old decking and install the new!

Park with a group of student artists to enjoy some plein air painting. This event was organized by the Delphi Public Library, and it is always so exciting to see the programs the library offers to residents.



In the class, students learned some techniques and ideas for taking outdoor scenes and creating their own artwork. And of course: everyone got some hands-on practice as they captured the beauty of Canal Park.



We love offering our park as a resource and amenity to the public. A big part of our mission is making sure our space is well-kept and available to be shared by all who wish to enjoy it. When you partner with us as a member, volunteer, or even with a one-time donation, you are helping keep this mission going!

---

## I&M Canal Group Visit



In an incredible construction feat, the team of teenagers completely finished the bridge in under three hours! As their time to depart approached, the group resolved, "We aren't leaving until this bridge is done!" and they stayed the extra time needed to complete the huge task.





Last month we had a delightful visit from a fellow group of canal enthusiasts! Arnie Bandstra and a team of volunteers at the I&M Canal site in Ottawa, Illinois came to tour Canal Park and hear how our facilities came to be.



The team from Illinois was on the hunt for ideas and inspiration as they seek to develop their own beautiful piece of canal history, and it was a joy to show them around the park. As you see below, we spent a bit of time on the boathouse patio, observing the old turning basin within the Red Bridge Settlement.



If you have not yet visited, make sure to check out the corridor of I&M Canal sites in Illinois. There are several fascinating towns that were once on the I&M route. There are some great trails

Above you can see the bridge with its new decking which is sure to serve the community and visitors for many years. We are grateful for all the support that makes these projects possible: the donors who funded the work, the volunteer crew who guided the work, and the Camp Tecumseh team that provided the energy and muscle to get the job done. While we are proud of our trail system, it is only possible because of the generosity and volunteerism which make it a reality!

## A Fun-Filled Kids' Day



On August 6, we hosted Kids' Fun Day at Canal Park, which is a Saturday afternoon that includes all our usual attractions, but with some added offerings for the kids!



Volunteers set up special exhibits for kids to get hands-on with, like an 1800's laundry station. Above you can see Becky Crabb inviting some guests to try their hand at stringing green beans. A primary focus of our volunteers is to make learning fun and experience-based, and they do a marvelous job of it.

and even canal boat rides!  
You can check out more  
information  
at <https://iandmcanal.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  
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](#)
- [Plan an Event](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [About Us](#)



In and around the Kuns Cabin, Karen Bradshaw and her family set up several stations for different crafts including tin punch artwork and woven turtles. There was also a bucket toss game where our younger guests (and adults!) could test their skills.

Our park will be open to the public for a few more weekends! Every Saturday afternoon 1-4 PM through September 3 you can join us for some educational and family fun at Canal Park. This includes our engaging museum, canal boat rides, Pioneer Village visits, and Reed Case House tours. Don't miss out!

## Archives Item Call-Out

We need your help locating some items! The Archives Committee is on the look-out for some artifacts of particular interest to the Canal, and if you might have a lead, we would love to hear from you.

- An ice box, dating back to at least the early 1900's
- An antique doll, dating back to the 1800's if possible
- Antique tools, for demonstration and exhibition purposes
- Lutheran hymnals and liturgical books, dating to 1800s or early 1900s

If you have any of these items, you can email us at [info@canalcenter.org](mailto:info@canalcenter.org) or call our office (765) 564-2870. Or, if you have any objects or documents related to the canal or the Canal Era, don't hesitate to get in touch! We would love to help you find a

home for the items that will help educate visitors for years into the future.

---

The Wabash & Erie Canal E-Newsletter is  
brought to you by:



## Delphi Properties, LLC

111 East Main Street, Delphi, IN 46923

Telephone: 765-564-2165/Fax: 765-564-4919

---

*Property & Construction Management since 1958*

[FORWARD THIS MESSAGE TO A FRIEND](#)

---

You are currently signed up to receive our monthly newsletters. If you no longer wish to receive them, reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or click on the following link [Unsubscribe](#)

---

Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc.  
1030 N. Washington St.  
Delphi, IN 46923  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

**vertical** DELIVERED  
**response** BY  
Try It Free Today!