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



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Volunteer Spotlight: Anita Force

Each month, we want to highlight one of our many volunteers in recognition of their service and to share

A Busy Tour Season



Looking back on the 2022 tour season, it was quite a welcome change from 2020 and 2021! Our organization exists to share the stories of the Wabash & Erie Canal through Delphi and beyond, and we had lots of chances this year to share with schools from around Indiana. In fact, we had over **1,000** students visit our park this year with school groups!

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

This month, we'll hear from Anita Force.



What is your volunteer role at the Canal? I am a volunteer landscaper and gardener at Canal Park.

How many years have you been volunteering, and how did you get involved? I have lived in Delphi all my 67 years, and I have volunteered at the Canal and on Delphi Historic Trails for 17 years. I started getting involved when my family and I made a memorial garden spot in honor of my Dad. It was located by Founders Point. I took care of it for years until flooding decimated it. My husband, Mike, and I have always enjoyed the trails.

What is your favorite part of volunteering at the Canal? I most enjoy working with the other Volunteer Gardeners. They are all very dedicated and talented! I love how the gardens and landscaping have evolved over the years.



Volunteers pitched in throughout the spring, summer, and fall to create lasting memories for students as they engaged with history and learned about how Indiana came to be the place it is today. It was delightful to ask children what their favorite parts of their visit were, because everyone had unique special memories. Whether it was time spent "playing" in the museum, getting up close with crafters and docents in the Pioneer Village, riding on the canal boat, or playing on the play boat, students experienced the wonder of living history!



We are already busy planning for groups in the spring. This is truly one of the core elements of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal,

Anything else you'd like to share about your volunteer experience? I look forward to Spring and Fall Volunteer Cleanup Days. Everyone is welcome to come and help. I have made lots of new friends!

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

[VOLUNTEER TODAY!](#)

**New Board Member:
Gregg Bruce**



Our longtime treasurer and boat captain, Steve Gray, recently moved to North Carolina. To complete Steve's term, Gregg Bruce stepped forward to join the Board of Directors and he has already been an asset to the team. Read on to learn more about Gregg!

What did you do prior to retirement? I am Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering Technology at Purdue University, where I spent thirty years teaching.

What interested you in joining the team at the

Inc.: serving the community through educational experiences, made possible by volunteers and years of preservation efforts.



If you want to join the fun, don't hesitate to get in touch! We are always looking to welcome new volunteers who are passionate about history. Whether you are interested in guiding groups through the museum, being a boat narrator or crew member, or setting up shop in the Pioneer Village, we have a place for everyone. You can simply reply to this email to get started!

**Mark Your Calendars for Dec. 3:
Christmas at the Canal**

Canal? I've enjoyed Canal Park and hiking the trails for years. A few years ago, I moved back to Carroll County after selling our home near campus. I wanted to get reconnected with Delphi as a way to give back. When I was 8 years old, I moved to Delphi from Bloomington.

What are your areas of interest that you'd like to pursue and develop? I'm into trails, and I'm an avid kayaker. I would like to continue expanding the hiking trails around Delphi. I'm also really interested in the history of Burnett's Creek Stone Arch. I haven't yet zeroed in on what my contribution should be specifically. I feel like I'm getting my feet on the ground and learning the territory for now.

What have you enjoyed so far about your experience? I have appreciated the leadership of Janet Ayres (board president), and Dan's leadership over the years has also been amazing. I enjoy the enthusiasm of the whole board. I'm awed by the time, effort, and care that volunteers put in at Canal Park.

Anything else you would like to add? It is really impressive what the organization has accomplished without direct governmental funding. I understand the importance of finding revenue streams that will support the Canal, but I fervently believe in making nature and historical activities available for everyone regardless of their income



Make sure you save the date for December 3, because from 10AM to 4PM we will be celebrating the holidays in style at Canal Park! The Interpretive Center and the Pioneer Village will be decked out in our festive Christmas best, plus there will be a variety of special events going on throughout the day.



Of course, we will have a reception hall full of vendors at our Christmas Bazaar so you can get a bunch of gift shopping done! There will be a wonderful variety of vendors, and you'll be able to cross off items for everyone on your list.

level. I feel pretty inconsequential compared to all that has been contributed and built over the years! I hope we can take a fresh look at making sure we can sustain what we've done. I think that's really important, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve the community in this way!

Renovation Update



If you have stopped by the Interpretive Center in the past couple weeks, you may have noticed some difference to the building's exterior. Or, perhaps things looked basically the same as before, and that is also a good thing!



As previously reported in the newsletter, we have teamed up with Action Exteriors to re-do all the cement board siding on the Interpretive Center, which was in the process of crumbling. The bulk of the work has been completed, and it is a good thing we could address the issue now--if we had waited longer, the damage may



The Reed Case House and the Interpretive Museum will be open for visitors to tour, and we are anticipating a few "bonus" attractions as well to encourage visitors to sample all that we have to offer. In the White Chapel there will be live music during the day, and we are teaming up with the Delphi Public Library to offer Christmas story time for children at the one-room schoolhouse in the Pioneer Village. And did we mention Santa Claus will be making an appearance to hear your wish-list? Of course, there will also be plenty of great scenery to enjoy as you snap some festive photos.

have gone deeper than surface-level!



If things look basically the same, that's because we intentionally chose a contractor who could replicate the beautiful original design of the building while fortifying it for decades to come. These large-scale maintenance items would not be possible without your continued support! It is exciting to see how many students and visitors are impacted by the programming we offer, but that is only possible because of the generous support of our community!

Golden Hoosier Recap



Some weeks ago, Dan McCain was honored in Indianapolis with the Golden Hoosier Award. This is the highest award given by the State of Indiana to its senior citizens, and it is for those who have contributed to



Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates as the big day approaches! We hope to see you on December 3 for Christmas at the Canal!

Field Trip to the Quarry



You may have noticed that the water in our restored portion of the Wabash & Erie Canal is noticeably aquamarine, especially as you proceed northeast towards the Red Bridge. This is because our water is supplied by U.S. Aggregates, the limestone quarry located to the north of our property. Recently, the quarry invited Dan McCain

community improvement through volunteerism.



The ceremony was held at the Indiana Historical Society building just alongside the Central Canal, fittingly enough. There were other recipients from around the state who each had done wonderful things to serve their respective communities.



During his acceptance speech, Dan noted that none of the canal transformation in Delphi would have been possible with the persistent support of so many community members throughout the years, including supporters who aren't from Carroll County! We are thankful Dan's years of service and for all who have contributed to make Canal Park such a special place.

Did you know...?

and executive director Mike Tetrault for a site visit and to meet the office staff.



The most crucial piece of infrastructure for the canal is the pipe pictured above. This 16-inch line, powered by a 200-horsepower pump, supplies about three million gallons of water to the canal every day. The water is extremely clean and even wards off mosquitoes due to its composition! To open or close the valve, it takes about fifteen minutes of walking around and around the valve with a four-foot pipe wrench.





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

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We are grateful for the partnership of the quarry. During our visit, the team at U.S. Aggregates volunteered to donate stone products for future use on the historic trail system! It is amazing to consider how important the limestone industry has been to Delphi since the Canal Era. The properties of the stone beneath our soil has made it valuable for a long time, although the methods for extracting and transporting it have changed drastically!

Canal Flow: Did You Know?



A common misconception about canals is that they have "no current." In fact, without a current of some form, locks and other essential infrastructure would cease to operate. Without a high-to-low flow of water, there would be no way to fill and empty locks to lift and lower passing boats.

Of course, canals have minimal current compared to rivers. While canals and locks operate like "barely sloped stairsteps," rivers run "downhill" at a substantial rate that would be prohibitive to a mule pulling against the flow, for instance.

Therefore, the builders of the Wabash & Erie Canal, as well as other canals, were faced with the daunting task of digging through rugged terrain while making sure the channel is straight and mostly flat, but not too flat! According to *When Horses Pulled Boats* by Alvin F. Harlow, a canal's current is usually **less than 0.25 miles per hour**. With too little flow, the locks wouldn't work. With too much flow, traffic wouldn't be able to move efficiently against the current. Can you imagine the feat of engineering required in the 1800's to create a flow so precise, especially for a 468-mile project?

Also according to Harlow, traffic rules on the canal usually gave right-of-way to boats that were traveling "uphill" against the current. This seems fair, because it would be a bit easier for a boat going "downhill" to stop and restart its progress!

If someone ever tells you that canals have no current, you can now set the record straight: canals *do* have a current, and that flow has to be extremely precise!

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