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NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA May 2023



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Volunteer Highlight: Terry Wilson

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

Red Bridge Renovation



For anyone who has enjoyed Delphi's trail system, the Red Bridge has been a centerpiece of the hiking experience. Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Carroll County, the Red Bridge will be getting a full makeover this year! The grant will cover the cost of materials for new decking and new paint on the wrought iron marvel.

There was strong interest in renovating the bridge this year, but unfortunately the funds were lacking to tackle the job in 2023. That is when the Community Foundation stepped up and offered its vital support to allow this work to take place this year!

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

This month, we'll hear from Terry Wilson.



What is your volunteer role at the Canal?

I maintain the canal by cleaning up, mowing, and picking up trash at the Carrollton Bridge. I also help out with different projects that come up at Canal Park. I've been doing this kind of stuff for so long, I'm a jack of all trades.



How many years have you been volunteering, and how did you get involved?

We just started cleaning up at the Carrollton Bridge last year. I just live a couple miles from there, and I'd go down and it was a mess. I wanted a place to put a boat in, and I wanted to make it look better for everyone.

What is your favorite part of volunteering at the Canal?



Above, you can see a photo from the bridge's previous re-painting, approximately ten years ago. The current decking dates back to the late 1990's. While it has lasted a long time, the wood has been showing its age and is ready for replacement!

The Red Bridge was originally a span over Paint Creek near Camden, Indiana. According to Mark Smith, Carroll County Historian, "the official architectural nomenclature for the Red Bridge is that of 'bow-string,'" and the bridge dates all the way back to 1874, the year that the Wabash & Erie Canal shut down.



During initial work by volunteers from Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, you might be amazed to know that only four original bolts were broken in the restoration process from the approximately one thousand bolts of the bridge. That is some impressive durability for a bridge over 100 years old!

Why is the bridge painted red? Mark Smith notes that one of the original restoration volunteers, Ron Dust, had an "expertise in paint knowledge that led to the discovery of the original shade of red used in 1900 (the last year the bridge was painted)."

I enjoy the appreciation from the people and visitors. When you go down and see a family that's never been fishing, and they are having a good time, I'm glad to help and be part of it. I get to give them pointers about what bait to use. There are always people using kayaks and enjoying the river, too. A big attraction is having somewhere to learn history and enjoy the outdoors.



Do you have a favorite Canal Era fun fact?

When the Canal went through Logansport, they had to build an aqueduct to conduct the water [the Eel River Aqueduct was 200 feet long, a wooden trunk built upon stone abutments]. The Canal was above the river's level, so the water had to be fed from far away. [For instance, the Eel River Aqueduct was fed by the dam all the way at Peru!]

Click the link below for more information about volunteering with us.

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

Nature Hike
Highlights



We are immensely grateful to the Community Foundation and all the work they do to support numerous initiatives in Carroll County and beyond. We also encourage you to check out all that the Community Foundation does by [visiting their website](#). They are truly a blessing to the communities they serve.

Canal Season is OPEN



Have you already visited Wabash & Erie Canal Park this summer? If not, make sure you stop in and take advantage of this memorable Indiana history experience before September 9! We are pleased to say that Canal Season 2023 is **open** and will be running every Saturday afternoon 1-4PM. Opening day was May 20, and so far it has been boatloads of fun!



By Becky Crabb

What male bird is classic orange and black and recently migrated to our area? Clue two: its song is a clear, slurred whistle "hey! hey you! See me here sing-ing!" or a scolding chatter "chrt-trr-rrrrr!" Clue three: they prefer open woodland settings with tall trees for nesting, such as city parks and farmland grooves. It has a baglike nest often built near the end of a horizontal branch overhanging a road or water. Clue four (fun fact): It was named for the royal colors of Lord Baltimore. Another Fun Fact: They will visit feeders for fruit, such as an orange half or orange half filled with grape jelly. Yes, it is the Baltimore Oriole.



Do you know what the Indiana State bird is? Clue one: Its song is "purty-purty-purty, what-cheer! What-cheer! Tee-tee-tee-tee-tee!" or "pik!" Clue two: It's red with a crest on its head. Yes, it's a Northern Cardinal. By the way, the female and juvenile are crested and reddish brown in color.

Do you know what the Indiana State tree is: Clue one: It's a tall, straight handsome tree with branches often angling upward. Clue two: Its peculiar leaves are 4-pointed and are notched at the tip. Clue three: It



Each Saturday afternoon, the incredible volunteer team comes together to create a fun, engaging, and unique experience for visitors. It is a special treat to walk through Canal Park and see so many talented and brilliant people sharing their gifts with the community.

Entry and parking at Canal Park are both free of charge. You can visit the Pioneer Village with a lovely variety of historical trades and crafts, also at no cost!



There will be special Saturday events each month, and those are listed below. You can also find more information about Canal Season Saturdays on the [Events Page at our website](#).

- June 10: Visit Pioneer Village Day**
- July 1: Canal Days Festival (10AM-4PM)**
- August 12: Kids' Fun Day**
- September 9: Closing Day**

Tickets for the canal boat ride are \$10 for ages 13+ and \$5 for ages 12-under. The interactive Canal Era museum and Reed Case House are \$5 each for ages 13+ or \$1 for ages 12-under. Or, you can purchase a Combination Ticket and save a few dollars to do

blooms in May-June with large tulip-like orange and green flowers. It's a tulip tree.

You all know what the national bird is – the bald eagle. But do you know what Benjamin Franklin wanted the National bird to be? Clue one: it can't fly very far, but can fly surprisingly fast reaching speeds of 55-60 mph. Clue two: It prefers mixed woods with some open area. Clue three: Males give a distinctive gobble and females call their young with a sharp "tuk!tuk!" Benjamin Franklin lost getting to name the turkey to be the National bird.

Look for the Baltimore Oriole especially, but also for the cardinal and the tulip tree and maybe even find a wild turkey on the Nature Hikes led by David McCain this summer! He will lead you along the towpath looking for all the variety of trees and birds that live in this area. Join him at 2:30 on June 10, July 1, Oct 21, Nov 4 and Dec 26. You'll see the trees in different seasons and different birds will be migrating through – something different each time. Enjoy the Wabash & Erie Canal as you've never seen it before!

Calling All Rope Makers!

Are you a skilled rope-maker? If so, **we need you!**



For Canal Days, we would

all the ticketed attractions: \$17 for ages 13+ and \$5 for ages 12-under.

By visiting on a Canal Season Saturday, you get the privilege of having fun, learning history, and supporting the mission of Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal all at the same time! If you have any questions or wish to reserve canal boat tickets in advance, please call our office during the week: (765) 564-2870. We hope to see you this summer!

Historic Classes a Hit



We just wrapped up our second-ever round of historic classes at Canal Park, and they were a big hit with participants! The whole project has been the longtime dream of many volunteers, and it is rewarding to see that vision and hard work come to fruition.

Classes were offered in papermaking, basket making, broom making, coopering buckets and fabricating coopering tools, quilting, needle felting, weaving, and more! The instructors came from the talented artisans and their connections that serve at Canal Park.

love to have a rope-making demonstration, but we do not have the machinery or the expertise to get such an exhibit going.

We are hoping to find an interested individual among our many newsletter readers, so please get in touch if you might be able to assist! You can email director@canalcenter.org anytime, or you can call our office and leave a message: (765) 564-2870.



Making rope was an essential part of Canal Era commerce and industry. It is incredible to consider how much effort was involved in creating the 100-200 foot long ropes that would have allowed canal boats to traverse Indiana on the Wabash & Erie Canal, and we hope to share that story with visitors at Canal Days this year.

Did you know...?



You can hold your wedding, corporate meeting, or birthday celebration at the Canal Center?



As you can see from the photos, these classes are extremely hands-on and offer students the chance to learn something new and bring home their creations! With our mission being preservation, education, and recreation, the historic classes are a perfect fit: we preserve these precious skills while educating others in a fun and engaging way.



We are excited because these classes add yet another incredible dimension to the programs at Canal Park. We were pleased to welcome students from all over the state, and the positive reviews were encouraging to hear.



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!](#)



Thanks to Our Business Supporters!

We are fortunate to have many generous businesses in the community who place great value on preservation, education, and recreation.

If you have need of any services offered by the businesses below, we strongly recommend you reach out to them! They are all wonderful organizations who care about the community they serve!

Festival Sponsors (\$1000)

- *Horizon Veterinary Service*

Bronze Supporters (\$500)

- *Camflo*
- *Carroll-White REMC*
- *Indiana Packers*

Several students did not know about us yet, so we are always looking for ways to let people know about this cultural treasure! We encourage you to help us by spreading the word about Canal Park so others can experience it for themselves.

Watch for future updates in the newsletter and on social media about the next round of historic trades classes! If all goes well, we should have a new lineup of exciting skills to learn for Fall 2023.

Cleanup Day Recap



With Canal Season already rolling, it is important to take a moment and thank all the volunteers who helped prepare the park and trails for a busy and thrilling summer! Just before Spring Cleanup Day at Canal Park, we were happy to have Delphi's FFA students helping clear the south trails (from the Blue Bridge to Sunset Point, and from Sunset Point along Deer Creek back towards town). These students did a marvelous job clearing brush, litter, and debris, and we are indebted to them!

Special thanks for that day also go to the Delphi Pizza Hut: they graciously donated lunch for all the volunteers, and teenagers can work up quite an appetite after working all morning! While we are proud to showcase Delphi's historic trails, we also acknowledge that this valuable community asset would not exist without the time and service of so many members of our beloved community.

Community Supporters

(\$100+)

- *Brick & Mortar Pub*
- *Collisions Unlimited*
- *D-K Construction*
- *Deiwert Insurance*
- *Fieldings Jewelry & Time*
- *Helms Lawn Specialists, Inc*
- *Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance*
- *Pizza Hut Delphi*
- *Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette*

If you'd like to add your business to this list, please email: director@canalcenter.org for information about sponsorships.



For a complete list of activities please visit us at www.wabashanderiecanal.org

- [Camping](#)
- [Activities](#)
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Shortly after the south trails workday, we hosted Spring Cleanup at Canal Park, and it was a delight to have all ages participate with various work around the grounds. Many visitors assume we are a city or state park, but we do not operate on city, county, state, or federal taxes. As such, we rely on special days like Spring Cleanup to accomplish the work that would be quite a burden for a small group of individuals. As the saying goes, many hands will make light work!



And of course: no volunteer workday is complete without delicious food! The steadfast and diligent Delphi Psi Otes provided an amazing lunch for all volunteers, and we are so grateful for their

support of Canal Park. It brings great joy to see everyone from local families to distant visitors enjoying this beautiful space, and it's only possible through the efforts of so many individuals and organizations!

Mark Your Calendars: July 1!



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