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



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

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**Volunteer  
Highlight:  
Carrollton  
Bridge Crew**

Each month, we want to highlight our volunteers in

**You're Invited!**

Carroll County  
Wabash & Erie Canal  
**Annual Meeting**  
TUESDAY  
**OCTOBER 17**  
7:00-8:30PM  
Wabash & Erie Canal  
Interpretive Center  
1030 N. Washington St.  
Delphi, IN

Refreshments begin at 6:45PM  
Public Welcome

More information:  
765-564-2870  
director@canalcenter.org

Tommy Kleckner  
Indiana Historic Landmarks

Mark your calendars and plan on attending our annual meeting at Wabash & Erie Canal Park! The annual meeting will be October 17 at the Interpretive Center from 7:00-8:30PM. There will be refreshments and social time just before the meeting starts, and we would love to see you there.

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

This month, we're doing something a little different and highlighting the work of Terry Wilson, Kenny Rector, and Greg Hummer.



Last year, these three began the process of restoring and reclaiming the Carrollton Bridge site that had become overgrown. As you can see above, they have cleared the banks and opened up the view for all to enjoy.



They have also been successful in clearing the old canal channel that ran up to the Carrollton Bridge. While no structures remain, the imprint of the canal is unmistakable!



The site is remarkable because it marks the



The featured speaker for the evening will be Tommy Kleckner from Indiana Historic Landmarks. He will tell the story of how the Monon High Bridge was saved and preserved despite many obstacles and challenges along the way. The Monon High Bridge was recently opened as part of a public trail, complete with new decking and railing so the breathtaking views of Deer Creek can be safely enjoyed. Above is a photo of Dan McCain, president emeritus of the Canal Association, participating at the ribbon cutting for the bridge.



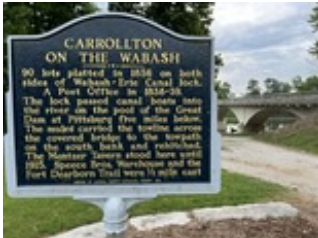
Another highlight of the annual meeting will be recognizing the many volunteers who make Canal Park a historic treasure. We will celebrate the highlights of 2023, and we will look ahead to the promises of 2024. We hope you can join us for this special evening!

## M-W-F Crew in Action!

Writing about the latest exploits of the Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew is a really easy task, because they are always working their magic around Canal Park!

Recently, they restored the exterior at the front door of the Reed Case House. Below, you can see Tom Peters applying some detail work to the trim.

only place where the Wabash & Erie Canal crossed the Wabash River. The original Carrollton Bridge was also the first bridge in Indiana to cross the Wabash. Above you can see an interpretive panel that the crew restored for visitors to see and learn from!



The work of this illustrious and selfless crew is a perfect example of what we stand for: preservation, education, and recreation. Thanks to their efforts, the community has a beautiful and educational outdoor space to savor.



Before Terry, Kenny, and Greg started their work, it was difficult to see much of the site. This summer, the small park even hosted a wedding! It's an amazing example of transforming a place for the benefit of our community.

The Canal is proud to support the work these men do, and it's only possible because of our members' steadfast contributions!

*Click the link below for more information about volunteering with us!*

**[VOLUNTEER](#)**



The finished product looks like a brand new entrance! There were numerous details addressed where time and weather had been unkind. This included treatments of all the trim, the windows, and resurfacing the door.



Above you can see the finished work, and we think Reed Case would heartily approve of how his house looks today!

**TODAY!**

## Upcoming Events

Here are some ways you can experience the Canal for yourself in the coming weeks!



**October 13-14: Historic Classes, Coopering Buckets.**  
9AM-5PM

**October 14: Historic Classes, Hearth Cooking.**  
9AM-3PM

**October 17: CANAL ANNUAL MEETING, 7:00-8:30PM**

**October 21: Village & Trails Cleanup Day, 9AM-Noon**

**November 4: Hike the Trails Day, 1-4PM.**

## Did you know...?



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



Another project recently completed is the train exhibit in the museum! Gary Stanley worked steadily and tirelessly to bring the exhibit to life, putting his expert engineering skills to use. It has been especially rewarding to watch children activate the train and watch with delight as the electric train and canal boat circle through the canal village.



Next time you're in the area, be sure to stop by the museum and see the exhibit for yourself! There is a wealth of information about how the railroads brought about the end of the Canal Era. We are grateful for Gary's work and the efforts of the Monday-Wednesday-Friday Crew all around the park!

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!](#)



## 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*

## Why Canals?

When we share the story of the Wabash & Erie Canal with visitors, we always mention how the canal followed the Wabash River across much of the state. We sometimes hear this very logical question from visitors: "Why bother building a canal when the Wabash River is already there?"



This question makes good sense! Why would you spend enormous amounts of labor, time, and money to build an artificial waterway when there's already a robust natural waterway in place?

First, the Wabash River does not reach Lake Erie! As you gain elevation towards Fort Wayne, the river gets smaller and smaller. A steamboat wouldn't be able to travel very far past Lafayette before running aground in shallow water.

Second, natural waterways are infamously unpredictable and hazardous! Whether it's heavy rains and swift currents or long droughts and shallow water, having a suddenly-impassable shipping route would pose serious concerns.

Third, rivers only offered a one-way highway for many vessels in the 1800's. As rivers run downhill over a long distance, there is a strong current. It would take an army of mules to pull a boat uphill against a river's current!



- *Carroll-White REMC*
- *Indiana Packers*
- *H&R Block of Crawfordsville*

**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](mailto:director@canalcenter.org) for information about sponsorships.



For a complete list of activities please visit us at [www.wabashanderiecanal.org](http://www.wabashanderiecanal.org)

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Canals, on the other hand, offer a two-way highway! You can picture a canal like a massive, water-filled staircase. Water flows slowly from high to low elevations, but thanks to careful design, boats can be pulled up or down the route.

So yes, canals took a herculean effort to build, but they offered a superhighway into Indiana from bustling eastern markets and brought astronomical levels of economic development to a young Hoosier State.

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



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