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NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA  
January 2024



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

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## 2024 Memberships

Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal is excited to celebrate its **50th Anniversary** in 2024, and we

## A "Knock-It-Out-of-the-Park" Kind of Year!

*By Janet Ayres, President  
Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal Board*



Wow! Coming out of the COVID years, 2023 was the kind of year a board president loves to report! The success was made possible by the many volunteers who gave endless hours to serve in the Pioneer Village, give tours, operate the boat, and maintain the properties and the trails, in addition to all the other daily and seasonal tasks that need to be done. The volunteers are always eager and willing to jump in and serve. What a blessing! **Thank you**, volunteers!

Another success in 2023 was due to the generous donations

want to invite you to join us as a canal supporter for the year!



You may have received a mailing from us in December, and now is the perfect time to send in your financial support for the new year if you haven't already done so. We have a variety of giving levels to match your budget, and we've also got some special gifts in store! [Visit our website for ways you can contribute.](#)



**HOGGEE Level (donations under \$149):** You'll receive a recognition letter as a Canal supporter and a free postcard set with Wabash & Erie Canal Park photos.

**STEERSMAN Level (donations \$150-\$299):** You'll receive the above gifts PLUS free museum entry for 2024 for yourself and three guests. Note: these guests can be any three people you bring with you and can change from visit to visit!

**LOCKMASTER Level (donations \$300-\$467):** You'll receive the above gifts PLUS free Case House entry for yourself and three guests in 2024. In addition, you will

from so many of you who are committed to Canal Park. The donations enabled us to sponsor festival and offer services and programs that drew well over 10,000 visitors to the park last year – and, over 1,100 of these visitors were school children who came here to learn more about Indiana history. How cool is this! Your donations also enable us to maintain the buildings, property and trails that so many people enjoy. To all the donors, a heartfelt **thank you!**



2024 will be particularly exciting as we celebrate 50 years of the organization. Throughout the year we will be telling special stories about how the park came to be and the interesting founders who had a great vision. Under the leadership of board member Beverly Seese, there will be special events throughout the year culminating in a celebration at the Annual Meeting on October 15. We even have some special merchandise celebrating the 50th year. Watch for more news about this and special events in future newsletters.



These exciting happenings would not be possible without the creativity, dedication, enthusiasm and talented leadership of our Executive Director, Mike Tetrault. We are so blessed to have you on our team, Mike! **Thank you!**

receive a free T-shirt, and a free one-night stay in the Lockmaster's Airbnb cabin! The cabin stay will depend on availability, but we can arrange those details when you're ready for your rustic cabin experience.

#### **468 MILE CLUB Level**

**(donations \$468+):** You'll receive the above gifts PLUS a free hat, four free canal boat tickets, and a VIP tour of Canal Park with executive director Mike Tetrault with all-access to the historic buildings. This elite level of membership can also be arranged with automatic \$39 monthly giving.

Outside of Delphi there is no other site where you can experience the engineering marvel of the Wabash & Erie Canal so completely, and it is only possible because our generous community sees the value in preserving this story. Please help us continue our mission of preservation, education, and recreation as you're able. And keep your eyes open for 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2024!

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

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## **Canal Society Symposium**

Did you know the [Canal Society of Indiana](#) is a treasure trove for all things related to Indiana's marvelous canal history? If you want to learn more, you're in luck! The Canal

## **New Year, New Website**

As we kick off the new year, we are pleased to unveil a brand new website! You can visit it at the same address that you're used to: [wabashanderiecanal.org](http://wabashanderiecanal.org). We are excited for the new functionality this site will offer, like online campground reservations and online canal boat ticket sales. Most of all, we look forward to reaching new audiences as we tell new stories in the year to come.



This significant upgrade would not have been possible without the generosity and vision of [Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette](#) and the [Carroll County Chamber of Commerce](#). Each of these invaluable partners helped get this project off the ground with grant support, and their help has given us the tools to be successful well into the future.

If you are looking for fun things to do and local businesses to support, please check out [Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette](#) and the [Carroll County Chamber of Commerce](#) at their websites and follow them on social media!

We also want to thank [Blue Boat Solutions](#) for their help building the site, particularly all the invisible machinery that keeps things running smoothly!

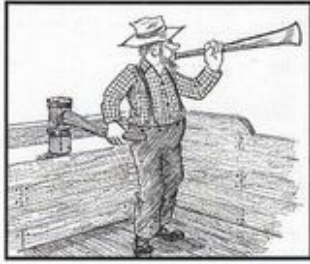
Please be sure to visit often, as we look forward to new content forthcoming between the blog, the events calendar, and social media channels. If there's something you would like to see added to the site, get in touch and let us know!

Email: [director@canalcenter.org](mailto:director@canalcenter.org).

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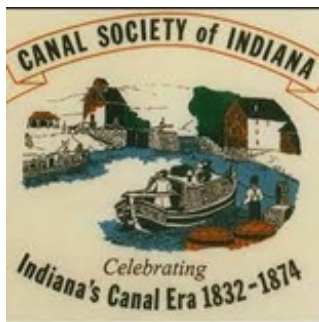
## **Historic Classes Are OPEN!**

Society will be hosting a FREE symposium and annual meeting this spring. Read below for details.



**DATE:** Saturday, April 13  
**TIME:** 9:45AM-4:00PM  
**LOCATION:** Fayette County Historical Museum, 200 W. 5th Street, Connersville, IN  
**NOTE:** Please bring a sack lunch, and drinks will be provided.

This **free** event is open to the public and is limited to 50 participants. You must pre-register to attend! Please email your RSVP with names and addresses to: **indcanal@aol.com**.



The symposium will include engaging, informative sessions that will help you appreciate canal history in a completely new way! In addition, since it is located in Whitewater Canal country, you'll have the delight of touring Whitewater Canal Headquarters with Fayette County Historian Donna Schroeder.

Don't miss out on this chance



We are proud to announce that the Spring Historic Trades Classes are open for registration! Join us in preserving history by learning new skills and having fun at the same time.

The coolest part: you get to take home your creations after the class has ended! You will be supervised by expert instructors who are passionate about their respective crafts.

All classes are one-day or two-day duration, and they are spread from late April through early June. You can browse and register for classes online at: <https://wabashanderiecanal.org/classes/>. As part of our new online platform, you can handle registration and payment all in one swoop. If you'd prefer, you can print a registration form from the website and mail it in with your payment.

There are so many terrific options to choose from in this session. You can find more details on the website, but the list of classes is as follows:

- Coopering tools
- Weaving (students will make mug rugs and scissor finders)
- Coopering bucket
- Broom making (students will make a hearth broom)
- Wool felting (students will make a decorative cardinal)
- Spinning
- Basket making (students will make a hen basket)
- Pine needle bowl
- Hand quilting (students will make a sunbonnet or a small pillow)

We'll see you in class!

to connect with other canal enthusiasts and expand your horizons!

## 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!](#)



## Thanks to Our Sponsors!

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



## New Merch Alert!



If you haven't visited the Canal Center gift shop recently, you'll want to make a pit stop when the weather warms up!

Thanks to our generous and helpful friends at Longhorn Apparel and Graphics, we have something for everyone in need of a unique souvenir, just in time for our 50th anniversary.

Longhorn Apparel and Graphics is a local producer of nearly every item you can imagine, and they manufacture many items right here in and around Carroll County, Indiana.

Thanks to them, you can now pick up...

- T-shirts
- Hats
- Christmas ornaments
- Bandanas
- Insulated tumblers
- Magents
- Patches
- Playing cards

them! They are all wonderful organizations who care about the community they serve!

**Festival Sponsors (\$1000)**

- *Duke Energy*

**Bronze Supporters (\$500)**

- *Carroll-White REMC*
- *Indiana Packers Corporation*
- *Jeffrey C Rider, Attorney at Law*
- *Longhorn Apparel and Graphics*
- *PTI Machining*
- *Scarano Boat Building*
- *Security Federal Savings Bank*

**Community Supporters (\$100+)**

- *Brick & Mortar Pub*
- *Cassens Trees*
- *D-K Construction*
- *Helms Lawn & Landscape Specialists*
- *Industrial Federal Credit Union*
- *The Andersons, Inc.*
- *Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette*

If you'd like to add your business to this list, please email: [director@canalcenter.org](mailto:director@canalcenter.org) and check out the [Sponsorships Brochure on our website.](#)



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

- [Camping](#)

- Pins
- ...and so much more!

We look forward to seeing you soon, and drop us a line if there's something you'd like to see us carry in stock! Or, if you have any great canal puns that need to be on a T-shirt, we'll see what can be arranged.

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



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