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March 2025

AmeriCorps Gets It Done

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AmeriCorps at the Canal



There are some special guests at Wabash & Erie Canal Park, and they are making a huge difference all across Delphi! AmeriCorps is a federal program that sends volunteers from across the country to places that need a helping hand. Volunteers serve a one-year term at various sites, and we couldn't be happier to have the Cedar 5 Team with us. This initiative is a joint effort between YMCA Camp Tecumseh, NICHES Land Trust, and Wabash & Erie Canal Park, so the team is experiencing all sorts of local treasures during their stint in Carroll County.



These volunteers have been collaborating with the volunteers at Canal Park, accomplishing many projects to lightning speed. The Cedar 5 Team hails from places like California, New Mexico, Maryland, Georgia, and beyond. They have been hugely successful already, and they have even had opportunities to learn some Indiana history along the way.

Here are some of the highlights so far:

- Painting the Red Bridge

- Building Magdalena's Cabin for the Delphi Bayou exhibits
- Finishing the Woodpecker Trail, a new trail loop on the north end of the canal that will highlight the area's natural beauty
- Clearing a trail at the Delphi Lime Kilns, a site on the national register of historic places
- Clearing the south trails of debris and damages from recent extreme weather
- Digging a foundation for Magdalena's Cabin on the Delphi Bayou, in collaboration with Dr. Chris Moore, archaeologist with the University of Indianapolis
- Building the Forest Maze for the Delphi Bayou exhibits

...and we still have one more week to go! We are so grateful for the help of AmeriCorps to accomplish so many projects that have put us in a great position to continue serving the community this year. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving with AmeriCorps, visit their website for more information about this valuable program.





Volunteer Fair THIS WEEKEND



If you have appreciated or been impacted by the work of the incredible volunteers at Wabash & Erie Canal Park, how about joining us? **You** are invited to a volunteer open house and tour **THIS Saturday, April 5** at **1:00pm** at Canal Park in Delphi. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a complete novice, we want to see you there!

The open house will include tours of the 1850's Pioneer Village, the Interpretive Museum, the Archives, the Reed Case House, and the Railroad Depot. This is your chance to peek behind the scenes and learn about the wonderful community work that is happening.

Current volunteers are more than welcome as well! Learning about the different aspects of Canal Park is hugely beneficial, and our goal is that everyone will learn something new.

Following the tour, we will have information on volunteer and apprentice opportunities. All skill levels and interests are welcome! Canal Park has been built and supported over the years by people from all walks of life who care deeply about **preservation, education, and recreation.**

Volunteerism is an investment in your community and the people who live in it. You can make a difference, so pencil us into your calendar for April 5! Please email or call Mike (director@canalcenter.org, 765-564-2870, ext. 6) if you have any questions.



Historic Classes: Spring 2025

Register
Today!



DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATION ARE QUICKLY APPROACHING!

Have you signed up for one of our historic trades classes yet? Don't miss your chance to learn something new and have a great time! Click the button above and browse the new skills you can learn. Join us in preserving history in an active way.

You will take home your creations after the classes end, and you'll learn from expert instructors who are passionate about their craft.



Classes range from just a few hours to all day to multiple days, and they take place in May and June. You can register for classes online, or you can fill out a paper registration form to send in to us.

There are **ELEVEN** terrific options to choose from this spring. There are more details on our [website](#), but here is a quick list:

- Wool Felting (May 17)
- Shaving Horse (May 17)

- Weaving (May 17)
- Nami Express Broom Making (May 24)
- Beginning Spinning (May 24)
- Pine Needle Bowl (May 28)
- Coopering Bucket (May 30-31)
- Backpack Basket Making (June 6)
- Advanced Spinning (June 14)
- Hand Quilting (June 14)
- Dyeing (June 21)

We look forward to seeing you in class!

Canal Collaborations

eARTh Day at The Haan Museum



We are blessed to be in a community that values history, art, and nature, and you can experience all three at a FREE upcoming event at the [Haan Museum in Lafayette!](#) Click the button below for more information.

eARTh Day at the Haan

Canal Park will host a children's activity booth with historic games and fun for visitors of all ages. The event will take place at the Haan Museum on **Saturday, April 12** from **10AM-4PM**, and it will feature live music along with the beautiful artwork and gardens that make the Haan a destination to savor. We hope to see you there!

The Surprise at Lock No. 31

By Tom Castaldi, Allen County
Historian

*Note: This article was originally
written in 2004, but is a
reminder of the joys of exploring
hidden canal treasures!*

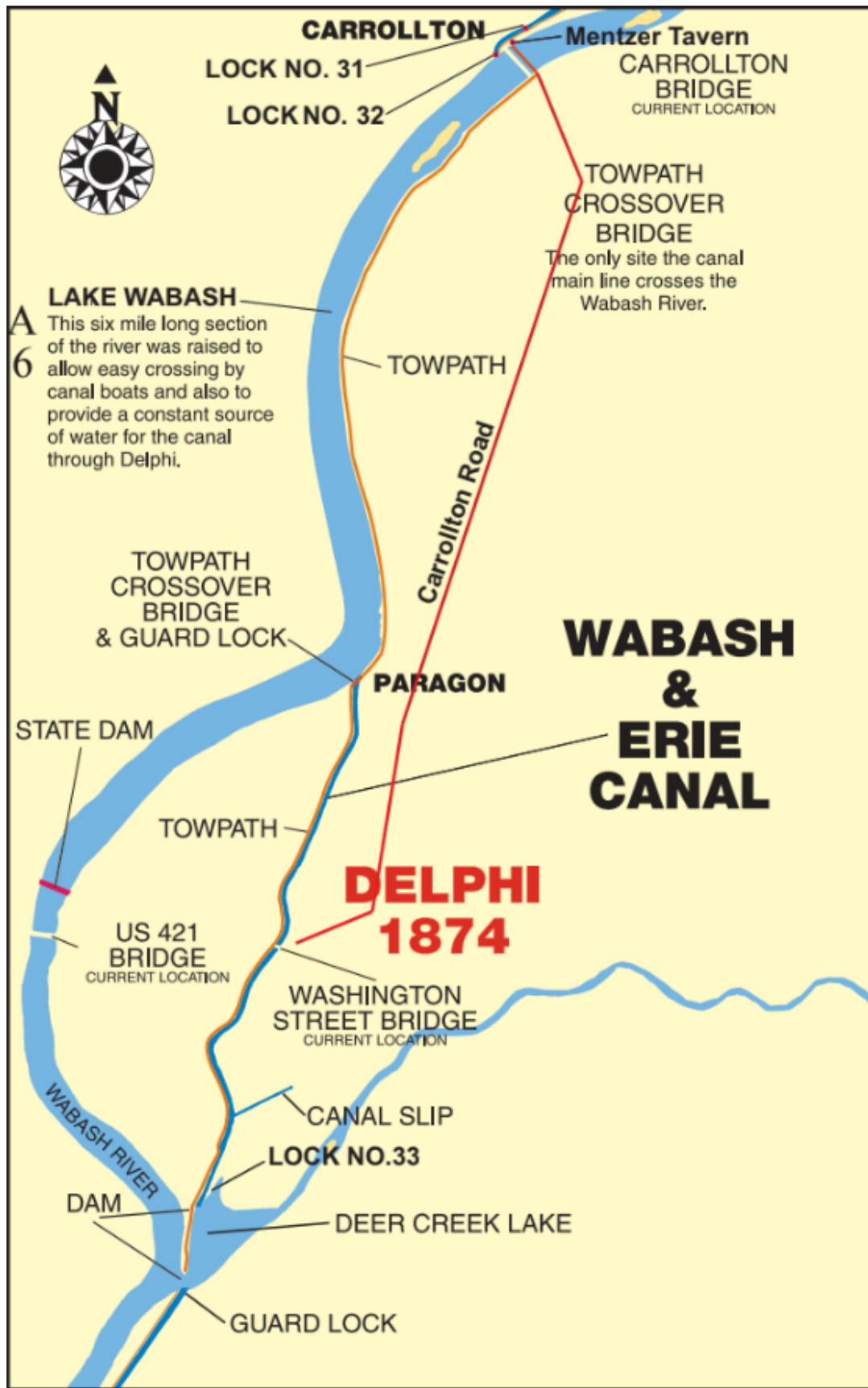


Underground investigation of Lock #31 on the old Wabash & Erie Canal north of Delphi has led to discovery of unusual artifacts. Dr. Wayne Bischoff, Archaeologist, unearthed remains of wooden material that may be part of a canal boat left in the lock when the canal ceased operations in 1874. This find also confirms the exact location of the lock previously not accurately located on the State DNR's records.

Among local canal buffs it has been known where the lock was located by its telltale "back berm and tumble" on the surface. The story goes that as a young boy Dan McCain's grandfather Luther played on the deck of a beached canal boat "up around the curve above Carrollton Bridge" 5 miles north of Delphi. Luther was born the same year the canal quit operating and his father's farm was south of the Carrollton Bridge. Perhaps he was enjoying the big toy he found beached in the lock chamber.



Serious need to know about the whereabouts of the lock started when a new bridge was being planned to replace historic Carrollton Bridge. The north approach to the new bridge as currently planned would impact the historic lock chamber. Now that artifacts have been confirmed there is a desire by the Wabash & Erie Canal Association to mark and interpret this lock and Lock #32 at the rivers edge as well as the only section of the main line of the canal ever to cross the Wabash River. This canal at 468 miles in length was the longest canal in the northern hemisphere and second longest in the world.



Dr. Bischoff is working for the Carroll County Commissioners and BLN bridge engineering firm in the details of this find. In the past decade Bischoff has worked many times along the canal nearer Delphi and has

found many of the important artifacts and sites that make up the three local canal sites on the National Register of Historic Places. These viewable sites and their unusual artifacts are a special feature in the new Canal Interpretive Center at Delphi's Canal Park. Even a grave with two buried mules was found near the "cook shack" hearth in the Construction Camp. An interpretive sign now marks the site along the VanScoy Towpath Trail near Deer Creek.



Wooden material and nails excavated are being compared to canal boat construction by Bischoff at his Michigan office. If McCain's grandfather was right in saying there was a barge deck he played on in the 1880s this deck and even roof, hull and paraphernalia decayed and sank into the watery tomb (lock chamber) long before his grandson was born. Boats were commonly 80 feet long and 14 feet wide and could carry enormous loads for that time. Who knows if any cargo or other durable metal items remain in this historic grave.



Need More Canal History?

The Canal Society of Indiana is an amazing resource for all things related to the stories of Indiana's canals. On their website, you can explore historic canal routes laid over modern maps, you can read numerous biographies, and you can browse a wealth of research materials that are top-notch and engaging! Click the button below to visit, and be sure to sign up for a membership!

[Canal Society of Indiana Homepage](#)



Camp at the Canal

Enjoy a peaceful getaway while also getting hands-on with Indiana history! We have options for all camping needs, including rustic cabins if you would rather not bring your own shelter!

Winter camping is available for self-contained RV's, or you can book your future adventure today!

Reserve Now

Plan an Event with Us!

You can hold your wedding, birthday celebration, corporate meeting, or family reunion in the beautiful reception hall at the Canal Center in Delphi! We offer a variety of options to custom-fit your needs, and we can accommodate events up to 300 guests. Click below to get started with your event!

Book Now



Volunteer with Us

Join a group of incredible people doing amazing things! There is a place for you, whatever your skills and interests might be.

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

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