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*Currents*



September 2010 / NEWS FROM THE WABASH & ERIE CANAL • DELPHI, INDIANA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Our 2010 Boat Tour Season ends on Sunday, October 24!** There's only one month left, so make plans now to enjoy fall scenery aboard The Delphi.

[Find out more>](#)

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### Walk Through History This Fall

Join us for planned walks on the Delphi Historic Trails, with narratives on the history of sites along the way.

#### **Fall Nature Walk**

*with Kip Sloan*

**September 18, 1:00 pm**

from Trailhead Park

#### **Treaty of St. Mary's Walk**

**October 9, 1:00 pm**

from Trailhead Park

#### **IOOF Cemetery Walk**

**October 16, 1:00 pm**

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

- More Lime Kiln Progress
- Last Chance For Boat Tours!
- Fall Walking Tours
- Kayaks For Rent
- New Exhibit News!
- Wanted: Retired Teachers and Other Great Volunteers!

## What A Difference A Year Makes!



Here is the old 1880s lime kiln we disassembled and moved in seven truckloads to Canal Park Annex. The site here is about a mile north of where it will be reassembled in Canal Park Annex. The Delphi Limestone Company allowed us to remove this structure before they created another quarry and obliterated the site.



The towpath trails are open every day of the year from dawn to dusk.

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## **KAYAKS NOW FOR RENT**

In addition to paddleboats and a wide array of bikes, Noble Bikes now has kayaks for rent! All rentals will be available until weather ends the season.



[Rent on-site from our partner, Noble Bikes>](#)

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## **HELP US CREATE THE TOTAL CANAL EXPERIENCE!**



Bring history alive by sponsoring an exhibit or interpretive panel.

[Find out more>](#)

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## **BECOME A MEMBER**

Your financial contribution



The restructuring of the massive archway took volunteer's ingenuity and lots of sweat. Notice the best flat stones along the front of this picture that will be used later in the face of the arch when that section is finished.



Now the beauty of stone work shows. There is a remarkable resemblance of this reconstructed kiln and arch to the original kiln, including the wrought iron funnel used in drawing off the burned lime powder. This project has been a labor of love for the M-W-F Volunteers as all this stone was placed "one piece at a time" with mortar and skill. To the right is the gin pole. It helped with placement of the iron funnel and becomes part of the permanent kiln display.



More recently, the volunteer crew began laying the fire brick chamber above the processing funnel. The kiln is being constructed right beside the canal, and many boat tours have enjoyed seeing the work progress this summer.

your financial partnership restores and preserves a rare, important piece of early American history and provides hands-on learning opportunities for people of all ages.

[Find out more>](#)

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## VOLUNTEER



### **Docents Needed For School Tours**

One of the most important things that we can offer is educational tours to school children. Last May, 475 children toured Canal Park and the Interpretive Center. The program would be so much better, and we could reach more children, if we had more docents to call upon to conduct tours. We are also seeking someone to lead the youth tour program. These are ideal positions for a retired teacher, a person interested in history, or someone looking for worthwhile, rewarding volunteer work.

**Please contact Mary Crary at 765-564-2870.**

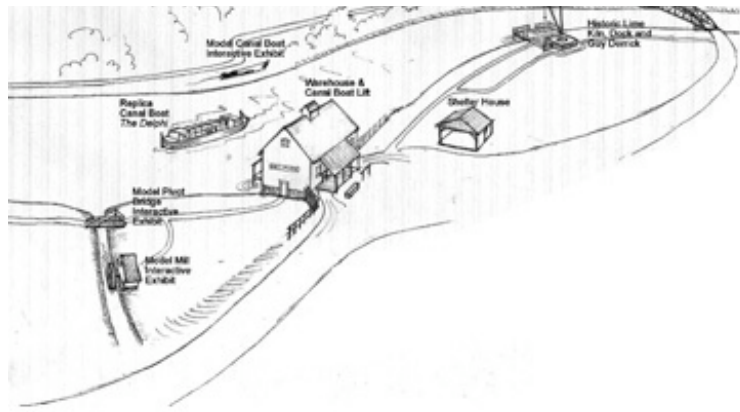
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Next came the placement of the firebox frame. It will be layered with firebrick and form an opening shaped much like a big "keyhole" like the original kiln had. At that original site, the firebox fed heat into the six foot diameter vertical chamber. It was as high as the top of our gin pole. For this exhibit the chamber won't be fully extended so to allow the public to see the inside. Viewing will be possible from a deck yet to be placed about where the ladder leans onto the side.



Volunteer Clay Sledd begins laying the firebrick outer liner for the firebox. Brick will encircle the the top of the metal frame and connect with the inner chamber when completed. Note the ash pit door to the right.

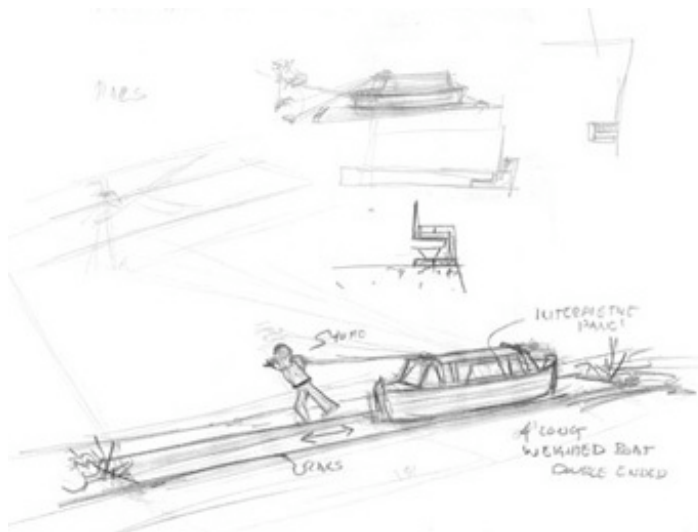


In this birds-eye view the overall development of Canal Park Annex will enhance the experience for the public. Many outdoor exhibits will be interpreted as the visitors either arrive by canal boat, trail or vehicle.

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## Interactive Trail Exhibit Gets A Big Boost

The Wabash & Erie Canal will be recipient of \$10,000 for sponsorship of a trailside interactive exhibit, part of the [Total Canal Experience](#). The generous donation comes from the estate of John and Ruth Rhine through their three daughters.



The selected exhibit is the "pull me" towing canal boat model in a concealed track on land. It involves building an 8 foot boat that looks similar to our DELPHI. It would move back and forth, parallel to the canal across from our new boathouse on the towpath trail and could be seen from the stone arch bridge, trails on either side and by people enjoying the boat cruises. The interactive feature is that participants could pull the rope and move the model boat 40 feet with some resistance so they get a feel for the task of pulling.

We are very excited to receive this monetary gift, and we now have another great wintertime project to build in Ed's barn!

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