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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Heritage Transportation Festival (June 19-20)

Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm

Sunday, noon - 4 pm

Boat tours, horses, period costumes and more! Don't miss the dedication of our new boat dock at 10 am on Saturday, featuring a live brass band. Festivities also include [The Wheelmen](#), a traveling live auction exhibition of antique bicyclers and high wheelers.

Canal Days (July 3-4)

Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday, noon - 5 pm

Join us for a weekend of patriotic fun featuring craft demonstrations, programs and more.

[See more event details>](#)

**HELP US CREATE
THE TOTAL**

Volunteers Wrap Up Spring Work

Just in time for great summer events!

There is so much to see and do this summer at Canal Park. [Visit our website today to plan your trip.](#)



We treasure our decades-long association with Pat Draper (a.k.a., "Flower Lady"). She is nearly immobile, except when it is spring in Canal Park. Her enthusiasm for flower beds is infectious.



CANAL EXPERIENCE!



Bring history alive by sponsoring an exhibit or interpretive panel.

[Find out more>](#)

BECOME A MEMBER

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>](#)

VOLUNTEER



If you're handy with a hammer or a whiz at organization, we need you!

[Sign up or find out more>](#)



After being without water throughout the winter, the Canal has been restructured with a clay liner. Stone taken from below the liner was then placed on the sides, just above and below the eventual waterline, to keep muskrats from burrowing through the liner as they have in the past.



We have experienced dozens of "sinkholes" in the past and hope this extensive work will prevent it from happening again. Contractor Jack Cohee finished spreading 168 tri-axle truckloads of "blue clay", mined on his son's farm. The original bottom was a streambed during the glacial age 10,000-15,000 years ago. When turned on again, water for this section of canal comes through a pipe at a rate of three million gallons a day from the nearby Stone Company. We continually thank the Company for their "gift" of water and crushed stone for the trails.



A new feature at Canal Park is the Bank Barn (left), run by Jean Howell (at the corner) and her husband. The M-W-F volunteer crew installed the paddleboat dock just in time, as the water level rose. It took just a week for the Stone Company water to fill the 1.4 mile stretch of reconstructed canal.



CANAL TRIVIA

Often confused, the Erie Canal is in New York state and goes from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. The Wabash & Erie Canal extended from Lake Erie at Toledo, Ohio to Evansville, Indiana.

[Join our research forum>](#)

Ask questions or share canal research.



Back to work on the Lime Kiln site after last fall. The M-W-F crew has been so busy with waterfront construction while the Canal was dewatered (Bank Barn, Toll Booth, two smaller docks, etc.) that the kiln just had to wait. Not to be forgotten, this interactive structure will interpret one of Delphi's most active industries of the canal era. At the time, plaster, mortar and whitewash and were shipped out, mostly to the eastern markets.



Now to the beautiful canal boat replica "the DELPHI" as it loads passengers from the newly completed dock. [A big celebration on June 19th](#) with a brass band playing will officially dedicate this permanent feature.

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US THIS WEEKEND! -- Dan

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