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CANAL BYWAY  
ASSOCIATION**

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Purpose: To serve as a gateway  
to the Whitewater Valley while  
preserving, protecting, and  
enhancing the historical, scenic  
and cultural assets of the White-  
water Valley by educating local,  
regional, and national visitors.

The Board of Directors meets on  
the third Wednesday each month,  
except December.

Whitewater Canal Byway Associa-  
tion, P.O. Box 75, Metamora IN  
47030.

Newsletter editor: Bob Hansen.  
Contributions of articles and  
photos encouraged.

# Along the Byway

WWW.WHITEWATERCANALSCENICBYWAY.ORG

ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2008

## Whitewater Canal Byway is Official!

After years of hard work by local people, Indiana designated the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway. A ribbon-cutting marked the occasion on Sept. 24 during the Whitewater Walk.

Indiana's newest scenic byway links other byways north and south: the Ohio River Scenic Byway and the Indiana National Road (represented in the photo at right by their signs). The Whitewater route begins at Hagerstown and passes through Cambridge City, Milton, Connersville, Laurel, Metamora and Brookville on its way to Lawrenceburg and the Ohio River.

Scenic byways tell stories of historical significance. This byway recalls a day when settlers and commercial in-



**Traffic along U.S. 52 at Metamora was blocked on Sept. 24 as supporters of the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway celebrated a ribbon cutting.**

### Highlights of 2008 Whitewater Walk, Page 3

vestors were attracted to southeast Indiana by canal construction that began in the 1830s. While canal boats transported cargo, communities formed along the route. Mills and factories were established. Manufacturing and agriculture flourished.

Today, the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway guides

observing travelers along a journey through beautiful landscapes and historic streetscapes. Canal-era buildings and locks are good reasons to linger along the way. Museums and parks help define the experience, while antique stores and craft shops provide interesting diversions.

## State OKs grant for interpretive center

The Indiana Department of Transportation awarded Franklin County \$689,600 in Local Public Agency funding to purchase 33 acres of property in Metamora for the development of a visitors center, museum and interpretive center at the Whitewa-

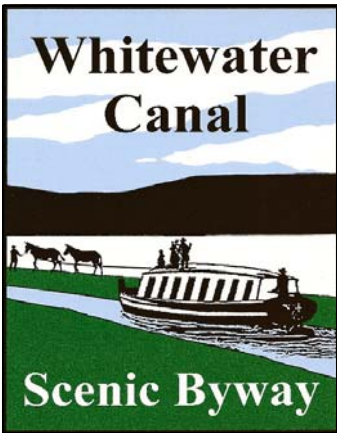
### MORE about the Interpretive Park, Page 2

ter Valley Regional Interpretive Park.

Franklin County officials made their case for the federal matching funds before an award panel at the INDOT Seymour District offices on

Sept. 24.

Franklin County was one of nine applications received in which over \$5 million was requested. The total amount of funds available for Seymour District is \$1,340,000.



# Buy a Sign to Help Mark the Route

You can help mark the route of the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway by purchasing a sign.

The handsome new sign, designed by Paul Baudendistel, features a canal boat and the hills of southeastern Indiana.

An initial order of signs has already been placed but many more are needed. Sign chairman Chuck Andres said that at least 200 are needed for adequate marking of the highway where the byway turns.

Each sign costs \$100. They will be put up by the Indiana Department of Transportation and will have a sticker on the back denoting the donor. Signs also can be donated in honor of or in memoriam.

Donate to the WCBA to purchase signs like this one that will mark the highway route of the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ to purchase \_\_\_ Byway signs at \$100 each.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

My sticker should read: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form and funds to WCBA, P.O. Box 75, Metamora IN 47030.

## ANNUAL MEETING WILL REVIEW 2008 PROGRESS

The annual meeting of the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway Association will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Hearthstone Restaurant on U.S. 52 in Metamora. Cost for the buffet dinner will be \$13.45 each, payable that evening.

Officers will be elected at that time and reports of the past year's progress will be made. Plans for the coming year will be previewed.

A change to the organization's bylaws has been made. It was suggested that the organization add

the position of vice president to the officers and the board has approved that. The vice president will assist the president in carrying out her or his duties and will be in line to succeed the president.

The WCBA nominating committee will present the following slate of officers for the coming year: Candy Yurcak, president; Cindy Bernzott, vice president; Blanche Stelle, secretary; and Tom Horninger, treasurer.

To make your reservations for the annual meeting, call **Candy Yurcak, (765) 647-3859** or **Bob Hansen, (765) 489-4753.**

# Whitewater Valley Regional Interpretive Park

The WVRIP will leverage the region's assets to spur new economic and community development opportunities.

Creation of the Whitewater Valley Regional Interpretive Park took a huge step forward with approval of funding from the Indiana Department of Transportation (see page one).

While the region has numerous historic, scenic, recreational and cultural assets, the challenge is to create a "gateway" for visitors to learn more about them. The proposed park is a 35-acre parcel located on U.S. 52 in historic Metamora, which is home to the Whitewater Canal State Historic

Site. This historic site is the most visited site in the Indiana system.

The WVRIP will leverage the region's assets to spur new economic and community development opportunities through heritage tourism while creating a more robust experience for visitors.

The Whitewater Valley Regional Interpretive Park will showcase local artisans throughout the region.

Here, you will find detailed directions and maps to artisans' studios. Watch the artisans create



their craft and purchase the finished piece.

Also in the Welcome Center, a retail shopping area will be available where visitors can purchase regional art.

# Richmond to Lawrenceburg in 8 Days

The third annual Whitewater Walk was Sept. 21-28, starting with a 10-mile trek through the Whitewater Gorge in Richmond to Abington, a quaint small town on the Wayne-Union County line. Seven days later—after 107 miles and the dedication of our new Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway—the walk had been a great deal of fun.

Hikers spent Sept. 22 walking in Hagerstown, Cambridge City and Milton. At Milton, Phyllis Mattheis showed the group the ruins of the City Run Culvert and a canal lock.

Day Three was the day we walked on water. The great people at Kent's Harbor brought out pontoon boats at the top side of Brookville Lake. The number of dignitaries attending required four boats. We were able to tie all four boats together so we could then have a huge floating barge. We could walk from one boat to another and talk to everyone. All in all it was a great time.

After a four-hour tour the group headed to a gathering at the Whitewater State Historic Site to dedicate the new Byway.

The event was very special to all. Many people from the area worked for several years to get this all done. "WE DID IT!" was the battle cry from the grounds surrounding the tent. The new Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway sign was unveiled. It was designed by a great artist, Paul Baudendistel.

2008 proved to be quite a learning experience for many of us but learn we did and, in the process, a strong foundation was built for the 2009 walk. I so appreciate the hard work of everyone and the friendships we developed as we worked. I believe that the walk is one of the key reasons the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway has enjoyed such success. Through the walk we have come to recognize how beautiful our valley is, learned about the many assets we possess, connected our communities along the way and learned the significance of

## Whitewater Walk

working together and the strength we gain from doing so.

The 2009 Whitewater Walk will be Sept. 20-27. A few changes may be in the works so watch for details after the new year begins.

— Candy Yurcak, president  
Whitewater Canal Byway Association



1—First-day walkers came through the beautiful Whitewater Gorge. 2—Hikers pose at the Hagerstown Canal monument. 3—A highlight at Milton was visiting the City Run Culvert. 4—Day 3 included the dedication of the Whitewater Canal Byway in a ceremony at Metamora. 5—Everyone at the ceremony signed a Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway highway sign. 6—The group at Lawrenceburg poses with a historical marker for the Whitewater Canal.

# Along the Whitewater Canal

By Paul Baudendistel  
Whitewater Canal Research Group

**M**Y SUBJECT IS HISTORY and history means a lot of different things to different people. Everything that ever happened is history. So I must confess I sort of stir in a bit of archaeology and wildlife photography. I like the natural world because it is a place of timelessness. Among other things I am a Wildlife Watcher.

Walking Dearborn County in 2008 I wondered why so many Whitewater Walkers just wanted to walk in their own county. I think they were still getting the feel of appreciation for what they had in their own neighborhoods.

On Day 8 of the 2008 walk I found myself on Oberding Road, heading for Lawrenceburg and the Ohio River.

I did this Walk in 2006 and was aware of a stone arch canal culvert visible along the road, but this year my vision had gone a bit more regional. The Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway is not just about the canal. Nevertheless, in 2006 the only canal structure I was aware of was this one little 8-foot culvert in the

total distance between Lawrenceburg and Harrison.

**I**n 2006 I met Chuck Whiting and we, along with two others whom I call the Whitewater Canal Research Group, went on a couple of adventures.

The first was recording some canal lock hardware that had been plowed out of a field in the vicinity of Lawrenceburg Road. This had been from Canal Lock No. 4 which we never found.



**One of two 8-foot x 4-foot stone arch canal culverts built by David Guard in canal sections 6 and 7 along Oberding Road. Photo by Kim Ziegel**

The other trip was to verify the ruins of Case Dam in Franklin Co. which showed up pretty interestingly on aerial imagery. Chuck passed on more than a few winter e-mail discussions about the Harrison Dam and the last days of boat traffic on the Lawrenceburg branch of the canal.

## **New Culvert Recorded by Kim Ziegel, Covington, KY**

In early 2008, I met Kim Ziegel, a wildlife photographer and canal en-

thusiast from Covington, Ky. Kim walked the entire Whitewater Canal in the late winter and spring of this year. He's a birder, and he was recording the spring migration. This led to many long discussions about Oxbow, Inc., and if you don't know what that is I seriously suggest you Google it, [www.oxbowinc.org](http://www.oxbowinc.org).

From Oberding Road I was now well aware of the 5-square-mile Oxbow Wetlands north of Hardingsburg on US 50. But what Kim Zeigel did on Feb. 19, 2008, was to record a new (to us) Whitewater Canal culvert along Oberding Road just a half-mile from the previously known structure. This was right in Chuck Whiting's territory and I had a good time telling him what he "missed." You see, you never see or know it all.

## **A Prehistoric Earthen Enclosure overlooking Oberding Road**

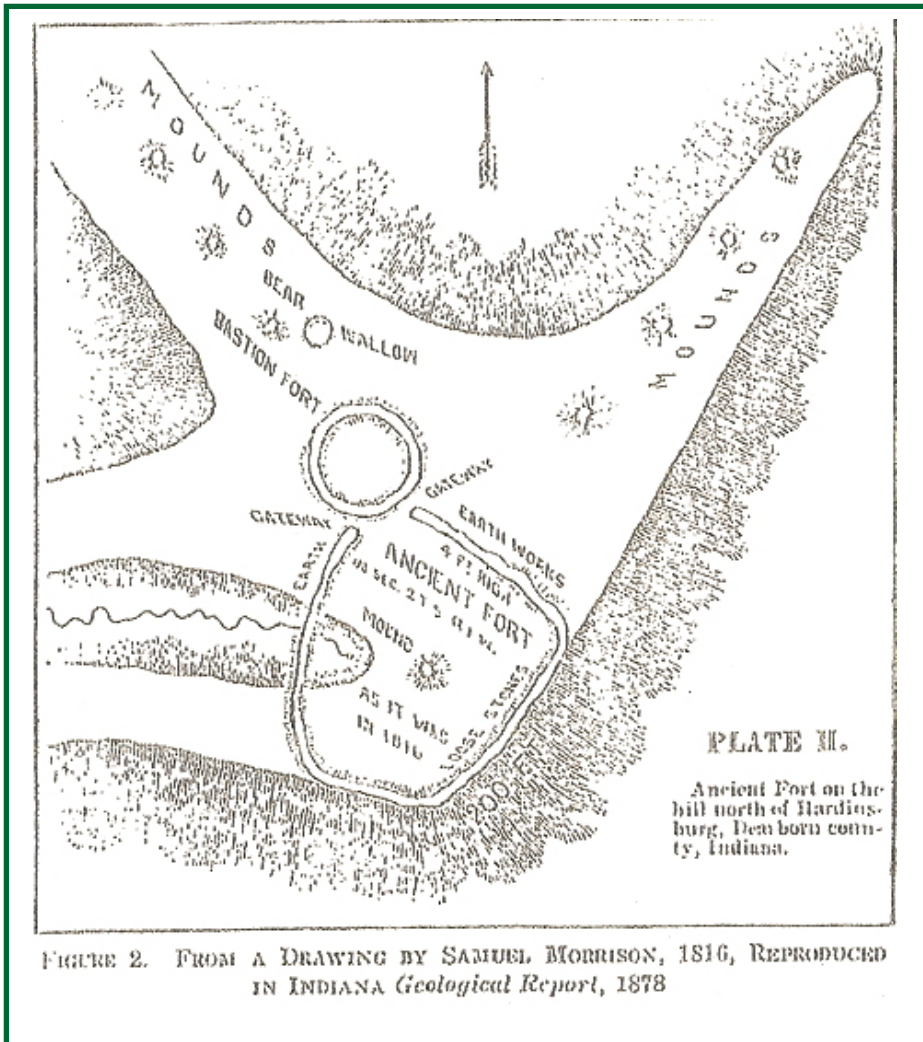
This summer, as a result of Whitewater Walk, I met Art Wenzel of Lawrenceburg. Art was our Oberding Road tour guide.

For my orientation he pointed out Shawnee Lookout, a pre-historic site on a hill across the river, and we then discussed another similar earthen enclosure earthwork to the south on a hill in Kentucky.

That was when I got my first enlightenment about Fort Oberding. There was a third earthwork on top the hill directly across the road from where we stood. One each in Ohio

*"For people who don't care about prehistoric earthworks, I must say earthen enclosures are pretty neat."*

(Continued on page 5)



have fun being a collection point for some of those accidental and incredible photos to be shared.

For example, May 3, 2008, I had sent Kim Ziegel in search of Swamp Level lock ruins in Fayette Co., Ind.

As one might suspect, there is no swamp at Swamp Level today. It is unimaginable how many square miles of wetland have been drained in this day of man's land management planning, but there are still a few small wet spots that migrating birds seem to remember as once-favorite rest stops on their journey to Canadian breeding grounds.

That explanation might be helpful when I say this is a photo of Greater Yellow Legs at a point where Mud Creek crosses over the Whitewater Canal just north of Connersville, Ind.

Ruins of Swamp Level Lock 45 were not seen that day, but one never knows what else might be seen and forever enjoyed. Brookville Lake, Oxbow, and along the Whitewater River offer some pretty decent wildlife and wetlands habitat for the lone photographer.

**The rivers and lakes of the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway offer a lot for the serious wildlife photographer. Below is a photo of Greater Yellow Legs where Mud Creek crosses over the Whitewater Canal north of Connersville, Ind. Photo by Kim Ziegel**

(Continued from page 4)

and Indiana and Kentucky and all sites within my visual grasp at once.

For people who don't care about prehistoric earthworks I must say earthen enclosures are pretty neat. If you haven't already, sometime when you need a small vacation visit the Cleves North Bend canal tunnel and Shawnee Lookout.

But anyway, reproduced here is a copy of the 1816 map of Fort Oberding, a prehistoric enclosure site in the Lawrenceburg area. It is the only one of its kind in the State of Indiana.

This site is very worthy of being preserved and protected for future generations and efforts are being made by the City of Lawrenceburg to do just that.

### Wildlife Watchers

You would not believe some of the outstanding wildlife photography that is taken each year in the Whitewater Valley. I think our Web site might



# The Ball State 'Media Blitz' Weekend

**By Candy Yurcak, President  
Whitewater Canal Byway Association**

They arrived Saturday morning to a quiet barnyard. They were full of smiles and trunk loads of gear. Chairs, sleeping bags, lots of snacks, cameras, batteries, tripods, back packs, were unloaded and carried to the barn, their new home for the weekend.

Paul and I had to chuckle as we watched their eyes when they discovered their new sleeping quarters. But troopers they were and amid laughter they were soon claiming their respective bed spaces.

After introductions and a brief meeting with Nancy Carlson (the professor in charge of this onslaught of enthusiasm), they were off. Brookville Lake, The Hermitage, a train ride, the river or a trail, were all destination points for these students in green media shirts, and the barn yard was quiet again...almost.

Two students named Paul and Logan whose assignment was the canal history, were snagged by Paul (our resident and top authority on canal history who looks like a misplaced professor) who wanted to talk with them about the story they would be doing. Before long the three of them were off as well and Nancy and I had a chance to visit.

Nancy is the kind of professor I would love to have had in college. She has such a gift in her ability to relate to and excite her students about the challenges they would face in producing a great product for their

'clients.'

As the day wore on, different students would return to the camp to share their experiences, the shots they got or whatever. Nancy would smile, ask the right questions to make them think, and off they would go again to capture something else on film. I so enjoyed watching Nancy work her magic with the students but alas I finally had to leave the camp, too. I realized these kids would be very hungry this evening and we had cooking to do.

I returned about 5 o'clock with baked beans, potato salad, cheese ball and crackers, vegetables and dip (the women in town love to cook) and hot dogs...lots of hot dogs. I remember camping...lots of hot dogs on the end of a stick ending up in the fire.

We started the campfire, arranged the chairs in a circle and waited for the storytellers to return.

They began to trickle in about 5:30 only to leave again to get that 'golden shot.' But soon they were all back at the camp and starving as we expected. Hot dogs were put on sticks and everyone was vying for that perfect place above the fire to cook their hot dog. I don't think a single hot dog ended up in the fire, which was pretty amazing considering many of the students told me they had never cooked a hot dog over a campfire before...we still have lots of hot dogs.

Metamora is wonderful at night. Tourists have gone home so the quiet envelopes you like a warm snuggly blanket ... usually. To-

night would be different.

With their bellies full the students began to tell the stories of their day's adventures and laughter filled the air.

"I walked eight miles today carrying the equipment."

"The fish weren't biting today so I didn't get a single shot of a fisherman catching anything!" (maybe tomorrow).

"I was allowed to hang out the window on the train as it moved along the track and I got a shot of a deer, or was it a coyote?"

"I met the nicest shopkeeper today."

"Have you seen the view from on top of the dam at Brookville Lake?"

As the evening wore on the conversation began to shift: "OK, so how do you make s'mores?"

"Well, that marshmallow is trashed."

"I think I am going to get an engagement ring for Christmas."

And my personal favorite: "Can we sleep on the canal boat?"

This question came from two guys who both claimed to be city boys. I asked if they had toured the canal boat yet and they answered that they had not. We found a flashlight and took a tour of the boat. "This is the cook shack, see they cooked on this wood stove, this is a cargo bay, this is the crew's quarters see there are two bunks...do you want the top or bottom bunk?" "Let's look at the rest of the boat, another cargo bay, the cat walk would have been above this one, and this is the captain's quarters. Would you please sign in?"

Now this is the best part: One of the guys shone the flashlight towards the book and resting comfortably on the open page was a rather large, OK, a huge wolf spider. Now if you have never seen a wolf spider, these creatures are very large thick-bodied spiders with hair. I learned quickly that Scott (I think that was his name) has a fear of spiders, and not because he told me so. Scott left the boat and nobody used those comfortable bunks that night.

Just so you know, I don't like these big spiders either and I killed it (while acting very

**Students from a media class at Ball State University spent the weekend of Oct. 11-12 doing video stories about the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway. WCBA President Candy Yurcak and others hosted them.**



**(Continued on page 7)**

## MEDIA BLITZ

Students from Ball State University learned about the Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway's attractions as they videotaped stories that will be shared on the WCBA Web site and possibly on public television.

(Continued from page 6)

brave) only to learn that the spider was Paul's (our historian) friend, or so he said.

Sometimes you just can't win for losing.

Somewhere around 10 p.m. my husband Ronnie and I decided it was time for us to leave. I would have to be back at the camp pretty early the next morning to attempt to cook sausage gravy over an open fire and have it ready for Nancy and the students as soon as they crawled out of their warm sleeping bags, eager to start another day. We thanked Nancy and the kids for a wonderful day, bade our farewells and left Ball State in charge of Metamora for the night.

Day two ... 4 a.m. I didn't feel like getting up but I had biscuits to make. Making gravy over an open fire is one thing but biscuits are much better baked in my own personal oven at home. As I began to add the ingredients for the biscuits I wondered if the Ball State people might just prefer cold cereal and milk. I decided that I was not being very nice and I began to knead the dough. Thirty-five fresh-baked biscuits later Ronnie and I loaded up the car with pans, spoons, ladles, milk, sausage and, of course, the biscuits and headed for the still-sleeping Ball State people...or so I thought.

As we pulled around the corner of the barn trying to be quiet and thinking about getting the fire started, we saw to our surprise a large fire burning with sleeping bag bumps—no heads or body parts were visible—and they circled the fire. An occasional break in the circle had a chair filled with more sleeping bag bumps but a few of those bumps had heads sticking out of them. It appeared as though the barn was not warm and snugly as I had envisioned it to be. We quietly talked with a few of the bumps and let them know a warm breakfast would soon be ready. I tried to reassure the talking bumps that these would be good memories some day. I'm not sure they believed me at that moment.

A little while later the gravy was ready. Orange juice, biscuits, butter, plates and silverware were waiting on the table and it was time to eat. Where was the coffee? That's warm. Well being as I am not a coffee

drinker, how would I think of that. Mountain Dew is my morning drink of choice and I had plenty. A trip to the top of the hill by Nancy and a couple of students to an open BP station and coffee was now available.

The sleeping bag bumps began to disappear as one by one the students—clothed in gloves, hats and sweatshirts—came out to face the world and eat. We learned that Albert walked the perimeter of the camp most of the night, Logan stoked the fire throughout the night, Brooke and Whitney slept wonderfully on an air mattress, but where was Scott? Remember Scott, the one who hates spiders.

There was one sleeping bag bump still on the ground. That must be Scott. Obviously nobody told Scott that you do not want to be the last one to wake up after a campout! There are pictures of Scott in his tunnel, sleeping, that I am sure he will pay big money for.

We ate, we laughed, mostly about Scott, and finally it was decided that it was time for Scott to awaken. With camera positioned correctly to capture the moment, a stick poked into the sleeping bag bump...more expensive pictures.

Scott grudgingly crawled out of the sleeping bag, filled a plate and sat on a chair close to the fire to enjoy his breakfast. At that moment, one of the guys asked Scott what was crawling up his arm. It seems that another spider (remember, I killed the friend of Paul) had taken up residence in Scott's warm sleeping bag for the night. Again through actions, not words, we were reminded of Scott's fear of spiders. Unfortunately there were no cameras this time.

With breakfast and conversation of the previous night's experiences finished, it was time to head out for day two of filming. I had told dear Albert, the day before, of a shot he might like about two miles out on the trail where the railroad tracks ended. Albert was doing the story on the railroad and I thought I would offer input and being the kind person



I am, I offered him the use of my bike to ride out to the spot, as opposed to having to hike four miles carrying heavy equipment. Albert decided on day two to take me up on my offer. He loaded his gear around his neck and headed out on the bike for this shot.

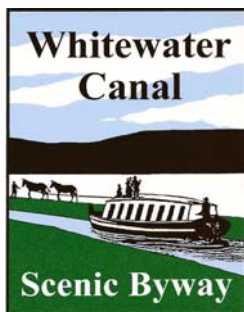
Albert came back later, exhausted, dropped the bike, his equipment, went into the barn and collapsed on the air mattress. He told us later he never made it the two miles out to get the shot. About halfway he realized he was peddling so hard because the back tire of his bike was flat. Not only did poor Albert not get the shot but I just about killed him in the attempt. I'll try not to have input anymore and check my bike tires before lending it.

About 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon the students were all back at the camp. It was time to load the trunks of the cars and head back to Ball State. As I watched all the activity I realized that I had just finished an unplanned vacation. I met wonderful people, listened to great stories and relaxed in a way I had not had the opportunity to do in quite a long time.

One by one the students came to say goodbye. I shook each hand thought how talented these young people were and how blessed the Whitewater Region was to have them among us for a while. Nancy was the last to leave and she got a hu: what a great professor. It is no wonder she was chosen as outstanding professor of the year.

I can't wait to see the Whitewater Valley Region through the eyes of these outstanding students from Ball State University.

I just hope the memories of those from Ball State are half as happy as mine.



**Whitewater Canal  
Byway Association**

Post Office Box 75  
Metamora IN 47073

Visit our Website:  
[www.whitewatercanalscenicbyway.org](http://www.whitewatercanalscenicbyway.org)

This copy of Along the Byway newsletter is being sent to:

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to [copperron@aol.com](mailto:copperron@aol.com).

**Membership Information**

*“In collaboration with all stakeholders, the members of the Whitewater Canal Byway Association will promote the Whitewater Region and its history as a unique and valuable asset, the development of which will serve to enhance the economic vitality of the region and the quality of life for current and future generations.”*

If you would like to become a member of the Whitewater Canal Byway Association, please fill out the form, below or on the Web site [www.whitewatercanalscenicbyway.org](http://www.whitewatercanalscenicbyway.org), and mail to:

Whitewater Canal Byway Association  
PO Box 75  
Metamora, Indiana 47030

Please enclose a check made payable to the Whitewater Canal Byway Association.

Level of Giving for Memberships

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Explorer (student)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Pioneer (family or single adult)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 Helmsman (contributing level)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00 Canal Boat Captain (sponsoring level)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 Canal Boat Builder (corporate level)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.00 Settler (lifetime single adult membership)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

With our thanks for joining and supporting the efforts of the Whitewater Canal Byway Association, you will receive a magnetic “mini” Whitewater Canal Scenic Byway road sign for your vehicle or refrigerator and quarterly newsletters.

In addition to my membership I am enclosing a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here for information on automatic renewals of my annual membership using my credit card