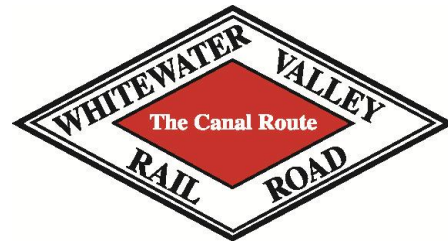


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## WHITEWATER VALLEY RAILROAD ANNOUNCES 2011 SEASON

*From History to Entertainment, the Whitewater Valley Railroad Offers the Best*

### **For Immediate Release – Thursday March 31, 2011**

Connersville, Indiana – Travel Through Time On Indiana's Most Scenic Railroad. The Whitewater Valley Railroad (WVRR), an authentic, historic train offering recreational train excursions and events for its 38th operating season in 2011. Established in 1972, the WVRR is a nonprofit 501c3 railroad history organization. It is an operating railroad museum dedicated to the preservation of a historic branch line railroad, the restoration of railroad equipment, and to the conduct of railroad educational programs. The railroad is operated by trained volunteers and all proceeds are used to further the organization's mission.

Ride the Valley Flyer from Connersville to Metamora, Indiana, a restored canal town. Visit the working grist mill, restored canal and lock, operating replica horse drawn canal boat, historic covered aqueduct, and over 100 shops and restaurants. Trains consisting of vintage equipment depart Connersville's Grand Central Station at 12:01 pm on Saturdays, Sundays, and major holidays, May through October. This train will not operate June 17<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 due to a Day Out With Thomas in Connersville. Also during the month of May, the Whitewater Limited departs Connersville's Grand Central Station for Metamora at 10 am on Thursdays and Fridays.

All Aboard with a western twist and join the Circle D Rangers as they protect the Metamora bound Overland Limited every 3rd Saturday May through October excluding June. The Overland Limited also operates a special departure on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in October. Come and see Bandits, Marshals, Robber Barons, Fancy and some Not So Fancy Women as you roll through the scenic countryside. Trains depart Connersville's Grand Central Station at 12:01 pm.

If you are looking to relive a bit of Civil War History, the American Limited operates on July 4<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Come along and take a trip back in time with us. Be in the middle of the action as a Union Army detachment protects the US Government Payroll. While along the line a relentless group of Confederate soldiers, simply known as Morgan's Raiders, plan and wait. Enjoy a relaxing train ride though the scenic Whitewater Valley, on your way to the historic town of Metamora. Enjoy a two hour layover before your return trip to Connersville. Train departs Connersville's Grand Central Station at 12:01 pm.

Cost for these 33-mile round trip excursions is \$20 for adults and \$12 for children ages 2 to 12. Groups are welcome with group rates of 30 or more. Special school rates are also available.

The popular Twilight Limited Train To Dinner will begin the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in May at 6 pm. This train takes riders from Connersville to the Laurel Hotel Restaurant for a delicious pan-fried chicken dinner and other home-cooked meals. The Train To Dinner operates each month on the first and third Fridays at 6 pm. Total cost for the train ride, meal, tax and tip is \$29 for adults and

\$15 for children ages 2 to 12. Reservations are required for the Twilight Limited Train To Dinner.

Also available on most weekends is the WVRR's Metamora Local, which offers a 30 minute ride further south from Metamora on the historic Whitewater Branch of the former New York Central Railroad. Some sites along the way include the restored canal, operating canal boat Ben Franklin III, the Duck Creek Aqueduct, working canal lock and the Whitewater Canal Trail.

Come to Connersville, Indiana and return to a time when the railroad moved the nation and the short line railroad was a small town's best friend. The WVRR attracts passengers and railroad enthusiasts from all across the United States and Canada. Connersville is situated 65 miles from Cincinnati, Dayton, and Indianapolis, conveniently located in between the three metro areas.

Call (765) 825-2054 for more information and reservations or visit the Whitewater Valley Railroad's web site at [www.whitewatervalleyvrr.org](http://www.whitewatervalleyvrr.org)

Other entertaining and educational events planned by the WVRR in 2011 include:

- **Whitewater Limited, (FAVORITE)** - May 2011 - Enjoy the beautiful fall foliage in the Whitewater River Valley between Connersville and Metamora on one of our Fall Foliage Trips. These special excursions runs every Thursday and Friday during October, departing Connersville's Grand Central Station at 10:00 am, and allow a two hour stopover in Metamora.
- **Family Fun Days, (FAVORITE)** – National Train Day/Mothers Day Weekend, May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - Enjoy a relaxing train ride though the scenic Whitewater Valley, on your way to the historic town of Metamora. Enjoy a two hour layover before your return trip to Connersville. Train departs Connersville at 12:01 pm. A Parent rides for half fare when accompanied by a child traveling at full fare. Check [www.WhitewaterValleyRR.org](http://www.WhitewaterValleyRR.org) for a special discount coupon.
- **Metamora Towpath 10K Dash and Fun Run Local (NEW) – May 21, 2011** - A special 8am running of our Metamora Local in Historic Downtown Metamora. The train will follow along a portion of the inaugural Whitewater Canal 10k Towpath Dash and Fun Run. This will be a special thrill for runners and walkers at all ability levels. Don't wait – the race field is limited to the first 500 entrants. The Whitewater Valley Railroad will be providing train service for families, friends and observers to take pictures of the racers and to experience the “dash” in action. Start time 8:00 am.
- **Memorial Day Valley Flyer, (FAVORITE)** - May 30, 2011 - Enjoy a relaxing train ride though the scenic Whitewater Valley, on your way to the historic town of Metamora. Enjoy a two hour layover before your return trip to Connersville. Train departs Connersville at 12:01 pm.
- **Day Out with Thomas™ LEADER OF THE TRACKS TOUR 2011, (FAVORITE)** - June 17, 18, 19 & 24, 25, 26 2011 - The popular public television character Thomas the

Tank Engine <sup>TM</sup> chugs into Connersville's Grand Central Station. The 25-minute train rides are perfect for young children. Enjoy storytelling, live music, live magic, handcar rides, pony rides, petting zoo, and posing for pictures with Thomas and Sir Topham Hatt. Tickets Are On Sale Now.

- **American Limited Civil War Special, (FAVORITE)** - July 4, August 27, 2011 - Come along and take a trip back in time with us. Be in the middle of the action as a Union Army detachment protects the US Government Payroll. While along the line a relentless group of Confederate soldiers, simply known as Morgan's Raiders, plan and wait. Enjoy a relaxing train ride though the scenic Whitewater Valley, on your way to the historic town of Metamora. Enjoy a two hour layover before your return trip to Connersville. Train departs Connersville's Grand Central Station at 12:01 pm.
- **Wild West Train To Dinner, (FAVORITE)** - July 29, September 30, 2011 – The Twilight Limited Train To Dinner will be making a special Wild West Themed excursion from Connersville's Grand Central Station to the Laurel Hotel Restaurant. Entertainment to be provided by the Circle D Rangers and the train will depart at 6 pm, limited seating is available and reservations are required. Prices for this special themed excursion are \$39 per person and include train ride, meal, tax and tip.
- **The Statesman with Mr. Abraham Lincoln, (FAVORITE)** – August 13& 14, September 10 & 11, 2011 – Spend the day with the 16<sup>th</sup> President on this special excursion to Historic Metamora, Indiana. Mr. Lincoln will be riding along in order to present a speech to the good town folk of Metamora. Come along as ask questions and have your photos taken to preserve the memories.
- **Valley Flyer to the Metamora Music Festival, (NEW IMPROVED)** – September 4 & 5, 2011, Listen to live musical entertainment on a relaxing train ride though the scenic Whitewater Valley. You're on the way to the historic town of Metamora for the annual Music Festival. Enjoy a two hour layover before your return trip to Connersville. Train departs Connersville at 12:01 pm.
- **Labor Day Valley Flyer, (FAVORITE)** – September 6, 2011 - Enjoy a relaxing train ride though the scenic Whitewater Valley, on your way to the historic town of Metamora. Enjoy a two hour layover before your return trip to Connersville. Train departs Connersville at 12:01 pm.
- **Metamora Canal Days Specials, (FAVORITE)** - October 7, 8, & 9, 2011 - Enjoy Metamora Canal Days without worrying about parking. These excursions leave Connersville's Grand Central Station on Friday Oct 7 at 10:00 am with a 2 hour layover.

On Saturday Oct 8 & Sunday Oct 9 at 10:01 am with a 4 hour layover and 12:01 pm with a 2 hour layover. Caboose tickets & rentals are available for all trips. All trains departing Metamora for the return trip to Connersville on October 3 & 4 will combine and depart as one train consist.

- **Fall Foliage Flyer, (FAVORITE)** - October 2011 - Enjoy the beautiful fall foliage in the Whitewater River Valley between Connersville and Metamora on one of our Fall Foliage Trips. These special excursions runs every Thursday and Friday during October, departing Connersville's Grand Central Station at 10:00 am, and allow a two hour stop over in Metamora.
- **Pumpkinliner, (FAVORITE)** - October 22 & 23, 2011 - Bring the family out for a afternoon of fun. Enjoy a round trip from our Connersville Grand Central Station to our pumpkin patch. Your train ticket includes round trip service to the pumpkin patch, a hay ride to the patch, and a pumpkin from the field. Trains depart at 10:00 am (Saturday Only), 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm. Ticket includes a pumpkin for children age 11 and under. Tickets are Limited and Reservations are Recommended.
- **THE POLAR EXPRESS <sup>TM</sup>, (FAVORITE)** - November & December 2011 - THIS HOLIDAY SEASON... BELIEVE. THE POLAR EXPRESS rolls into Connersville's Grand Central Station this Holiday Season. The Polar Express will come to life when the train departs Connersville's Grand Central Station for a journey through the quiet countryside for a special visit to the "North Pole" with Santa Claus. Seating for this event is Limited and tickets are On Sale Now.
- **Santa Claus Limited, (FAVORITE)** - Friday November 25, 2011 - Board the train at Grand Central Station in Connersville to pick up Santa Claus along the way. Once on board Santa will come and visit with each child on the train. Train departs at 10am, 12pm and 2pm. (NOTE: These trains are not affiliated with the POLAR EXPRESS)
- **Metamora Holiday Specials, (FAVORITE)** - November & December 2011 - Special holiday shopping excursions to Metamora are available in conjunction with Metamora's Annual Christmas Walk. Reservations must be made in advance. Early reservations are highly recommended, since these trains usually sell out very early due to the train's limited capacity. Caboose Rentals: Bring the whole family, or a group of friends! Rent one of our cabooses for your private excursion to Metamora, and tag it on to any the Christmas Express Excursions. (Maximum of 20 guests on most of our caboose fleet). Limited Availability, These sell out early, so make your reservation today! Train departs Friday November 25, Saturday November 26, Saturday December 3, & Saturday December 10 at 4 pm with a 3 1/4 hour layover IN Historic Metamora. (NOTE: These trains are not affiliated with the POLAR EXPRESS)

### **About the WVRR**

Established in 1972, the Whitewater Valley Railroad is a non profit 501c3 railroad history organization. It is an operating railroad museum dedicated to the preservation of a historic branch line railroad, the restoration of railroad equipment, and to the conduct of railroad educational programs. The railroad is operated by trained volunteers and all proceeds are used to further the organization's mission.

Come to Connersville, Indiana and return to a time when the railroad moved the nation and the short line railroad was a small town's best friend. The WVRR attracts passengers and railroad enthusiasts from all across the United States and Canada. Connersville is situated 65 miles from Cincinnati, Dayton, and Indianapolis, conveniently located in between the three metro areas.

“In October 2008 during the 35<sup>th</sup> season we carried our one millionth passenger,” says WVRR Curator William Gray. “We are looking forward to entertaining and educating another million guests in the upcoming years.”

### **About Metamora, Indiana**

Metamora is Indiana's treasured 1838 canal town. Nestled in southeastern Indiana's beautiful countryside, Metamora is steeped in history and famous for its preservation of Indiana's oldest and still operating water-powered grist mill. Located 60 miles east of Indianapolis and 35 miles west of Cincinnati, A must see town that retains all of its traditional charm and languid atmosphere. Shop in stores housed in buildings dated back to the early 1800s, eat and above all else... Enjoy the slow relaxing pace of the past! For more information on Historic Metamora, visit Metamora online at [www.metamoraindiana.com](http://www.metamoraindiana.com).

“Metamora offers an historical ambiance and we are proud to be a part of that atmosphere for over 37 years” Gray says. “The WVRR offers a real train experience for all to experience that might otherwise not have such an opportunity.”

Call **(765) 825-2054** for more information and reservations or visit the Whitewater Valley Railroad's web site at [www.whitewatervalleyrr.org](http://www.whitewatervalleyrr.org)

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*William W. Gray*, WVRR Publicity Officer

This document is also available at [www.whitewatervalleyrr.org](http://www.whitewatervalleyrr.org)