



START WITH A FREE FIT ANALYSIS

Talk to your carefully trained NBRx-certified fitter to discover the benefits of a free fit analysis and custom consultation.

\$10.00 off

with any purchase \$75 or more*

Offer expires 09/30/15. *Some restrictions apply.

New Balance Merrillville
600 W 81st Ave. • Merrillville
On Route 30 Across from Meijer

KNOW MORE



Featured [Vote for football Faces gallery!](#) [Jobs news](#) [Updated regional crime maps](#) [Crime News](#) [GALLE](#) :

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Local News](#) / [Porter County News](#)

Festival offers a glimpse of Kankakee River history

August 09, 2015 4:15 pm • [Matthew Stefanski Times Correspondent](#)

KOUTS | People will take a step back into the past at the Kankakee Valley Historical Society’s Aukiki River Festival.

The eighth annual festival, sponsored by Porter County Parks and Recreation, will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23 at 1097 Baum’s Bridge Road.

The event will feature more than 35 encampments highlighting the French and Indian War, the Civil War era, fur trappers and traders, the British, pioneers and French voyageurs. The festival will focus on history stemming from more than 350 years ago up until the 1940s.

Participants will be able to purchase items from vendors, watch trap and skeet demonstrations and participate in fabric dying, among other activities. In addition, Gary and Susan Brown, The Trois Canards and Trilly Cole will entertain guests with musical performances.

There will also be a few new additions to this year’s festival. An archery instructor will show guests how to use a bow and arrow. The lessons will be geared toward 12 to 18 year olds. In addition, red-tailed hawks will be shown from 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 22.

Even the food will be reminiscent of the past. B&J Specialties will offer Bison burgers, wild rice cranberry soup, fruited lemonade and more.

The event won’t just be an exciting time—it will also be a history lesson.

“We want people to have an enjoyable time,” said John Hodson, president of KVHS. “We want them to learn something.”

For Hodson, the festival is an opportunity to celebrate the history of the Kankakee River and the Grand Kankakee Marsh, which was once called “the Everglades of the North.” More than 100 years ago, the Marsh occupied over half a million acres in Northern Indiana and was home to a large amount of plants and wildlife. However, the land was eventually drained for agriculture and

Celebrating the Kankakee River



In a 1935 published report, Valparaiso

University professor Alfred H. Meyer wrote that present-day Baum’s Bridge is “the most historic spot al... [Read more](#)

Volunteers begin work on log cabin project



KOUTS | Judy Judge sifted through the dirt with her hands.

Some of the dirt fell through a screen, but Judge examined the rest, looking to fin... [Read more](#)

Aukiki River Festival brings past to life



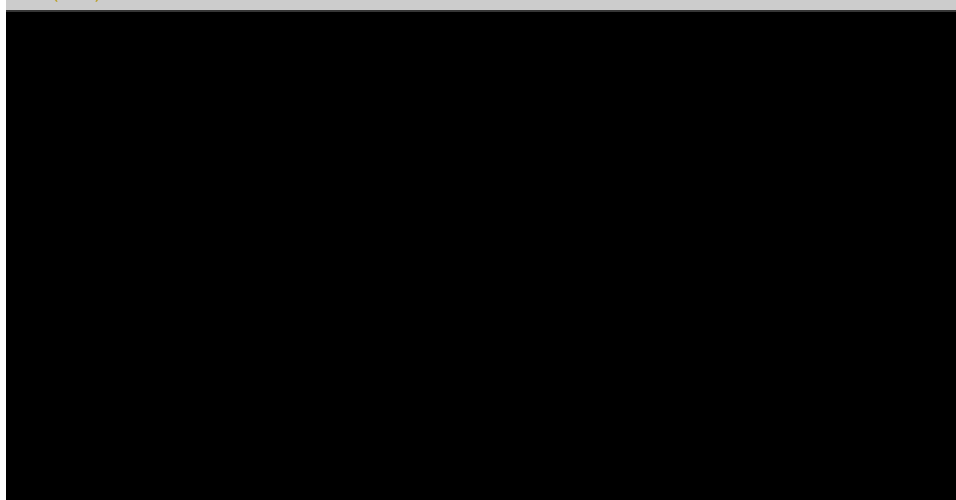
KOUTS | Expansion and new features characterized

the 7th annual Aukiki River Festival on the banks of the Kankakee River Saturday. [Read more](#)

development, which ultimately changed the landscape of the area, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“We are trying to tell the story of the history of some of our conservation practices and offer the opportunity to do some restoration,” Hodson said.

Ad : (0:16)



Advertisement (1 of 1): 0:15



Many groups, including the KVHS, have been working to restore the area surrounding the Kankakee River.

KVHS has started restoring the Collier Lodge and the Linden cabin, which are both located at the Collier Lodge Site. Hodson said he wants to bring more people to the southern portion of Porter County, and restoration of the area can help do just that.

“Hopefully it (the project) shows a brighter future that things can be done,” he said.

Admission for the festival is \$3, and children under 12 years old enter free. Anyone interested in participating in the restoration projects can contact Hodson at jophod@gmail.com or 219-766-2302.

Copyright 2015 nwitimes.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Tags [Local News](#), [Porter County](#), [Kouts](#), [Kankakee River](#), [Aukiki River Festival](#)

You May Like

Promoted Links by Taboola

1 Little Secret To Eliminate 15 Years Of Mortgage Payments

LowerMyBills

Valpo man cleared of sexual misconduct with minor charge

Warren Buffett Just Gave Americans a Big Warning

The Motley Fool