

**For Immediate Release**

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## **I&M Canal Day a GREAT Success!**

**LaSalle, Illinois** - The first I&M Canal Day was held in Springfield on Tuesday, February 21, 2012. The day was a huge success! Nearly one hundred people and twenty-six organizations participated in this first annual Canal Day at the Capitol. I&M Canal Day is an opportunity for elected officials and state agencies to meet their constituents who are involved in the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor and the I&M Canal state trail. "I&M Canal Day is a recognition of the 40 plus years of volunteerism within the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. We plan to make this an annual event to communicate that dedication to our state officials in Springfield," commented Ana Koval, president of the Canal Corridor Association.

Jan Kostner, Director of the Office of Tourism and Representative Frank Mautino addressed the group during the formal program in the rotunda of the state capitol. Organizations from throughout the national heritage corridor had display tables in the North and South hallways of the capitol building to promote awareness of the rich diversity of private and public sponsored educational and recreational activities within the Corridor. A list of participating organizations is listed below. I&M Canal Day also included a visit to the Old State Capitol and a special Civil War living history presentation entitled; "Meet a Boy in Blue."

1. Better Fishing Association of Northern Illinois
2. Cal-Sag Trail
3. Canal Corridor Association
4. Canallers
5. Carbon Hill Historical Society
6. Flagg Creek Heritage Society
7. Forest Preserve District of Cook County
8. Forest Preserve District of Will County
9. Heritage Corridor CVB
10. Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs
11. Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway
12. LaSalle Canal Boat
13. LaSalle County Historical Society
14. Lemont Area Historical Society
15. Main Street Lockport
16. Midewin Heritage Association
17. Ottawa Visitors Center
18. Reddick Mansion Association
19. Starved Rock Foundation
20. Seneca Historical Guild
21. Starved Rock Cycling Association
22. University of St. Francis
23. Village of Homer Glen
24. Village of Lemont
25. Village of Lockport
26. Will County Historical Society

The Canal Corridor Association has been designated by Congress as the local coordinating entity for the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, the nation's first national heritage corridor. [www.iandmcanal.org](http://www.iandmcanal.org) The Canal Corridor Association, a 501(c)3 non profit, preserves history, protects nature and open space, and creates destinations where people can learn and have fun in the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor from Chicago to LaSalle/Peru. [www.canalcor.org](http://www.canalcor.org)

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