

FPRF builds things. The structures at **McNeil's Damascus Landing** were designed and built by volunteers. The entrance sign, the kiosk, two overlook/fishing piers and the floating dock, plus several picnic tables and a flag pole, were built at the Damascus site. This was all built after the site was cleaned up and a plan created. The picnic tables with a roof were donated to the site as a memorial for Roger Schamberger's mother and were built by volunteers.

The launch site at **McConnell's Bobtown Landing** was a retired dump site that became County property. It was sold to Lena Community Park District and later was transferred to Stephenson County to be part of the FPRF's water trail. The site was cleared and prepared for construction of an entrance sign, lights, kiosk, two overlook/fishing piers and eight picnic tables and benches built and installed.

At **Atten's Landing** we have built and installed two overlook/fishing piers, installed six picnic tables, three grills and burn rings and two lights. Plans are in the works for a kiosk and entrance sign. If FPRF doesn't get a BAAD grant, we will likely construct a canoe/kayak launch and finish off the walking path that is planned. The mowing plan will include provisions for primitive camping. We plan and we build.

Having many volunteers is necessary, if building is your goal. Last year we tried another tactic. We hired people to remove the logjam between Tutty's Crossing and the **former VFW** site, now **Poco and Lalo's Bistro**. They did a wonderful job. The material was removed! With a shortage of volunteers, this will likely be the best way to accomplish future large projects. Kiosks and entrance signs are still good Eagle Scout projects.

This journey has been supported by several businesses and we are deeply grateful to them. Fisher Construction and FNH Ready Mix, made the **Wes Block** Launch site possible. Without their help, it would not be the show piece it is.

Comments are always welcome. Interesting bits of Stephenson County history are always welcome and will be shared. Members are always added to the mail list for this newsletter. Anyone that asks to receive a copy will be added to the list and that list will not be shared with commercial interests. I added the newsletter and it is not part of the President's duties. I will continue the newsletter as long as there is an interest.

Joe