



## Wendella Introduces the Chicago River Bridges Tour

*Featuring Patrick McBriarty, author of the book Chicago River Bridges*

*and co-producer of the documentary Chicago Drawbridges*



[Wendella](#) and noted author Patrick McBriarty explore and celebrate Chicago's diverse and world renowned Bridges with a 2-hour cruise starting this June. Used by tens of thousands of people every day, these engineering and architectural marvels are often overlooked and under appreciated. Long noted as the birth

of the skyscraper, Chicago is also the birthplace of many modern drawbridge designs and home to more moveable bridges than anywhere in North America; second only to Amsterdam in the world.

Experience Chicago's bridges from the first wood footbridge, built by a tavern owner in 1832, to the iconic steel and concrete structures of today. McBriarty guides patrons through the history of the bridges and the architecture and engineering of these mechanical marvels. In addition, Dr. Phyllis Kozlowski, Wendella's Director of Tour Guides, will also be on hand to offer insights to the city itself and how it became the architectural mecca it is today.

The cruise is inspired by the history and photographic guidebook *Chicago River Bridges* by Patrick McBriarty, published by the University of Illinois Press (October 2013). Purchase tickets from [Wendella online](#) or call (312) 337-1446. Scheduled tour dates for 2014 are as follows:

**Wednesday, June 25 at 5:45 pm – 7:45 pm**


**Sunday, July 20 at 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Thursday, August 28 at 5:45 pm – 7:45 pm**

**Sunday, September 14 at 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Saturday, October 19 at 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

This tour is expected to sell out so get your tickets today, and learn more about Chicago's fantastic bridges.



# Printers Row Lit Fest

**June 7-8, 2014**

Join us this summer to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Printers Row Lit Fest.

If you have not picked up [Chicago River Bridges](#) by Patrick McBriarty this book, and thousands of other titles, will be available for sale at the Midwest's largest literature festival. Enjoy a weekend strolling Printers Row for books and media, meet local and nationally renowned authors, and enjoy the music and discussion this weekend! Author Patrick McBriarty will be at the University of Illinois Press Booth from **11:00 am - Noon on Saturday** and his book *Chicago River Bridges* will be available for sale there throughout the weekend. From **3:30 – 4:15 pm on Saturday** at the Jones College Prep - Classroom 5034, Patrick will appear with President of the Chicago History Museum Gary Johnson for a conversation about his book *Chicago River Bridges*. From **4:30 – 6:00 pm on Saturday** Patrick McBriarty will be at the Society of Midland Authors' **Tent Space S-1** (on Dearborn Street halfway between Harrison Street and Polk Street) to sign and sell copies of *Chicago River Bridges* and the DVD [Chicago Drawbridges](#).

## Patrick McBriarty will be on WGN Radio with Rick Kogan

Patrick McBriarty will be interviewed on WGN 720 - Radio **Sunday, June 29 between 9-11 pm** on [After Hours with Rick Kogan](#). Chicago columnist, author, and radio personality Rick Kogan hosts his radio show every Sunday evening from



9-11pm on WGN 720 AM. Tune in to Rick every Sunday to hear interviews with a variety of experts, writers, and artists, and on Sunday, June 29th he will speak with author Patrick McBriarty. Don't miss it!

## Upcoming Release of *Drawbridges Open and Close*

A new children's picture book with an expected publication date of November 2014, *Drawbridges Open and Close* follows the main character, Bridge Tender Todd and his sidekick Ponticat as they operate the Narrows Drawbridge, which connects the bustling town of friendly animal characters going about their day. As Bridge Tender Todd operates the drawbridge, Johanna Kim's playful drawings illustrate the inner workings of the controls, gears, locks, and step-by-step procedures. Will the impatient Terry Turtle in his race car ever get across the bridge? Safety is the first priority as Bridge Tender Todd and Ponticat check, and double-check, each step keeping everyone safe while operating this piece of heavy equipment. Hardback, full-color, 42-pages, it is recommended for children 3-years old and up.

Signed first-run editions are available for sale on the author website: [www.PTMWerks.com](http://www.PTMWerks.com). These pre-release orders are expected to ship in August 2014.

This is the first book in the PTM Werks Series, which is designed to explain how machines all around us work, and to answer the "why" questions kids ask, most adults struggle to answer. This series introduces science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics to kids of all ages in a fun and playful manner; published by [CurlyQ Press](#) and distributed by [Applewood Books](#) out of Boston. Look for a second book in the PTM Werks Series -- *Airplanes Take off and Land* in early 2015.

## As if that weren't enough....

Patrick continues to research and create additional works, including a series of articles on the Chicago Architecture Blog and Forgotten Chicago.com websites (listed below), shot, edited, and produced several short videos for YouTube giving a brief virtual tour of a specific Chicago bridges, plus a brief interview for a news segment and a book review.

### YouTube

[Chicago Drawbridge soon to be demolished at East Division Street](#)

[West Division Street Bridge in Chicago](#)

[Chicago's Rall Bascule Bridge](#)

### Chicago Architecture Blog

[Is Chicago About to Lose Its Title of The Drawbridge Capital of the World? - May 19, 2014](#)

[For Bridge Lovers, Chicago is the Greatest Show on Earth](#) - March 31, 2014

[A Chicago Favorite Remains Open For All To See](#) - February 4, 2014

[How the Michigan Avenue Bridge Made Chicago What it is Today](#) - January 15, 2014

#### **Forgotten Chicago.com**

[The 12th Street Bridge That Never Was](#)

[Railroads and Chicago Swing Bridges](#)

#### **Press**

[ABC 7 - Chicago interview on the Michigan Avenue Bridge's 94th Birthday](#)

[Chicago Book Review of \*Chicago River Bridges\*](#)

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