

Allegheny Chapter #1

of the

Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.

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index.html](http://www.orgsites.com/pa/alleghenychapter/index.html)

Editor

Amanda Valko
116 E. Englewood Avenue
New Castle, PA 16105
724-654-2744 (H)
amanda@quemahoning.com

Officers 2015 - 2017

President: Brian Fritz
Vice President Bill Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Valko

Meeting Information

First Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.,
February through June and September through
November. Holiday Dinner is in December at
an alternate location.

February 2017 – There will be an open
discussion of the politics of archaeology in the
age of Trump led by Brian Fritz, President,
Allegheny Chapter.

March 2017 – To be announced

April 2017 – To be announced

May 2017 – To be announced

*Meetings are held at Michael Baker
International, 100 Airside Drive, Moon
Township, PA in the first floor presentation
room. Parking is free. Building is locked so
please buzz the security guard to get in and
sign in at the reception desk.*

President's Letter

Since the election of Donald Trump as our 45th President of the United States, there has been much worry and discussion within the archaeological community about the future of archaeology and historic preservation in general. Only days after the election, attorneys working on the behalf of the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) announce a webinar titled "The CRM Industry in the Age of Trump." Registration to attend the webinar quickly exceeded the capacity of ACRA's internet server, so the presentation was recorded and provided freely online as a video. The video is still available, but much has happened since the video was posted in November. <https://vimeo.com/193381138>

The perspective given by ACRA attorney Marion Werkheiser was chilling. ACRA anticipates an attack on existing historic preservation law by the Trump administration and the Republican controlled congress. The slate of cabinet secretaries nominated by President Trump has not lessened these fears. Trump declared that 75% of all federal regulations and red tape will be slashed. This assertion seems impossible, but if brought to fruition, the limited archaeological protections that we have today will most certainly cease to exist.

On January 23, the Society for American Archaeology issued a call to action for its members. "You may have heard that in the coming weeks the Trump administration plans to submit a budget to Congress that defunds the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). These federal agencies, especially NEH, help support the protection of the archaeological record by funding our members' research and field work." -- Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, President, Society for American Archaeology

If cultural icons such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities can be brought to ruins than the threat to archaeology is more dire than any of us could have imagined.

If you are concerned about the future of archaeology, please attend the Allegheny Chapter's February meeting. We will have an open discussion on the Politics of Archaeology in the Age of Trump.

-- Brian L. Fritz

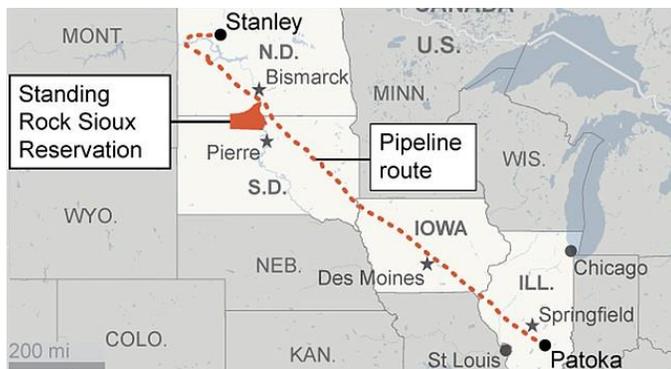
*******2017 DUES*******

Hello all! Your 2017 membership dues are now due and payable. You can pay your dues at a chapter meeting or by sending a check via snail mail. Dues amounts have not changed. Please contact Amanda at amanda@quemahoning.com if you have any questions. Form on last page.

SPA weighs in on Dakota Access Pipeline Controversy

by Brian L. Fritz

The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is a proposed underground pipeline that will transport crude oil 1,172 miles from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois. When completed, the pipeline would pass through parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois. The pipeline was controversial since it was announced to the public in 2014, but the controversy erupted into the international media when members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe actively protested the construction site near their North Dakota reservation and the pipeline's proposed crossing under the Missouri River at Lake Oahe. The lake serves as the municipal water source for eight communities in North and South Dakota. Clashes between protesters and police protecting the construction site has resulted in violence, injuries, and elevated tensions between the tribe and North Dakota authorities. The tribe claims that the pipeline construction has destroyed sacred sites and threatens the reservation's drinking water supply.



Ultimately, the Army Corp of Engineers, the federal agency with jurisdiction over construction permits, denied the final easement needed for completion of the pipeline under the Missouri River. The battle over completion of the pipeline is far from being over. DAPL owner, Energy Transfer Partners, is pursuing legal challenges to the decision and a new administration enters the White House in January.

As the DAPL controversy played out this fall, the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) reviewed the

archaeology surveys that were conducted for the pipeline and submitted a position letter to the Army Corp of Engineers. The letter outlined serious deficiencies in the archaeology surveys and rendered the opinion that consultation with Native American tribes was insufficient. The SAA is the largest non-profit archaeological organization in North and South America.

In October, the Ohio Valley Chapter #22 organized a panel discussion about the Dakota Access Pipeline Controversy. Chapter vice president, Dr. Aksel Casson introduced the topic with some of the background information that has led up to the protests, including issues of Native American land rights, sacred Native American sites, and the archaeology surveys that were conducted ahead of the pipeline construction. Chapter guest, Kinorea Tigri, a member of the Sioux nation, presented her explanation of sacred sites from the Native American perspective. Chapter members Brian Fritz and Amanda Valko provided information on how archaeology surveys for oil and gas pipelines are conducted in Pennsylvania and other states.

The panel discussion was well attended and lively. Many complex issues regarding Native American rights, archaeological protection, and environmental protection were discussed. At the end, the question arose, "is there anything the Ohio Valley Chapter could do about DAPL?" After further deliberation it was agreed that the DAPL issue would be brought to the November SPA board meeting, and that only the issues directly related to archaeology were appropriate for the SPA to address. Subsequently, the SPA board of directors approved a motion to compose a letter to the Army Corp of Engineers. The SPA letter concurs with the SAA's original position letter and reinforces the need for proper archaeological surveys across the entire pipeline corridor.

The Ohio Valley Chapter's DAPL panel discussion also led to a similar request and discussion within the Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) business meeting held in November. ESAF also issued a letter to the Army Corp of Engineers in support of the SAA position letter.

A copy of the SAA letter to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers dated September 13, 2016 can be accessed at the following link, http://www.saa.org/Portals/0/SAA/GovernmentAffairs/DAPL_LETTER.pdf

UPDATE: On December 4, 2016, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers denied an easement needed to complete the pipeline under the Missouri River at Lake Oahe and ordered an environmental impact study to explore alternative routes for crossing the Missouri River.

Pressure from the Obama administration is given credit or blame for the delay in construction.

One January 24, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order to advance construction of DAPL and to expedite the environmental review. Expectations are that pressure from the Trump administration will force Army Corp of Engineers to grant the easement without completing an environmental impact study. The Standing Rock Sioux are expected to file law suits to block the easement and renew their call for protests to block construction.



Frazier Sawmill Blacksmith Shop

It is time again to start planning the excavations at the Frazier Sawmill Blacksmith Shop site (36JE73) located in Clear Creek State Park. Excavations started in 2005 and have been ongoing since that time. We have uncovered two of the blacksmith shop walls, the location of the anvil and more recently the possible location of the entryway, defined by an area of brick in the southwest corner.



Participants at the Frazier Sawmill Blacksmith Shop Archaeological Site in 2016.

We have determined that a pile of rock rubble in the northwest corner is the location of the forge. This year we will be focusing on the units closest to the forge. We will have three dig weekends this year on June 3rd, July 8th and August 19th. Brian and I will go up the Friday before and set things up for the next day. Saturday is the public education part of the program. We dig from 9 – 12 and 1 – 4. On Sunday, we finish anything that wasn't completed on Saturday and backfill any open units. Our volunteers are all ages and we have a lot of fun giving people a chance to participate on an archaeological dig

Adventures in Archival Archaeology 55: Philadelphia Freedom and the 3D Printed Past

by Bernard K. Means

If you make your way to Philadelphia soon, you can see an archaeology exhibit associated with the writing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. These artifacts were recovered prior to the construction of the National Constitution Center and are incorporated into the new archaeology exhibit that opened in January 2017. Also part of this exhibit are 3D printed and 3D painted replicas made from 3D scans I made back in August 2016. You can read more about this exhibit here: https://news.vcu.edu/article/National_Constitution_Center_displays_artifact_replicas_that.



VCU students paint 3D printed replicas of artifacts from the National Constitution Center.

2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM

To become a member of Allegheny Chapter #1, SPA, complete this form and send it to Amanda Valko, Secretary, Allegheny Chapter #1. Thank you!

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PRESENT CHAPTER AFFILIATION (IF ANY) _____ STATE MEMBER? _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CHECK ONE):

<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE	\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE HUSBAND/WIFE	\$16.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING	\$ 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT	\$ 8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE INDIVIDUAL	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTIONAL	\$16.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ALLEGHENY CHAPTER NO. 1, SPA

RETURN TO: Amanda Valko
116 E. Englewood Avenue
New Castle, PA 16105
724/654-2744

Allegheny Chapter #1, SPA
Amanda Valko, Editor
116 E. Englewood Avenue
New Castle, PA 16105-2129