

# Calumet National Heritage Area Initiative



# Nature Reworked:

Honoring the Past,  
Interpreting  
for the Future



## 18th ANNUAL CALUMET HERITAGE CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 28, 2017  
8:30am–4:30pm

Lebanon Lutheran Church  
13100 S. Manistee Ave. Chicago, IL 60633

This year's conference celebrates the work of generations of people to protect and preserve the environment, including those from 20 years ago who aspired to establish a Calumet National Ecological Park. Their effort led to the creation of the Calumet Heritage Partnership and a growing region-wide movement to designate a Calumet National Heritage Area. In 2017, a major step in that direction was taken when the Partnership submitted its Feasibility Study to the National Park Service.

The struggle to sustain a natural and built environment that works on everyone's behalf in this nationally significant landscape is a key theme in the Feasibility Study. The "Nature Reworked" theme highlights the region's rich natural endowment, changed by human hand, but then protected and restored by people who fought for it at neighborhood, regional, and national levels. We honor this nationally significant past, celebrate the work still going forward, and interpret cultural and natural resources so that future generations can enjoy the region's abundant assets.

The conference provides a taste of the way in which local efforts matter, especially when they roll up into regional networks to tell a nationally significant story.

*See reverse side for Program Schedule.*

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Pictured above are examples of the ways in which the region's rich natural endowment has been changed by human hand and then protected, restored, and interpreted. From left to right: Hegewisch Marsh, a part of a regional collective effort to conserve threatened species like Monarch butterflies; the Calumet landscape of sand, water, and steel as seen from the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; the planned community of Marktown, one of the National Historic Landmarks in the region; Beaubien Celebration Day, an annual stewardship event to share national and cultural heritage and engage the next generation of conservation leaders. All image rights reserved.

### PROGRAM

**8:30 Registration, Meet and Greet, Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 Welcome**

Michael Longan, *President, Calumet Heritage Partnership*

**9:10 Rediscovering Heritage: Honoring the Past**

On the 20th anniversary of community meetings that led to a bi-state vision for a Calumet Ecological Park and ultimately to the current initiative for creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area, we invite Judith Lihota to revisit how our region rediscovered its heritage and started us on the path to where we are today.

Judith Lihota, *Calumet Ecological Park Association*

**9:25 Advocating for Heritage: Calumet's Diverse Neighborhoods**

For this panel, we invite community leaders to reflect on their past and current work to protect communities, preserve cultural heritage, and restore nature in the Calumet's diverse neighborhoods.

Cheryl Johnson, *People for Community Recovery*

Kimberly Unger-Rodriguez, *Save Marktown*

Jessica Renslow, *Miller Spotlight*

MODERATOR: Tiffany Tolbert, *Calumet Heritage Partnership*

**10:15 Break and Discussion**

**10:30 Shining a Light on Heritage: Museums, Galleries, and Local History Organizations in the Calumet Region**

This panel highlights local heritage organizations' efforts to interpret and preserve the region's stories. Presentations include an overview of the Museums, Galleries, and Local History Network, a newly formed Calumet Heritage Partnership group working to bring more visibility to local heritage sites, and discussion of how current and future programming can strengthen regional identity.

Madeleine Tudor, *The Field Museum*  
**Making Heritage Visible: Building Networks through Stories of Place**

Serena Sutliff, *Westchester Township History Museum*

**A Region at Odds: The Cycle of Destruction and Salvation in the Indiana Dunes**

Jason Berry, *Blue Island Historical Society*

**Collection Connections: Growing the Blue Island Brand**

**11:00 Keynote Address: Giving the Gifts of Interpretation in the Calumet**

Ted Cable, *Professor of Park Management and Conservation, Kansas State University*

**11:50 Lunch**

Served in the conference venue.

**1:00 Tour reVisiting Heritage: Interpreting for the Future**

Sherry Meyer, *Vice-President, Illinois, Calumet Heritage Partnership*

Ted Cable, *Kansas State University*

**4:30 Conference Concludes**

The Calumet Heritage Conference is a program of the

Calumet Heritage Partnership

The Calumet Heritage Partnership is a bi-state non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the unique heritage of the Calumet region. The Field Museum is a partner of the Calumet Heritage Partnership. Together, they lead the feasibility study to designate the region as a Calumet National Heritage Area.

The Field Museum

Calumet COLLABORATIVE

The Field Museum gratefully acknowledges the following partners for their support of programs in the Calumet region:

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