

# Calumet Heritage Area Feasibility Update – No. 2

March 2, 2015



Welcome to the second issue of the Heritage Area newsletter providing a periodic update on the status of the feasibility study for the creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area. As well as keeping you informed as to the progress of the feasibility study, this newsletter will help identify ways in which you can participate in the study process and keep you abreast of related activities in the Calumet region. For further information about both the Feasibility Study and the Calumet Heritage Partnership you can visit the CHP website [www.calumetheritage.org](http://www.calumetheritage.org).

## **Pullman National Monument provides Impetus for Calumet Heritage Area**

“Pullman will now belong not to all of Chicago, but to all of America,” President Barack Obama declared on Thursday, February 19, just before signing the executive order establishing the Pullman National Monument. America now has two national parks in the Calumet Region, one at Pullman and one at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. “The two parks now frame the great story of the nationally significant landscape between them,” said Field Museum researcher, Mark Bouman, President of the Calumet

Heritage Partnership. CHP’s efforts to “identify, protect and preserve the natural, cultural, and recreational heritage of the Calumet region are bolstered by the creation of the Pullman National Monument. As Mark noted, “a Calumet National Heritage Area offers a perfect opportunity to connect the National Park at Pullman in Illinois with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Indiana.”

CHP’s Calumet Heritage Area feasibility study is intended to address questions about the level of national significance for the entire Calumet region, key themes for interpretation and marketing, and management and

financial sustainability. More information can be found at [calumetheritage.org](http://calumetheritage.org).

### **Coming Up Next: Industrial Heritage Community Conversations**

An important component of the Feasibility Study for the proposed Calumet Heritage Area is a series of ongoing community conversations with citizens in the Calumet region. Previous conversations about the arts and local history have led to important insights and the strengthening of the argument as to the region's "national significance."

Two new Community Conversations have been scheduled relating to **Industrial Heritage in the Calumet Region**. These will focus on the rich and significant industrial heritage of the Calumet which served as an economic engine for America for over a century. Participants will be encouraged to share their reflections on the region's industries, from steel mills to railroads to food processing. The first Conversation will be held on **Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Porter County Public Library, 2665 Irving Street, Portage, Indiana, and the second on **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Vodak-East Side Branch of the Chicago Public Library, 3710 East 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, Illinois.

The facilitators of the Conversations, Madeleine Tudor and Mario Longoni of The Field Museum, are hoping to attract people who have worked or currently work in Calumet industry or who have been influenced by it. The Conversations are important steps in gathering evidence of the unique nature of the Calumet region, its contributions to industrial America, and the ways residents of the region would

like this heritage represented in a future Calumet National Heritage Area. People can attend either or both of the scheduled Conversations.

For more information, contact [mtudor@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:mtudor@fieldmuseum.org).

### **CHP Holds Its Annual Meeting**

Calumet Heritage Partnership's annual meeting was held on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the Hammond Public Library. Judging by the attendance, 22 CHP members, and the lively informal and formal discussions, it is safe to say that there is growing interest in CHP's work to create a Calumet National Heritage Area.

Some formal business is conducted at all annual meetings and this one was no exception. Two bylaw changes were approved: one increasing the maximum size of the board to 15 members, the other creating two vice-president post, one for an Indiana VP, the other an Illinois VP. Both were done in an attempt to increase the reach of the board and to make it more inclusive.

Two new Board members were elected as part of the board slate. They are John M. Cain, Executive Director of South Shore Arts, and Heath Carter, Assistant Professor of History at Valparaiso University. Officers elected included: Mark Bouman, president; Sherry Meyer, vice president (Illinois); Mike Longan, vice president, (Indiana); Mary Poulsen, secretary; and David Klein, treasurer.

The president's report focuses on the "state of CHP" and discussion during and after the report. The first part of Mark's report covered the history, current activities, and future of the Heritage Area campaign, while the second focused on the important work that has been done to

preserve and archive the Acme Steel documents and artifacts as part of the Calumet Industrial Heritage Collection. The archiving effort, often seemingly

done “under the radar,” is of national significance, as some of the records preserved are the only of their kind known to be in existence.



### **Keeping You Updated About the Feasibility Study**

Progress is being made, albeit slowly, towards the goal of completing the Calumet Heritage Area Feasibility Study by the end of this or the beginning of next year. On Monday January 26<sup>th</sup>, members of the Feasibility “working group” along with several CHP board members, met with heritage area consultants Augie Carlino and Nancy Morgan to develop a timeline for completing the study and identify key tasks that need to be done. Key benchmark dates identified included the creation of several task forces that would begin working in late spring and having completed reports by late summer leading to a draft study to be ready for presentation and review at or around the date of CHP’s fall meeting in late October.

As reported above a second activity, the annual meeting of the Calumet Heritage Partnership, followed on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

CHP is now a formal member of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas <http://www.nationalheritageareas.us/>. Mark Bouman and Mario Longoni of The Field Museum attended the Alliance’s annual meeting in Washington the week of February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Attendance at this meeting is a major step in building support for the Heritage Area. In addition to attending Alliance meeting sessions, Mark and Mario paid a number of information visits to the Congressional staffs of Senators Coats, Donnelly, Durbin and Kirk and Representatives Visclosky, Kelly, Quigley and Davis. They also had conversations with Park Service staff, including Jon Jarvis, the Director of the Park Service, Patty Trapp, Interim Midwest Regional Director, and Martha Raymond, Coordinator of the National Heritage Area program. Each was very encouraging and it is clear that our effort is very much on their radar now.

## **A Reminder: What is a National Heritage Area and a Feasibility Study?**

A National Heritage Area is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape. National Heritage Areas are locally inspired, led, and managed efforts to bring national attention to an area. They are not National Parks and the Park Service does not own land or impose land use controls within them. But they can coordinate with existing parks.

The first step in creating a National Heritage Area is usually the preparation of a National Park Service Feasibility Study, which catalogs the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational assets of the region, outlines the process by which the NHA will be managed, and demonstrates local participation in the development the study. The Feasibility Study is used to support legislation introduced to Congress. If approved, Congress designates the Heritage Area for 15 years and allocates some funding, and a management plan is drafted by the Heritage Area.

## **Coming Events**

**Calumet Revisited:** The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative and Calumet College of St. Joseph's History Program are jointly sponsoring monthly forums of the Calumet region's past, present and future. The next forum will be held on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Room 265 of the Calumet College of St. Joseph, 2400 New York Avenue, Whiting. Rev. Mike

Pennanen and Marylou Crowley will be guest speakers and the topic is the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Hammond, a congregation founded in 1891. Future forums will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> (Dr. Ken Schoon) and May 5<sup>th</sup> (Angela Goodson Petyko).

**CHP Board Meeting:** The next board meeting of the Calumet Heritage Partnership will be held in late March, exact date TBD. While this is a formal board meeting, all CHP members are welcome to attend. Please note that the location of board meetings alternate between sites in Indiana and Illinois. Locations will be announced in advance of the meetings.

**Calumet Summit:** It is not too early to enter the date of the Calumet Summit into your calendars. This year's Summit will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of May at the South Shore Cultural Center in Chicago. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Calumet Summit and will cover a wide range of topics related to the Calumet region. A significant portion of the Summit will focus on the Calumet Heritage Area effort.

## **How Can You Get Involved with the Feasibility Study?**

If you are not already a CHP member, you can become one. Information on membership and on many aspects of the work of CHP and other groups in the Calumet region can be found by visiting the CHP website [calumetheritage.org](http://calumetheritage.org) . Subsequent "updates" will inform you about meetings, hearings, and other events that will occur during the 18 month feasibility study process.