

# Allegheny Chapter #1

of the

## Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.

June 2018

Vol. 17 No. 5

Published monthly by Allegheny Chapter #1,  
Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology.

Visit our web site at  
[http://www.orgsites.com/pa/alleghenychapter/  
index.html](http://www.orgsites.com/pa/alleghenychapter/index.html)

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### 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.

**June 2018** – Jonathan Libbon, M.A., RPA, Principal Investigator, SWCA will present the program *From the Hills of Appalachia to the Shores of Lake Erie: Landscape Archaeology in Northern Ohio.*

**July 2018** – No meeting.

**August 2018** – No meeting.

**September 2018** - 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

### Archaeology X

In the April newsletter, I talked about Paleoindian sites within Pennsylvania and the paucity of stratified Paleoindian sites. Only three such sites have been archaeologically excavated in Pennsylvania. Most famous is the Meadowcroft Rockshelter (36WH297), located along Cross Creek in Washington County. The Shawnee-Minisink site (36MR43) found along the Delaware River in northeastern Pennsylvania has also been well publicized. Less well known, is the Wallis Site (36PE16) located along the west bank of the Susquehanna River in Perry County. Retired Carnegie Museum archaeologist Stan Lantz once said that the best Paleo sites were probably “deeply buried and hard to find.” Archaeology in deep soils is labor intensive and expensive.

In the May newsletter, I described a project in which I am attempting to build a hydraulically powered auger that is designed to archaeologically sample deep river deposits. The first prototype of the Paleo Digger machine will include a vertical drill mast from which the hydraulic drive will slide up and down with precision. The auger bucket will be 50 cm in diameter. The target drill depth is three meters. The machine would be used systematically dig holes at regular intervals as the initial step in finding deeply buried archaeological sites. It is my belief that this system has the potential to greatly improve the quality of archaeological surveys while reducing the labor cost of testing deep river deposits. Deep river deposits have the best potential for containing stratified archaeological deposits.

Finding deeply buried Paleoindian sites is a hard problem. My ultimate goal is to use the Paleo Digger machine to find those seemingly rare stratified sites. Hard problems such as this one are

best executed within a public forum where diverse ideas can be exchanged and tested. I am launching ArchaeologyX as the online space for this public forum. ArchaeologyX is in the spirit of GoogleX, SpaceX, and the Xprize. In mathematics X is the unknown quantity, the hard problem to solve. You could say that this is my first Americans “moon shot” project. My vision for ArchaeologyX is to develop an online space for project updates, a forum for comments and ideas, and videos about archaeology in Pennsylvania. Building the website and developing content will take some time. I have much to learn about web sites, social media, and video production. Input from chapter members on how best to achieve this goal would be welcomed and appreciated.

--Brian L. Fritz

## **From the Hills of Appalachia to the Shores of Lake Erie: Landscape Archaeology in Northern Ohio**

Northern Ohio is the intersection of several physiographic zones and drainage sub basins. Where the eastern edge of the dissected Allegheny plateau meets the broad till and Lake Plains of western Ohio, the difference in the landscape is apparent. Between 2015 and 2017 a large survey effort investigated almost 10,000 acres, and recorded close to 500 archaeological resources across northern Ohio. This wide-ranging presentation will discuss landscape archaeology, the results of the large survey, and the contribution the data generated from the project has had on regional research questions. The goal of the presentation is to highlight the science being conducted behind the large amount of development within the region and provide a detailed look at the prehistoric landscape of northern Ohio.

## **Archaeology Channel Tour of Iran**

By Richard Pettigrew

We will repeat The Archaeology Channel Tour of Iran during the period October 19 to November 4, 2018. Six people already have signed up. We

require a minimum of ten people and have a maximum of 25. We are doing everything possible to recruit a full complement of 25. Would you consider joining us for this rare chance to see unspoiled and spectacular sites representing ancient and medieval Persia, nestled in the cradle of civilization?

This is our second Tour of Iran—our first was in October and November 2017. For me, as the tour leader, it will be my fourth visit to that country, whose kind and welcoming people have cultivated a warm place in my heart. Our tour group in 2017 began their visit with some apprehensions, owing to the constantly negative media coverage and pervasive stereotypes about Iran, but very quickly and unanimously relaxed and enjoyed each day of what became a transformative experience. We made a short video about that trip, which you can see at <https://youtu.be/NsXv6VX3Ww0>.

I urge you not to be dissuaded by the negative news coverage. Iran is one of the safest places you ever could visit and the people there welcome foreigners, especially Americans, with open arms. Our tour members will be good will ambassadors and our overture to people there will be warmly reciprocated.

Our online page about the tour is at <https://www.archaeologychannel.org/iran-tour/>, where we even have the registration form.

## **Eastern States Archaeological Federation 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

The 85<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation will be held November 1 - 4, 2018 at the Ramada Inn, 21000 NYS Rt 3, Watertown, NY 13601. Phone: (315) 788-0700 Fax: (315) 785-9875 [www.ramadawatertown.com](http://www.ramadawatertown.com). Identify yourself as attending the conference for the discounted rate of \$75, plus tax, per room.

## 2018 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

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Allegheny Chapter #1, SPA  
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