

Alfred University Environmental Speakers Series topic: History of Oil in Allegany County

10/06/17

Kelly Lounsberry, the director of the Pioneer Oil Museum in Bolivar, NY, will describe “The History of Oil in Allegany County” at this week’s Environmental Studies Speakers Series, scheduled for 12:20 p.m. Friday in Room Lecture Hall, the Science Center at Alfred University.

His presentation will also kick off the 89th annual New York State Geological Association Field Conference, hosted by Alfred University.

Oil was first discovered in Allegany County by the Seneca Nation of Indians, and was first recorded in 1721 by French Jesuits who noted the presence of an “oil spring” in the Town of Cuba, according to “Beers History of Allegany County,” first published in 1879. When people began drilling for oil in the late 1800s and early 1900s, Bolivar and nearby Richburg were at the center of the boom.

The Environmental Studies Speakers Series is open to the public, free of charge. Light refreshments will be served.