

# ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the  
South Suburban Archaeological Society  
Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at  
The Irwin Center  
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

## Schedule of Events

2017

April 20                      ☞ Gregory Vogel, Ph.D.

### The Archaeology of Disaster



May 1                      Officers Meeting at the Palmer's

May 18                      ☞ Peggy Palmer

### Hidden Corners of Rome (tentative)

Deadline for material to be included in the next  
Arkyfacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.

For more information about SSAS, or if you have a special need  
because of a disability, call Will Kelley.



*Corporate sponsorship, making it possible...*



South Suburban Archaeological Society  
Corresponding Secretary

# ArkyFacts April 2017



April 20, 2017  
**The Archaeology of Disaster**  
By Gregory Vogel, Ph.D.



Fire, flood, famine, war, plague, earthquake: all major disasters leave signatures in the archaeological record. Illinois has seen its share of each. We are adapting today to the ongoing ramifications of events that have a history long beyond living memory, from the New Madrid quakes of 1811-1812 that changed the very course of the Mississippi River, to the great flood of 1993.

Archaeologist Gregory Vogel will invite audiences to explore the prehistory and history of these major disasters as they were recorded in the archaeological and geological records, and to try to grasp the lessons that they may hold for us.

Gregory Vogel is a broadly trained environmental scientist focusing on human/environmental interactions through archaeology. He received his BA from the University of Iowa, and his MA and PhD from the University of Arkansas. For 25 years he has worked throughout the North American Midwest and Southeast on numerous projects, and has taught at the University of Arkansas and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. He is the author of numerous publications including *A Handbook of Soil Description for Archaeologists*. Selected publications and other material are available at [www.ggvogel.com](http://www.ggvogel.com).

ILLINOIS HUMANITIES is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Illinois General Assembly (through Illinois Arts, a state agency), as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations.

## Business Meeting Notes

The next business meeting will be Monday, May 1, at 7:30.

NITEL donated funds to support the programming of SSAS. Thank you Milan Saric for facilitating this!

It is with sadness that I report yet another death. Longtime SSAS member, John Carr, recently passed away on March 20. He will be missed by two daughters, a son, and many friends.

## IAAA Annual Meeting



IAAA's annual meeting is April 22 and 23 at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Rd, Byron, IL. There is no registration, but to get a head count, email IAAA President Sara Pfannkuche ([sara.pfannkuche@gmail.com](mailto:sara.pfannkuche@gmail.com)) to let her know you will be attending. IAAA: <http://www.museum.state.il.us/iaaa/pubs.htm>.

## Bookmarks!

South Suburban Archaeological Society

<http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com/>

See also <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>

South Suburban Chapter Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>



SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort, and financial support, and through the valued sponsorship of our friends at: NITEL

## Unearthed

Back in 2007, the partial remains of a female were unearthed in a cavern in Mexico. It is believed that the girl tumbled into the pit more than 12,000 years ago. Examinations were conducted by James Chatters, archaeologist with Applied Paleoscience in Bothell, WA and principal investigator for Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History in Mexico City. Traci Watson writes about Chatters' presentation at a Society for American Archaeology meeting. Her article appeared online on 31 March 2017.

"The bones show that the girl, whom researchers nicknamed Naia, is likely to have travelled long distances on foot, but didn't carry much on her journeys. The skeleton also reveals that Naia experienced severe and repeated nutritional stress that scarred her bones and teeth, according to results presented on 30 March at the meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Vancouver, Canada.

Naia has already helped to illuminate the origins of the first Americans. In 2014, Chatters and his colleagues reported that her DNA confirms the idea that a single group of Asian emigrants gave rise to both the earliest American settlers and modern Native Americans.



For that work, divers examined Naia in the water-filled cavern in the of Yucatán Peninsula where she was discovered in 2007. But intruders subsequently tampered with her remains. To prevent further meddling, the bones were gently carried out of the cave in 2014 and 2016 — which also gave scientists easier access to the specimens.”

Read the full article on the *Nature* website:

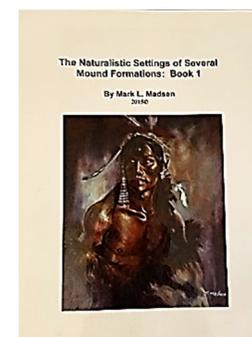
<http://www.nature.com/news/ancient-bones-reveal-girl-s-tough-life-in-early-americas-1.21753>

## SSAS Members only—Socials and Excursions



We are narrowing in on a June social event that will most likely involve *pizza*. It will be held on one of two Thursdays close to this year's summer solstice, so hold the evenings of **June 15 and 22** as we investigate options. There is no better combination than pizza, beer, and a long, summer night!

In addition to eating and socializing, a book will be raffled. Mark Madsen, who was our March speaker, donated his book, *Naturalistic Settings of Several Mound Formations*. It is a lovely book with a lot of pictures and data.



On **Saturday, July 15**, SSAS members will tour Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville. “The Isle a la Cache Museum offers visitors an adventure in 18th century history, when the ‘Illinois Country’ was home to French voyageurs and native Potawatomi. The Museum features interactive exhibits of the Great Lakes fur trade of the 1700s, in addition to a replica Native American longhouse.”

**Saturday, August 5** will have us visiting Aztalan, WI, northernmost outpost of Mississippian civilization, with Michael Ruggeri. You might recall Ruggeri's talk about the history and iconography of this site in November 2016. Aztalan was first settled around 900 and flourished during the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

***More information on these activities will be shared once they are finalized.***