

# ArkylFacts

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

2018

April 19    Tamira Brennan, Ph.D.  
              "Greater Cahokia Excavations at  
              East St. Louis"

April 30    Officers' Meeting

May 17     Michael M. Gregory, Ph.D.  
              "Myths, Frauds & Mysteries  
              of Archaeology"

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

**nitel**

*Sponsorship, making it possible ...*



South Suburban Archaeological Society  
Corresponding Secretary

# ArkyFacts

April 2018

April 19, 2018 6 7:30 PM

"Greater Cahokia Excavations at East St. Louis"  
by Tamira Brennan, Ph.D.



Approximately 1,000 years ago, the fertile Mississippi River floodplain adjacent to modern day St. Louis was home to the largest pre-Columbian civilization in eastern North America: CAHOKIA. This vibrant and multi-ethnic city was composed of several large and interconnected mound precincts, one of which was East St. Louis. Recent and extensive excavations by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS) were prompted by IDOT's role in the construction of a new Mississippi River bridge. Nearly five years of excavations resulted in the recovery of over 10 metric tons of artifacts from approximately 6,000 pre-Columbian pits, houses, and other features.

Dr. Brennan will discuss the analysis and interpretation of these spectacular finds and how they add great insight into what we know about the people who once lived in this ancient city. Why did this flourishing society decline and ultimately disappear, leaving a multitude of large earthen mounds and buried features as the only evidence of its long-ago existence?



Dr. Tamira Brennan is Curator of the Center for Archaeological Investigations at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where she manages their extensive archaeological collections and is an adjunct faculty member.



## SUMMER SOCIAL

Our annual SSAS Summer Social will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 21 at Flossmoor Station in downtown Flossmoor. We'll have great food, fun and games! Please join us! Additional details and reservation information coming soon.

Our Next Business Meeting..... will be on Monday, April 30 at 7:30 PM.

Bookmarks! Find us online.....

**Search: "South Suburban Archaeological Society on Weebly"**

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

**OR: <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

## MORE CAHOKIA !!

### CAHOKIA'S RELIGION: THE ART OF RED GODDESSES, BLACK DRINK, AND THE UNDERWORLD

University of Illinois – Champaign Urbana

Spurlock Museum, through May 20

600 S. Gregory Street, Urbana - **FREE admission**

In the fertile floodplain of the Mississippi River, 10,000 ó 20,000 people built and lived at Cahokia from 1050 to 1200 CE. Another 20,000 ó 30,000 people occupied the surrounding farmlands and smaller ceremonial precincts in the region. This great center of human activity, one of the first cities in North America, impacted people across the midwest and southeast.

The Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS) and the Spurlock Museum have collaborated on an exhibit that showcases objects from the ancient city of Cahokia (which was located near what is now Collinsville, Illinois) and nearby sites. These objects demonstrate the skills and perspectives of this civilization's artists, farmers, priests and leaders. Included in the exhibit are well-known artifacts such as the Birger Figurine (back page), a female figure made with flint clay, a soft rock found only in the Ozark Highlands near St. Louis. Some experts interpret the figurine as Earthmother, the mythological mother of all humans and vegetation. She is a symbol of the cycle of life, and is also known as Our Grandmother and Old-Woman-Who-Never-Dies.

## EVEN MORE CAHOKIA !!

### ANCIENT CAHOKIA FUTURE VISIONS

April 27 University of Illinois – Champaign Urbana

This conference celebrates 150 years of research at the University of Illinois by bringing together world-renowned scholars, advocates and dignitaries to discuss Cahokia.

<https://cahokiaconference.wixsite.com/cc2018>

*Birger Figurine, front and back views*



### INDIAN MARKET DAYS

April 27-29 Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

Collinsville, Illinois (618)346-5160

This event will feature Native American arts and crafts. Many tribes and types of media will be represented. [www.cahokiamounds.org](http://www.cahokiamounds.org)