

# 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

## AUGUST - 2019

Saturday, SSAS Members' Tour ~ 10:00 AM  
August 10 Chicago Portage National Historic Site

Tuesday, Officers' Meeting ~ 7:30 PM  
September 3 Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood

Thursday, Robert Morrissey, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM  
September 19 "Indigenous Illinois & Bison in the Tallgrass Prairie"

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

**nitel**

*Sponsorship, making it possible...*





# ArkyFacts

August 2019

Saturday, August 10 – 10:00 AM

## SSAS MEMBERS' TOUR OF CHICAGO PORTAGE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Please join us on this special tour for SSAS members and their guests! A small, unremarkable ditch on the west side of Harlem Avenue, just north of the Stevenson Expressway (enter at Portage Woods Forest Preserve), is protected by National Historic Site status. The short and shallow ditch is the reason a great city grew near it, and is a key link in Chicago's largely unknown birth story. Chicago owes its very existence to the location of the Chicago Portage. The site and several forest preserves mark the presence of Native American villages and early European settlement, including the remains of inns for travelers. The first European explorers, Jolliet and Marquette, passed through the Portage in 1673. It provided an easy connection between the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico by linking Lake Michigan with the Mississippi River.

One of only two National Historic Sites in Illinois, the Chicago Portage area is the only place where you can stand on the same ground walked upon by Native Americans, and all the explorers, early settlers and creators of Chicago! It is located on the west side of Harlem Avenue (4800 S. Harlem), just 2 blocks north of the Stevenson Expressway (I-55) (*see map on insert page.*) If traveling north on Harlem, turn left (west) into the main parking lot of Portage Woods. (Any visitor overflow will be directed to Ottawa Trail Woods on the north side of 47<sup>th</sup> Street.) **Gather by 10:00 AM at the Marquette & Jolliet sculpture**, where our tour will begin. (Note: A "porto" restroom facility is available.)

The tour will last approximately 1½ hours, with pauses along the way, and is about ½ mile in length on a gravel path through the woods. We will also explore some sites "off the path," so please wear long pants and walking shoes or boots. You may also want to bring insect repellent, sunscreen and bottled water.

***The fee for this excursion is \$10.00 per person (at the site). Please contact Will Kelley to get on the tour roster, if you have questions.***

Our Next Business Meeting..... will be on Tuesday, September 3 - 7:30 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, 18219 Dixie Hwy., Homewood.

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 THINGS TO DO AND SEE THIS SUMMER.....

\*There are many wonderful Chicago tours offered through **THE CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM**. To view a calendar of upcoming tours, visit [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org) / MENU / Programs & Events / Calendar.

\*Guided tours are a perfect way to dig a little deeper during any visit to **THE FIELD MUSEUM**. Volunteer docents lead these tours, which are free with museum admission. To view a calendar of upcoming daily in-house tours, visit [www.fieldmuseum.org](http://www.fieldmuseum.org) / MENU / Daily Events / Public Tours.

**\*THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE - On Monday, August 12,** Professor Jodi Magness, President of the Archaeological Institute of America (UNC/Chapel Hill), will present “Masada: Last Stronghold of the Jewish Revolt Against Rome.” This program will survey Herod’s palaces on Masada, explore archaeological remains associated with the Roman siege of the mountain in 73-74 CE (which were excavated by Magness in 1995), and include a discussion of Josephus’ account of the mass Jewish suicide.

After the program, Professor Magness will sign copies of her book, ***Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth.***

Monday, August 12

12:00-1:00 PM\*\*

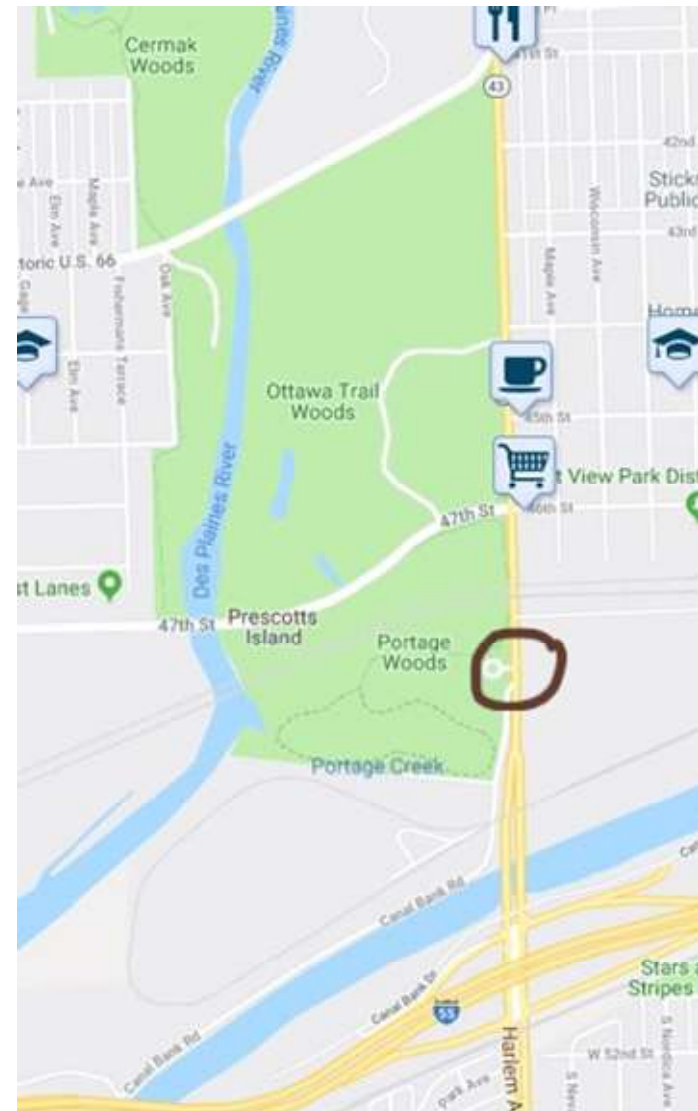
Oriental Institute – Breasted Hall

1155 E. 58<sup>th</sup> St., Chicago

(773)702-9520

\*\*Prior to the program, you can opt to join a short tour of the Meggido Gallery at 11:30 AM.

*This program is free and registration is not required.*



**ENTRY AREA TO CHICAGO PORTAGE NAT'L. HIST. SITE**  
(Portage Woods, off of Harlem Avenue, just north of I-55)



THERE IS STILL TIME THIS SUMMER TO  
VOLUNTEER AT MIDEWIN NATIONAL  
TALLGRASS PRAIRIE .....

**THE MIDEWIN VOLUNTEER ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT  
EXCAVATIONS**, now through August 9, 2019, still have a few  
open spots available!!!

*Midewin's month-long excavation project is well underway. Many  
thanks to all who have helped so far!*

*We still have a few open spots available now through August 9.  
You are welcome to sign up for any that fit your schedule. Please  
give the Volgistics calendar (<https://www.volgistics.com>) a second  
look to see if any of the open spots work for you. This is a cool and  
unique opportunity to be a part of!*

*Thank you.*

*Kathryn Gorman  
Midewin Volunteer Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy  
Forest Service Contractor*

**Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie  
30239 S. State Route 53  
Wilmington, IL 60481  
(815)423-2148**