

ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the
SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at
The Marie Irwin Community Center
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

JANUARY - 2020

Thursday, Katherine Kanne, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM
January 16 "Excavating Equestrians: Horse Domestication
& the Earliest Horseback Riding"

Monday, Officers' Meeting ~ 7:30 PM
February 3 Host: Will Kelley
Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood

Thursday, Jane Baxter, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM
February 20 "The Above-Ground Archaeology of
Chicago's Historic Cemeteries"

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

For more information about South Suburban Archaeological Society, or if you have a special need because of a disability, contact SSAS President Will Kelley.

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Thursday, January 16 – 7:30 PM

EXCAVATING EQUESTRIANS: HORSE DOMESTICATION & THE EARLIEST HORSEBACK RIDING by Katherine Kanne, Ph.D.



Horses have had a singular impact on human history. The domestication of the horse and origins of horseback riding have been the subject of heated debate among archaeologists. Recent archaeological and DNA research have begun to clarify these momentous events in human history, with some surprising results.

Dr. Kanne will present the most up-to-date information regarding horse domestication and early riding. You will learn how archaeologists know when and where horses were domesticated, and how you can tell if people were riding them. Using her research on the people and horses of the Hungarian Bronze Age, you will see how a combination of cutting-edge scientific methods is upending old stories of the earliest riders and their societies.

Dr. Katherine Kanne is an Instructor and Research Affiliate at Northwestern University. A former professional equestrian, her work marries a practical life with horses with the archaeology of human-horse relationships. Her current research explores the westward spread of equestrianism through Europe during the second millennium BC.

The Chicago History Museum (1601 N. Clark St.).....will present an Urban History Seminar on Thursday, January 23. *“Southern Exposure: The Overlooked Architecture of Chicago’s South Side”* will be presented by Lee Bey of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Tickets are \$25 each and include dinner and parking. Cash bar opens at 5:45 PM. Reservations are required. For further information, call (312)642-4600 or visit <https://www.chicagohistory.org>

Our Next Business Meeting..... will be on Monday, February 3 - 7:30 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, 18219 Dixie Hwy., Homewood. Our host will be Will Kelley.

PLEASE REMEMBER.....If you have not already done so, please remember to submit your 2020 Membership Application. Thank you!

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.

IN THE NEWS: PRE-COLUMBIAN LEAD POLLUTION

Mississippians' use of galena caused elevated levels of lead in their environment.

A recent analysis of sediment cores indicates that the Mississippian people who occupied Kincaid Mounds were exposed to lead pollution due to the use of galena. The sediment cores were taken from Avery Lake, which is adjacent to Kincaid Mounds in southern Illinois. Research conducted by Broxton Bird and Jeremy Wilson of Indiana University/Purdue University-Indianapolis, shows a major spike in lead deposits during the Mississippian period.

Galena is a sparkly metallic mineral that is abundant in the Midwest and is known to have been ground up and used by native peoples for decorating objects and buildings, and for personal adornment. Researchers think that wind and rain must have blown and washed the lead dust into the lake during its processing and use.

During the Mississippian period, a vast trade network developed that radiated out from Cahokia. Galena was part of this network. Sourcing analysis of Avery Lake sediment cores indicates that the lead came primarily from southeastern and central Missouri, and the upper Mississippi Valley. 1.5 metric tons of galena may have been brought into Kincaid Mounds on an annual basis. "That amount is almost 25% of what was deposited over the last two hundred years from coal, leaded gas combustion, and ore smelting."

The lake's sediment cores show three pollution spikes in the past. The first occurred from about 300 B.C.-A.D. 300, and was likely due to fires that were set for clearing the landscape, cooking and heat. The second spike took place during the Mississippian period from galena processing and use. The third spike, which began in A.D. 1800, is a result of industrialization.

Excerpted from American Archaeology, Winter 2019-20

IN THE NEWS: OLDEST KNOWN SEAWALL DISCOVERED

Life on the coast is full of rewards. Shore-dwellers can exploit the resources of both land and sea. They can harvest timber, as well as seaweed. They can grow grains and gather shellfish. They can travel over the ground and over the waves. They also get great views!

But all those benefits come with great risks (including rising water and pounding waves), and humanity's battle with increasing sea levels dates back thousands of years. Off the shores of northern Israel, at the site of Tel Hreiz, archaeologists have found a 7,000-year-old wall that stretches more than 330 feet long. Researchers have interpreted the structure as a seawall for a Stone Age village, making it the oldest such coastal defense structure that's ever been identified.

When the town was built about 7,000 years ago, it was likely about 7-10 feet above sea level. The first occupants may not have known that they were settling in a rapidly changing landscape. When the last Ice Age ended, melting glaciers around the world caused sea levels to rise. And during the Neolithic era, water in the Mediterranean crept up about 27 inches over 100 years, faster than global sea levels are rising today. This alone may not have inundated the town, but the rising water likely caused winter storm surges to damage the town with greater and greater frequency.

The inhabitants of the town invested a lot of time and energy into making this structure and maintaining it. The seawall may have helped for a while, but it ultimately failed, and the village was eventually abandoned.

For the complete article, visit <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/>