

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

JULY - 2020

Monday, July 6	Officers' Meeting ~ 7:30 PM Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood
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Saturday, July 18	10:00 AM - Day Trip to Historic Burial Grounds of Central Illinois
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Monday, August 3	Officers' Meeting ~ 7:30 PM Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood
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Deadline for material to be included in the next
ArkyFacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.

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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Saturday, July 18 – SSAS Members' Excursion

Let's get out and about for a day trip! SSAS invites all members and their guests to join us on **Saturday, July 18** for an OPEN AIR adventure, as Holly Labisky of the IAAA takes us on a tour of significant central Illinois cemeteries.

We will **gather between 9:30 and 10:00 AM** at the Walmart Supercenter in Lincoln, Illinois (825 Malerich Drive), just east of Exit 126 on I-55. (This will give everyone a chance to make a "pit stop" if needed.) At 10:00 AM, we will hop on I-55 for a short drive south to Elkhart, Illinois (Exit 115 on I-55) and the Latham-Thompson Cemetery just east of town. After a brief look at the Latham Cemetery, we will travel south to the Elkhart Cemetery on Chapel Road. This is a significant cemetery on the historic Edwards Trace, which ran between Cahokia and Peoria, and was important in the early settlement of Illinois by Euro-Americans. Ms. Labisky will provide both a tour and activities for self-guided exploration.

Between 11:30 and 12:00, we will break for lunch at the Wild Hare Café in Elkhart (intersection of S.Latham Street & Gov. Oglesby Street). **Lunch will be provided for all current members of SSAS who have confirmed their participation by Wednesday, July 15.** After lunch we will head north to the Old Bethel Church and Cemetery, on County Highway 20, just three miles east of Emden, Illinois. This tour also includes an activity, and could last between 30 to 45 minutes. Time permitting, we may also take in another cemetery on the Edwards Trace, just eight miles northeast of Bethel Church - the old cemetery in Armington, Illinois.

Our excursion should conclude by 3:30-4:00 PM, at the latest. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. The pandemic hasn't ended, but the tour is outdoors and we'll be practicing physical distancing, so face masks are optional in the outdoor settings.

To confirm your attendance and reserve your lunch, contact Will Kelley. This tour will be free for members of the SSAS who are current on their dues. There are many menu choices available at the Wild Hare Café <http://www.wildharecafe-elk-il.com/> Mr. Kelley will work out details with the attendees. We hope to see you there!

In Memoriam.....We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of longtime SSAS member Carole Yoshida, who very recently passed away. Carole was a Board Member, lecturer, and devoted and generous friend to the society for many years. She will be profoundly missed.

Business Meetings.....Our next meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, July 6. Our August meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3. Both meetings are at 7:30 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, 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

IN THE NEWS.....Oldest and Largest Ancient Maya Structure Found in Mexico!

Scientists using an aerial remote-sensing method (Lidar) have discovered the largest and oldest-known structure built by the ancient Maya civilization – a colossal rectangular elevated platform built between 1,000 and 800 BC in Mexico's Tabasco state. The structure, unlike the soaring Maya pyramids at cities like Tikal in Guatemala and Palenque in Mexico erected some 1,500 years later, was not built of stone but rather of clay and earth, and likely was used for mass rituals.

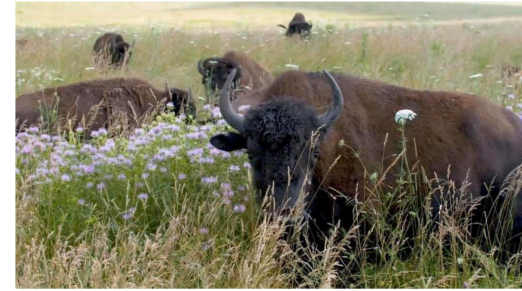
Located at a site called Aguada Fenix near the Guatemalan border, the structure measured nearly a quarter mile wide, 9/10 mile long, and stood 33 to 50 feet high. In total volume, it exceeded Egypt's Great Pyramid of Giza, built 1,500 years earlier.

There were no signs of sculptures depicting high-status individuals, suggesting Maya culture at this early stage was more communal, and only later developed social inequality and a hierarchical society led by royalty.

Some parts of the rural Aguada Fenix site today are covered with cattle ranches and wooded areas, but nine large causeways and a series of reservoirs were originally linked to the structure.

University of Arizona archaeologist Takeshi Inomata, who led the research, said "It is probable that many people from surrounding areas gathered here for special occasions, possibly tied to calendrical cycles. These rituals probably involved processions along the causeways and within the rectangular plaza. The people also deposited symbolic objects such as jade axes in the center of the plateau."

Excerpted from Reuters. Will Dunham-Reporter / Sandra Maler-Editor



Virtual Conservation Education Session

A Report on the Archaeological Investigations at Middle Grant Creek at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; Uncovering the Unknown, Unique, and (sometimes) Unclear Past – July 16, 7:00 PM

Last year, a gardening hoe made from a bison shoulder blade was discovered among several agricultural tools at the 17th century Middle Grant Creek site. In this webinar, Dr. Mark Schurr, University of Notre Dame, and Dr. Madeleine McLeester, Dartmouth College, will talk about the findings that tell us about the people of the Oneota Culture (1150-1700) who lived at Midewin before European contact during the Huber phase (circa A.D. 1600). Because it's bison month, Dr. Terry Martin, emeritus curator of Anthropology, Illinois State Museum, will also share some slides of the diverse animal bones, including bison, that are found at the site. The investigations at Middle Grant Creek are providing new information about lifeways and ecology on the prairie just before the first colonial encounters in the region. To participate in this webinar session (no registration required), visit <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/r9-midewin-1000/>.

An interim report by McLeester and Schurr can be found at <https://www.tandfonline.com/> Search "Uncovering Huber Lifeways: An Overview of Findings from Four Years of Excavations at the Huber Phase Middle Grant Creek Site (11WI2739) in Northern Illinois."

Photo Caption: Bison graze at the USDA Forest Service – Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. July is National Bison Month, and there is something for everyone to learn more about America's National Mammal on the Midewin NTP trails or at home. (USDA Forest Service-Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie)