



South Suburban Archaeological Society

# 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

March 16      ⚡      Mark L. Madsen, M.A.  
**Native American Trails of the Chicago Southland**

April 3      Officers Meeting

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



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

# ArkyFacts March 2017

March 16, 2017

## Native American Trails of the Chicago Southland

By Mark L. Madsen, M.A.

Native American villages, ceremonial sites, and trade resources were connected by a network of ancient trails, many of which became the roads and highways of today. In Chicago alone they were transformed into Green Bay Road and Lincoln, Ogden, Archer, Grand, Elston, Clyborn, and Milwaukee Avenues, to name just a few.

One set of trails became Route 41, which connects the Keweenaw Peninsula on Lake Superior to the Florida Keys. Along the way it brushes Lake Michigan in the form of Chicago's Lake Shore Drive. Other paths circled around the lake and can still be found in the Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30), and Route 20 to Rockford and Galena. Sauk Trail, extending west, became Route 6 to Moline, and Saukenuk at Rock Island; extending east, it became Indiana Routes 2 and 8.

The Chicago Southland was crisscrossed with important trails, both east-west and north-south. What is now Route 51 passed Shabbona Grove on its way north to Lake Superior. La Grange Road (U.S. 45) came north through Kankakee, then linked with U.S. 41 on its way to Green Bay. Vincennes Trail and Cottage Grove Trail paralleled each other, beginning at Halsted Street and extending past Homewood, Crete, Beecher, Watseka, Danville, and Fort Vincennes, all the way to the "Cave in the Rock" on the Ohio River.

This presentation focuses on trails leading from Chicago past Homewood to Momence on the Kankakee River. It also identifies several alternate routes for the Vincennes, Cottage Grove, and Sauk Trails, as shown by prehistoric earthworks and site locations discovered by a number of people, including some members of SSAS.

Mark L. Madsen, M.A. History, has been an active avocational archaeologist since 1982. He has contributed to presentations at the Midwest Archaeological Conference, and is currently working on Volume Two of *Naturalistic Settings of Several Mound Formations* in which he identifies what appear to be mounds on Government Land Office maps along the Sauk and Vincennes Trails.

### Business Meeting Notes

The next business meeting will be Monday, April 3, at 7:30.

April Lecture Quick Look—April 20, Illinois Humanities' *Road Scholar*.

**Archaeology of Disaster**—Archaeologist Gregory Vogel discusses the prehistory and history of major disasters as they were recorded in the archaeological and geological records, and try to grasp the lessons that they may hold for us today.

This speaker is provided by *Illinois Humanities*, which is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois General Assembly as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations.

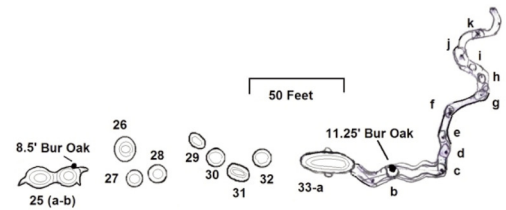
### Bookmarks!

South Suburban Archaeological Society

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

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

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



Serpent Mound 23 and mounds near Snake Road on Plum Creek



Vincennes/Cottage Grove/Sauk Trail junction artifacts



## Archy Events



Archaeological site tours are being offered by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey and the Forest Preserves of Cook County. The tours are free, but space is limited. Please register online; links are below.

### ***Oak Forest Poor Farm and Prehistoric Sites – April 16 and 23***

Join an archaeological site tour of the Oak Forest Heritage Preserve led by professional archaeologist Dr. Rochelle Lurie.

The Oak Forest Heritage Preserve is perhaps best known as containing the third Cook County Poor Farm (or the Oak Forest Hospital), operating from 1911 to 1953. The tour will include visits to two cemetery areas, one containing over 90,000 burials.

Additionally, archaeological survey and historical research have uncovered and documented a large Native American village site, aptly called the Oak Forest site (circa A.D. 1600-1620), as well as many additional smaller prehistoric camp sites occupied as early as 8,000 to 10,000 years ago.

Register online: <https://oakforestheritagepreserve.eventbrite.com>

### ***World War II Prisoner of War Camp Skokie – April 8 and 9***

Tour the old Camp Skokie Valley POW camp (and CCC camp), located in Blue Star Memorial Woods, Glenview, Illinois. Paula Porbucan (Illinois State Archaeological Survey) and James Meierhoff (University of Illinois-Chicago) will lead the tour.

This informal walking tour will highlight the archaeological remains of an interesting period of Cook County's past - including the remains of a guard tower on the river bank. The walking tour will take approximately one hour. Be prepared for light to medium hiking conditions, mostly on established trails.

Register online: <https://campskokie.eventbrite.com>



## IAAA Annual Meeting

IAAA's annual meeting will be held April 22 and 23 at the Jarrett Prairie Center, 7993 North River Road, Byron, IL. Details are still being finalized, but this year's meeting will be of no cost except for an optional box lunch on Saturday.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

### Saturday, April 22

- 9:00 Coffee, snacks, and registration
- 9:30 Meeting begins
- 9:45-11:00 IAAA Business meeting
- 11:00 to 11:30 Guided tour of the Jarrett Prairie Center Museum
- 11:00 to 1:00 Lunch break (IAAA Board meeting)
- 1:00 to 1:45 IAAA Chapter presentations
- 2:00 to 3:30 Symposium of the Rock River archaeology
- 4:00 to 5:30 Guided tour of the Byron Forest Preserve Heritage Farm Museum

### Sunday, April 23

- 8:30 Gather at Jarrett Prairie Center for coffee, snacks, and plan car pooling
- 9:00 Tour local archaeological sites in the Byron and South Rockford vicinities. Tours will conclude by 1:00.

IAAA: <http://www.museum.state.il.us/iaaa/pubs.htm> .Byron Forest Preserve District: <http://www.byronforestpreserve.com/>

