



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

**September 21**    ⚡    Robert McCullough, PhD, RPA  
Late Prehistoric Villages in the White River Drainage of  
Central Indiana

October 2    Officers Meeting

October 19    ⚡    Sam Harris, Ph.D.  
Water in the Ancient Near East and  
*Nomination of Officers*

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

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*Corporate sponsorship, making it possible...*

# ArkyFacts September 21, 2017



## Late Prehistoric Villages in the White River Drainage of Central Indiana

By Robert G. McCullough, PhD, RPA

After A.D. 1000, the population of central Indiana exploded with the advent of maize agriculture. Archaeological investigations have revealed evidence of hundreds of settlements, some with circular plazas and fortifications, along river floodplains suitable for farming. In central Indiana, at least three groups, the Oneota from the northwest, the Western Basin Tradition (Younge) from the northeast, and Fort Ancient groups from southwestern Ohio, settled along the White River between 1100 and 1400 A.D. This presentation will give an overview of the last two decades of archaeology focused on these interactions in central Indiana.

Dr. McCullough's research interests include the archaeology of the eastern woodlands, especially the population movements and interactions of Late Prehistoric and Mississippian groups in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley states, as well as late-contact/fur trade era sites in Indiana, and prehistoric ceramic analysis. He also has been active in the application of geophysical survey techniques to archaeological sites and supervises the geophysical surveys of ISAS. He has continued archaeological geophysical methods in such varied projects as identification of subsurface features at the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School for the Saginaw Band of Chippewa, survey at the Levi Coffin underground railroad site in Indiana, and surveys of the 18th-century French Fort Ouiatenon on the Wabash River and Fort de Chartres on the Mississippi.



## Business Meeting Notes

The next business meeting will be at 7:30 on Monday, October 2.

## Cathie Condon Leaving

After 15 years of doing ArkyFacts, I have decided to step down to give someone else the opportunity. November will be my last newsletter. *Thanks for the great memories!*

## Bookmarks!

South Suburban Archaeological Society

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

See also <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

## Popular Archaeology, Summer 2017

### Aged wine, to the nth degree

"A large storage jar from the Copper Age (early 4th millennium BC) tests positive for wine. This finding published in *Microchemical Journal* is significant as it's the earliest discovery of wine residue in the entire prehistory of the Italian peninsula. Traditionally, it's been believed wine growing and wine production developed in Italy in the Middle Bronze Age (1300-1100 B.C.) as attested just by the retrieval of seeds, providing a new perspective on the economy of that ancient society.

Lead author Davide Tanasi, PhD, University of South Florida in Tampa conducted chemical analysis of residue on unglazed pottery found at the Copper Age site of Monte Kronio in Agrigento, located off the southwest coast of Sicily. He and his team determined the residue contains tartaric acid and its sodium salt, which occur naturally in grapes and in the winemaking process."

<http://popular-archaeology.com/issue/summer-2017/article/world-s-oldest-italian-wine-just-discovered>



### Old Math

"UNSW Sydney scientists have discovered the purpose of a famous 3700-year old Babylonian clay tablet, revealing it is the world's oldest and most accurate trigonometric table. The new research shows the Babylonians beat the Greeks to the invention of trigonometry - the study of triangles - by more than 1000 years, and reveals an ancient mathematical sophistication that had been hidden until now. Known as Plimpton 322, the small tablet was discovered in the early 1900s in what is now southern Iraq by archaeologist, academic, diplomat and antiquities dealer Edgar Banks, the person on whom the fictional character Indiana Jones was based."

<http://popular-archaeology.com/issue/summer-2017/article/a-remarkable-ancient-babylonian-tablet-and-why-it-matters>



## 2017 Midwest Archaeological Conference

October 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

### Meeting Place and Hotel:

The Alexander Hotel  
333 S. Delaware St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 624-8200  
thealexander.com



**Book online:** <https://aws.passkey.com/e/49288300> or call (855) 200-3002 and reference the Midwest Archaeological Conference.

Rooms at the conference hotel at the negotiated rate of \$149/night (single or double) must be booked on or before **Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. The Indianapolis Colts have a home game that weekend, which may make booking a room at downtown hotels more costly and time consuming after the deadline.

Visit the website for pricing and registration:

<http://www.midwestarchaeology.org/2017-indianapolis-indiana>

## Oriental Institute

### LECTURE: The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Wed, Oct 4, 7– 9 pm. Free. Registration is not required.

Jodi Magness, Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism, Department of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill. In 1946-1947, the first Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered by accident near the site of Qumran. Eventually the remains of approximately 1000 scrolls were found in 11 caves surrounding Qumran. In this slide-illustrated lecture, we explore the archaeological remains of Qumran, which was inhabited by members of a Jewish sect who deposited the scrolls in the nearby caves, and examine the meaning and significance of the scrolls.