

# 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

## APRIL - 2023

Thursday, Dr. Roy Plotnick ~ 7:30 PM  
April 20 "The Fossil Record of the Far Future:  
Looking Back at the Anthropocene  
And the Sixth Extinction"

(This will be an in-person presentation AND also available via Zoom.)

Monday, Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM  
May 1 PANERA BREAD  
820 175<sup>th</sup> St., Homewood  
Hosts: Susan & Milan Saric

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





# ArkyFacts

April 2023

Thursday, April 20 ~ 7:30 PM

“The Fossil Record of the Far Future:  
Looking Back at the Anthropocene & the Sixth Extinction”  
with Roy Plotnick, Ph.D.

*Mammoth Tooth & Tusk, Forest Park, Illinois*

Paleontologists record five major extinctions in the fossil record, with the most recent being the extinction at the end of the Cretaceous - 66 million years ago. These extinctions were produced by a variety of causes, including huge volcanic eruptions and asteroid impacts, all leading to massive disruptions in global climate. The ongoing biodiversity loss caused by human activities, which probably encompasses the loss of large megafauna at the end of the Ice Age, has been termed the “Sixth Extinction.”



*Chapel of the Bones, Evora, Portugal*

To best compare the sixth extinction with the previous five, Dr. Plotnick will address what it would look like in the fossil record. For mammals, including primates, most of the animals going extinct will never be known as fossils; their very existence on Earth will only be known from ephemeral human records.

What *will* be in the future fossil record? The Anthropocene is the currently informal term for the period of Earth’s history dominated by human activities. A significant part of this is the replacement of wild mammals by humans and their domesticated animals. The future fossil record of today will be dominated by cattle, swine, chickens, and us!

Roy Plotnick is Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a Fellow of the Paleontological Society and the Geological Society of America, and the author of *Explorers of Deep Time: Paleontologists and the History of Life*. **Dr. Plotnick will be appearing in person at the Irwin Center.**

Please join us for light refreshments before the program! For those who wish to view this presentation remotely via Zoom, see our insert page.

**Search: “South Suburban Archaeological Society” or**

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

**SSAS on Tumblr: <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>**

**South Suburban Chapter on Facebook:**

**<http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>**



*SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort and financial support*

# ANCIENT EARTH DAY AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

Saturday, April 22, 1:00-5:00 PM

Join the Oriental Institute's celebration of Earth Day and learn about sustainability and the ancient world!

## 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Enjoy engaging gallery talks focused on ancient engineering and recycling in the ancient world. Plant herbs to take home while learning how ancient people used them. Then, complete a themed scavenger hunt and puzzle to earn a prize!

## 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Docent-led gallery tours will be offered on sustainability, from the ancient world until the current era,

## 4:00 to 5:00 PM

Community conversation featuring Blacks in Green.



*Ancient Earth Day* is a free event that is open to all ages and families! Please register in advance.

Call (773)702-1158 or email [oi-education@uchicago.edu](mailto:oi-education@uchicago.edu)

## Remote Viewing of our April 20th Program (Revised):

Interested in participating through Zoom?

•SSAS members who have renewed their membership for 2023, and for whom we have an email contact address, will automatically be sent the program's Zoom access information.



•SSAS members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2023 should send a request to the email link shown below. **Please submit your request as soon as possible.** (Those who are not SSAS members are also welcome to use Zoom, but should include enough information in the email to verify identity.)

1-2 days before the event, the host will respond with an invitation to attend through Zoom. For questions about remote viewing, contact Will Kelley.

[southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com](mailto:southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com)



## Officers' Meeting

Our next business meeting will take place on **Monday, May 1 – 6:00 PM at Panera Bread (820 175<sup>th</sup> St., Homewood).** Our hosts will be Susan & Milan Saric.



## Annual IAAA Conference, May 19-21

Mark your calendars for the annual IAAA conference, to be held this year at Dickson Mounds Museum on May 19-21. An information sheet is included with this newsletter.



## “JOURNEY STORIES”

**Isle a la Cache Museum  
501 E. Romeo Rd., Romeoville IL**

*Journey Stories* explores how movement has shaped the nation. The exhibition is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, and brought to the Will County Forest Preserve through funding provided by The Nature Foundation of Will County.

For centuries, Americans have been intensely mobile. Travel over roads, rails, rivers, trails and even the skies has shaped the cultural and economic landscape. *Journey Stories* takes a broad look at American expansion and migration. From the earliest settlers and Native American displacement to the effects of transportation advancements, our “journey stories” define us.



This ongoing exhibition runs through Sunday, April 30. Museum hours are 10 am to 4 pm Tuesdays through Saturdays, and noon to 4 pm Sundays. The event is free and all ages are welcome! No registration is required. Call (815)886-1467 or search “Isle a la Cache.”

*Photo: Alamy*

## ∞ In Memoriam

**Barbara L. McDonough  
October 21, 1937 – April 1, 2023**

The South Suburban Archaeological Society (SSAS) has the sad duty of announcing the death of Barbara McDonough, a founding member of the Society who most recently served as Corresponding Secretary. Barbara was born in 1937 and raised in a near west side suburb. In the early 1970s she moved, together with her family, to Homewood. In the early 1980s she developed what would become a life-long fascination with archaeology and helped found the SSAS. The Society soon began to coordinate with the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology (IAAA), eventually becoming a chapter of the statewide group. Over a period of more than forty years Barbara drew on her career in graphic design and publishing to assist these organizations, serving in a wide variety of positions. For decades she created much of the marketing and promotional material of the Society. As Corresponding Secretary she maintained an extensive network of ties that let the Society learn of important research by archaeologists who lived in northeastern Illinois, who were then able to share their findings with others at the Irwin Center in Homewood.



Barbara was also active in other Homewood-based organizations, such as the Homewood Historical Society. Her passing will leave a notable absence for many of the groups she worked with.

Barbara passed away on the evening of April 1, 2023, at the age of 85, after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband, Doug, her son Christopher and his wife Dawn, her son Casey, grandson Dennis, sister Carolee Eagan, and brother Charles Koubek. There was a private funeral. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be given to the South Suburban Archaeological Society, PO Box 856, Homewood IL 60430.