

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

AUGUST - 2022

Saturday, MEMBERS' EXCURSION
August 20 Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
Gather 9:30 AM / Tour Begins 10:00 AM
Wilmington, Illinois
(Rain date August 27)

Monday, Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM
August 29 Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood
Host: Barbara McDonough

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

August 2022

Saturday, August 20

Gather 9:30 AM / Tour Begins 10:00 AM

August Members' Excursion to
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
Wilmington, Illinois

On Saturday, August 20 at 10:00 AM (rain date - Saturday, August 27) Jamie Countryman, Ph.D. candidate - University of Chicago, will show us why Native Americans preferred a particular portion of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Wilmington, Illinois) over other possible settlement sites, even though their modes of living changed over the course of several millennia.

Jamie and Midewin archaeologist/SSAS member Joe Wheeler have worked out a suitable half-mile walking tour on the shaded section of a flat, gravel-paved path. After the main part of our tour, we will break for lunch, then return later in the day to visit other parts of Midewin as we please. ***There is no fee for this excursion; however, all purchases of meals, snacks, etc. will be "on your own."*** Our tour will allow us to take in some of the natural beauty of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and of course, there are the bison!



For further details and information, please refer to the attached PDF announcement from SSAS President Will Kelley. Hard copy newsletter recipients will receive a printed announcement in the mail.

If you have not yet registered for this tour, or if you need to carpool or are available to be a driver, please contact Will.

Bookmarks! Find us online.....

Search: "South Suburban Archaeological Society"

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.

Art Institute of Chicago – Exhibitions

Kingfisher Headdresses from China (Through May 21, 2023)

Since ancient times, Chinese poets have praised the plumage of the kingfisher, a bird widely found in the tropical regions of Asia. The brilliant turquoise-blue is not a pigment but results from the way their transparent feathers refract light. By the Song dynasty (960–1278), portraits of empresses showed them wearing headdresses adorned with kingfisher ornaments. Few examples of this fragile artistry have survived, and the earliest ones come from the tomb of the Wanli Emperor (reigned 1572–1620), in which archaeologists found four elaborate kingfisher crowns worn by his empresses.

The vivid feathers were expensive, with the most prized specimens imported from Cambodia and Vietnam. Artisans cut them to shape before painstakingly pasting the feathers onto gilded metal backing that formed the structure of the headdresses. Precious and semiprecious stones such as rubies, agate, and jadeite as well as other valuable materials including amber, coral, and pearls added to the splendid effect. Although the most sumptuous examples were worn by empresses and consorts, aristocratic and wealthy women also wore kingfisher crowns and jewelry on special occasions such as birthdays and weddings. Popular motifs—bats, butterflies, dragons, and phoenixes—symbolized various aspects of good fortune.

This exhibition brings together over 20 objects crafted from these extraordinarily beautiful feathers, all promised gifts from Barbara and David Kipper. They include ornate headdresses as well as smaller pieces of jewelry and hairpins, which provided a less cumbersome touch of glamour.

For more information, visit the website of the Art Institute of Chicago, or call 1(312)443-3600.

Cap, Qing dynasty (1644–1912), 18th–19th century China



While at first glance the vivid turquoise portions of this cap appear to be stone, they are in fact delicate kingfisher feathers, precisely cut and carefully pasted in place. At the center, a phoenix with a peacock-like tail is flanked by a pair of dragons.



Officers' Meeting

Our next business meeting will take place on Monday, August 29 – 6:00 PM, at Mama & Me Pizzeria in Homewood. Our host will be Barbara McDonough.