

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

MAY - 2021

Thursday, Fred G. Christensen ~ 7:30 PM
May 20 "The Archaeology of the River Thames"

Tuesday, Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM
June 1 Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood
Host: Will Kelley

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

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****PLEASE NOTE**** Our May speaker will be in attendance (live and in-person!) at the Irwin Center, where we invite all members and guests to join us in our usual meeting room. Face masks will be required and we will practice social distancing. Alternatively, to view the lecture remotely, see the newsletter attachment.

Thursday, May 20 – 7:30 PM “The Archaeology of the River Thames” with Fred G. Christensen

England’s heartland river is exceptionally rich in archaeological finds. From its source in the Cotswolds, past gravel beds revealing artifacts of all eras, through much-excavated London, to sites like Swanscombe near the estuary, the Thames has yielded evidence of half a million years of human activity.

Fred G. Christensen has hiked the full length of the Thames, filming it for class presentations, and will discuss its archaeological heritage in this talk. He will emphasize the area around Dorchester, south of Oxford, and will address artifacts and earthworks from every era of prehistory. Paleolithic hand axes, Neolithic henges, Celtic hill forts and Roman towns will all make their appearance in this presentation.

Mr. Christensen is a former Instructor at the Universities of Illinois and Kentucky, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 28 years (including 5 years active duty) in the U.S. Army Reserves. Since retirement, he has taught adult and community education courses, and currently serves as President of the East Central Illinois Archaeological Society (ECIAS).

Thank You NITEL !A big “Thank You!” to Rick Stern and Ron Grason of internet access provider NITEL USA for their continuing sponsorship of SSAS in 2021. Please accept our heartfelt appreciation. You help make it happen! *To our Members: If you know of any business or organization that might be willing to provide SSAS programming sponsorship, please let us know!*


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, and through the valued sponsorship of our friends at  nitel



How to remotely attend our May 20 program :

To log in to the Zoom meeting:

Time: May 20, 2021 07:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92495245624?pwd=MG8wTnNPbzJNQzJ6QUdWbWpFbWtYZz09>

Meeting ID: 924 9524 5624

Passcode: 777859

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 924 9524 5624

Passcode: 777859

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/92495245624?pwd=MG8wTnNPbzJNQzJ6QUdWbWpFbWtYZz09>

Business Meeting..... Our next business meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1 - 6:00 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood. Our host will be Will Kelley.

*We are so pleased to welcome **Lisa Nicholson** to the SSAS Board. Lisa has generously volunteered to serve as our new Trustee.*

Thank you Lisa !!

Pre-Columbian European Beads Found in Alaska !

In Medieval times, European artisans sent their goods eastward to China along a myriad of trade routes through Central Asia called the Silk Road. Now, the discovery of blue glass beads at several ancient sites in the Arctic suggests the Silk Road influence extended all the way to Alaska. (Two views of 3 blue glass beads are shown below.)



The beads were likely made by craftworkers in Venice and reached Alaska in the mid-to-late 1400's (*American Antiquity*). That makes them "the oldest known European trade goods likely to have reached North America by being carried across Asia and the Bering Strait" said *AA* article co-author Michael Kunz, an archaeologist with the University of Alaska's Museum of the North.

David Malakoff, *American Archaeology* (Spring 2021)

July Summer Excursion.....Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 17! Plans are underway to visit Historic Burial Grounds of Central Illinois with Ms. Holly Labisky of the IAAA. This excursion will be open to all SSAS members and their guests. Additional information will be posted soon.