

Eat. Learn. Leave Inspired.



The 3rd Monday of Every Month –
Join us to enjoy your neighbors and
learn something new! It's some
FREE FUN, so come on up!
Sign up at the clubhouse so that
we know how many to expect.

Monday, May 16 6 – 7pm

“The Mississippian Culture”

This lecture gives a broad overview of the prehistoric Mississippian Culture, whose people are also known as the "Mound Builders." The Mississippians built tens of thousands of mounds of various shapes, such as Monks Mound, the 100-foot-tall, terraced mound across the Mississippi River in Illinois. The culture was noted for using fire to grow new crops of grass on the prairies (to increase the buffalo herds and the numbers of elk), for clearing around the base of wild persimmon trees (to lessen competition with the tree from brush and weeds), for growing corn, for a wide trading network and for creating masterful works from red clay. Cahokia was the ceremonial/spiritual capital of the culture, comparable to Britain's Stonehenge. But now until the science of archaeology crystallized in the late 1800s and carbon dating was developed in the 1940s did archaeologists and ethnographers come to understand the complex organization of this culture. Other states in which the culture flourished include Ohio, Tennessee, Florida, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Louisiana.

Our very own **Ann Chandonnet** is going to share this very interesting presentation with us. Ann recently moved to St. Louis from North Carolina, where she lived near a state park in which mica was mined to be carried to Cahokia. She has been researching the Mississippian Culture since her first visit to Cahokia in 2006. A former college English instructor and journalist, she is a food historian and poet, author of more than a dozen books including *Gold Rush Grub* (University of Alaska Press).

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