



Cleveland Astronomical Society

www.clevelandastronomicalsociety.org

Thursday, March 4, 2010 Meeting Announcement

6:15—7:00 p.m. – Get acquainted and snacks

7:45—8:00 p.m. – Short Business Meeting

7:00—7:45 p.m. – Buffet Dinner (Reservations Required) 8:00—9:00 p.m. – Featured Speaker (Free to public)

Leonard Krieger CanalWay Center

4524 East 49th Street (turn onto Whittlesey Way to reach Center), Cuyahoga Heights (216-206-1000)

Speaker: N'omi B. Greber

Curator of Archaeology—Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Sky Watchers and Monument Builders: Were they connected in ancient Ohio?

All peoples notice events in the sky. The details they can see depend upon their location on our earth. Within what they can see, individuals and societies usually chose particular events that they remember and incorporate into the cultural history passed on to generations that follow. It is a difficult, but intriguing problem, to estimate possible choices made by ancient peoples who did not leave behind written histories and whose sense of “astronomy” would most certainly not have been in the tradition that now includes Galileo, Kepler, Hubble, and a space station. The Hopewell peoples, who lived in what is now southern Ohio some 2000 years ago, built monumental earthen constructions that, viewed from above, formed recognizable shapes on the ground.

Today most of these have been altered or destroyed, but new technologies have enabled reconstruction of some original ground plans. More difficult to document is any astronomical knowledge that may have been used in their design. Ongoing research on this topic will be discussed. Earthwork sites considered will include Newark and High Bank, sites containing circle-octagon designs some say demonstrate significant astronomical alignments.

High School Teachers interested in bringing two students, as our guests, please contact Bob Sledz, President, at 440-333-7827 or sledzbob@yahoo.com by the Friday prior to the scheduled meeting date.