

SETF to hold tour of Deep Tunnel

The Southeast Environmental Task Force (SETF) will host its next Brown Bag Eco-Tour, the Deep Tunnel and Thornton Quarry, on Saturday, July 12.

The tour bus will depart from the Chicago Cultural Center, Randolph Street at Michigan Avenue, at 10 a.m. The first stop on the tour will be one of the tunnel's temporary holding reservoirs for storm water on the south side of the city, the Thornton Quarry.

Sometimes called the Grand Canyon of the Midwest, the quarry is also the site of a 450,000,000-year-old coral reef and tour participants are provided samplings of crinoid, brachiopod and trilobite fossil treasures.

From there, the tour will go to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's (MWRD) site at 130th Street, in Chicago, where MWRD officials will take the group deep into the ground to see what goes on at the pumping station.

The Deep Tunnel Project is a large civil engineering project that aims to reduce flooding in the metropolitan Chicago area and to reduce the harmful effects of flushing raw sewage into Lake Michigan by diverting storm water and sewage into several reservoirs around the city. It has been under construction for more than 30 years and will not be complete until 2029.

At both places the guides are experts who know the business of quarrying as well as the history of the quarry, which dates to the 1830s, and how storm water is treated in Chicago.

Other upcoming tours are Down in the Dumps, Aug. 9, and the Industrial Evolution Tour, Oct. 4.

All tours depart from the Chicago Cultural Center at 10 a.m. and return to the Chicago Cultural Center by 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and space is limited.

For more information or to register, call (773) 646-0436.