

# The Friends of Aztalan State Park

## Ancient Times

May 2007, Newsletter



Donors  
give to  
Preserve,  
Protect,  
and  
Promote

### New Lifetime Members Support Progress at the Park

Margaret Burlingham, Marifancis Cataldi, Al Peters, Robert Birmingham, Peter and Gabriel Schubert of PJs Pizza, Watertown

### Other Donations to Aztalan

Thomas Davies, Lake Mills; Michell Etzel, Mequon; Jack Pace, Rio; Jan Burr, Muskego; Thomas and Christine Gaulke, Franklin; Philip Sillman, Waterloo; Peter and Gabriele Schubert, Watertown; Kathleen and Frank Harvey, Mequon; Donald and Barbara Brown, Edgerton; Judy Murray; Natalie Divyak, Tomah; Marilyn and Laura Graham; Frank and Shirley Sekel, Whitewater; Dale Elliot, in memory of Joan Joeckel Modl, Payson, Arizona; Greater Milwaukee Foundation Board, William J. and Doris M. Willis Fund.

### Donations to Friends of Aztalan State Park (not the Interpretive Center)

Rick Fedel; Eugene and Judy Larabell; Betty Ward; Jeff Reisetter; Neil Ostberg, Slinger; Bob Birmingham, Madison; The Mr. and the Mrs. (Catering), Fort Atkinson (donated a cake for the annual meeting.); Greater Milwaukee Foundation, In honor of Bob Birmingham

With production of the book and videos, fundraising for a visitor's center will shift into high gear in 2007 with fundraising events and solicitations from area businesses and organizations and other major funding sources. The Friends are forming an Aztalan Visitors Center Fundraising committee. Those members with fundraising experience, contacts with funding sources, or just great fundraising ideas are urged to volunteer for this committee. And, of course, anyone wanting to donate should see the below.

A priority of the Friends of Aztalan State Park is to raise money to assist in the construction of a visitors interpretive center. To make a donation please send a check with the following form. All donations will be permanently acknowledged with the opening of the center.

Fundraising  
to shift into  
High Gear

I would like to donate to help create the  
Aztalan Interpretive Center

\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_ Other.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Friends of Aztalan State Park • Aztalan State Park • 1213 S. Main St • Lake Mills, WI

DONATION FORM

Fundraising



# Tours

Friends of  
Aztalan go on  
a Saturday  
expedition in  
the fall.

Members of the Friends of Aztalan and numerous other interested folks took a guided bus tour that visited numerous archaeological features of the area around Aztalan, Fort Atkinson, and Lake Koshkonong.

The group visited a small platform mound (now owned by the Archaeological Conservancy, The Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson, the new Jefferson County mounds park, The Fort Atkinson Intaglio mound, and numerous mounds on Lake Koshkonong.

Guides and interpreters included State Archaeologist John Broihan, Asst. State Archaeologist Amy Rosebrough, and planner at the Garmin Preserver (and Lifetime Friends of Aztalan member) Margaret Burlingham, as well as Bob Birmingham.



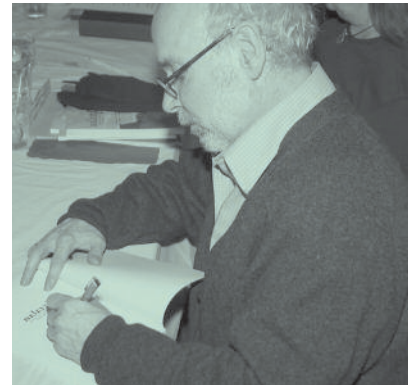
# Award-winning New Book and Video Available

In 2006, Bob Birmingham and longtime Aztalan researcher Lynne Goldstein published the book *Aztalan: Mysteries of an Ancient Indian Town*, an up-to date history and description of the site, illustrated with many pictures, maps, and artifacts.

The book was published by the Wisconsin Historical Society and has since won the History Merit award from the Independent Publishers Association. It sells for a very affordable \$14.95 and is available from the Glacial Drumlin - Aztalan State Park headquarters and the Rose Gallery in Lake Mills, the Velvetine Rabbit bookshop and Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson, and the Historical Society Museum in Madison. It is also available at most major book stores and can ordered on line from the Wisconsin Historical Society [www.wisconsinhistory.org/whspress](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whspress) and other on-line booksellers.

In February, Wisconsin Public Television finished production of a promotional and educational video called *Aztalan: National Historic Landmark* in collaboration with the Friends of Aztalan State Park and fully

funded by the Friends as a 2006 goal. It was produced in two versions, one for the general public, and a second, with an ending requesting donations, to be used for fundraising for the new visitor's center. Members will all receive a free copy of the promotional/ educational video and it will also be liberally distributed to area schools, municipalities, civic organizations and Department of Tourism. Those that want to help raise funds from businesses and organizations can also request the second version. Plans are also underway to put the videos on-line as a streaming videos on several major websites and to make it available at a very modest cost to visitors to the site. For more information contact president Bob Birmingham at [birmi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:birmi@sbcglobal.net) or 608-241-4958. Congratulations the Friends and financial supporters who made this possible.



## Exposure Greetz (Greetings) from Frankfurt/Germany

Aztalan amazes those a world away. Peter the German Harley-Davidson rider Bob met at Aztalan last September writes: "Regarding the day we've met: It was so great, because i didn't expect such an interesting historic place in Wisconsin. I have to "threaten" that I'll always contact you before returning to the states to get some information about interesting Native American places!!!

Thank you again and again."



# Update

## Park Update

By Tom Davies

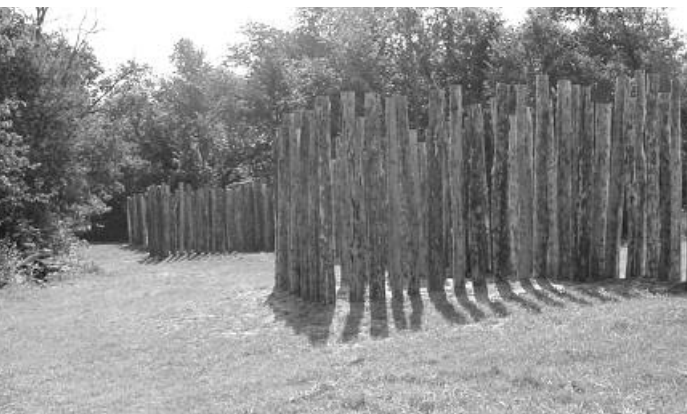
Thanks to all those members of the Friends of Aztalan for the flowers, cards and support during my recent surgery. Thanks especially to those who pitched in to sell stickers and merchandise during my unexpected four week "vacation" from work. Special thanks to Bob, Christy, Jude, Bob and Nona, Kurt, Marifran, Al, Arlene, and especially to Stephanie Hoffman, my volunteer naturalist.

Despite the fact that I was unable to work, the power is now connected to the shelter through the efforts of Lance Stock and the bike trail staff, and the archaeological monitoring of Bob Birmingham and Mark Dudzik, the new DNR Archaeologist.

Textron Corp., Jacobsen Division from Johnson Creek was back to mowing this summer, so the park stayed nicely mowed. Of course now that I am on my own, we are having tons of rain and I can't keep up, but I am doing the best I can to keep the trails and picnic areas mowed for the close of the season.

Thanks to the efforts of Jude Hartwick, there are some volunteers waiting to stain kiosks and toilets. Now all we need are a few more warm days that fall at the right time.

I did manage to add two new interpretive signs – one about the Crawfish and its importance, and one on the conical mounds. Check them out next time you are at the park.



## Upcoming Events

### May 20. Comprehensive Tour:

10:00 -2:00 with a lunch break. Special comprehensive tour of Aztalan led by Bob Birmingham author of *Aztalan: Mysteries of an Ancient Indian Town* and Park Manager Tom Davies. The tour will include the mysterious east side of the Crawfish River where mounds, an enclosure, and other features were recorded in the past. The Friends will provide beverages. Bring hiking shoes and a lunch! Park sticker fees apply and a donation to the new visitors center would be appreciated.

### June 21st Solstice in the Park:

6:00 P.M to sunset. Come celebrate the first day of summer and watch the solstice sunset from the platform mounds at Aztalan. Food and beverages will be provided by the Friends and there will be a special solstice related program. Meet at the park shelter. Park sticker fees apply and a donation to the new visitors center would be appreciated.

### July 1st Aztalan Day:

Held in conjunction with Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society celebration. Continuous tours and exhibits at Aztalan State Park 10:00 - 3:00.

Check our website for more upcoming events at [www.aztalan.us](http://www.aztalan.us)



# Thanks

Thanks to...

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dnr educational specialist...Tom Davies

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