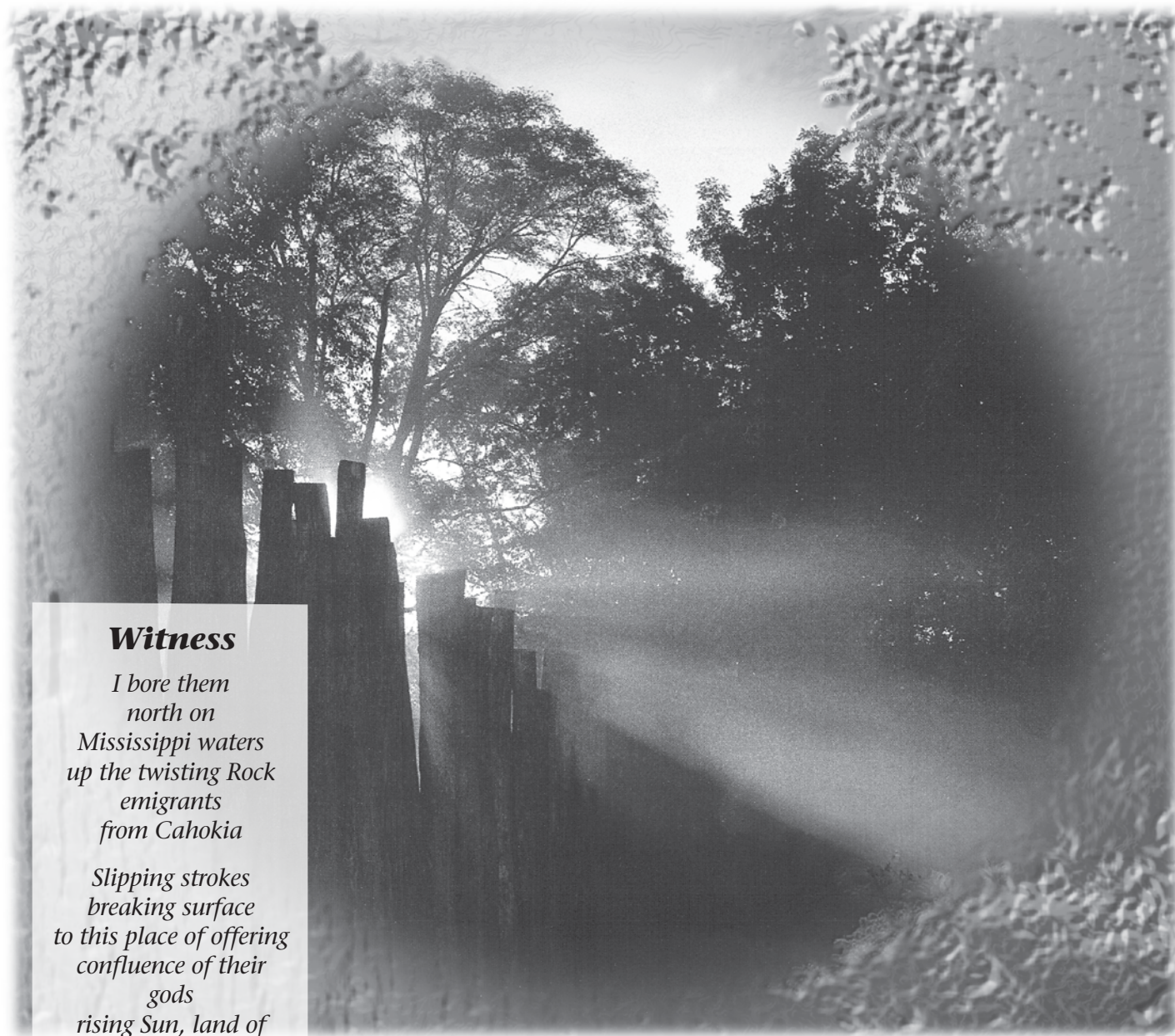




# Ancient Times

Summer 2010



## **Witness**

*I bore them  
north on  
Mississippi waters  
up the twisting Rock  
emigrants  
from Cahokia*

*Slipping strokes  
breaking surface  
to this place of offering  
confluence of their  
gods  
rising Sun, land of  
Hawk*

*I am the life blood,  
silent aorta  
of sustenance.*

*Within my flow  
touch their soul  
I am the Crawfish.*

## *Aztalan inspires poetry*

Lake Mills poet Sylvia Sippel is also a member of Friends of Aztalan State Park. She has turned her outstanding talents to the subject of Aztalan, its people and its significance. She is currently working on a book of poems on Aztalan and its people. Enjoy this sample.

## Aztalan's Ranger receives "Outstanding Employee of the Year Award."

Park Ranger Lance Stock, normally assigned to the Glacial Drumlin State Trail, jumped in when the need was there. Upon the death of highly respected Aztalan State Park manager Tom Davies, Lance assumed Tom's duties even though the manager position has not been filled by the DNR due to budget problems.

In recognition of his service and dedication, Lance was named Outstanding Employee of the Year by the Department of Natural Resources State Parks. Among his myriad of duties, Lance serves as a liaison between the DNR and Friends of Aztalan. His amiable manner and commitment to the park has made him a respected and trusted resource.

"Lance has proved to be a great 'friend' of Aztalan," said executive director Bob Birmingham. "He has provided Aztalan state park with superb direction and inspiration. We appreciate his guidance and congratulate him on this well-deserved award."

## New Life Member.

Jane Gensel, New Berlin, Wisconsin, has become the latest lifetime member of Aztalan State Park. A lifelong membership requires just a \$250 donation more to the Friends of Aztalan State Park to the benefits of membership in an organization that preserves, promotes, and protects the cultural, historical, and archaeological site that Aztalan represents.

## New — Temporary Interpretive Center Opens... ... and here's how you can help build the permanent one!

Have you visited Aztalan lately? That large trailer on the site is not for park rangers or visiting construction workers, it's for YOU.

That trailer is the temporary Aztalan State Park visitor center. It has been made possible through the generosity of The Archeological Society of Wisconsin. Volunteers from

the Friends of Aztalan will staff the center during park hours providing information, directions and guidance to visitors as well as selling Aztalan books and merchandise.

This is a great step forward in our plans for building a permanent interpretive center. The Friends have set up a fund specifically to

aid in building that new facility. We have a good start but also have a long way to go. You can help. If you would like to make a donation, of any amount, to the interpretive center fund, please fill out the attached coupon and send it. Your involvement and your generosity are crucial to the project.

## Aztalan State Park Interpretive Center

**Yes, I would like to donate to help build the Friends of Aztalan Interpretive Center Fund.**

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Send to: Friends of Aztalan State Park • P.O. Box 855 • Lake Mills, 53551



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## Publications Highlight Aztalan and Cahokia Research

Long time Aztalan researcher Dr. Lynne Goldstein (Michigan State University) has published an article on burials found at the site. It is entitled "Aztalan Mortuary Practices Revisited" and appears in the new book *Mississippian Mortuary Practices* (University of Florida Press) edited by Lynne Sullivan and Robert Mainfort.

Also, William Iseminger has a new book on Cahokia called *Cahokia Mounds: America's First City* that can be ordered from Cahokia Mounds Historic Site 618.344.9221. He is the Assistant Site Manager at Cahokia and has come to Aztalan a number of times to give presentations. We hope to carry this book at our new information center this summer

## Friends' activities coming up.

Each year, Friends of Aztalan organizes a number of fun and educational activities for members and the public. Briefly, here's a list of events we have in the works... and there will be more! Keep up with the activities of the group and all the events at Aztalan State Park by checking our website at [www.Aztalan.US](http://www.Aztalan.US)



## 2010 Public Events Calendar for Aztalan State Park

**June-Sept Free Public Tour**  
**Every Sunday at 2:00pm, Weather Permitting**

The first Sunday tour of the season was conducted by Dr. John Richards.  
The photo is of John taken during his talk.

### Jan 30

Annual Meeting, Friends of Aztalan State Park

### Feb 12,13,14

Wisconsin Garden Expo, Friends of Aztalan booth

### May 16, 2pm

Guided Public Tour of Aztalan by Dr. John Richards from UW-Milwaukee

### June 21, 6pm

Solstice Event at Aztalan State Park. The Friends of Aztalan State Park will provide food and refreshments. Program to be announced on the Aztalan.us website.

### July 18, 1pm

Native American Day at Aztalan State Park. Ho-Chunk dancers and singers from Wisconsin Dells.

### Aug 22, 11am

Friends of Aztalan Annual Picnic. Taste of Aztalan with Native food and food from the Aztalan Native American Garden. Bring a dish to pass. Native American artist, Karen Hartman will teach a workshop on how to make dream catchers.

### Sept 10,11,12

Indian Summer at Summerfest Grounds in Milwaukee, Friends of Aztalan booth.

### Sept 18

Bus Tour of the Madison mounds by Robert Birmingham, author of *Spirits of Earth, The Effigy Mound Landscape of Madison and the four lakes*. Time to be announced on the Aztalan.us website.

### Sept 26 11am-7pm

Willy Street Fair, Madison, WI, Friends of Aztalan booth

### Oct

Aztalan State Park Birthday Open House. Date and time to be announced on the Aztalan.us website.

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**Event updates at [WWW.AZTALAN.US](http://WWW.AZTALAN.US)**

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## Pauketat provides insight to the popular Mississippian game of Chunkey.



The game was grueling. It involved lots of running, spear hurling, and the rolling of a small, hockey-puck-sized stone. Chunkey was the “national past time” of the Mississippian culture.

Dr. Tim Pauketat from the University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana is the author of *Cahokia: Ancient America's Great City On the Mississippi*. He spoke to the Friends of Aztalan's annual meeting which was held at the Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson. The talk and the question and answer period provided excellent insight into the game of Chunkey which was practiced throughout the Mississippian culture. Executive Director Bob Birmingham and board president Kurt Sampson enumerated the groups' accomplishments over the years.

They include:

- Developing a large, skilled, and active group of members and volunteers
- Establishing a fund for building a permanent interpretative center
- Developing an excellent newsletter to communicate with members
- Creating and maintaining an outstanding website: [aztalan.us](http://aztalan.us)
- Funded a promotional video with Wisconsin Public Television, which is now online.
- Funded the flagpole memorial to late park manager Tom Davies.
- Organize, publicize and promote the site through speakers, events, Native American programs, and numerous other events throughout the year.

## Friends of Aztalan State Park Membership

***Do you want to become a member or renew your membership for 2010?***

***Please help keep the Friends of Aztalan State Park active and growing.***

Memberships: ☐ Basic \$20; ☐ Patron \$50; ☐ Corporate \$100; ☐ Life \$250

Name

Address  City

State  Zip  Email

Send to: Friends of Aztalan State Park • Aztalan State Park • 1213 S. Main St • Lake Mills, WI 53551



Friends of Aztalan State Park • P.O. Box 855 • Lake Mills, 53551  
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