



# Ancient Times

Winter 2010/2011

## There's always plenty to do with "Friends of Aztalan."

There has been so much to do with "Friends of Aztalan" this year! Here's a partial list of the many things we've been involved in this year.

- Set up the temporary interpretive center at the park
- Explored Indian dancing with the Funmakers from Wisconsin Dells.
- Held a Four Lakes Area effigy mound tour.
- Learned the art of making dream catchers
- Planted a "Mississippian" garden
- Held a Mississippian picnic enjoying heritage vegetables and other foods
- Participated in numerous festivals around the state to promote Aztalan.



## Boszhardt to speak at Annual Meeting

Noted archaeologist and Wisconsin Archeological Society President Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt will be the featured speaker at this year's annual meeting, scheduled for January 29, at Hoard Museum, 401 Whitewater St., Fort Atkinson. The dinner meeting is scheduled for 5:30 PM. Mr. Boszhardt will discuss recent work near the Mississippian platform mound at Trempealeau, Wisconsin that revealed a Mississippian habitation site that may be earlier than Aztalan. The people at the site appear to have been immigrants from southern Illinois and he will discuss how the discovery relates to Aztalan and Cahokia history. A business meeting will precede the talk that

will include the election and reelection of several board members. Anyone interested in nominating themselves or others for board membership should contact President Kurt Sampson.

The meeting will include dinner featuring pork and chicken dishes with vegetables, potatoes and cake for dessert.

Cost of the dinner is \$18 and you must register by January 22. Call Kurt to register at 414-405-4367, or register by email at [Ksampson2@wi.rr.com](mailto:Ksampson2@wi.rr.com). You should then send your \$18 to Annual Meeting, Friends of Aztalan, PO Box 855, Lake Mills, WI 53551.

## Were Chunky Stones Made at Aztalan?

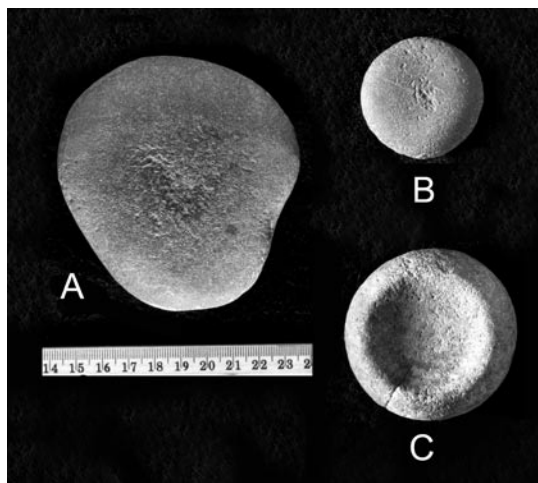
By Daniel M. Seurer

Recent examination of the Albert Kracht artifact collection at the Aztalan Historical Society Museum seems to indicate that yes, Chunky stones were indeed manufactured by the residents of Aztalan.

Albert Kracht, former owner of the land that is now part of Aztalan State Park, collected artifacts from the Aztalan site in the first half of the twentieth century. In September 2010 I began a project for the Lake Mills Aztalan Historical Society to photograph both the Albert Kracht and the H.B. Jaycox collection housed in museum. In the course of photographing the collection, I noticed that two of the objects, currently labeled as polishing stones, were in fact Chunky stones in various stages of manufacture. These two items provide evidence that Chunky stones were made at Aztalan, and gives some clues as to how they were manufactured.

Item A in the photograph shows the earliest stages of the making of a Chunky stone. Notice that a stone close in size to the final object was selected. It clearly

shows that one of the first steps in manufacture was pecking out an area to mark the center of the stone. Both sides were marked in this manner. One edge of this stone apparently was being shaped into a rough arc.



The second stone in the collection (*Item B*) is a Chunky much further along in its' construction. Notice that the center shows the same pecking to mark the center of the stone as the Chunky stone previously mentioned (*Item A*). This particular stone has assumed its cylindrical shape. For whatever reason, this Chunky stone's

concave surfaces were never completed before being lost or abandoned.

It is also interesting to note that S.A. Barrett's book 'Ancient Aztalan' shows a Chunky stone in the process of being made.

Barrett recognized this object for what it was and lists it as a 'Discoidal unfinished.' This particular object is even further along in its construction with at least one of the concave surfaces partially completed.

Item C shows a completed Chunky stone found at Aztalan and now part of the Aztalan museum collection.

The evidence presented here clearly shows that while some Chunky stones may have been imported to the site by the early residents of Aztalan, Chunky stones were indeed being painstakingly manufactured here. It also proves that close examination of artifacts from existing collections, such as those housed in the Aztalan museum, can still yield interesting archeological information.

## 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



## Take a Hike

A new hiking and dog-walking trail has been established in the prairie land of Aztalan State Park. It's a perfect place for a walk and quiet reflection (perhaps on the Mississippian culture). You can enjoy it with or without a dog!

*Photo By Daniel M. Seurer*



## WAS to staff booth at Milwaukee Public Museum

The Wisconsin Archeological Society has been invited to participate in the AAA / Milwaukee Public Museum - Archeology Fair which will be held on March 11th and 12th of 2011 at the Milwaukee Public Museum during regular business hours for both of those days.

FOASP board chair Kurt Sampson will be staffing a table with information about the WAS (Membership forms, what we do, etc). and give out information about Wisconsin Archeology.

Rob Nurre has volunteered to dress as Increase Lapham at table. This next year will mark the 200 anniversary of Increase Lapham's birthday and Rob will be making a series of appearances around the state this next year for this bicentennial to educate the public about Lapham and his important work in WI archeology.

We are in need of any volunteers from the society or others that are willing to "man" or "woman" the table for the fair. The hours are from 9 am to 4 or 5 PM both of those days. It is great fun and educational, and there are many other interesting archeology exhibits that will be involved. Anyone who is willing to help please contact me directly at [ksampson2@wi.rr.com](mailto:ksampson2@wi.rr.com) or call me anytime at 414-405-4367.

*Thanks- Kurt Sampson Archeologist / Curator of Museum, Dodge County Historical Society - Membership Coordinator/ President Elect WAS*

## The 2011 calendars are coming

The 2011 Aztalan Calendars will soon be ready. This year's full color Aztalan calendar will once again feature the superb photography of Dan Seurer, showing both the site and artifacts of Mississippian culture.

Watch your mail and email for instructions on how you can purchase your new calendar. They also make great gifts as well as promote the beauty of Aztalan State Park.

## Board Members

Kurt Sampson, Wauwatosa, President

Marifancis Cataldi,  
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and Webmaster)

Bob Persons, Madison, Treasurer

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Madison, Secretary  
and Volunteer Coordinator

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Al Peters, Jefferson

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Kori Oberle, Director, Hoard Museum,  
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Jude Hartwick, Fort Atkinson

Randy Radtke, Lake Mills

Christie Ward, Town of Aztalan

Henry Sampson, Oshkosh

### Ex Officio

Bob Birmingham, Executive Director  
(608) 516-3421

## Donations Help Keep Aztalan Alive!

In 2010, the Friends of Aztalan received over \$3500 in donations for general operations and towards the planned visitor's center. Many members also donated their time for various projects, including meeting visitors at the new information trailer and giving tours. We would like to thank all for their generous contributions in support of Aztalan state park.

Thank you to the following for cash donations: Ronald Briel, Darice Brumm, Marifan Cataldi, Frances Highsmith (\$1250), Helen Matrisch, Philip Sillman (\$1,000), Glen Steffen, Alan Vance, Dan Suerer, Peter and Gabriele Shubert (\$250), Dr. Ronald Liebenow, Bob Birmingham, Art Ehlert, Debra Griggas, Sandy and Wayne Hasel, Milwaukee Public Museum docents, Matt Papprock, Linda Northey, Robert and Lauren Thornton, Nathan Pyles, Kurt Sampson, Bob Persons and Nona Christensen, Kevin Beth (Traveler's Alley, Lake Mills).

Thank you to the following for generous of time, materials, or other assistance: Dan Suerer, Kristine Welch, Brian Bunno (Bunno Design, Appleton), Bob Persons, Marifran Cataldi, Bill Hanley, Jude Hartwick, Nona Christiansen, Wendy Catalani-Davies, Al Peters, Kurt Sampson, Henry Sampson, Steve Steigerwald, Bob Birmingham, Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society, Sylvia Sipple, Fred Foreman, Nathan Pyle, Chris Reed, Arlene and Jerry Strunk, Hoard Museum (Ft. Atkinson), Rose Gallery (Lake Mills), Aztalan Inn (Town of Aztalan)

## 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

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