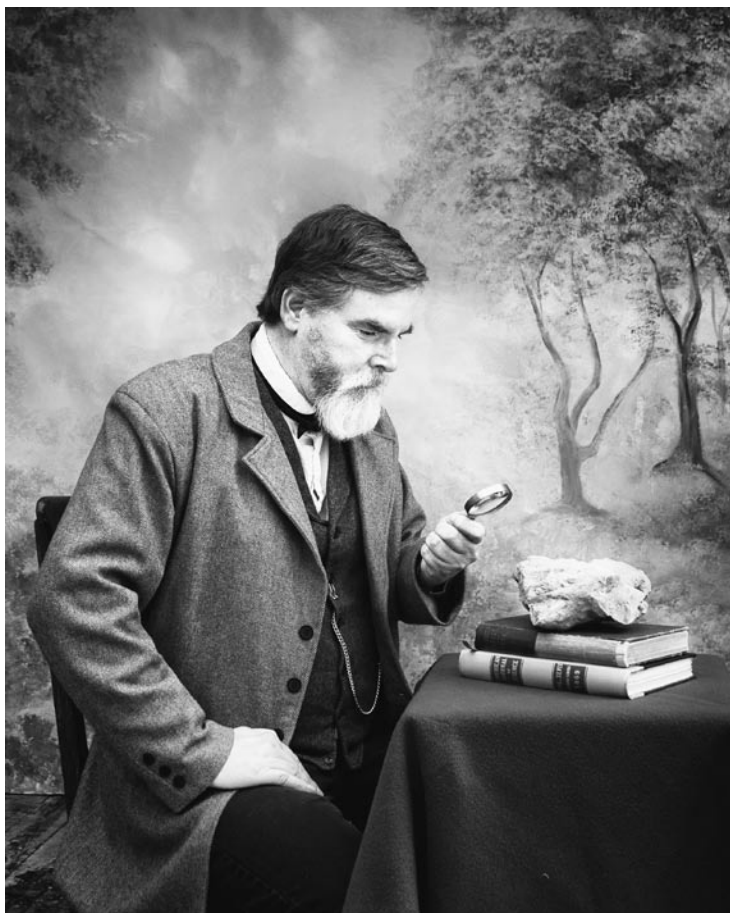




Ancient Times

Summer 2011

An Early Chronicler



Rob Nurre appeared as one of Aztalan's earliest chroniclers Increase Lapham at the May 22 event at Aztalan State Park.

Friends Receive Grant for Mound Step Replacement

The Friends of Aztalan State Park received a grant of \$4,000 from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Stewardship Grant Program to assist the park replace the wooden steps on the northwest and southwest platform mounds. The original steps were put in decades ago following archaeological excavations and have begun to rot, creating a potential public

safety hazard. The grant will be matched with another \$6,400 from the Friends in the form of cash and labor for a total project cost of \$10,400. President Kurt Sampson wrote the grant proposition with the assistance of park ranger Lance Stock and board member Wendy Catalani-Davies made a generous donation to be used as part of the cash match.

Comparing the Size of Aztalan Southwest Mound and Monks Mound

By Daniel M. Seurer

Rising above the western banks of the Crawfish River in southern Wisconsin, the stepped mound on the southwestern corner of Aztalan offers a commanding view of the archeological site and the surrounding countryside. This mound is also one of Aztalan's most imposing features.

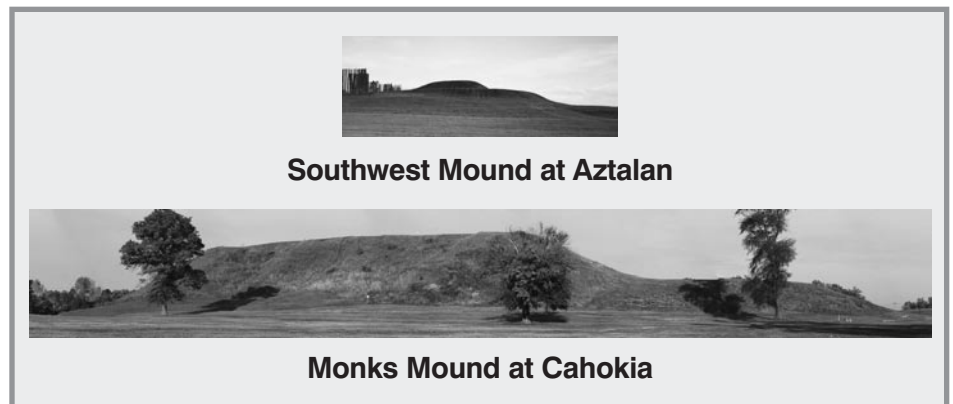
As large as this mound is, it pales beside the sheer size of Monks Mound at the Middle Mississippian city of Cahokia. Then again, most prehistoric structures in the western hemisphere are dwarfed by the dimensions of Monks mound. Depending on how one measures the size of Monks Mound (the mound has experienced significant slumping since it was abandoned in the mid-14th century), the base of the mound measures just over 900 ft (north - south) by 720 feet (east - west), covering a total area over 14 acres. Monks Mound rises just over 100 feet above the surrounding land surface. At this size, according to William

Iseminger's recent book "Cahokia Mounds", only the Mesoamerican pyramids at Cholula and the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan are larger in overall size.

In comparison, the Southwest pyramid mound at Aztalan measures approximately 185 by 130 feet at the base, and

To better compare the sizes of the two mounds, the composite pictures shown here of both mounds give some idea of grand scale of Monks Mound when compared to the Southwest Mound at Aztalan.

The difference in size of these two prehistoric earthworks is striking



approximately 16 feet in height. Given these dimensions, Monks Mound covers roughly 27 times the surface area at the base of the mound than the Southwest mound at Aztalan.

indeed, but in no way should diminishes the importance of the Aztalan mound to those who dwelled at Aztalan over 900 years ago.

New members join the board

The Friends of Aztalan welcomes two new Board members. Dan Seurer of Lake Mills is familiar to the membership through his wonderful photography of the park featured on calendars, our website, at our information trailer, newspaper articles, and many other places. Dan donates profits from sales of his Aztalan photography to the support the park. He is a software consultant and recently set up a Facebook page for the organization. Dan started his adult life as

an archaeologist, and, like us all, Aztalan is of special interest to him.

Kristine Welch lives near Mt. Horeb and works at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Madison. She also has an extensive archaeological background. Kristine has been helping out at the park by giving group tours and will also serve as our volunteer coordinator

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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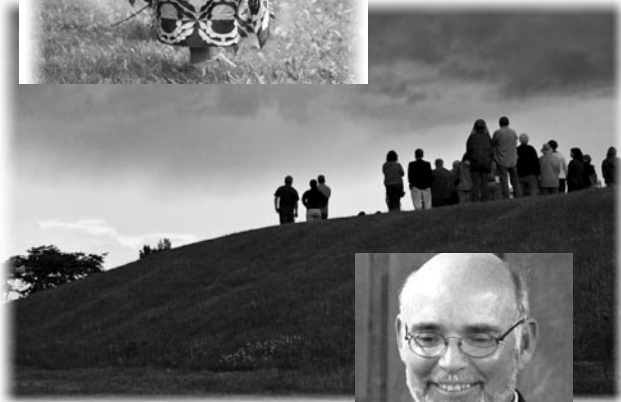
Bob Birmingham, Executive Director
(608) 516-3421

Volunteers Needed for Information Center



Once again the Friends of Aztalan will provide a place where visitors can obtain information about the park and the ancient site. It's in the form of a trailer situated at the second parking lot. Rental of the trailer has been made possible by a generous donation by the Wisconsin Archeological Society.

The trailer features displays, brochures, books, and merchandise. Visitors can watch the short introductory video produced by Wisconsin Public Television with funding from the Friends of Aztalan. The trailer will also serve as a center for fund raising for a permanent, first-class interpretive center. Volunteers are needed this summer to staff the trailer, especially during the week. If you have a few hours to spare to support Aztalan State Park contact volunteer coordinator Kristine Welch kristine.welch5@gmail.com or at 608-770-7159. Training will be provided and no experience is necessary.



Summer Events at Aztalan State Park

- Guided tours of Aztalan every Sunday at 2:00 PM from June through October. Group tours for any time can be arranged by calling Bob Birmingham at (608) 516-3421
- **July 3.** Aztalan Day at the Park. The Aztalan-Lake Mills Historical Society will once again hold Aztalan Day across from their museum at the corner County Highways B and Q. Events at Aztalan State Park will include tours, displays stone-tool making demonstrations, artifact identifications, games for the kids, and a demonstration of stone ceremonial pipe making by Ojibwa pipe maker Keith Smith from Wisconsin Rapids.
- **July 31,** 1:00 PM Native American Day. The Ho-Chunk Wisconsin Dells Singers and Dancers will perform.
- **August 21,** 11:00. Friends of Aztalan Annual Picnic. The Friends will provide meats, buns, sweet corn, and beverages as well as a sample of wild foods eaten by the original Indian occupants of Aztalan. Bring a dish to pass. There will also be a special program on ancient native American pottery making.

Check the Friends of Aztalan State Park website for further information on upcoming events

Friends of Aztalan State Park Membership

**Do you want to become a member or renew your membership for 2011?
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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