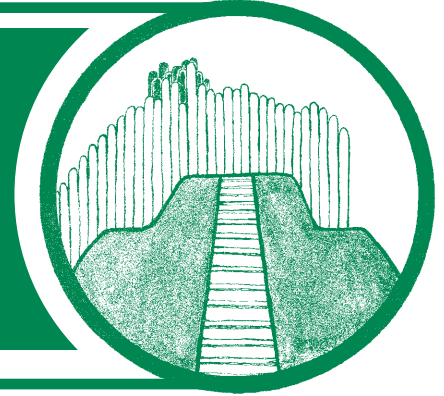


The Friends of Aztalan State Park

Ancient Times

Fall 2007, Newsletter



Aztalan Becoming Bus Tour Destination

Word about remarkable Aztalan is spreading!

Increasingly the park is becoming a destination for group bus tours from all over the country. Groups from The Archaeological Conservancy (membership 27,000) of Santa Fe, New Mexico are now yearly visitors. A large group stopped here on My 22nd as part of group of tour of famous archaeological sites in the Upper Midwest.

The Wisconsin National Resources Foundation sponsored two tours of the park for their members and others on June 30. DNR archaeologist Mark Dudzik joined the tour groups to explain the importance of the site and future plans for development of a visitor's center

On July 19th, the Mississippi Valley Archaeological Center (MVAC) at UW-La Crosse brought 30 teachers from around the country for a site tour as a part of a special program on teaching North American archaeology funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. MVAC distributed the new Aztalan book and video to the attendees and Tom Davies provided the group with a list of resources that can be used to teach about the site.

Volunteers from the Friends of Aztalan were on hand for all the groups, providing tours and refreshments, and selling books and souvenirs to help fund Friends activities. People from on all the tours greatly enjoyed the experience and expressed surprise that such a wonderful place was located here in Wisconsin. Many will return.

If you are interested in dramatic photos of Aztalan, suitable for framing, check out the Dan Seurer website, http://seurer-photography.com/aztalan_sky.html Dan's photos appear in this issue of Ancient Times. Dan is donating profits from sales of his Aztalan photography to the Friends of Aztalan.



Wisconsin Archaeologists and Others Join Visitor's Center Campaign

The professional Wisconsin archaeological community and many others continue to respond to the visitor's campaign with generous donations. Among the former are Dr. Robert Salzer (emeritus, Beloit College), Jennifer Kolb (Wisconsin Historical Society) and Mike Kolb (Stramorph), Dr. Tom Pleger (Campus Dean, UW-Baraboo), Dr. Robert Jeske

(Chair, UWM Anthropology), Mark Dudzik (DNR), and Dr. Janet Speth (UW-Green Bay). Additional generous donations for the visitors center were received from FOASP members Valerie Gabriel (Milwaukee), Rev. Richard and Gail Frasier (Lake Mills), Dr. James and Jane Evans (Madison), and Steven Ratfelders (Greenfield).



Picnic

At the Friends of Aztalan annual picnic, assistant State Archaeologist Amy Rosebrough gave an informative and entertaining presentation on the foods of Aztalan. The presentation included a "picnic" of berries, walnuts, venison (roasted and as jerky), hominy, and squash. *(Photos by Dan Seurer)*



DNR
Report
from
Tom
Davies



The comprehensive spring tour of Aztalan was well-attended and went well, despite a little boating incident. While ferrying people to the east side a flooded boat left a few of our explorers standing in the shallow river and bit soggy. Unfortunately Bob and Nona sat in the front seat and were the first to go.

The aquatic tour participants slogged to the east side to join the tour and the embarrassed pilot pulled a boat full of water back to the west side, where the water was quickly drained and the boat put back on service. Strangely enough, there were no other takers for a trip to the east side.

The boys from the mower company were back for the summer. Combined with a volunteer who works three half days per week, this has the park looking good. Now that the school tour season is over until September, I will actually have some time to work out there myself. The shelter roof will be replaced this summer whenever the contractor shows up.

Official FOASP membership cards are in the mail. Many thanks to Marifran for designing the attractive cards, and donating the printing of the first batch. Check out the Aztalan website for updates, again thanks to Marifran.

I hope to see you at park this summer at one or more of the many events the Friends have planned for this season.



Thanks to efforts of DNR technical staff Bonnie Gruber and DNR archaeologist Mark Dudzik, potential visitors will now be able to watch an introductory video about Aztalan on-line. Wisconsin Public Television produced the video, Aztalan; National Historic Landmark, for the Friends of Aztalan State Park to help promote the site. The video also explains that there other interesting and fun things to do the general area.

See the Aztalan State Park website at
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/specific/aztalan/>

New
Aztalan
Video
On-Line

Support

Support for Aztalan Grows

Recent donations to the Friends of Aztalan State Park operating funds were received from the Badger State Archaeological Society, Tom Davies (park manager), Chrisie Ward (board member, Lake Mills), Bette Ward (Fort Atkinson), Bob Birmingham (president, Madison), Rick Ward, Archie Eschborn (Carpentersville, Illinois), Marifran Cataldi (Board member and FOASP webmaster, Stoughton), Kurt Sampson (board member, Milwaukee), Henry Sampson (board member, Oshkosh), Jane Evans (Madison), Nona Christiansen, (Madison), Frank Weinhold (Madison), and Daniel Arnedt

Many other donors were acknowledged in the May newsletter

New Life Long Members

Arlene and Jerry Strunk (Fort Atkinson)
Robert Salzer (Beloit)*
Archie Eschborn (Carpentersville, Illinois*)
The Badger State Archaeological Society*

*Those donating \$250 or more to the Friends automatically become life long members

Thank you to everyone for your support of Aztalan!

Fund Raising Committee

The Friends are looking for more volunteers preferably with fund raising experience to form a fund raising committee that will set a future direction for locating potential major donors and pursuing grants. Contact Bob Birmingham at (608) 241-4958

Upcoming Events

Bus Tour of Area Archaeological Sites

Part II, October 14 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Bring your own lunch. This year's bus tour will be visiting the Nitschke Mound Group and sites in the Wisconsin Dells area. Nitschke is now a Dodge County park and is one of the finest effigy mound groups preserved in Wisconsin. In the Wisconsin Dells area we will stop at the Kingsley Bend effigy mound group that has just been transferred by the Department of Transportation to the Ho-Chunk Nation. Ho-Chunk Nation archaeologist Jay Toth will be our guide. From there we will go and view 1000 year corn fields and the unique Man Mound near Baraboo. On the way back we will also be stopping in Madison to view the very impressive effigy mounds in the area. The tour will depart and return at Park HQ at the depot on Main Street in Lake Mills. The cost is \$25 per person. Reservations are needed by October 15. To register call or email Bob Birmingham at (608)241-4958 or birmi@sbcglobal.net

Check our website for more upcoming events at www.aztalan.us

Thanks

Thanks to...

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