

Aztalan Day – Sunday July 1st. 2012

The Friends of Aztalan State Park in conjunction with the Lake Mills Aztalan Historical Society Incorporated would like to invite you to Aztalan Day 2012. The Friends of Aztalan are sponsoring three open to the public educational events at Aztalan State Park this day and public sites tours of Aztalan. The Lake Mills Aztalan Historical Society will have its historic site open to the public for tours which will include the church museum which houses many interesting Aztalan artifacts, and other historic buildings on their property. There will also be various vendors, a quilt display, live music, and Jim Grybush the prehistoric Flint Knapping tool maker.

Friends of Aztalan State Park Public programs for Aztalan Day 2012

Main Program Title: "Art of Rock Art Day"

The Friends of Aztalan State Park are pleased to welcome Geri Schrab of Rock Art in Watercolors, LLC for a fascinating look at ancient rock art which will focus on Midwestern rock art sites in Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, and Illinois. This power point presentation will be held the middle parking lot area by the Friends of Aztalan State Park information trailer. Geri will also have some of her art work for sale at this event. **12:00 PM program start time.**

Gerí Schrab

ARTIST STATEMENT

"As those of us not indigenous have adopted this Land, it is important to listen to this history and learn."



The focus of my artwork is the study of Petroglyphs and pictographs, images pecked, carved, and painted on rock surfaces by the ancient indigenous people of North America. These original "rock art" images may not have been considered art at the time, but recordings of the stories, journeys, hunts and visions; in essence, the history of the original People. As those of us not indigenous have adopted this Land, it is important to listen to this history and learn. As more transplanted generations are born to and die on this Land, we intermingle; it touches and teaches us.

These ancient rock art sites occur not only in North America, but were created by ancient, indigenous people around the world. As of this time, I have visited Petroglyphs and pictograph sites in 17 U. S. States; Ontario and also Australia. Through these travels and exploration of these ancient, sacred sites, I have found although the style and execution of the original rock art images may vary from area to area, there is an underlying unity. This ancient unity echoes our common heart and essential connection to Mother Earth.

And while it is true that the rock art first called me to paint, my modern day professional experience as a court reporter has greatly influenced the style of my work, how it developed and why I am so dedicated to my subject. As the "keeper of the record," my day job is very structured, calls for perfection, and puts me in the position to witness and record stories of much pain and heartache. When I enter my studio, I take the armor off my heart, release the structure, tune into my intuition and paint. I do not plan nor sketch beforehand. My paintings go directly from heart to brush to paper, with the rock art and nature as my guides. This relaxed and intuitive process of painting this deeply profound subject matter soothes my soul. It is my intention through this work to share my love of the ancients, the beauty of nature and rhythmic, healing Earth energy with others.

As with all of my exhibits and individual pieces of art, I remind the viewers of my work that rock art sites are not only fragile and irreplaceable, but sacred to many people. Should you have the good fortune to visit a site, please tread lightly. These tantalizing images are gifts from the Ancestors and should be treated with respect.



Friends of Aztalan State Park Program 2:

Meet the Rangers and "Crush" the Red Tailed Hawk. Come and meet WI DNR Rangers Lance Stock and Jack Pace. Jack will introduce his Red Tailed Hawk named *Crush* and present a children's program on Falconry at Aztalan. There will also be a Poster Exhibit on Falcon Imagery in Mississippian Iconography. No pets allowed.

11:00 PM program start time



Jake Pace and Crush

Friends of Aztalan State Park Program 3: Atlatl Demonstration by Wisconsin Affiliated Spear Throwers. Please join professional atlatl throwers lead by Len Riemersma in a demonstration of the ancient techniques of atlatl throwing. The Presentation will include the history of the atlatl and expert demonstrations. This is your chance to learn to throw from the best in a safe environment. **1:00 PM program start time and a 3:00 PM competition.** Meet at the Friends of Aztalan Information trailer in the Middle parking lot.



Len Riemersma-Expert Atlatl Thrower