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## WHITEWATER EFFIGY MOUNDS PRESERVE

### HOARD MUSEUM UNVEILS NEW EFFIGY MOUNDS PANELS

On Thursday, December 15, from 5 – 6 P.M. The Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson is holding an open house to celebrate the recent installation of three new exhibit panels. As part of the *Mysteries of the Mounds Gallery* which was opened in 2009, the panels were added this year, inviting visitors to visit the local mounds of Aztalan State Park near Lake Mills, Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve in Whitewater, and Jefferson County Indian Mounds Park and Trail on Lake Koshkonong.

These panels were designed, produced, and installed by a new local business, Image Branding First, Inc. in exchange for a corporate membership in the Fort Atkinson Historical Society which cooperates with the Hoard Museum.

The Whitewater panel was designed by Museum Director, Kori Oberle with the help of Richard Helmick, Carol Christ and Mariann Scott of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission. The panel includes information on the oak savanna that is unique to the Whitewater Effigy Mounds preserve as well as a regional map and a trail map of the 13 mounds. It also includes a photo of a burn conducted this past spring.

The Hoard Museum is located in Fort Atkinson on 401 Whitewater Avenue and is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9:30-4:30. There is no charge for admission



### CITY OF WHITEWATER CONDUCTS BURN

On Monday, November 21, the city of Whitewater conducted a second burn this year at the Whitewater Effigy Mounds. One burn was scheduled for the spring of 2011. However due to wet conditions this spring, the burn was incomplete and a second one was needed. A prescribed burn is used to mimic the natural disturbance of fire as much as possible. The purpose of a burn is to encourage native vegetation establishment and help control weeds. Prior to European settlement, wildfires and human-caused fires traversed prairies, wetlands and oak savannas. Native Americans often burned grasslands to flush out

game while hunting. Lightning strikes also ignited prairies. It is thought that fires burned an area every 2 – 5 years. The next prescribed burn is scheduled for the fall of 2013.