

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

202 N. Wisconsin Avenue  
P.O. Box 187  
Muscodia, WI 53573  
(608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792

## NEWS RELEASE

MAY 1, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### LECTURES ON MUSCODA HISTORY AND AREA MOUNDS TO BE FEATURED AT MOREL MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

Presentation on Wisconsin River geology at Crosscurrents Heritage Center on Saturday afternoon

MUSCODA...The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board, in partnership with the Three Eagles Foundation and Cultural Landscape Legacies, will host special events at the board's office in Muscodia on the Saturday morning of Morel Mushroom Festival weekend, followed by a special guided tour of the sacred effigy mounds site known as "Frank's Hill" at 1:00 in the afternoon. The activities begin on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. with a lecture by local historian Ken Thiede entitled "The Fires of Muscodia." The presentation will highlight major fires in the village that transformed the downtown area or significantly changed the business district over the past 150 years. A retired high school history teacher and current President of the Richland County Historical Society, Thiede grew up in the Muscodia area and is a graduate of Riverdale High School. He also is a key contributor to the popular Historic Muscodia Mile signage project sponsored by the Muscodia Area Chamber of Commerce and has partnered with the local Lions Club to republish a number of books related to Muscodia's rich history, including the columns by John Duffy that ran in the Muscodia Progressive for many years. Copies of the books will be available for purchase at the event.

Mark Cupp, Riverway Board Executive Director, and President of both the Three Eagles Foundation and Cultural Landscape Legacies, will follow at 11:00 with a presentation entitled, "The Mounds of the Muscodia Area", during which he will describe the types of earthworks found in Wisconsin and then focus on mound sites within a short distance of Muscodia. Cupp has been with the Riverway project since its inception in 1989 and has studied the Effigy Mound Building Culture, known as the Late Woodland Tradition, since that time. He is one of the leading local experts on the location of mound sites in the final 92 miles of the lower Wisconsin River valley

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## RIVERWAY BOARD EVENTS AT MUSHROOM FEST/ADD ONE

and has helped to protect mounds and rock art sites for decades. Maps, diagrams, aerial photographs, and new technology showing mound sites will be utilized during the lecture. An opportunity for questions will follow. The Riverway Board office is located at 202 N. Wisconsin Ave., next door to the village hall, also known as “Mushroom Headquarters”.

People interested in the tour of Frank’s Hill should gather at the site at 12:45 p.m. and be prepared for a short hike to the top of the small knoll. The tour will last about 45 minutes and will describe the effigy mounds on Hill East and interesting features on Hill West, which some believe may have been used as a type of calendar. Frank’s Hill is located northwest of Muscoda, near the intersection of Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 193. From Mushroom Headquarters in downtown Muscoda, go north across the Wisconsin River bridge, turn left on Hwy. 60, go 2 miles west, turn right on Hwy. 193, and then go 1/8 mile to the gate. Park along the road shoulder and hike to the top of the hill.

At 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, the newly formed Crosscurrents Heritage Center at Tippesaukee Farm will host Dr. Eric Carson, Geologist with the Wisconsin Geology and Natural History Survey, who will give a talk entitled, “*Shaping the River Valleys: 30,000 Years of the Wisconsin and Mississippi*”. Dr. Carson will discuss how glacial activities have created the region we know as the Driftless Area and the major river systems within, including the lower Wisconsin River valley. Registration is required and information can be found at [crosscurrentsheritage.org](http://crosscurrentsheritage.org). Tippesaukee Farm is located just west of Port Andrew on scenic Hwy. 60, about 1/8 mile past the Hwy. T bridge.

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For further information, contact Mark Cupp at (608) 739-3188 or [mark.cupp@wisconsin.gov](mailto:mark.cupp@wisconsin.gov).