

Herman E. Bender - A Short Biography

Herman Bender is an independent researcher with a background in geology (professional emphasis and hydrogeology) and a technical field in industry. An approved historical consultant and amateur astronomer (45 years), he has been nationally and internationally published in the fields of archeoastronomy, petroform research, applied geophysics, cultural landscape studies and history. He has conducted many public seminars and classes through the U. W. Fond du Lac Community Outreach program, taught as an Environmental Science teacher at the High School level and has presented programs at various universities and institutions including Princeton and Marquette.

Through his company ASHCO (America Septen History COmpany), Mr. Bender has provided cultural landscape and environmental surveys for comprehensive land planning purposes and preservation. Many private organizations, governmental units and developers have utilized his information in a variety of ways. He has acted as a consultant to and continues to work with members of a number of Native American tribes including the Northern Cheyenne, Lakota, Ojibway, Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk as a specialist in Plains and Woodland Native American astronomy traditions and related cosmologies. Much of this work is related to Native American land claims, repatriation issues and cultural identities.

He is the founder and first past president of the Mid-America Geographic Foundation, Inc. which organized and co-hosted the 1999 International Rock Art Conference at Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin. At the conference Herman (as he prefers to be called) chaired the archeoastronomy sessions where he presented one and half papers. He also chaired the field trip committee and conducted numerous field trips which explored the cultural and sacred landscape of southeastern Wisconsin.

A new endeavor, the ***Hanwakan Center for Prehistoric Astronomy, Cosmology and Cultural Landscape Studies, Inc.*** which Herman heads has been incorporated as a non-stock corporation by the State of Wisconsin and the federal government as a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit corporation. The goal of the new Hanwakan Center is to help preserve not only actual physical sites, but the rich traditions, oral histories and stories which are incorporated into them. The Hanwakan Center is international in scope.

Interested in history for his entire life, he collects period (American) antiques, rare & historic maps and prints, antique pre-kerosene lighting devices, Indian artifacts and antique Oriental ceramics. Over the years and as a public service, he has mounted numerous displays and exhibits utilizing items from his ceramic, fossil, Indian artifacts and rare maps and print collections.