

# ACOTW™

Welcome To

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Volume I, Number 5

September 2009

## This Month We Hear From A Southeastern Oklahoma Collector Who Shares The Discovery Of A Possible Archaic Period Cache.

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter, "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web".

I hope you enjoyed the fourth edition, Volume I, Number 4, of our digital on-line newsletter, the August, 2009 issue.

"Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" provides an on-going series of articles and graphic presentations of information related to the many different aspects of finding and learning about the relics of previous cultures which remain to be found today.

This fifth edition addresses the following topics:

- How do you participate in eBay auctions for authentic artifacts?
- How can I know whether these items are modern reproductions or ancient artifacts?
- Do we still find caches of points or tools stored by their previous owners?
- How can I tell how old an arrowhead may be? *(We continue a series of articles and photo exhibits to show some general guidelines which can help us to know the kind and age of the points we find or collect.)*
- What happened to projectile points and knives after they became dull?



Here's a "Little River" spear point or knife blade dating to the Late Archaic Period, which was found by Stephen Johnson, in Atoka County, Oklahoma. Read about his 2007 discovery as described by Stephen, on page 15. See two other points from the possible cache and the Certificate of Authenticity for this Ouachita Quartzite artifact on page 5. This point measures 5-3/8" x 2-1/16".

- Where is the famous Oregon landmark called "Fort Rock" and what was found there that makes it so interesting to folks who collect ancient arrowheads and such?
  - Did the original inhabitants of North America really hunt those giant buffalo and other large creatures? Here's a point of evidence that clearly demonstrates their prowess in the field.
  - How can I tell the difference between an ancient Folsom Point and a modern-made, reproduction copy of a Folsom Point? *(We continue a series of articles on this most vital subject in this edition.)*
  - Another reader gives us a glimpse at her Grandfather's amazing point collection, mostly of artifacts found in Nebraska.
- Our editorial objective is to help our readers become long-
- (continued...)*

term, even serious collectors of arrowheads, over the years to come. There are several things which we hope to accomplish for you in this process:

- Help you find new points and understand what it is that you are finding;
- Help you to learn about all the different aspects of collecting;
- Help you to recognize the different kinds and styles of collectable arrowheads and other implements;
- Help you to understand about the life ways of the cultures represented by the stone tools which remain;
- Help you to discover ways to find good and desirable arrowheads from other sources, such as eBay and special subject web sites;
- Help you to learn about point quality and authenticity, so that you understand about point value and character;
- Help you understand about modern flint knapping, how new points and implements are made, how to recognize them, and how to appreciate those items for the skill and the craftsmanship of the work which they exhibit;
- Help you to recognize that some people still try to sell unsuspecting collectors items which may or may not be what the item is described to be, that you should be careful when you think about buying points for your collection;

- Help you to learn about authentication services and their value to you as a collector.

As we do these things, we will maintain your readership and interest in our newsletter for many years to come.

Thank you for your participation, and your interest in "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web".

Sincerely,  
F. Scott Crawford  
Carrollton, Texas



*The cave art shown on the last page of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" is from the "Cave of the Hands," located on the Pinturas River in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina. It was made thousands of years ago, by native peoples, perhaps in coming-of-age ceremonies, since the painted hand images are the size for youths about thirteen years of age. The photograph was made in the cave by Mariano Cecowski, in 2005, and is used with permission through Wikipedia.com*

Member AACA



Authentic Artifact Collectors Association

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F. Scott Crawford, Carrollton, Texas



## About The Author

From the time when I was 13 or 14 in the forested foothills of the western Oregon Willamette Valley and found my first arrowhead, an obsidian "bird point," in a field my dad had plowed for an experimental crop of maize, I have always wondered about the people who used these stone tools, how they lived, and what became of them.

Some friends had collected Indian artifacts in the desert areas of eastern Oregon and my brothers and I all enjoyed looking at their display of those arrowheads. So, to find some points of our own, on the family land, was particularly exciting. After that, whenever we were working in the bean fields, or tending livestock, or moving irrigation pipes, or just wandering across the back 40, we always would keep an eye out for bits and pieces of worked stone, tools and points, to add to our growing collection.

Today, I still keep an eye out for remnants of past cultures. And as the world has changed so much, I can now do much, but not all, of that wandering and learning on the internet, on the world wide web. That's how I came to be collecting arrowheads on the web, and why I began to put together this newsletter, for others across the land who also are interested in "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web".

FSC

p.s. There is still a time and a place for criss crossing a plowed field, or walking along the banks of a stream, just to see what you might find. Knowing where to look and how, is part of what we plan to explore in the pages of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web." Read, learn, find, enjoy.

p.p.s. You are invited to visit my flint knapping web site:  
[www.Arrowhead-Maker.com](http://www.Arrowhead-Maker.com)

## A Bidding Adventure Unfolds On eBay: The Prize? A 5" Dacite Cascade Knife From Lake County, Oregon. "The Winner Is ..."

**eBay**  
**GORGEOUS AUTHENTIC 5" CASCADE KNIFE<-LAKE CO, OR.<->AACA** Item number: 220480354488

Description  
 ----->This stunning knife is a little over 5" long and 1 1/2" wide! It was found in Lake County Oregon. It is really nicely worked with beautiful beveling on the edges. It is wafer thin, and very symmetrical- a real collector! A great chance a own a beautiful piece with no reserve, (but then I never have a reserve) so happy bidding!!!! All of my artifacts and arrowheads are 100% authentic and have been collected legally. I am a member of the AACA. Thanks a lot for stopping by! jen & pat

Here is an example of an eBay auction for an outstanding "Cascade" knife, by AACA member and eBay seller ID: "angelfaerieland", Jennifer Peterson and her mother, Pat Welch. This item was listed in the eBay category: Collectibles>Cultures & Ethnicities>Native American: US>Pre-1600>Artifacts.



**eBay**  
 Listed in category: Collectibles > Cultures & Ethnicities > Native American: US > Pre-1600 > Artifacts Item number: 220480354488

**GORGEOUS AUTHENTIC 5" CASCADE KNIFE<-LAKE CO, OR.<->AACA**

Item condition: --  
 Ended: Sep 20, 2009 11:37:16 PDT  
 Bid history: 28 bids  
 Winning bid: **US \$338.33**

Shipping: \$3.00 US Postal Service Parcel Post | See all details Estimated delivery within 3-10 business days  
 Returns: 30 day money back, buyer pays return shipping | Read details  
 Coverage: Pay with **PayPal** and your full purchase price is covered! | See terms

Seller info  
 angelfaerieland (458) 100%  
 Ask a question See other items

Item specifics  
 Original or Reproduction: 100% Original Authentic  
 Material: OBSIDIAN  
 Return Guarantee: ALWAYS 100% GUARANTEED

The eBay members' bidding began on September 13, continuing through September 20, 2009; ending at 11:37:16 Pacific Daylight Time. You can follow the bidding activity by noting when the listed bids were made.

If you are bidding, eBay tells you if your bid is the high bid, and it sends you a notice if you are outbid by another member. When items are attracting numerous bidders, or long-time bidders who know the seller by reputation and quality of offering, then you may see a steady series of increasing bids.

Sometimes an individual may jump the bid ahead by a significant dollar amount. Then you may see a series of

incremental bids by others as they try to make up ground toward the existing high bid. However, you may also see them try to guess when they are getting toward the current high bid, without actually surpassing it.

And, sometimes you will see a rush of bids in the last minute or so, as individuals try to become the high bidder, especially when the offering is of top quality like this Cascade knife.

**GORGEOUS AUTHENTIC 5" CASCADE KNIFE<-LAKE CO, OR.<->AACA**  
 Winning bid: **US \$338.33**  
 Shipping: **US \$3.00 -- US Postal Service Parcel Post.**

Bidders: 6 Bids: 28 Time Ended: Sep-20-09 11:37:16 PDT  
 Duration: 7 days

Sorry, you were outbid. This item sold for US \$338.33  
 Only actual bids (not automatic bids generated up to a bidder's maximum) are shown. Auto placed days or hours before a listing ends. Learn more about bidding.

Bidder	Bid Amount	Bid Time
<b>3***p (1280)</b>	US \$338.33	Sep-20-09 11:37:00 PDT
s***c (474)	US \$333.33	Sep-18-09 06:06:28 PDT
s***c (474)	US \$275.00	Sep-14-09 06:06:41 PDT
e***s (145)	US \$175.53	Sep-14-09 10:50:33 PDT
e***s (145)	US \$163.88	Sep-14-09 09:41:21 PDT
y***y (739)	US \$146.00	Sep-14-09 07:50:42 PDT
g*** (418)	US \$140.99	Sep-13-09 16:56:36 PDT
e***s (145)	US \$140.00	Sep-13-09 16:55:53 PDT
g*** (418)	US \$135.99	Sep-13-09 16:55:30 PDT

The high bidder hopes that no one will jump over his bid at the last second. So sometimes, he will place another bid or two above his exhibited high bid amount. These are defensive bids which hope to exceed any last minute bid by a competitor.

In this case, a long-time buyer placed a jump bid over what he or she hoped was the current high bidder's highest bid, close to the very end of the bidding period; with just 16 seconds remaining.

This gives very little time for the current high bidder to be notified or to rebid.

The aggressor is hoping that his last second bid is greater than any defensive bids already placed into the system by the current leader.

If you are the aggressor bidder at the last few seconds, you can get an idea of the likelihood of a defensive bid already being in place by noticing how many extra times that the leader is shown as bidding again, even though his exhibited high bid has not changed.

In this auction, the winning bidder was "3\*\*\*p (1280)," apparently a long-time eBay buyer, who outbid the last bid of "s\*\*\*c (474)," whose final bid had been placed on September 18.

Congratulations to the winner of this excellent Cascade knife found in Lake County, Oregon. It is truly an arrowhead collector's prize.

Remember, quality artifacts can be expensive; and, fakes sold as ancient always cost everybody a lot more!

## How Can You Tell The Age Of An Arrowhead?

When you find an arrowhead, or someone shows you an arrowhead, how can you tell how old it is?

A lot of the answer for how old an arrowhead is depends upon the type of stone the point in question is made from. Old flint tends to get coarser and turn lighter colors, towards white even, if it is exposed to sunlight and air and rain and freezing over time

However, if it is buried, sometimes there is very little apparent aging, unless the soil itself is chemically acting on the surface of the flint. I have found buried points and blades, which, after I washed them, were almost as smooth and unchanged as new materials. So, you then look for deposits of minerals from the buried condition. Also, if flint has been exposed to the atmosphere, often the exposed side of a flint point is quite discolored relative to the unexposed side. This is a good indication of age.

If the point is obsidian, especially in a desert area, and it has been exposed on the surface of the ground, the exposed side many times is somewhat polished by wind and blowing dust or sand. The underside is more original in feel, or it is often coated with chemical deposits from the soil. In addition, in desert or normal weather pattern areas, obsidian is affected by



rain and other moisture over time, and gets what is called a "hydration rind" on the outer surface. This tends to dull the originally shiny, slick appearance of the flaked stone. It makes an outer layer of changed material, due to the absorption of minute amounts of water, that is thicker depending on the length of time of the exposure to the elements.

Archaeologists have even taken to calibrating the age of obsidian points or tools based on the thickness of the hydration rind in a known area. This



*See the difference between the slick, glassy surface of a new break, compared to the dull appearance of the surface of obsidian long exposed to weather, rain, freezing, etc.*

is done by comparing a sequence of rind measurements to ages determined by other accepted dating methods, Carbon 14, tree rings, etc., to set up a scale to get a rough age for a piece based on the thickness of the rind. The rind thickness can be observed by cutting a slice through an expendable obsidian tool.

Yet additional indicators of possible age are the style, size and source location of a point. Many styles of points were unique to certain time periods, which enables the observer to



position the point in a time sequence. Also, many specific styles were used in specific regions, which also helps to identify the cultural identity of a particular piece. And, the material from which a particular regional style of point is made is generally known, at least to experienced collectors. So, when a point made of an abnormal, atypical material for a particular style is exhibited, the likelihood of modern knapping reproduction increases.

These concepts are just the beginning

of the discussion of determining the age of an arrowhead.

Artifact authenticators also examine the edges of the points under high magnification to observe natural aging and "use wear" patterns vs. chemical aging or mechanical wear and tear with metal or other modern materials.

Mixed, confused or varying chipping and flaking styles indicate possible reworking of a point, either in ancient times to refurbish the edge or tip of the point for re-use, or in modern times to reshape it into an apparently complete tool.

Additional analytical methods come into play after an examination of the consistency and style of flaking patterns on a point or tool.

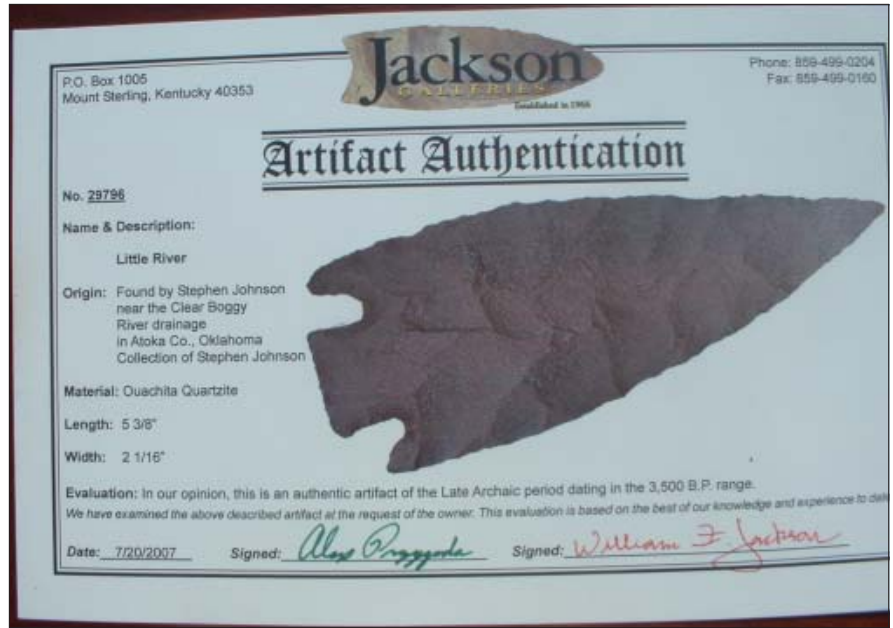
Authenticators can observe knapped stone surfaces under special light to see the potential difference in the age of the visible surfaces. Old surfaces and new surfaces react differently to certain kinds of light, and are visibly different to the eye under that special light. This difference between old and new stone surfaces also enables the detection of potentially modern rechipping of old points to reshape them.

This information can help collectors to make sure of what they are buying or acquiring by trade, through the various networks, such as the internet and regional artifact shows.

**“This is an authentic artifact of the Late Archaic Period, dating in the 3,500 B.P. range.” -- Bill Jackson**

Stephen Johnson, of Oklahoma, sends the story of this Little River spear point or knife blade. You can read about how it was found, with the other points shown here, in a possible Archaic Perion cache, in the story on page 15.

He submitted it to Jackson Galleries to document the find in 2007. This is an outstanding spear point, made out of a not so common material, Ouachita Quartzite.



Here is a photo of the Certificate of Authenticity from Jackson Galleries, dated July 20, 2007. Below are two other Ouachita Quartzite points found the next day, at the same location in Atoka County, Oklahoma, by Stephen Johnson. These two are shown actual size, the large point photo is reduced a little from the actual size, (5-3/8" long).



## e-Mail Letters To The Editor:

September 12, 2009

Scott,

Arrowheads are NOT common or easy to find here in Massachusetts. Too many people are interested in building a house, an office building, parking lot or even worse, a mall. The best surface hunting grounds are paved over or off limits on Federal land.

Around here and in the past, we looked for "points" around water. A pond, river, lake or along the ocean. Some of the best "finds" have been on the island of Nantucket; about 30 miles off the coast of Cape Cod. We've probably looked for the better part of 45 years. I've given talks about Native Americans and the artifacts they left behind; in the local schools, libraries and some of the historical societies in my own town and those surrounding.

About 3 or 4 months ago I taught myself how to flintknapp. Have some books, DVDs and videos but mostly through trial and error I can turn out a decent looking arrowhead, spear, knife or drill. Spilled plenty blood before buying a hand pad and a lap pad. Made tools: antler billet, a copper billet and 2 or 3 things for notching and retouch. A friend who live near Glass Buttes was nice enough to send a box of Obsidian.

I'm sure you have better and more access for surface hunting in the state of Texas and if you're writing about making arrowheads, you must do a fair amount of flintknapping yourself. Love the free magazine and I agree with you about "understanding about those who have gone before us."

Thanks,

Rose Martinis

September 17, 2009

Scott,

Exploring a cave on my property up in the Adirondacks of New York and in digging around an old what looked like a fire pit with my grand-daughter, we discovered three very old arrow heads along with a couple of other tools which we are not sure what they were used for.

Pretty exciting stuff. She now wants to dig up the whole cave. She also asked how they made them, so I was looking for info and wanted to get some materials so we could try making some arrowheads together.

I think these are Iroquois Indian arrowheads, but still researching that. We are meeting with some folks from the NYS Natural History museum to get their take on things.

Al Olmstead

*(Editor's note:*

*Fun story! Do you happen to have a couple of photos available, of the points, or of the cave? It would make an interesting local story for the e-magazine, "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web." ... if you have a pic or two, I would like to put them in the next issue, to follow up on your initial report and perhaps with your meeting with the Natural History folks.)*

September 15, 2009

Hey Scott,

I think you mentioned you used to either live in Oregon or know a bit about it, but I wanted to ask if you knew of some good places to hunt for artifacts. Two people have told me that the Fort Rock / Silver Falls area (central Oregon, about four hours from where I live) is the place to go, but I thought I'd check

with you to see if you also might know of other areas (maybe closer) as well?

Thanks!

Kelly

*(Editor's note: I have heard tell that in some of the small reservoir/lake areas in the Coast Range west of Corvallis has been productive. The thing is most everything is private land. If you can contact farmers, and get permission to look, the farmland in the foothills of the Cascades has been good. Fresh plowed areas make it easier to look. I have found points on plowed land around Lebanon, again with permission. In eastern Oregon, BLM land can be wandered, but even over there more and more is now private land, and you need permission. Many years ago, my family used to go over near Ft. Rock in northern Lake County and that area, but last time I went out there, in the early 90's, much of the government land we used to hunt on was now private. I think that is more and more the story everywhere. I am told that southern Lake County is a good place to go look, but that is even farther, almost to California. You might check with one of my contacts in Sisters, who could perhaps point you in a finer direction. His name is Jess Anders, and his email is: andersj@isp.com*

*He has been collecting all over Oregon for many years, and knows many long-time collectors. He may be able to give you some ideas for the Willamette Valley and Columbia River, with much more authority than I. Good luck, and take pictures!*

Scott

Publisher's e-mail address:

fscottcrawford@  
arrowheadcollectingontheweb.com

## For Our “Green” World: The Post-Consumer Dalton Point!

Starting at the late Paleo-Indian time and continuing on into the Early Archaic period, the stone point style known generally as the Dalton Point served as a hunting weapon longer than most any other style. This long-lived technology was used over a vast region, from the Southeast and Florida to the East Central of Kentucky and Tennessee and Ohio, across the South and into much of Texas and northward throughout the Great Plains.

Dalton points are common throughout Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, etc. The distinctive base design of these spear points, lance heads and dart points is widely and immediately recognizable.

This design, probably more than any other, replaced the fluted points of earlier technologies, because it worked! And because ancient craftsmen did not have to contend with as many fractures as regularly occurred during the fluted point style manufacturing processes. This change saved a lot of effort, time and material, all of which could be put to better use than being discarded as Clovis, Cumberland or Folsom points “broken during manufacture.”

One unique phase of the Dalton point system has emerged. As the points were used and became dull, either from hunting impacts or from edge wear in service as knife blades, the owner would resharpen them. This refurbishing effort usually would take place while the



*The Dalton knife in the middle of the photograph has been sharpened a few times and has a long service life ahead of it. The other points have all reached the end of their usefulness, such that further sharpening was more effort than it was worth. The upper right point continued utility as a drill, then the tip broke.*

point was still bound in the handle or shaft. As a result, the base of the point did not exhibit much of the reshaping effort. But the blade certainly did show the effect of being sharpened again and again.

Here are several examples of Dalton Points which were recycled until there is almost nothing left except the base.

I call them “Post-Consumer Daltons.”

## "A Wonderful, Desolate, Flat Country ... Nothing But A Little Brush, Sand, And Dotted With Large Boulders."

*I asked Jennifer Peterson about Lake County, Oregon, and about the regulations governing arrowhead collecting in the areas where her family has long surface collected, in response to a request from a reader in Oregon looking for a description of Lake County as a place to look for artifacts. Her reply is almost poetic:*

"July 20, 2009

Hey Scott,

Lake County, Oregon is wonderful, desolate, flat country and you have to wonder how a culture eked out a living in such an unfriendly place.

There is not a tree in sight. Nothing but a little brush, sand, and dotted with large boulders.

On many of these large rocks you can see where an ancient people carved out foot holes so they could climb to the top to get a better view -- of I don't know what.

It really is a strange place -- very cold and windy in the winter and hot in the summer!

As far as the laws go, everyone (California and Oregon) abides by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of '79 (took effect October 31, 1979), which states it is NOT illegal to pick up arrowheads as long as they are on the ground's surface.

You cannot dig for them.

Also, you cannot take arrowheads from any Federal land, such as a National Park or Reserve.

But, you should never remove too many points from any one site because there may be an important undiscovered archaeological site nearby and the removal of these arrowheads could lead to the loss of valuable information about a whole culture of people!



Fort Rock, in Lake County, is the remains of a volcano from the Ice Age. Terraces all around the circular throat of the volcano were formed by wave action in a meltwater lake which filled the entire Fort Rock valley to a depth of 100 feet or more. In a nearby cave, Luther Cressman, from the University of Oregon, discovered dozens of pairs of sandals woven from sage brush bark twined cord, during excavations in 1938. These shoes were about 9,300 years of age, and were covered by volcanic ash from the explosion of Mt. Mazama, 7,600 years ago.



This is what the law states -- but if you could get 20 people to agree on exactly what it means...more power to you! It seems everyone has their own interpretation of it!

Hope that helped."

Jennifer Peterson

## Buffalo Skull, Impaled By A Calf Creek Point, 5000 Years Old, Found By Oklahoma Riverbed Point Collector Kim Holt In 2003.



When collector Kim Holt found this buffalo skull on a gravel bank of the Arkansas River near Tulsa, in 2003, he contacted the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey. He discovered a spearhead about three inches across embedded in the skull. This type of object could have been a hoax or a key to unlocking an ancient hunting culture.

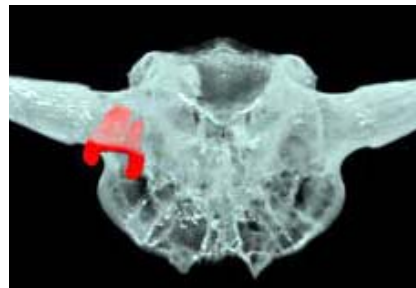
"Things do get faked sometimes," said Don Wyckoff, curator of archaeology at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, where the skull is displayed in the Peoples' Room. The most important thing was to determine the authenticity of the object. He and other scientists set out to answer that question, immediately after the bison skull was found.

OU archaeologist Leland Bement said this 5,000-year-old bison skull and a spearhead embedded in it represents a wealth of information about an ancient people.

"It's not a hoax," Bement said. "It's a bison with a spear through its head."

To prove this, archaeologists at OU enlisted the help of colleagues at the University of Texas. The skull was taken to Austin for a CAT scan. This scan revealed the intricate interior of the bison skull and details about its demise.

The CAT scan produced three-dimensional renderings of the bison skull in great detail, which can be viewed at the Web site of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey. The Web site details how



the spearhead fractured as it entered the skull. The lack of damage to the back wall of the skull leads the archaeologists to believe the initial strike only knocked the bison senseless, giving the hunters time to inflict a

mortal wound. All the results of the CAT scan indicate a specimen of extreme rarity and importance.

To be sure, the archaeologists sent the skull to a lab for radiocarbon testing. This test showed that the skull dated back about 5,120 years ago. This final piece of evidence solved the mystery and affirmed the importance of this specimen.

"This is pretty much the pinnacle," said Marjy Duncan, an archaeologist at the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey. "It really tells us a lot."

The bison skull provides crucial information about the lifestyle of the Calf Creek culture dating from 3,500 to 5,000 years ago.

This particular specimen was 1 to 2 years old at the time when it was overtaken and killed by a group of Calf Creek hunters.

"It is an important contribution to the cultural heritage of the state," Wyckoff said. The people who created the spearhead are precursors to modern Native American tribes roaming the

*(continued...)*

(...continued from p. 10)  
plains. The spearhead lodged in the skull solved some disputes among archaeologists, and focused the picture of the lifestyle of the Calf Creek people.

"It made a liar out of me," Wyckoff said.

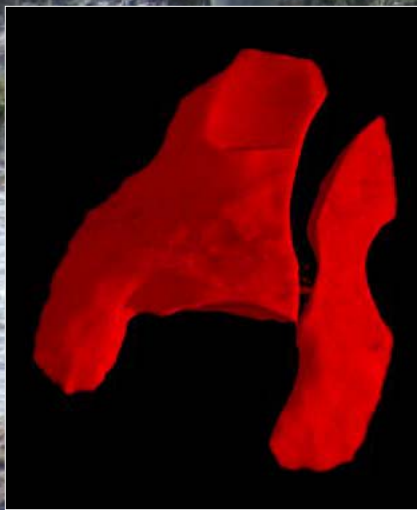
He said this type of broad triangular point had been found at sites across Oklahoma. Wyckoff previously thought the Calf Creek

people used these tools as knives and not as projectile weapons.

"It proves these people were buffalo hunters," Bement said. For a period of 4,000 years, Oklahoma was a hot and dry place, which led to some speculation about how the Calf Creek culture sustained itself. This skull helps to answer that question.

Duncan outlined the area of the Calf Creek people extending from the Mississippi River, west to the Texas Panhandle, north into central Kansas and all the way south to the Gulf of Mexico. She has been working with Calf Creek culture now for 14 years, and marks the bison skull as the greatest find during that time.

*Adapted from an article by Grant Slater. © 2005 The OU Daily*



*CAT scan of the impact-fractured Calf Creek point embedded in the 5,000 year old buffalo skull from Oklahoma.*



*A similar Calf Creek point, made of Edwards Plateau Flint from Texas, shown here for reference as to style and actual size.*

*These Folsom Points are modern-made reproductions. I have the names of the knappers who made two, the North Dakota Knife River Flint and the Texas Edwards Plateau Flint. The black Flint point in the middle was from a different source, and came without a name. The point of this illustration is that, if someone offers you a Folsom Point that is this whole, this perfect in form and condition, you should expect that the point is a modern reproduction.*

## A Word To The Wise, When You Consider Buying Artifacts On The Internet Or In Person From An Individual Or A Company.

Do not let the excitement of a new find distract you from careful consideration of the authenticity and the history of the point or tool you are contemplating. If a story sounds too good to be true, likely it is too good to be true.

Develop a relationship with the seller so that you can decide the level of trust you can place on his

or her word. Ask for as full an account of the history of the point as may be available.

This is called the "provenance" of the point. It should include the name of the finder, the place, the date, and a description of the circumstances or special conditions under which the discovery was made. Also you should ask for a full list of previous owners of the point or tool, if you are not obtaining it from the original finder.

Whenever possible, you should inquire about and even require a certificate of authenticity from a respected source.

Almost any collector to whom you speak will have a story of how he bought a point from someone whom he thought was trustworthy, only to later find out that the point was

either unknowingly or deliberately sold as authentic, when in reality it might have been a modern-made copy or reproduction point. For example, when you are looking at supposedly

or two authentic Paleo-Indian relics such as a Clovis spear point or a Folsom dart point.

When these points are found in scientific excavations they are celebrated and then carefully cataloged for future study and scientific reference.

If they are found on private land, these points and tools are most often preserved and put away, well out of the public eye.

As a result, you will not find a point like this for sale often.

At least, not an ancient, authentic point of topmost quality.

You may see

a few broken or partial points. And sometimes, if a collector has had a good Paleo-Indian point which has been certified and authenticated, he might be tempted to sell it, but this would be unusual. No artifact dealer would ever want to sell a high quality Folsom, Clovis or Cumberland point, for example, without suggesting a substantial price. I say this to caution you and to encourage you to carefully consider claims of age, culture and authenticity which you will hear from collectors and/or sellers of possibly ancient artifacts.



2-9/16" x 13/16"

"Paleo-Indian" artifacts, it would be well to keep in mind that, in most parts of the country, these are extremely rare. I know life-long students of archaeology who have worked all over the country on projects covering many eras of human occupation in this continent who have only ever found one

## “A Nice Size Collection Of Arrowheads That My Grandfather Left Me. Almost All...Found In Nebraska...I...Have A Book That He Wrote Where He Found Most Of Them.” *Stephanie Roberts*

*In the August 2009 issue the letters to the editor included the following note from a reader regarding a Nebraska-focused collection put together by her grandfather. She has recently provided a number of photos of displays and other items in this documented collection. If any one has interest or knows of parties interested in considering the purchase of part or all of this collection, we can provide additional photos for your review. Simply write to the editor, and I will forward your email to Stephanie.*

*Here, then, is her description and a few of the display cases and individual items:*

“I have a nice size collection of arrowheads that my grand-father left me. Almost all of the them he found himself in Nebraska, a few from other states but mostly Nebraska. I am considering selling the collection. I don't have any certificates of authenticity, but I do have a book that he wrote where he found most of them. I actually went with him many times and we sifted the gravel in the creek beds to find them. There are 20 18" cases of various different artifacts, plus some axes and such items that are too big for cases.”

Thanks,

Stephanie Roberts

*(Hey Stephanie,*

*First thing, make sure you get a good insurance policy for your collection. Second, don't even consider selling this amazing collection. Third, get in touch with Bill Jackson at Jackson Galleries, and talk to him about an evaluation of your entire collection. Then, find a way to get it done by his company. Fourth, make a good copy of your grandfather's book of notes about where he found these points. Fifth, after you get the evaluation by Jackson Galleries, update your insurance policy. If you are serious about selling some of these, put some on consignment at Jackson Galleries.*

*Scott)*



September 23, 2009

Thanks for your help. I definitely don't want to give them away. A couple of questions that I have. Who will insure them? Could you get me a contact number or email for Jackson Galleries. Making a copy of the book will be difficult and it is fragile it went through a house fire but I will do my best. I am somewhat worried

because he marked with a pen on some, where he found them. Will this matter? I'm sure it could be cleaned off. Most were found in the Middle Loup, Dismal, and Birdwood Creeks in Nebraska.

Again I thank you for your time.

Stephanie

## The Folsom “Blues” ... The Great Anxiety Between A Collector’s Desire & A Collector’s Fear. Colored By Authenticity Questions.

Can you tell the difference between an ancient, authentic example of the rare Paleo-Indian Folsom Point and one which may be an excellent example of modern flint knapping skill?

Since the 1930’s Folsom points have been a measure of modern flint knapper’s skill. Many have been sold as ancient, which were indeed modern in origin. What knowledge can help protect you from ignorant and innocent errors or from outright fraud and intentional deception? How can you as an artifact collector know what to look for?

What clues can help you recognize a bonafide artifact and what clues can help you detect a modern reproduction which may have been made to look equally old and real? What does an authentic Folsom Point look and feel like?

With this information we can begin to know for sure.

The first thing any collector should be aware of is that ancient and authentic Folsom Points are very rare. And Folsom points in excellent physical condition are almost unheard of.

Why is this?

They were hunting weapons. And the investment of time and effort to create them was quite extensive.

For that reason, a Folsom hunter usually reworked any point which might be damaged in use. Only when the damage was more extensive than could be readily repaired was a broken point discarded.

Consequently, most which are found are either broken in the manufacturing process, or broken during hunting



*Irregular shape due to reshaping of used fluted projectile point.*



*A broken, discarded Folsom Point from the Fort Stockton region of Texas.*

*One of the original Folsom points found in-situ (in place) with extinct bison bones in New Mexico, back in the 1920’s. Folsom hunters specialized in bison, hunting in the region from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.*

activities, with the unusable portions discarded, and the re-usable portion of the point subsequently resharpened and used again.

What this means to us as collectors is that, when we come across a “Folsom Point”, either on the internet or in person at a show or elsewhere, we should be very aware of the extreme likelihood that we are potentially looking at the handiwork of a skilled, modern flint knapper.

In particular, if the “Folsom Point” in question is in perfect condition, you should be careful. If the edges are crisp and sharp, be careful. In the real Folsom Points, the edges near the base were ground down a bit so as to not cut the bindings, with the grinding along the edges sometimes for half the length of the point. Modern knappers grind these edges, too, but sometimes they grind so much that the edge feels polished and slippery. So, this is also a clue of modern knapping. Under magnification, the grind marks from modern abrasives look uniform and parallel, different from anciently roughened edges, which are more random.

This information will give a collector some guidance for the first level of examination which he or she should be making when contemplating add such a point to the collection.



*Detail of ground edge along side near base of ancient fluted point, made of Carter’s Cave flint. Ross County, Ohio.*

Another level of protection will be to ask for, and require, time to have the point evaluated by a respected authenticator.

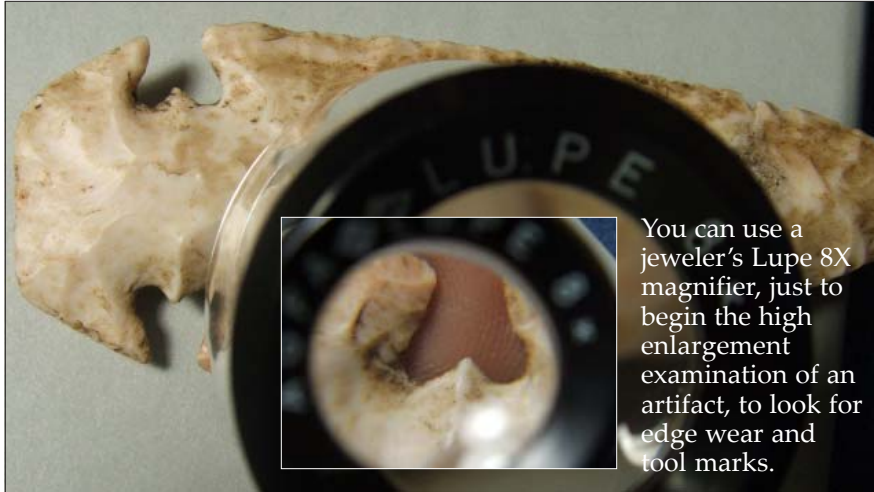
Any AACA member will gladly allow for this time, at least two weeks. Other sellers should make the same or more time available, and should offer the same guarantee as an AACA member...a money back guarantee of authenticity.

Or do not buy the point.

# ACOTW™

Arrowhead Collecting On The Web

## Artifact Authentication Services & Certificates Of Authenticity



You can use a jeweler's Lupe 8X magnifier, just to begin the high enlargement examination of an artifact, to look for edge wear and tool marks.

Authentication and evaluation services for artifacts from all over the world are available from a number of highly respected sources.

Some offer these services for regional items, since they specialize in Western, or South Western, or South Eastern, or North Central or North Eastern artifact types.

And most of the authenticators have web sites. Read up on their services, learn about their specialties, obtain pricing and timing information, and determine how to send items for authentication and evaluation.

Here are some well known and respected authenticators:

**Dwain Rogers**  
Texas Flint Authentication  
4102 Birch Avenue  
Temple, Texas 76502  
Telephone: 1-254-791-5520

**Jeff Baker**  
Baker Authentication  
www.BakerCOA.com  
P.O. Box 772  
Paragould, Arkansas 72451  
Telephone: 1-870-239-9722

**Bill Jackson**  
Jackson Galleries  
www.JacksonGalleries.com  
P.O. Box 1005  
Mount Sterling, Kentucky 40353  
Telephone: 1-800-466-3836  
Fax: 1-859-499-0160

**Tom Davis**  
Davis Artifacts, Inc.  
www.TomDavisArtifacts.com  
P.O. Box 676  
Stanton, Kentucky 40380  
Telephone: 1-606-663-2741

**Ben Stermer**  
Western Typology  
www.WesternTypology.com  
44207 W McClelland Dr.  
Maricopa, Arizona 85238  
email: BSt122241@aol.com

**Jeb Taylor**  
Jeb Taylor Artifacts  
P.O. Box 882  
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834  
Telephone: 1-307-737-2347

**Ken Partain**  
www.kensrelics.com  
7044 Market Street  
Dover, Arkansas 72837  
Telephone: 1-479-331-3486

**Sam Cox**  
www.SamCoxArtifacts.com  
968 Floyd Drive  
Lexington, Kentucky 40505  
Telephone: 1-859-351-5675

Old Stone Age  
Handaxe (Paleolithic),  
age 200,000+/- years.



<http://www.Stormbroek.com>

A European artifact gallery,  
which offers quality antiquities  
from all historic eras, and all  
areas around the world.  
eBay Store: Stormbroek

Scottsbluff Spear  
Point, late Paleo, early  
Archaic period, age  
8,000 to 10,000 years.



eBay store: SWArkArtifacts  
eBay ID: "razrbk"

Dealer located in Arkansas, features  
authentic artifacts from the south/  
central United States, many with  
Certificates of Authenticity.  
eBay Store: SWArkArtifacts

## Finding An Archaic Period "Cache" Of Points In Oklahoma

*Here is an interesting recent sequence of e-mails with an artifact collector in Oklahoma.*

September 17, 2009

Scott,

If you are ever in southern Oklahoma and want to look at a 100% self found local collection let me know. I don't really have anyone to discuss Lithics with. I have about 350-400 points.

Stephen Johnson

9/17/2009

*Hi Steven,*

*Thanks for your note about your point collection. Where do you hunt points? Do you have a couple of favorites which you can make a couple of digital photos? Or do you happen to have any pics of the points as you found them?*

*Something like this will always be of interest to the readers of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web," besides of interest to me. If you have any favorite stories about finding them, etc., I would like to put those stories in the e-magazine, if it's alright with you. Let me know what you think.*

*Thanks,  
Scott*

9/17/2009

I hunt mostly in Atoka county in southern Oklahoma. I'll send a couple of photos. One is of most of my collection, the other is a point I found a couple years ago.

Stephen

(9/18/2009)

*Thanks for the photos. Any idea what the material used to make that spear point is? It is an excellent artifact. Where did you find it, and what was the collecting story? I will be putting the photos with your descriptions in the next issue of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web."*

*Scott*



9/18/2009

The spear point is a Little River type. I sent it into Jackson galleries for authentication. It's made from Ouachita Quartzite.

I found the point at a place that has produced many times. A large pond dam was threatend by heavy rain. The run off cut a trench at the edge of the dam. I found the point in the sand at the bottom of the trench only the very tip was sticking out. It was across the stream when I spotted it. I knew it

was an artifact but after I crossed the stream and pulled it out I got a little weak in the knees.

My younger brother AJ was hunting with me and was a few hundred yards away when I found it. I also found a small broken point near by. When my brother came back my way and asked what I found I showed him the small point. He took little notice and began to look on.

"Oh, I found this too." I said. pulling the Little River from behind my back. :-)

He was shocked! "I knew I should have come up this way," he said. It rained very hard over the next few days. When I returned to the site I found three more pieces near where I found the large point, within 10 feet. They are made from the same quartzite. Could it have been a cache? I'll enclose a picture of those pieces.

Stephen

9/18/2009

*Those surely look like it could have been a cache, since the points are whole, and the other chunk looks like material being saved for future work.*

*Scott*

*p.s. Go back, again!*

9/18/2009

The broken piece is actually a hatchet head. It was grooved down the center for hafting but part of one side is broken. I'll take a photo of the Little River and COA this weekend and send them to you. We have had a lot of rain this week. I may go try that site on Sunday.

Stephen

9/18/2009

*Interesting about the axe head. Good luck with the re-visit Sunday. Find stuff! Take pix!*

*Scott*



Authentic Grade 10 quality, tan and red jasper "Gunther Barbed" arrowhead from Siskiyou County in northern California, found in 1970 by Pat Welch. Shown here actual size, 1-1/2" x 3/4".

# STOP!

If you collect arrowheads, before you buy another point, make sure you read the critically important information about the difference between ancient, authentic artifacts and modern made reproductions. You will find this information every month in the e-magazine "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web". Copies of the most popular types of authentic projectile points and tools are sometimes sold as ancient. On occasion this happens innocently, through ignorance. Honorable flint knappers will inform you of the fact that their points are modern-made. They are proud of their artwork and will sign it with a diamond scribe or with indelible ink. Yet, too often, slick operators, with fraudulent intent,

will let you believe or even tell you that a modern-made piece is ancient in origin. They are trying to separate you from as much money as possible. You should deal with someone whom you trust...and be careful even then. Require signed provenance for your purchases; certificates of authenticity whenever possible. Always remember that if a story sounds too good to be true, it usually is too good to be true. Being forewarned is forearmed. Accurate knowledge and practical understanding can give you peace of mind about the artifact collection you are building. Make sure you read the e-magazine "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" every month. By the way, your subscription is free.

## Arrowhead Collecting On The Web™