

# ACOTW™

Welcome To

[www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com](http://www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com)

Volume II, Number 2

February 2010

## New Dollar Coins Complete With Stone Arrowheads? Flint Speartips Older Than Clovis Points? What's Going On Here?

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

I hope you enjoyed the ninth edition, Volume II, Number 1, of our digital e-magazine, the January, 2010 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.

Moving along into our second calendar year, Volume II, this new February 2010 edition addresses the following topics:

- There's a new Golden Dollar coming out, and it features the very influential Great Law of Peace, which was the core of the Iroquois League, one of the earliest successful constitutional documents in the world. Check out the arrows and the wampum belt on the new coin.
- Research continues to learn about possible pre-Clovis cultures in the New World. One of the archaeological sites which has provided a glimpse of these very earliest human habitations is Meadowcroft Rockshelter, located in Pennsylvania.



*When you introduce your family members to the exciting world of finding stone arrowheads, you may find that young eyes are very keen. A reader from Oregon sends along several photographs from his family's recent forays into the eastern Oregon desert and high country. It's a good opportunity to get all ages involved in understanding the ancient ones who came before us. (See pages 10-13.)*

- The author was asked to re-create and provide "Miller" speartips which were found at this site, for use in a Discovery Channel documentary comparing this stone point knapping technology to subsequent Clovis methods.
  - For many years now, one of our readers has been interested in eastern Oregon's desert and high country and the folks who lived there. Now, his young family is sharing his passion. Come along and see the fun as every body finds points at his favorite high country stomping grounds.
  - Our series of articles about ancient sources of stone for tools continues with a look at Knife River Flint from North Dakota, a very sought after material which was used from the earliest Paleo-Indian times, including Clovis and Folsom cultures just after the Ice Age, up until the most recent stone working traditions of the Plains Indians. Knife River Flint (KRF) remains a favorite knapping material for modern flint knappers.
- Read, learn, find, enjoy. And pass it all along to your family and friends.

*(Continues on p. 2)*

(...continues from p. 1)

Our editorial objective is to help our readers become long-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 needle-tipped, serrated "Gunther" style arrowhead featured on the back cover of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" was found in the 1960's by Pat Welch, in Modoc County of northern California. It is made of transparent obsidian, probably from Glass Mountain, located about 40 miles east of Mt. Shasta. It was purchased in November 2009 from Pat and her daughter, Jennifer Peterson, through an eBay auction. Jennifer's eBay ID is: "angelfaerieland".*

Member AACA



Authentic Artifact Collectors Association

© 2009. All Rights Reserved.  
[www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com](http://www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com)  
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)

## “By the Shores of Gitche Gumee, by the Shining Big Sea Water, Stood the Wigwam of Nokomis, Daughter of the Moon Nokomis...” -- *The Song of Hiawatha*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow confused his Ojibwa hero in “The Song of Hiawatha” with the historical Mohawk chieftain of the same name, who was a co-founder of the Iroquois League.

“The Great Law of Peace was created by the Iroquois to stop neighboring tribes from fighting. The document, recorded on wampum belts, formed a confederacy among the Iroquois tribes: the Oneida, Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, the Seneca, and later the Tuscarora. The Iroquois place its creation between A.D. 1000 and 1400. Contemporary historians date the document at about A.D. 1450.”

An article about “The Great Law” was in a 2004 special edition of the magazine of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Hiawatha was a follower of The Great Peacemaker, a prophet and spiritual leader who was credited as the founder of the Iroquois confederacy. The Great Peacemaker is referred to as *Haudenosaunee* by the people. Hiawatha was a skilled and charismatic orator, instrumental in persuading the Iroquois peoples to accept The Great Peacemaker’s vision and join together to become the Five Nations of the Iroquois confederacy.

The article details how the Iroquois Constitution was the longest lived international constitution at the time of the



*The new 2010 Native American Golden Dollar recognizes the influence of the “Great Law of Peace” at the heart of the successful Iroquois League of 5 tribes of the Iroquois people: Oneida, Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga and Seneca tribes.*

creation of the United States Constitution. Many concepts from the Iroquois Constitution were used as proven patterns in the writing of the central document of the U.S.A.

Benjamin Franklin had long been informed about and studied the Iroquois system. In fact his first diplomatic job was as the first Indian commissioner for the state of Pennsylvania during the 1750’s. He proposed in 1754 that colonial delegates at the Albany Congress follow the example of the Iroquois and their successful constitution.

At the end of the convention Franklin was asked to write a formal plan, based on discussions from the Congress. When he later presented his plan, which would eventually form the basis for the Articles of Confederation, and later grow into the U.S. Constitution,

Franklin express his admiration for the Iroquois form of government. He pointed out “the strength of the League which has bound our Friends the Iroquois together in a common tie which no crisis, however grave, since its foundation has managed to disrupt.”

On September 16, 1987, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution officially stating that the U.S. Constitution was modeled after the Iroquois Constitution, the Great Law of Peace. As the NMAI article concluded, “In truth, without the Iroquois, the U.S. government might be far different.”

And now, in recognition of this influence, the new 2010 Golden Dollar features an image of the wampum belt with the Great Law of Peace, wrapped around five stone-tipped arrows representing the first 5 tribes of the Iroquois Federation.

## Wonders Of Yellowstone Drew Ancient Man To This Region; The Valuable Stone Found Here Kept Them Coming Back.

The geological wonders we find in Yellowstone National Park today have been drawing curious human beings to the area ever since they first wandered into the Rocky Mountains near the end of the last Ice Age. Originally, they were probably following the game animals, like bison and elk, when they discovered the rivers, lake and geysers of the Yellowstone volcanic caldera.

But what kept them coming back here for thousands of years was the vast flow of obsidian, the natural volcanic glass which is so prized for making cutting implements and hunting weapons.

Early wanderers through this region found obsidian, not just at Obsidian Cliff in the north-west corner of Yellowstone, but they also discovered several other flows of obsidian in the greater Yellowstone region.

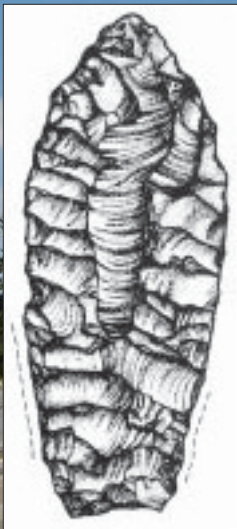
One is located in Teton Pass, along the Snake River as it cuts through the Rockies just south of Grand Teton National Park.

An additional source of obsidian is Bear Gulch, in Fremont County, Idaho, 60 miles west of Yellowstone National Park.

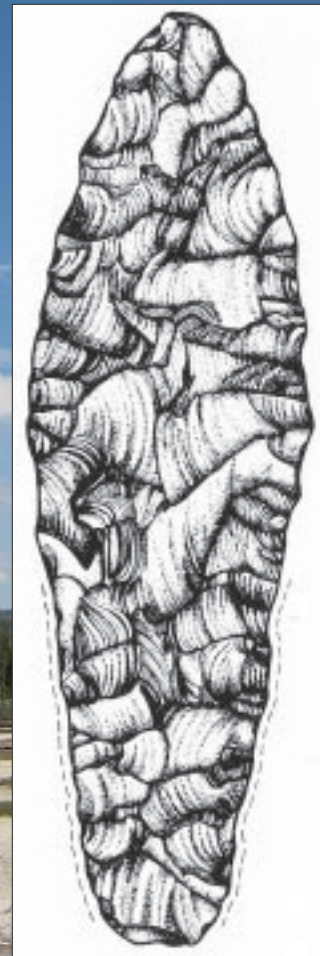
Then, further west, down the Snake River, another proven source of obsidian is found near American Falls, Idaho.

Archaeologists have performed geo-chemical analysis on Paleo-Indian tools and weapons to compare the obsidian to stone from each source, using this data to prove these origins of the utilized obsidian.

*Agate Basin point, sourced to Obsidian Cliff in Yellowstone, and dated to about 10,000 years ago.*



*Hell Gap point, sourced to Bear Gulch, Idaho, and dated to approximately 10,000 years ago. Illustrations at actual size, drawn by Janet Robertson, published in Yellowstone Science, Summer Edition, 1993.*



*One of the geysers in Biscuit Basin, photographed by Li Ting Kong, in May 2009.*

## In January I Was Invited To Re-Create Pre-Clovis “Miller” Points For A Discovery Channel TV Program About Early Paleo-Indian Period Use Of Meadowcroft Rockshelter In Pennsylvania.

(Monday, January 4, 2010)

Hello,

I'm interested in buying some points for use in a Discovery Channel documentary. The points would be used to show the difference between the type of points found at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and the typical Clovis point. As I understand it, the main difference is that the points at Meadowcroft, the Miller lanceolate spear tip to be precise, are not fluted, whereas the Clovis points are.

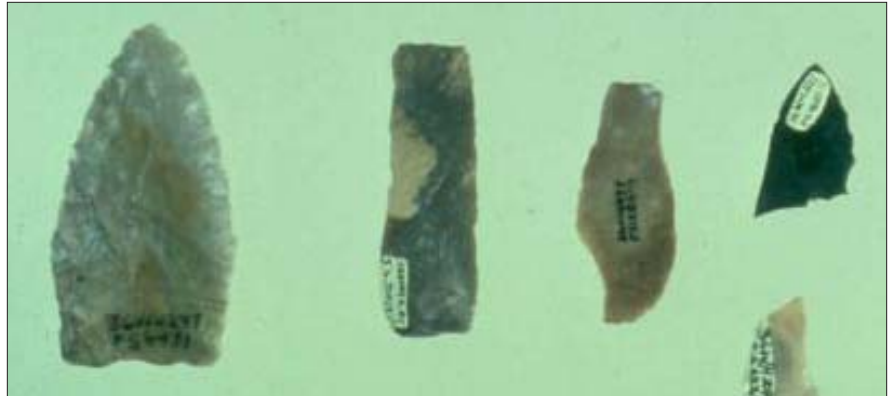
Do you have materials like that available for purchase? We are shooting in Pittsburg on Friday, so I would need the points as soon as possible.

Please call me or send me a number where I can reach you as soon as possible.

Best regards,  
Michael Johnson  
Associate Producer  
JWM Productions  
Takoma Park, MD

Hello Mike,

What material do the points you want to shoot need to be made of? I have some unfluted points similar to Clovis of different materials. However, I do not know the specific stone which is appropriate for the area you are looking at. I suppose it should at least be a similar stone for your use. Jasper or flint or chert, are all available. Also I have some both fluted and unfluted of Knife River flint, which is very photogenic, but from the central part of the country (the Dakotas). Also white chert like Keokuk or Burlington, which was used by Paleo groups, in both fluted and unfluted pieces. These may be



The Miller lanceolate spear tip, left, named in honor of Albert Miller, who discovered the Meadowcroft Rockshelter site, was found in a soil layer that dates to the period 17,000-9,000 B.C. Unlike many Clovis-style spearpoints, the Miller example is not fluted. Its careful flaking, however, exhibits a high degree of craftsmanship. The point's discovery demonstrates that early Paleo-Indians made both fluted and unfluted points. Shown here actual size. Photo Credit: Dr. J. M. Adovasio, Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute.

more along the material line which would be similar to that area. They are available on an immediate basis, and can be sent by Federal Express to get there in time. I can send you photographs of the pieces this evening.

Scott Crawford

Hi Scott,

Thanks for getting back to me. I think a fluted Knife River flint and white unfluted one would work well. I'd love to see pictures. What are the prices per piece and how much for the express shipping?

Best regards,

Mike

p.s. Here is a website with pictures of the type of points we're trying to model.

<http://explorepahistory.com/displayimage.php?imgId=2399>

Mike,

As far as the Knife River fluted point, the price on one of those, is \$125. The unfluted Chert piece which was mentioned is \$75. Express shipping would be \$25 for Fedex overnight.

About the idea, which follows, about making a specific new point and a resharpened point like the Miller Lanceolate shown, those would would be \$65. Let me know if you want the new pieces. I will send along photos of the others later, after I locate them on my computer.

In reading about the Miller lanceolate, it appears that perhaps 1/3 of the stone tools at the site were local chert, 17% were Flint Ridge chert, and another 16% were Kanawha chert. I can reproduce an un-resharpened Miller lanceolate point in Flint Ridge type chert this evening for you, about 1.25 x 3 inches, and a resharpened point, more like the one I have seen, 1.25 x 2 inches, which can be shipped on Tuesday by Fedex. Also, I can provide a reproduction Clovis type point of east coast

(Continues on p. 6)

# ACOTW™

Arrowhead Collecting On The Web

(...continues from p. 5)

regional material, that would be for comparison to the unfluted points.

Scott

Hi Scott,

I like your idea a lot. Just to double check, you can have all this ready to ship out tomorrow for Fedex delivery on Wednesday:

1 Miller lanceolate point (chert) \$65.

1 reproduction Clovis type point of east coast material \$75.

You can ship to my attention at the address below, and you can use our fedex account if you want.

Thanks,

Mike

Hi Scott,

I got the package and everything looks great. Can you give me a little detail on what each piece is (material, fluting, etc.). Pretty much any basic information you can give me and how they relate to Meadowcroft. Please use the reference photo you sent over to identify which object you're talking about for instance:

top: spearhead made of chert, fluted which makes it different from typical clovis heads, etc....

left: arrowhead....

I just want to make sure I get all the details right before we put them on TV.

Thanks a lot,

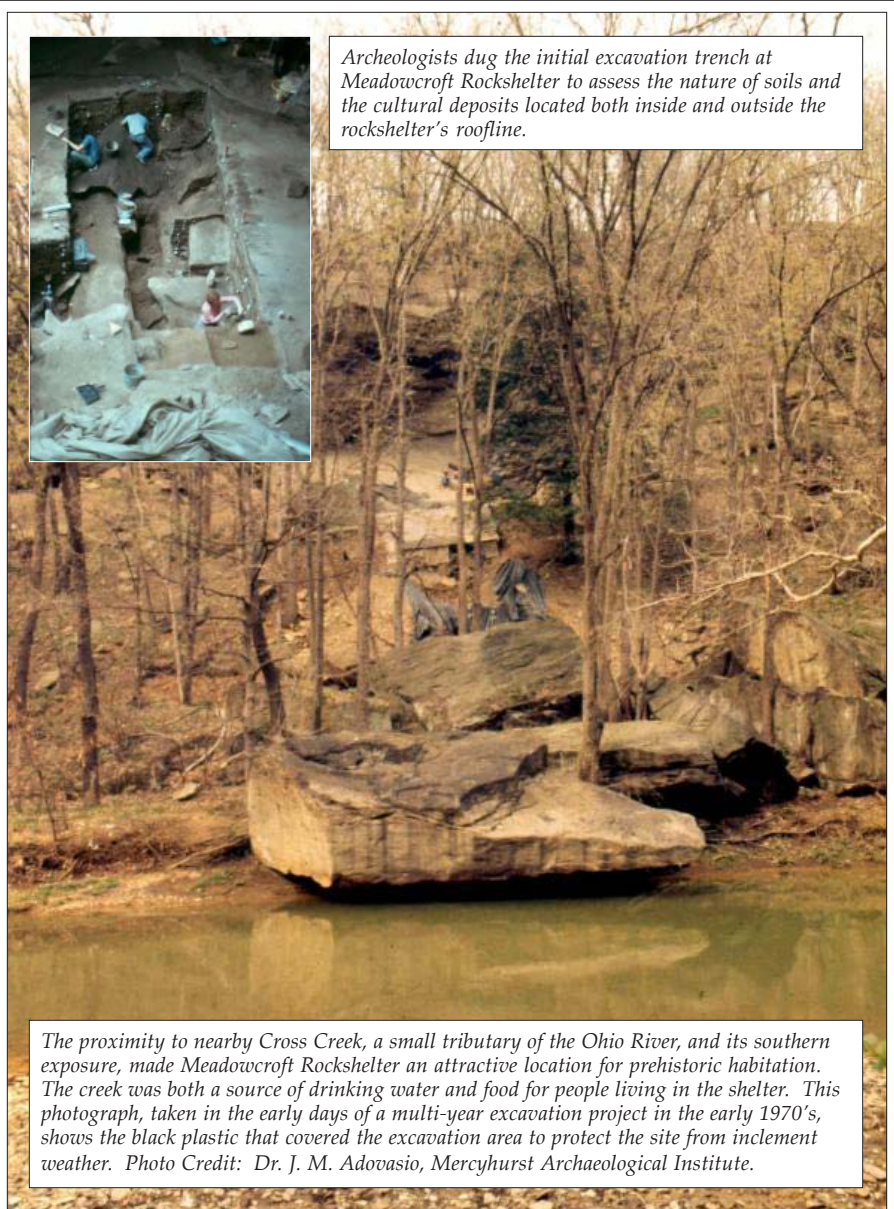
Mike

*(Editor's note: The requested descriptions are included with the photograph, on page 7.*

*In addition, Mike inquired about the availability of "microblades" to illustrate another type of stone tool*



Archeologists dug the initial excavation trench at Meadowcroft Rockshelter to assess the nature of soils and the cultural deposits located both inside and outside the rockshelter's roofline.



The proximity to nearby Cross Creek, a small tributary of the Ohio River, and its southern exposure, made Meadowcroft Rockshelter an attractive location for prehistoric habitation. The creek was both a source of drinking water and food for people living in the shelter. This photograph, taken in the early days of a multi-year excavation project in the early 1970's, shows the black plastic that covered the excavation area to protect the site from inclement weather. Photo Credit: Dr. J. M. Adovasio, Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute.

*which was widely used by some early cultures to make multi-component tools and cutting instruments. I provided a number of obsidian and flint microblades, some of which were mounted into slots cut in a piece of deer antler to create a knife.)*

Hi Mike,

*How did your shoot go? Were you guys at Meadowcroft? Nice weather for it I am sure, especially if you want to look like the Ice Age!*

Scott

Thanks, Scott.

The shoot went really well.

Several experts complimented your Miller points, though they said they were a tiny bit big. I think the obsidian microblades are really cool too, though I don't understand how one would mount them in the antler horn without breaking them or losing a finger.

We did check out Meadowcroft and, luckily, nobody lost a toe from the cold. On the plus side, I now understand how much of a shelter it really was—it's about 10 degrees warmer between those rocks than it is outside in the wind.

Thanks again,

Mike

The top center spear head is a reproduction of a Clovis spear or lance point, made of Coastal Plains chert from Georgia. It is fluted, which refers to the channel flake detached from the base, on each side. This is a normal Clovis type point, made by percussion and finished with some pressure flaking along the edges of the blade. The flute removals were usually done by direct percussion using a hand held antler baton. The fluting was a base thinning mechanism, to prepare the point for binding into the spear shaft or into a point holding foreshaft, which in turn, would be attached to the longer spear shaft. This Clovis reproduction was made by Steve Holloway, who lives in the western panhandle of Florida, and specializes in Southeastern style point reproductions.

The left side point is a modern made reproduction, by me, of a "Miller" spear tip, like the spear point image which you sent to me of the point from Meadowcroft Rockshelter. It is made of Flint Ridge chert from Ohio. It has a straight base, somewhat constricted on the sides at the base, as is the original point. This constricted form was to enable binding the point into a wooden spear shaft of about 1 inch in diameter. The work was done by hand held pressure flaking. There is no fluting on this piece, the base thinning was done by pressure flaking.

The bottom point is a modern made reproduction of a "Miller" spear tip, like the spear point image of the "Miller" point from Meadowcroft Rockshelter. It's made of a different colored piece of Flint Ridge flint from Ohio. The work was done by soft hammer percussion starting with a rather thick, flat piece of flint. After primary reduction by percussion

to the desired thickness, the shaping and sharpening work was performed by hand held pressure flaking. This piece also has the straight base, with constriction at the sides near the base, for binding into a 1 inch diameter shaft. There is no fluting on this piece. The base thinning was initially done by percussion, and finished with pressure flaking. This piece measures about 1" wide at the base, maybe 1.25" at the widest part at the end of the binding portion of the base, and measures about 2.5 inches in length. This compares to the image you sent of the "Miller" point from Meadowcroft Rockshelter.

The right side point is also Flint Ridge chert from Ohio. It measures about 1" wide at the base and about 3 inches long. It's a reproduction of the "Miller" spear point from Meadowcroft Rockshelter. However, it is longer, more like a "Miller" point would be if it had not yet been used or re-sharpened. To me, the Miller point in the photos appears to have been re-sharpened, which gives it a short, rather stubby, appearance. This piece was worked initially by soft hammer percussion from a chip of Flint Ridge chert to approximate the finished size, to make the preform. The sharpening and sharpening was completed with hand held pressure flaking. It has no fluting work, and any base thinning was done by pressure flaking.

## e-Mail Letters:

(January 12, 2010)

I am from southern Kansas and have collected ancient artifacts for over 30 yrs. Had 1000's of perfect pieces. Most have since been stolen by scoundrels. I've spent many hours pondering on the exact techniques used by our ancestors and look forward to gleaning insight and wisdom from you.

Respectfully,

Mark Hildebrandt

*(Editor's note: Mark, if you have found thousands of quality points and tools, there is plenty the readers of this humble publication can learn from you. Any photos of your collected items or stories about your adventures will always be welcome here.)*

(January 11, 2010)

I have found a dry riverbed where I was given permission to look for surface artifacts. I found what seems to be a Clovis bottom with only about an inch length and rounded off. It almost looks like a nub with a profound Clovis bottom made of quartz. Why so small? Or I should say as wide as it is long. It really doesn't seem to be useful unless it broke? And they reworked the end into an almost half circle. I have two. I was only there about an hour before dark.

Denise Bishop

*Hi Denise,*

*Thanks for your comments about the possible Clovis point base. It sounds like you found the base of a broken Clovis point, which might have been either reworked into a scraper or found by a later cultural group and reworked into another tool by them. Do you have photos available of the parts which you found? That would*

*be an interesting thing to share and get comments from other readers. Thanks for your participation.*

Scott

January 9, 2010

Scott,

The Gunther pictured on the left (in the January issue, page 3) is the modern reproduction.

The Gunther on the right is the original. Note midway on its left edge recent flake damage scar, revealing fresh surface contrasting to the adjacent patinated surface.

Karl Schmitt

Karl,

Thanks for your response. I agree that the "Gunther" arrowhead on the left is the modern reproduction. I had not noticed any damage on the right point, however, I do see some variation in the color, as you indicated. I also see an aged surface appearance to the right arrowhead, compared to the left. However, I do not have a direct indication from Ken Gibson as to which is the modern point. We will see what others think about it, and then I will ask Ken to confirm the identity of the ancient point.

Scott

Publisher's e-mail address:

fscottcrawford@

arrowheadcollectingontheweb.com

## Thank You!

*Thanks to all who have ordered the first annual hard copy set of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web." It presents all of the 2009 monthly eMagazines in a spiral bound volume personalized for your arrowhead collector's library.*



*For any who wish to order the "2009 ACOTW Bound Collection", you may click on this link here in this pdf file, or copy the text to your web browser:*

[www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com/confirmation-ACOTW.html](http://www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com/confirmation-ACOTW.html)

*There is a secure PayPal ordering link on that page of our web site:*

[www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com](http://www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com)

## e-Mail Letters:

January 17, 2010

Hi,

Great looking magazine. Is there anyone there who can ID four arrowheads that I have? I can email a photo.

Thanks,

Rick

*Hello Rick,*

*Send a photo or two and I will see what I can tell you. Thanks for your participation.*

*Scott*

January 18, 2010

Thanks! I only have four, here are the two largest. The big one is about 4 inches.

Rick

*Where were your points found? Email addresses have no geographic identification, so I do not know what part of the country you live in or where the arrowheads were located. This can have a lot to do with identifying them. Thanks,*

*Scott*

January 18, 2010

I have to assume these were found in Michigan or the midwest, as my parents found them in a house they moved into in the 1950's. That's all I know about them.

Rick

*These two points look like a type called the Kirk corner notched point. The smaller one may be a spear or dart point, and the larger one looks like it is probably a Kirk knife form. Knives were often made larger, and then resharpened as they were used. As opposed to the large lance, which was generally a heavy, thrusting spear, darts were a somewhat smaller throwing spear, propelled by a spear throwing device which we know as an atlatl. That was the Aztec term for the spear thrower, which greatly added to the throwing power of the human arm. The*



*Kirk point style was an early Archaic period implement, in use from about 9,000 to 6,000 years ago. It looks like the tip of the large knife may have been broken and possibly resharpened. It also has a little damage at the base. The smaller point looks in pretty good shape. Thanks for sending in the photos of your family's points.*

*Scott*

Scott,

Thanks for all the great info! This has brought back an interest I had many years ago. Looking forward to future issues of your newsletter. The age of these amazes me.

Thanks again,

Rick

(January 19, 2010)

Editor,

I don't collect arrowheads on the internet. I find them in the fields and I now have 34. I found 4 yesterday, but only 1 was complete.

Brittian Head

*Hello Brittian,*

*I am glad to hear you have been finding arrowheads in the fields where you live. That is the point of my publication. The use of the internet is just a way to communicate with other collectors around the world. If you get a chance, send in a digital photo of what you have found, with a description of where and how you do it. It will be of interest to readers in other areas. Thanks,*

*Scott Crawford*

I would like to. I just need a camera. I found four more Sunday in my hunting club in Harrison County, Mississippi.

I am only 16 and I don't have my license yet but my dad takes me. He doesn't care for looking for them. There is really no one who looks for them but me and my cousin. He is only 17. He has like 18 arrowheads and I now have 35.

Well, I'll see if I can get those pictures sent to you.

Brittian

*Publisher's e-mail address:*

*fscottcrawford@  
arrowheadcollectingontheweb.com*

# ACOTW™

Arrowhead Collecting On The Web

**“I Cannot Imagine A Better Hobby To Bring A Family Together And To Teach Children The Value Of Outdoors, History...”**

January 9, 2010

Scott,

I'm really enjoying your publication..hard to find any info and discussion on the topic of artifacts and your newsletter was a real gem of a find.

My family and I have been busting brush since I was a little boy and my kids and wife have come to love the pursuit as well. I cannot imagine a better hobby to bring a family together and to teach children the value of outdoors, history, even geography. So many lessons to learn by turning off the TV and getting out into the peace of the desert for a time. I thought I might share some pics from our last 10 day safari through SE Oregon & NW Nevada.

Trask Bergerson  
Astoria, Oregon

*(Continues on p. 11)*



*My daughter gets into it!!*



*And finds her first partial point.*



*Fits on my thumb nail.*



*Another high country find.*



*My son has great sight and seems to produce points out of my footprints everytime we go.*



# ACOTW™

Arrowhead Collecting On The Web

(...continues from p. 10)



In the "high country" ... almost 9000 ft and chippings everywhere.



A few nice field points.



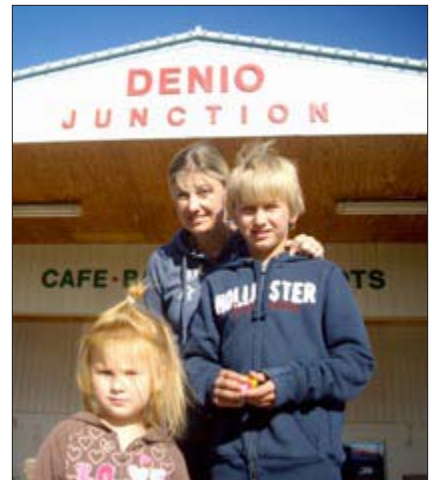
Anthill.



A nice point and a bead.



And my wife...She found 2 drills and a number of nearly full points right next to the road.



Great place to get a burger and a beer on the way to Crump Lake.



Ancient remnants of turtle soup? The old man gets in front of the camera, too.

# ACOTW™

Arrowhead Collecting On The Web

## Eroded Ground In The High Country Gives A Chance For An In-Situ Exercise In Ancient, Worked Stone Recognition.

Photos by Trask Bergerson



All of these spear points, knife blades and dart points are made of Knife River Flint, sometimes known by the short hand phrase KRF. These were all modern knapped by Mike Santiago, from Pennsylvania. His eBay ID is: "EagleEye641." These excellent knife river pieces illustrate a number of Paleo-Indian and early Archaic period tool and hunting weapons: Clovis, Agate Basin, Folsom, Eden, Lost Lake and Dovetail.

## Thousands Of Years Before The Black Hills Became Famous For Mountainous Sculpture, North Dakota Was The Source For A Particularly Prized Kind Of Stone ... Knife River Flint.

Millions of years ago massive peat deposits were covered over by volcanic ash from an eruption in the area we know as North Dakota. Over time the peat was fossilized with silica from the ash.

Some of the plant stem and leaf material in the peat is still visible in the relatively translucent silicified peat.

At the end of the recent Ice Age, the human family groups which hunted woolly mammoths and other Ice Age animals over the northern plains discovered the deposits of silicified peat. This stone was quarried and made into the cutting tools and hunting weapons needed by a hunter/gatherer culture.

Knife River Flint makes a very handsome implement. It is strong and tough enough to serve its intended purpose very well, yet is brittle enough to be fairly easy to work with in the knapping effort.

Consequently, Knife River Flint has been used for over twelve millennia to meet the needs of hunting populations across the Great Plains of North America, and it was desirable enough to be traded across vast distances.

As you can see from these modern-made examples, Knife River Flint is still being used to make a wide range of cultural implements, for collectors, educators and museums. The author bought these from the skilled knapper Mike Santiago.

Mike is a charter member of the Lithic Artists Guild. His work can be seen in the Guild's annual publication of flint knapping artwork. In addition, Mike's modern-made points and blades are occasionally available for bidding on eBay under the Seller's ID: "EagleEye641".



Chunks of Knife River Flint, as it appears when found on the ground in North Dakota. The outside surface, the cortex, shows a chalky patina similar to other types of silica-based stone such as flint.

*This chocolate brown jasper "Gunther" style arrowhead was found in the Coos Bay region of Oregon, back in the 1960's. Many years ago, Pat Welch traded several obsidian arrowheads for this point. Look carefully at the right side barb. Do you notice the difference in the surface appearance? Can you also see the difference in the shape of the "flake scars" on the barb, compared to the flakes on the remainder of the arrowhead? This barb was "restored" to an approximation of the original barb, which was missing when the arrowhead was found.*

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

Collecting is an exciting activity, and enthusiasm is good, yet caution is also necessary to protect your long term interests plus your satisfaction and peace of mind as they are dependent upon careful, educated decisions.

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 find out later that the point was either unknowingly or even deliberately sold as authentic, when in reality it was a modern copy or reproduction point.



1-3/16" x 15/16"

In addition, when you are looking at possible "Paleo-Indian" artifacts, it would be well to keep in mind that in most parts of the country, they are very rare.

I know life-long students of archaeology who have worked all over the country on projects covering the many eras of human occupation on this continent who have only ever

found one or two authentic Paleo-Indian relics such as a Clovis spear point or a Folsom dart point. When these points are discovered in scientific excavations, they are celebrated and then carefully cataloged for future study and reference.

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

And sometimes, if a collector has a good Paleo-Indian point which has been certified and authenticated, he might be tempted to sell it, but this would be quite 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.

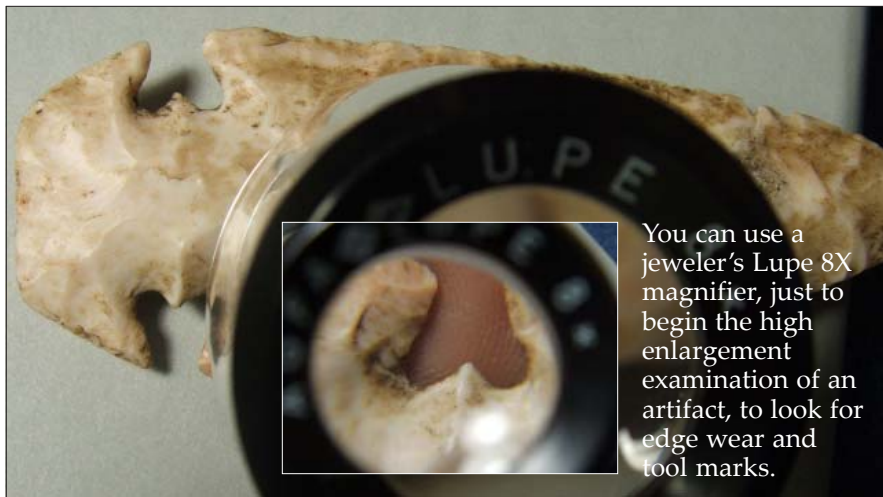
I have included another article in this edition of the newsletter "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" which discusses authenticators and gives contact information for several whom I consider top quality and reliable as artifact evaluators.

Publisher's e-mail address:  
fscottcrawford@  
arrowheadcollectingontheweb.com

# 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: BSte122241@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

# I Found This Arrowhead On The World Wide Web.

You can do it, too. Every month in "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" we show you how your mouse can do the searching on the world wide web. We bring you information and links to on-line sources of authentic, ancient arrowheads. We talk about how to tell if an arrowhead is ancient, or if it's a modern reproduction, and we give you links to reputable authenticators who can provide experienced, scientific examinations of arrowheads to verify and certify the authenticity of stone points and other tools you collect. I found this ancient arrowhead, shown here, on the world wide web, although it was originally found in Modoc County of northern California in the 1960's by Pat Welch. I purchased it from Pat's daughter, Jennifer Peterson, in an auction on eBay in November 2009. The eBay ID which Jennifer uses is "angelfaerieland".

Pat Welch found this expertly made, completely transparent obsidian "Gunther" style arrowhead in the place where it was last used, abandoned or stored away and forgotten. Now, any collector can tell you that there are times when you will want to wander the fields and streams yourself. So, every month, in the pages of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web", we also provide articles and photographs to show you how to effectively look for and find ancient arrowheads and other stone tools for your collection. We also share stories by readers across America who write about and photograph their own, personal finds. Don't miss a single article each month in "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web".



Actual size:  
1" x 9/16"



## Arrowhead Collecting On The Web™