

Paleoindian Point Survey: The Next Step

Richard E. Martens and Neal H. Lopinot

The MAS is reinitiating the Paleoindian Point Survey and urgently requests all Missouri avocational and professional archaeologists to participate in this very important effort. The Paleoindian period was a time of great change. This survey will make a significant contribution towards an Americas-wide effort to study this time period.



Background

Carl Chapman recognized the importance of recording Paleoindian points and initiated a survey in the late 1960s. He concentrated on recording Clovis and Folsom fluted points and their find locations, but did not obtain detailed measurements. In 1973 he provided a status report in the form of a map (Figure 1) of Missouri with notations of the number of fluted points found in each county (Chapman 1973). Unfortunately, we cannot replicate what Chapman had done.

A more detailed survey, directed at obtaining precise measurement data in the format of Paleoindian point surveys from other states, was initiated by the MAS in 1998 (Anderson and O'Brien 1998). The responses received were also lost. Consequently, the Chapman map remains the only Missouri Paleoindian point survey database after 36 years. We are determined to rectify this situation.

Objective

The objective is to record the locations and attributes of as many Missouri Paleoindian projectile points as possible. These shall include any fluted or unfluted lanceolate points dating from Clovis (ca. 9250–8950 B.C.) through Dalton

times (8500–7900 B.C.). Although we expect to see some Folsom and San Patrice points, the vast majority will surely be of the Dalton variety, followed in fewer numbers by Clovis points.

Chapman's fluted point survey (1973) listed a total of 300 Clovis points from Missouri. This is only a fraction of those held in private and museum collections. O'Brien (1998) commented there could be tens of thousands of Paleoindian points in these collections.

Just how many early fluted points do we expect to record? Chapman's survey of 300 fluted points can be used for guidance. It is likely that we will register significantly more Clovis points in St. Louis County than the 60 that Chapman reported. The senior author knows of 35 Clovis points from registered sites in the county that were not previously counted. They consist of 29 points from the Martens site (23SL222) (Martens et. al 2004) and six points from four other sites. Certainly there are also as many or more Clovis points residing in the hundreds of collections from St. Louis County. Furthermore, we should be able to re-record 20 or more of Chapman's 60 reported points. Consequently, at least 90 Clovis points should be registered

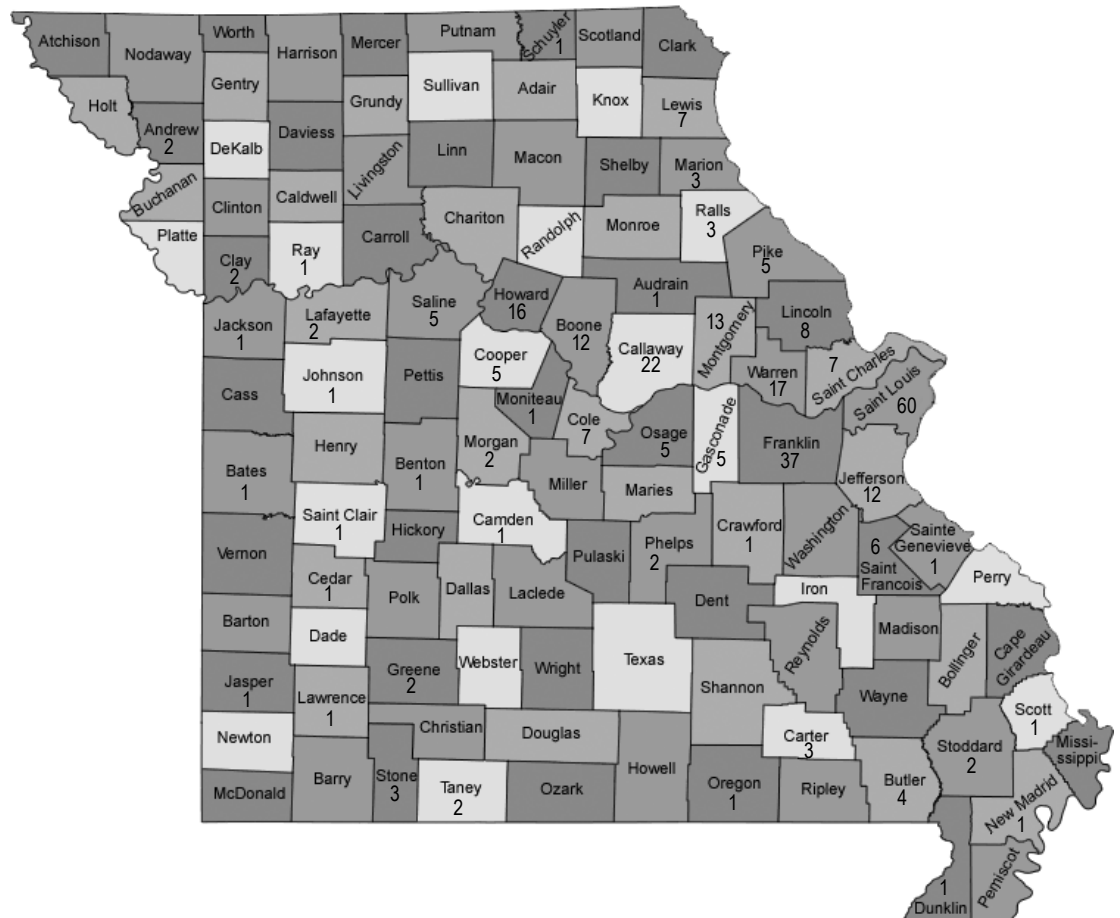


Figure 1. Fluted points recorded by county as of 1975. Map adapted from Chapman (1975).

in St. Louis County, 50% more than in Chapman's survey. A reasonable target for the state is 450, i.e., 1.5 x 300.

How many later points could we expect to record? If there are at least 20 Dalton points for every Clovis point, a total of 9,000 points is a possibility. But, the total will probably be limited by the amount of effort required to record all of the points for individuals with large collections. The MAS survey priority is for individuals to record their early fluted points first, and then spend the additional time they have available recording later Paleoindian points.

Justification

There are at least five reasons we should record Missouri's Paleoindian points.

1) It will provide a major source of information about a poorly known time period in Missouri.

2) The site information will aid in the search for additional undisturbed Paleoindian sites.

3) Measurements will help identify subtypes and varieties, and also their spatial distribution.

4) Invaluable information will be saved that would otherwise be lost.

5) The data will provide information for the Paleoindian Database of the Americas (PIDBA).

This activity should offer a very satisfying project for MAS members, avocationalists and professionals alike. If you don't have Paleoindian points to register, you can record them from other people's collections. You could also write an article for the *Quarterly* to share this information with others.

The North American database developed under the auspices of David Anderson and Michael Faught (1998), contains data on 12,163 fluted points and has recently been incorporated into PIDBA (Anderson et. al 2005). The current database includes a wide range of information on the early occupants from all across the Americas. As the database expands, the website (<http://pidba.utk.edu/>) will include drawings, photographs, and attribute and distributional data for specific kinds of artifacts, as well as radiocarbon dates, references, and web links. Measurement data on several thousand Paleoindian tools, mostly fluted

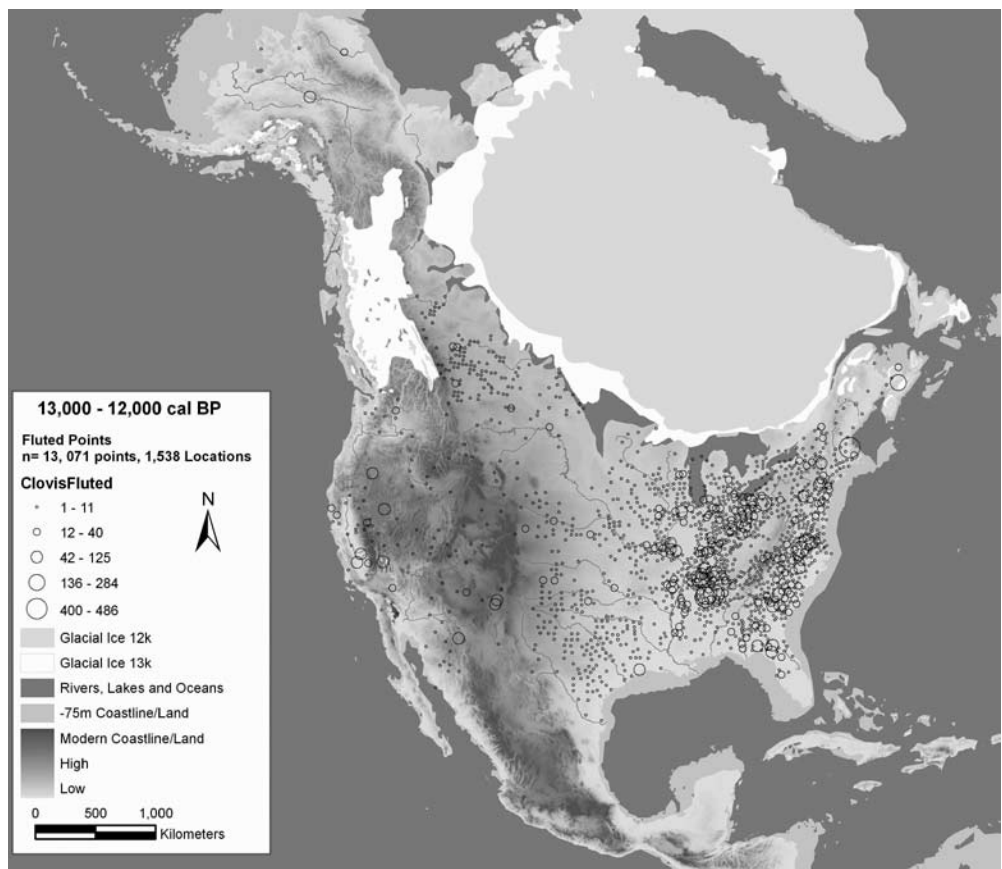


Figure 2. Fluted point number and distribution. From the PIDBA database: http://web.utk.edu/~%7Edander19/flutedpoints_continent_698kb.jpg

or unfluted projectile points, blades, and other tool types are also included.

The distribution of fluted points by county is shown in Figure 2. The majority of the points from the U.S. (70.2%) in this database are from states east of the Mississippi River and 29.3% are from the western states. There is also a much higher concentration in the east (9.72 points per 100 mi²) compared to the west (1.69 points per 1000 mi²). There are two basic explanations for these differences in Paleoindian point distribution.

1) The distribution accurately reflects Early Paleoindian settlement locations and highly favored areas.

2) The greater density of Paleoindian points in the east correlates with modern population density. That is, greater modern population density translates into greater numbers of artifact collectors and therefore greater numbers of reported Paleoindian points. Furthermore, the east has been characterized by more intensive development and land-clearing activities, providing better search visibility.

Approach

The MAS Paleoindian projectile point recording project follows the guidelines of the previously discussed Paleoindian Database. Further, we have incorporated les-

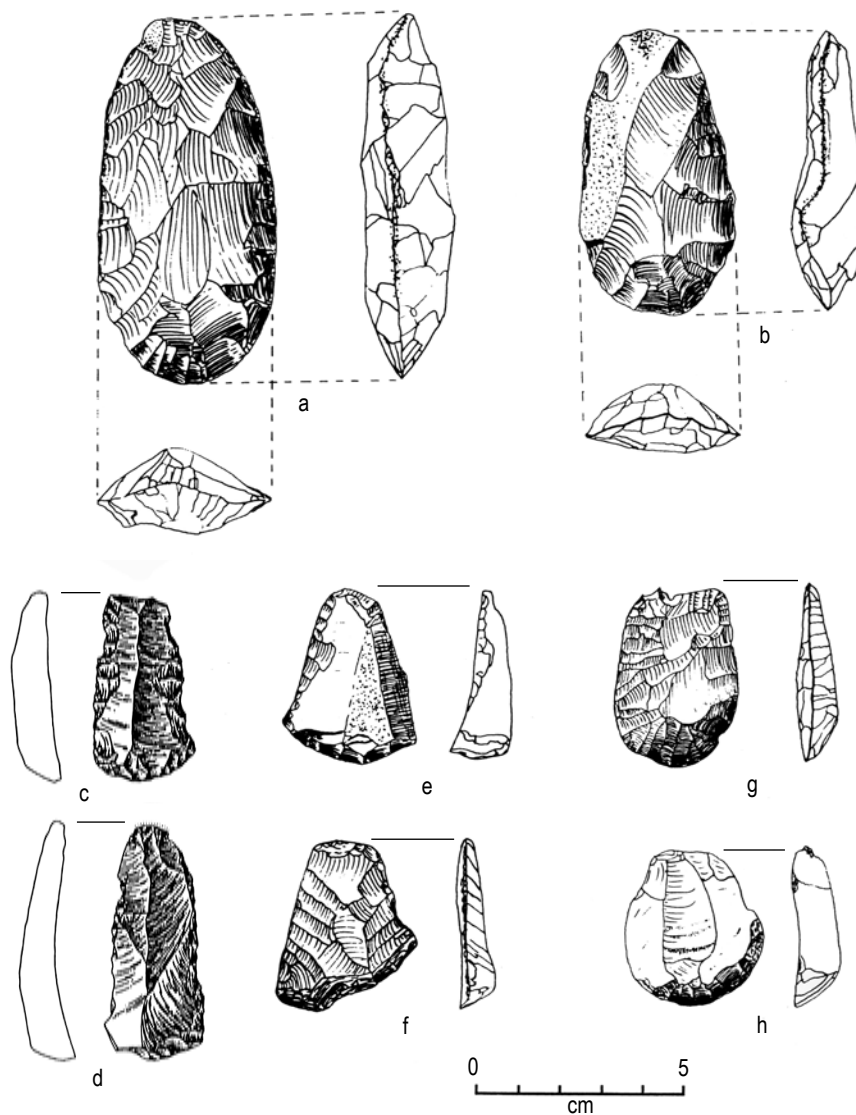


Figure 3. Typical Dalton adzes (a-b) and end scrapers (e-h) from sites in the Ozark Border, southeast Missouri. Clovis end scrapers (c-d) from St. Louis County, Missouri.

sons learned from the two earlier MAS surveys by Chapman (1973) and by Anderson and O'Brien (1998) in the organization of this project. The MAS board has agreed to fund this effort, which will be directed by the MAS office.

The Paleoindian Point Data Form

The form used in this survey (see page 10 of this issue) is almost identical to that used on a similar project in Florida (Carter et. al 1998). Remember, we are looking for Clovis and Dalton points and everything in between. We have decided to segregate the submitted points into two categories: 1) those points with specific find locations; and 2) points with more general find proveniences, i.e., locations limited to the county and river drainage.

This decision was made because points with good provenience, i.e., those that are ASM- and MoDNR-recorded,

offer the highest quality data because they are of unquestionable authenticity. Specific provenience is also important since it has been estimated that up to 80% of all Clovis points in collections are fakes (Tankersley 2002:178). That is not to say that points with less detailed provenience do not have scientific value. They do! However, those with general proveniences simply don't carry the same weight in analyses, particularly with respect to studying Paleoindian settlement patterns.

The reasons for registering sites are discussed on pages 20–21 in this *Quarterly*. Registering sites with MoDNR is also discussed on page 22 of this issue as well as on the MoDNR website: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/Archaeology.htm>.

Completing the Form

Drawings, photocopies, or even photographs (include a scale) of each artifact are important and should be attached to the form. Ideally it would be nice to have photographs of both sides of each point with visible flake scars. This is a difficult photographic task, so drawings can be used instead. A good way to draw points is to photocopy each side and then trace from the copy. Even an outline, with photocopies attached, is sufficient to begin the documentation of these artifacts. The basic descriptive and locational information about a point are of foremost concern, so photographs that meet scientific standards can be obtained later. Scanners also provide very good images of points, but be sure to include a scale when scanning.

Attribute data should be compiled to the best of a person's ability. Locations where measurements are to be taken are illustrated and discussed on page 9. Measurements should be taken to the nearest millimeter. Answer questions about the nonmetric attributes (e.g., raw material, color, presence or absence of basal grinding, etc.) as best you can. Remember that once these artifacts are recorded, it will be possible to go back and collect more detailed information about them in the future. We know very little about the Paleoindian period in Missouri, so any information is important. If you find that you can't fill out a section, leave it blank. You will be contacted if additional information is needed.

We would also like to know about other Paleoindian artifacts found with the point(s) that you are registering. Many artifacts found on sites with Paleoindian points are difficult to attribute to that period, but there are exceptions

such as Clovis end scrapers and Dalton end scrapers and adzes. Examples of these artifacts are shown in Figure 3. We would also like to see tracings, photocopies, scans, or photographs of these artifacts. Again, remember to include a scale with these illustrations.

Send your completed forms and any other information to: Lisa Haney, Missouri Archaeological Society, 901 S. National Avenue, Springfield, MO 65897 or lhaney@missouristate.edu.

What will happen with your point form?

Your form will be entered in the Missouri Paleoindian Point Survey with copies kept at the MAS office and in the MAS Archives at the MSU library. The new survey data will be forwarded to PIDBA. We will also individually recognize each submittal in the *Quarterly*, unless the submitter requests anonymity. Updated maps of Paleoindian point distribution will be presented annually in the *Quarterly*.

Safety of the survey data will be insured by maintaining triplicate copies. We look forward to your participation in this important project.

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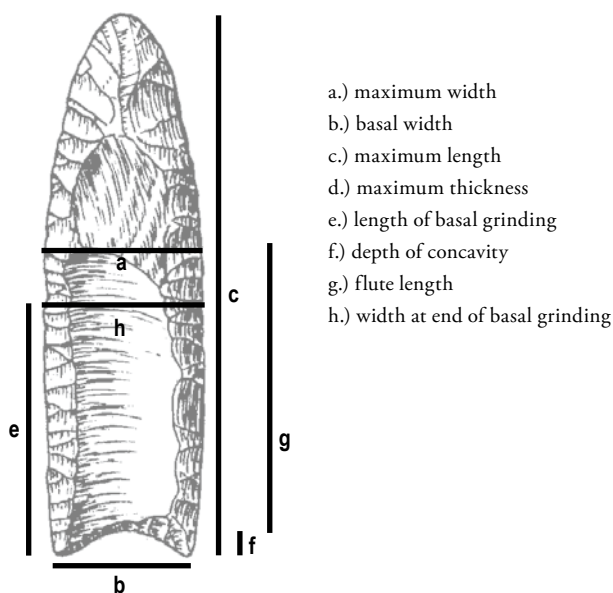
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Instructions For Completing the Data Form

- ASM/MoDNR:** ASM or MoDNR site number if known.
- Location of Find:** surface-collected points should be located as precisely as possible. If collected in situ or excavated, points should be located horizontally and at depth below surface.
- Nearest Water Source:** identify the nearest water source and distance to that source.
- River Drainage:** identify the larger river drainage system where the site is located.
- Slope:** describe which way the slope of the find location faces.
- Recovery Method:** e.g., include surface collected in plowed field, surface collected on eroded bank, shovel test, etc.
- Interflute Thickness:** a measurement between the flutes taken at the end of the shortest flute.
- Material:** material of manufacture.
- Patination:** is patination evident?
- Edge Shape:** describe shape of the working edges, e.g., straight, excurvate, or incurvate.
- Edge Retouch:** describe the edges, noting pressure flaking/resharpening.
- Color:** give Munsell color value if possible.
- Basal Grinding:** note presence/absence; describe as heavy, moderate, or light.
- Fluting Techniques:** describe any special fluting features.
- Reworking Notes:** describe any special features.

Specimen # _____

Missouri Paleoindian Point Data Form

Type Name _____

Owner _____ Address _____

State _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Recorder's Name and Address _____

ASM/MoDNR _____ County _____ Location of Find _____

River Drainage _____ Nearest Water Source _____

Slope of Find Location _____ Method of Recovery _____

References _____

Please provide all measurements in metric units.

Maximum Width _____

Basal Width _____

Length of Basal Grinding _____

Width at end of Basal Grinding _____

Length (Actual) _____

Length (Complete) _____

Maximum Thickness _____

Depth of Basal Concavity _____

Interflute Thickness _____

Material _____

Patination _____

Edge Shape _____

Edge Retouch _____

Color _____

Basal Grinding _____

Fluting Technique _____

Manufacturing Notes _____

Reworking Notes _____

Please attach a sketch, photocopy, or photograph of the artifact. Includes scale and show both the obverse and reverse views.

Obverse

Flute #1 Length _____ Width _____

Flute #2 Length _____ Width _____

Flute #3 Length _____ Width _____

Flute #4 Length _____ Width _____

Reverse

Flute #1 Length _____ Width _____

Flute #2 Length _____ Width _____

Flute #3 Length _____ Width _____

Flute #4 Length _____ Width _____

Return this form to:
Missouri Archaeological Society
Missouri State University
901 S. National
Springfield, MO 65897

This form may also be returned electronically to:
lhaney@missouristate.edu

Any questions, please call:
417-836-3773

Clovis Points in Northeast Missouri

John Chapman

The most sought after Indian artifact for any artifact hunter, in my opinion, is the Clovis point. It has been my blessing to have found two in my ten years of diehard hunting. One was found in a creek off the South Fabius River drainage and one on a field site near the South Fabius River. Both are made of the raw lithic materials found close to the finds.

The Clovis on the left in Figure 1 is made of a grayish white Burlington chert. It measures 7.46 cm. It has a flute that measures 2.5 cm on the pictured face, and 2.25 cm on the reverse face. This Clovis was found on a campsite off the South Fabius River drainage. It was snapped in half during manufacturing, leaving it unfinished. The base is not ground and has no secondary flaking, but it is still a fine example of a large Clovis point broken during manufacture and an honor to find.

The Clovis on the right in Figure 1 was found in a tributary of the South Fabius River drainage. It measures 4.92 cm and is made of grey chert, but the creek stain has resulted in a green, orange, and white banded appearance. The base is heavily ground. It has flutes measuring 1.75 cm up both faces. With the flutes only being this length, it makes me believe that this Clovis was originally only 2.5–5 cm longer than its present length.

I know of several Clovis points found in northeast Missouri. One of these was found in a tributary of the South Fabius River drainage, while one was found in Lewis County and another found in Shelby County. Several members of the Northeast Missouri Archaeological Society have also found Clovis points at campsites in the Salt River valley.

The Paleoindian culture is one that the MAS wants to better document. The Paleoindian Point Data Form is easy to understand and an important tool useful for understanding the Paleoindian record of Missouri. Even though Paleoindian activities likely occurred in all counties of Missouri, knowledge of these activities will be lost if not documented and preserved by a centralized system, such as the Paleoindian Point Data initiative the MAS is promoting. I encourage all Indian artifact hunters and collectors to join in our effort to help document the Paleoindian occupation of Missouri.

Please join the MAS in this archaeological outreach for the good of Missouri.



Figure 1. Two Clovis points from South Fabius River drainage in Northeast Missouri.

A Paleoindian Point from Southern Missouri

Judy Freeman

This unusual fluted Dalton point was a surface find in a freshly plowed bottom field in Wright County. The field has a large perennial spring in its center and a stream on its southern edge.

I had been intrigued by other points found on my farm. I knew when I found it that it was something special, but I didn't know what I had. I was excited to take it to the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) during an artifact identification day where Jack Ray and Neal Lopinot explained to me that it was probably at least 12,000 years old and made of exotic Pitkin chert from the Boston Mountains in Arkansas. However, rather than the normal black Pitkin chert, it is predominately brown. The point is also unusual in that it has not been extensively resharpened.

Amazingly, it survived the abuse from the plow and disc in the same condition it was in when it was dropped about twelve millennia ago. In September 2008 this point and the

site were registered with MoDNR's State Historic Preservation Office and given the site number 23WR2116.



Figure 1. Unusual Dalton point from site 23WR2116.