

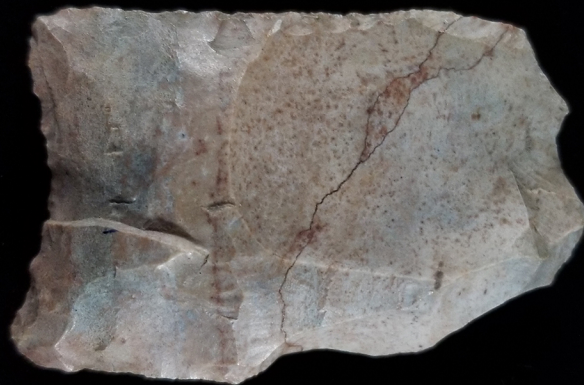
Swearngin & Pasker Collection

Slides 4.1 & 5.1

Consisting of a single find, Jeff Swearngin's donation nevertheless has the distinction of being a relatively rare Late Paleoindian find. Little is known about the Paleoindian tradition in Iowa, there being only two actual excavations, other evidence being limited surface finds such as this. Nevertheless, even a singular point can tell an interesting story. Through use, projectile points often broke or were extensively damaged to the extent where they were re-worked into other tools, such as drills or scrapers. This point suffered such breakage, and likely suffered smaller micro-fractures invisible to the eye from the initial damage. These fractures likely led to multiple failures at re-working, to the point where attempts to turn it into a usable tool were abandoned. Even experienced knappers would've suffered setbacks such as these, and their struggles are fascinating to find and explore in the archaeological record.

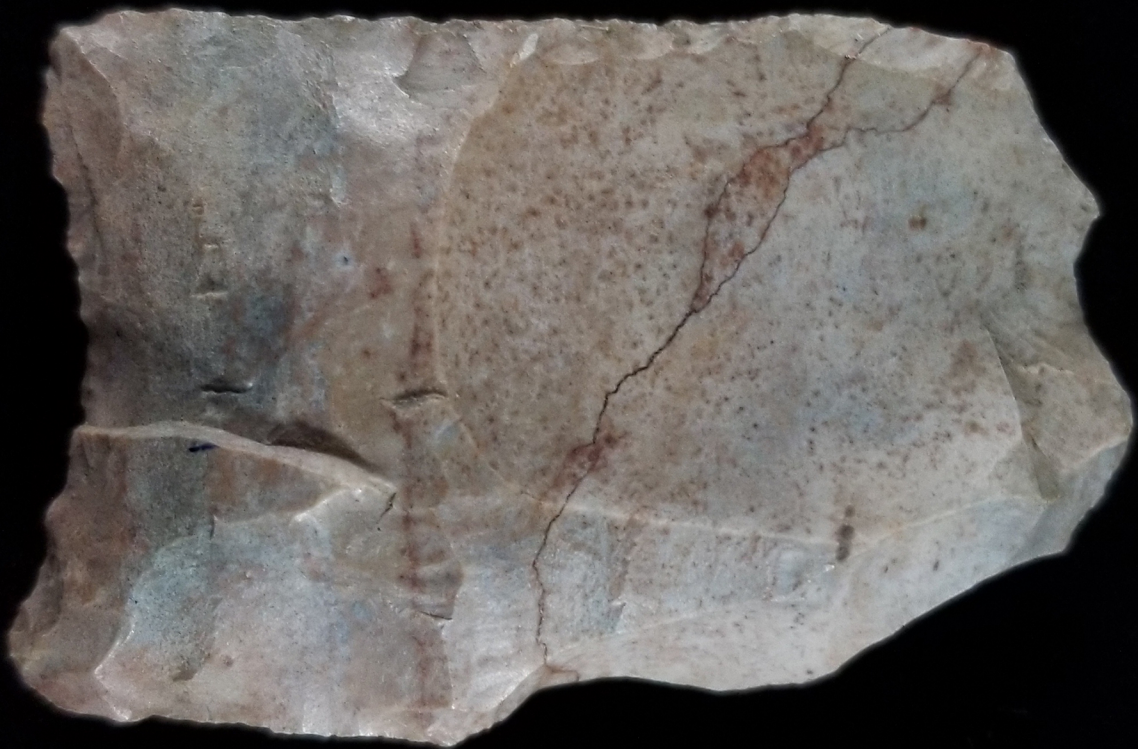
Another one-find donation, Al Pasker's collection has more ambiguity surrounding it compared to the Swearngin donation. Identified as a "polished circular gaming ball," its origins—and possible connection to a site—are complicated. These rounded balls often form naturally in nature; when currents in lakes or rivers swirl about, they sometimes erode the bed of the landform, and if a stone falls into those worn-away bowl shapes, they're tossed around and around until they're ground down into perfect balls like the one seen here. Could they be used later as gaming pieces? Certainly—they're ready for use and wouldn't take any polishing or grinding on the part of the finder—but without further information as to its findspot or if it was at an actual site, it cannot be positively stated if this ever made its way into human hands before Mr. Pasker discovered it.

Artifact donations from Jeff Swearngin and Al Pasker. Written by Seraphina Carey, edited by John Doershuk and Dan Horgen with contributions from Warren Davis and Cherie Haury-Artz.



4.1

**Late Paleoindian, Dalton projectile point,
midsection and base, heat-treated Maynes
Creek variety chert**



5.1

Polished circular gaming ball, Granite

