



Volume 44 Issue 4 – October, November, December 2023

## Message from the President

### Using Artificial Intelligence in Archaeology

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I am amazed at the potential being shown by the capabilities of the computing world and how this could benefit the world of archaeology. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in today's computing world, I believe this power could be utilized to solve a huge jigsaw puzzle. This puzzle I'm referring to is the reassembly of the engraved shell fragments into whole vessel representations depicting the ceremonial rituals of the builders.

As is common knowledge, the shell items that were discovered in the Craig Mound at Spiro, Oklahoma were dispersed whether it was whole or in pieces. These pieces have been scattered throughout private and museum collections since the time of discovery. Most collectors treasure the fragments in their collections. I have seen fragments of engraved shell with the price of 50 cents written on the back. Today these are valued in the hundreds of dollars by collectors.

As I understand the technology, an AI powered computer could be taught what the engravings depicted on existing whole shell vessels look like or represent. The AI technology could then search all the known fragments to digitally reassemble the fragments into complete engravings. The process should also be able to predict the details of the portions of engravings that are not represented. This technology could also be used for copper pieces that may be represented.

I believe a good start to this process would be a digital scan from publications of the known shell items from Spiro represented in public institutions and university collections. There are two volumes of "Pre-Columbian Shell Engravings from the Craig Mound at Spiro, Oklahoma" by Phillips & Brown, that show the majority of the whole engraved shell and engraved pieces in museum & university collections at the time of publication (1978).

I'm sure the private museums and private collectors would need to contribute photos of whole shell vessels and the fragmented engraved shell in their collections for scanning to be included. This could lead to the knowledge of where the fragments are located that could be reassembled into whole vessels. The knowledge gained from the reassembly of the engravings could rewrite the knowledge of ceremonial rituals of the Caddo and associated cultures.

The technology could be applied to any fragmented archaeological discovery. To think of the potential to gain the knowledge that was thought unobtainable a few years ago, is tantalizing to me. The ability to analyze completed motifs depicted on the engraved shell will only lead to more questions and avenues of study of the ceremonial rituals of these people.

Damon

# Deer Cloven Hoof Effigy

By John M. Selmer

Birdstones are a favorite artifact for many collectors. They have been found in the areas east of the Mississippi River in the United States and parts of eastern Canada with the heaviest concentrations located from southeast Wisconsin, eastward through northern and central Indiana, through northwest and north-central Ohio, to southern Ontario and southwest New York. Researchers have spent over a century trying to determine exactly what they were used for during prehistoric times. Multiple theories exist about their use including: atlatl weight, atlatl handle grip, clothing adornment, charms, clan symbol, or some ritual/ceremonial purpose. Some birdstones have been found in-situ with other artifacts which have provided clues to their usage but many have been found randomly dispersed in fields without archaeological context. Townsend expended a lot of effort in his Birdstone book covering the atlatl weight and atlatl handle grip theories. Converse states in his Glacial Kame book: *Not wishing to add to the numerous theories surrounding the birdstone, it should be sufficient to say that in the absence of conclusive evidence of their function, logic points to their use as ornaments rather than utilitarian objects.* I tend to agree with Converse.



**Deer Cloven Hoof Effigy (2 Views)**

Pictured is an unusual, one-of-a-kind deer cloven hoof effigy. Some have even called it a rare birdstone form. It is from the Early Woodland cultural period and is made out of fine grained sandstone. It is 2 inches tall by 1-1/2 inches deep by 1/2 inch thick and displays excellent workmanship. It was found in Pennsylvania (unknown county). The back corner has birdstone style bi-conical drilling to create the hole for attaching the effigy in an upright position on some surface. The resulting hole where the two conical drilling holes meet is only 1/8 inch in diameter. Considering the material the effigy is made from and the small hole, it is likely whatever it was attached to did not see significant stress. If it was stressed, the back hole would have easily broken out. This uncommon effigy was in Dick Savidge's collection for many years before it came to reside in my collection. Dick was a long-time IACANE member until his passing and a good friend to many of us.

## References:

- Converse, Robert N., *Ohio Slate Types*, Special publication of The Archaeological Society of Ohio, 1978.
- Converse, Robert N., *The Glacial Kame Indians*, Special publication of the Archeological Society of Ohio, 1979.
- Townsend, Earl C. Jr., *Birdstones of the North American Indian*, Privately Printed, 1959.



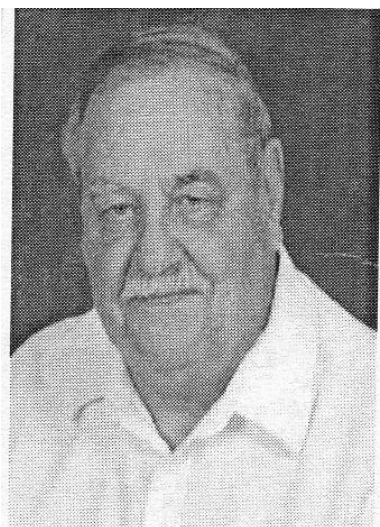
## **Artifact Presentation at the Dey Farm Historic Site, Monroe Twp., NJ**

On Sunday, June 4, 2023, IACANE member Andrew Florek presented some of his Native American artifacts and was available to explain and answer questions about the tools used by the first Americans that enabled them to live and thrive. This event was held at the Dey Farm Historic Site located on 401 Federal Road in Monroe Township, NJ. The Monroe Township Historic Preservation Commission holds open houses at the Dey Farm featuring a different attraction on the first Sunday of the month from May through October. There was a great turnout and several guests from various organizations including the local library and Boy Scout troop asked Andrew to go to their location with his artifacts and speak to their organizations.

Andrew became interested in artifact collecting several years ago after finding some pieces that his father had found when his father was younger. Andrew has spent many hours walking creeks, fields and digging to acquire his artifacts. Included in Andrew's display were arrowheads, knives, axes, gouges, adzes, banner stones, and other stone tools. Andrew stated that this is one of his favorite pastimes and wants to keep the hobby of artifact collecting alive and well.



## **Wilson H. Harman Passing**



It is with sadness and regret that I write to inform the IACANE membership of the recent death of longstanding member, Wilson H. Harman.

Wilson was a lifelong resident of Adams County spending most of his years in Biglerville, PA. He passed away on August 6, 2023, at the age of 80 after a long period of declining health. Wilson began hunting Indian artifacts near his home in Adams County at the age of thirteen and continued his beloved hobby until the time of his death. His many years of artifact hunting were interrupted only by four years of service with the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam. Wilson was well read and very knowledgeable regarding Native American archeology in his area; a true subject matter expert often sought for his insightful analysis and opinions concerning local pre-history and archeology. During his many years of hunting artifacts, he amassed a substantial and varied collection which he enjoyed showing to interested parties. In earlier times he would often and generously give lectures at local schools and to various civic groups on the subject of local Indian archeology. He is survived by his wife, Rae Harman, two daughters and a son, and several grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by those of us who knew him well and had the pleasure of sharing many hours in the field with him. May he rest in peace.

Written by John Knowles



**If you're interested in purchasing one of the New IACANE T-Shirts please see Tim at the Berks County Show in Leesport on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Tim still has a limited supply available in various sizes for pickup at the Show. Cost is \$20 each**

**Tim Tuttle 419-343-9412**

**[Tecumsehtj@aol.com](mailto:Tecumsehtj@aol.com)**

### **New IACANE Show on the 2024 Show Calendar**

#### **York County Artifact Show**

**Dover Township Fire Hall**

**3706 Davidsburg Rd. Dover, PA 17315**

**Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Contact: Adam Amspacher 717-479-6921**

**Email: [Adam.Amspacher@gmail.com](mailto:Adam.Amspacher@gmail.com)**



## Lehigh Valley Relic Show 2023





## Corning NY Show Sept 16, 2023



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Corning, NY Prehistoric Arts, Implements & Arrowheads of Early Man Show - Award of Excellence Winners**

Mark Boyle - Pipe Display

Alan Atkins - Pipe and Slate Display

Chris & Rachael Smith - Drill Display

Tom Baird - Boatstone

Scott Carruthers - Illinois Display

John Selmer - Western United States Paleo

Congratulations to the Award recipients and many thanks to Tim Tuttle for another excellent show!

#### Reminders for the Membership-

The last IACANE show of 2023 is coming on October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Berks County Show at Leesport, PA. As in past years, a short business meeting will be held after the Show. Everyone is welcome to stay! At this meeting, we will elect a new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP since Damon's 2-year term as President is coming to a close. We thank Damon for his time and work serving our organization and we look forward to Adam Amspacher taking over that position. If anyone has an interest in filling one of the open VP positions in the future, this meeting is an excellent place to discuss that. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Tim Tuttle, will be moving up to 1<sup>st</sup> VP. Other items to be discussed are a review of Old Business, our Club's finances, and any New Business on the agenda.

This time of year is a great opportunity to renew your IACANE membership for 2024. A membership form can be found at the bottom of the show schedule in this Newsletter and on the IACANE website. Bring your completed membership form and your dues to the Berks County Show and save on some postage. Also, for those who are a member of CSAS, getting your dues in by November will help ensure that delivery of your Journal will arrive on time.

We always appreciate receiving stories for the Headhunter. We have been very fortunate this year to have some new contributors, as well as having articles from members who've sent in articles in the past. Please help make the Headhunter interesting by sharing your experiences in this pastime we all enjoy so much. If I can help in any way to put your story together, please let me know.

Mike Gilbert



**8 TH ANNUAL  
BERKS COUNTY PA  
I.A.C.A.N.E.  
INDIAN RELIC  
SHOW**

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**OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

**SUNDAY 9 AM TO 3 PM**

**LEESPORT FARMERS MARKET**

**312 GERNANTS CHURCH ROAD**

**JUST OFF RT 61 Leesport Pa 19533**

**APPROX. 8 MILES SOUTH OF CABELAS / I 78 ON RT 61**

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***BUY - SELL -  
TRADE***



**FREE EVALUATION OF ARTIFACTS/RELICS BROUGHT IN**

**OPEN TO MEMBERS NOT SETTING UP 8A**

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**INFO [ROY@215-416-7438/rknieriemjr@gmail.com](mailto:ROY@215-416-7438/rknieriemjr@gmail.com)**



# IACANE SHOWS FOR 2024

## Indian Artifact Collectors Association of the Northeast

### YORK COUNTY ARTIFACT SHOW

Dover Township Fire Hall  
3706 Davidsburg Road, Dover, PA 17315

**Saturday FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Adam Amspacher 717-479-6921

E-mail: [Adam.Amspacher@gmail.com](mailto:Adam.Amspacher@gmail.com)

### MARYSVILLE RELIC SHOW

Marysville Lions Club  
Route 11/15, 15 Park Drive, Marysville, PA 17053

**Saturday APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Damon Thayer 410-490-7411

E-mail: [tandainc@aol.com](mailto:tandainc@aol.com)

### LEHIGH VALLEY RELIC SHOW

Schnecksville Fire Company  
4550 Old Packhouse Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078

**Saturday JULY 20<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Roy Knieriem 215-416-7438

E-mail: [rkniერიემjr@gmail.com](mailto:rkniერიემjr@gmail.com)

### ROASTING EARS OF CORN FESTIVAL

Museum of Indian Culture  
2825 Fish Hatchery Road, Allentown, PA 18103

**TBD**

10:00 am to 6:00 pm (rain or shine) - \$8.00pp

NON-IACANE SPONSORED EVENT

MEMBERS DO DISPLAY AND SET UP!

### CORNING, NY RELIC SHOW

Crystal City VFW Post 524  
281 Baker Street, Corning, NY 14830

**Saturday SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Tim Tuttle 419-343-9412

E-mail: [Tecumsehjt@aol.com](mailto:Tecumsehjt@aol.com)

### BERKS COUNTY RELIC SHOW

Leesport Farmers Market  
312 Gernants Church Road, Leesport, PA 19533

**\*\*SUNDAY\*\* OCTOBER**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Contact: Roy Knieriem 215-416-7438

E-mail: [rkniერიემjr@gmail.com](mailto:rkniერიემjr@gmail.com)

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## 2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR IACANE & CSAS INDIAN ARTIFACT COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHEAST CENTRAL STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

(E-mail is for Club information only. It is used for notifications regarding Shows, News, & Updates.)

For IACANE Newsletter (*The Headhunter*), please check one:

- ☐ IACANE will mail a hard copy to above address.
- ☐ I'll retrieve on-line version myself.

For CSAS members, the Central States Archaeological Journal is mailed to above address.

### MEMBERSHIP RUNS CALENDAR YEAR (circle only one below):

Single IACANE Only: \$12	Family IACANE Only: \$15	IACANE <u>Plus</u> CSAS: \$26
Lifetime IACANE Only: \$150 (One Time Dues)	IACANE Lifetime Members <u>Add</u> CSAS: \$18	

Send Application & Check made payable to IACANE to:  
Roy Knieriem, 1970 Station Avenue, Center Valley, PA 18034