To the Point

Cache River

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This is a much modified version of the discussion in Sandstrom and Ray (2004:29-30); drawings prepared by Del Thompson.

**Cache River**

*Description:* Cache River is a small to medium-sized triangular dart point with diminutive, narrow side notches. The base is usually straight to slightly convex and heavily ground. Cache River points are typically very thin and well crafted.

*Age:* Perino (1971:14) and O’Brien and Wood (1998:139) suggest that Cache River points are Early Archaic in age. Cache River points have never been adequately dated, although one Cache River point was found in situ at the Big Eddy site below the Graham Cave component. Based on its stratigraphic position relative to other projectile points and a series of C-14 dates, it was thought to date to about 9000-8700 B.P. (Ray and Lopinot 2005:268). However, the Kessel side-notched type, a possible coeval eastern equivalent of similar size and craftsmanship, is thought to date some 500-1000 years earlier.

*Distribution:* Uncommon to rare, they occur principally in southeast Missouri, but appear to range throughout the southern part of the state and perhaps into northeast Missouri.

*Comments:* Cache River points “occur primarily in the Mississippi River valley portion of southeastern Missouri and northeastern Arkansas and up the major drainages that come into it from the west” (O’Brien and Wood 1998:139).

**References**


