

THE LAKE AGASSIZ ROCK HOUND

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Resourceful and Intelligent, Unidentified Hominins Flourished in Arabia Using “Old School” Stone Tools

[Article found and suggested by LARC member and talented knapper, Marlin Galde.]

See full article with information links at:

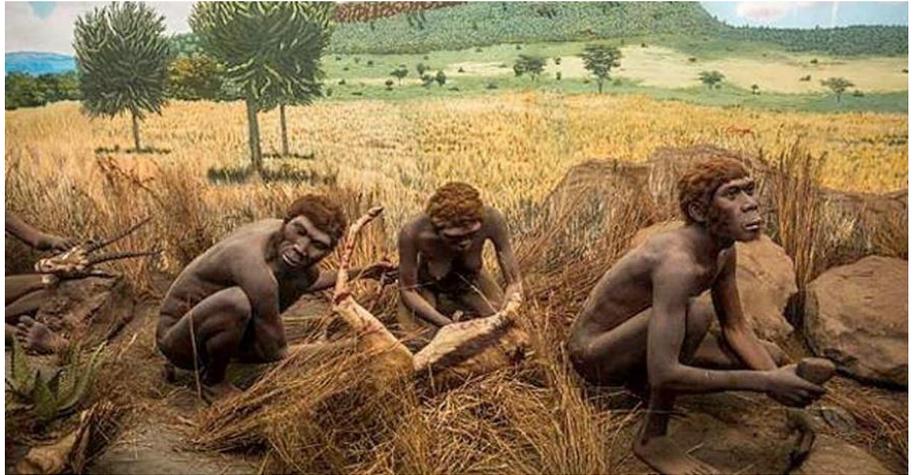
> <https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-evolution-human-origins/stone-tools-0011080>

Beginning more than 1.5 million years ago, early humans made stone handaxes in a style known as the Acheulean - the longest lasting tool-making tradition in prehistory.

There has been new research in this field led by the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, and the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage. They've documented an Acheulean era presence of these early-type humans in the Arabian Peninsula dating to less than 190,000 years ago. This reveals that the Arabian Acheulean period ended just before or at the same time as the earliest “modern” Homo sapiens began to enter the region.

Much attention has been given to understanding the spread of our own species, Homo sapiens, first within Africa and then beyond. However, less attention has been given to places where diverse groups of close evolutionary cousins lived in Eurasia, just prior to the arrival of Homo sapiens.

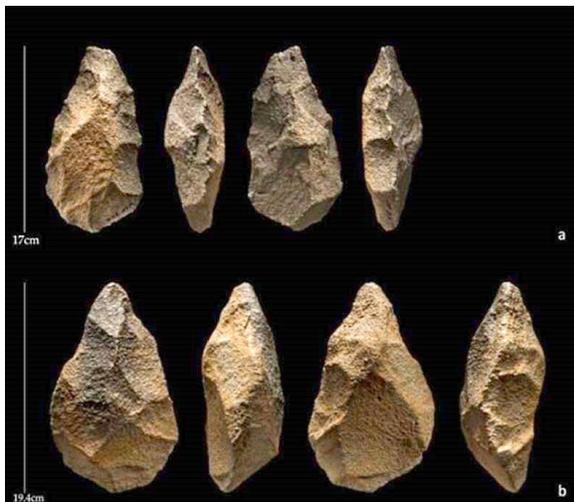
Understanding this is critical because if we look at where the ‘older cousins’ took up and were using the spaces and eco-systems...and at what time frames...it reveals the human and cultural landscape our species was bumping into as they were expanding out of Africa. We did not walk into a vacuum, but an already inhabited territory of people who might not have appreciated the intrusion. Did they resist? At this time, we just don't know.



In a paper published in *Scientific Reports*, this international team of researchers reports the first ever dates obtained from an Acheulean site in Arabia, the site of Saffaqah, situated in Central Saudi Arabia.

Saffaqah is the first *stratified* [in datable, undisturbed soil layers] Acheulean site to be reported in the Arabian Peninsula. The dates reveal that early humans occupied the site until at least 190,000 years ago. These dates are surprisingly recent because this region is known to feature some of the oldest examples of such technology outside Africa. This discovery represents the last known place to be supporting the Old Ways before it all changed. This represents a last stepping stone in a tradition that evolved over millions of generations in human development.

For example, dates from the Levant (the “Middle East”) document an ancient Acheulean presence from 1.5 million years ago. Conversely the site of Saffaqah features the youngest Acheulean tools yet found in southwest Asia. Last of a lineage?



These are hand-axes from the site of Saffaqah, Saudi Arabia. (Palaeodeserts/Ian Cartwright)

Please Come to the LARC

January 2019 Meeting

Wednesday Jan 2nd, 7:00 pm
Stevens Hall Room 136, NDSU

Program:

DVD presentation

Ice Age Death Trap
(investigating mammoth fossils)

Guests are always welcome!

Lake Agassiz Rock Club

President: Frank Svezia
Vice President: Nina Flippance
Treasurer: Terry Mallick
Secretary: Chris Patenaude
Youth Group/Pebble Pups: Nina Flippance
Program planning ideas/volunteers welcome

What is our Purpose?

To create an interest and promote a knowledge of all phases of geology or earth sciences in an informal setting.

Where and When Do We Meet?

The Geology Lab, Room 136, lower level of Stevens Hall, NDSU, Fargo. Time: 7:00 p.m. This placement may change soon as we are seeking a larger space for our members. Directions meanwhile:

[From N. University Dr. turn West on 12th Ave N. Turn North on Bolley Dr. Drive just past Centennial Boulevard. See **Stevens Hall** on west side of Bolley, 2nd hall from the corner. To park, go into next driveway ahead, on the left. Drive west, then left again behind a laboratory building to Stevens Hall back-lot.]

How Much Are the Dues?

Single person—\$20.00; Family—\$30.00; College (any school) students and youth (if not a family member)—\$10.00 per year. Send dues to Terry Mallick, Treasurer; 416 3rd Avenue S., Moorhead, MN 56560. Or contact him during regular meetings.

What Happens at Meetings?

Our youth group The Pebble Pups attend their own separate group meeting, while the adults cover business. The kids join us for the main Program; a silent auction of collectable minerals; and "lunch".

What are some of our Club Activities?

Field trips are taken to areas ND, SD, and MN. We fundraise at the R.R.V. Fair. LARC sponsors a scholarship to an outstanding Geology student at NDSU each year. Personal Info lessons can be arranged for pre-meeting times. Lots of Show & Tell at meeting nights!

What are Our Club Affiliations?

We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. (AFMS) We are in the subsector Midwest Federation of the Mineralogical and Geological Societies. (MWF)

How Do We Keep in Touch?

Website: > <http://www.lakeagassizrocks.com/> <

Facebook: > [lakeagassizrocks.com/about.php](https://www.facebook.com/lakeagassizrocks.com/about.php) <

The Lake Agassiz Rock Hound is our monthly bulletin e-mailed 7 days before meetings. Paper copy free to active members **without** computer access. \$15 dollar subscription/ yr. for hardcopy to members who want one in addition to their e-addy. **Send news tips and articles** to the editor: Chris Patenaude P.O.Box 434, Perley, MN 56574 or email LakeAgzRC70@yahoo.com. Rock Hound articles may be reprinted if full credit is given, unless otherwise noted.

LARC is an all-inclusive, diverse group. We welcome and respect every person in regard to age, gender, heritage, language, social class or disability. Discrimination or ill will towards another will not be tolerated. We are here to support any and all who love the hobby.

December 2018 Holiday Gathering

Quick notes by Chris Patenaude, Secretary

NDSU students Trent, Haley and Sara of *their* Geology Club came as guests of the LARC. They brought beautiful samples, specimens and carved pieces from around the world. Of special note were the miniature hand cut soapstone critters and fetishes.

For a nice RAFFLE, our good friends at Crystal Rock Healing donated a stunning tri-colored Calcite that stood fully six inches tall and eight inches wide! Any heart skipped a beat to just look at it! CRH shared the cost 50% and LARC 50% (of its \$60 value.) Raffle tickets sold quickly and many hands fairly billowed with multiple chances at the prize. At the end, it was Frank S. who won the draw. Big Smiles! Guess what'll be in next July's RRVF exhibit case!



Door Prize gifts were generously donated for the Pebble Pups by Jerry L., Dan E. and Dina S. Wonderful sparklies, polished agates and delightful crystals were brightly tissue-wrapped in mini-giftbags. Thank you to the trio!

Secret Santa gift exchange was eagerly anticipated by the younger crowd. Being we're a Rock Club, mineral specimens prevailed varied by other fun things like snuggly fleece, books, a puzzle, a card game. Crispy was recognized for newsletter editor efforts with a nice gift coupon for CRH picks at the store.

The baking treats table included spectacular Scandi pastries like buttery Krumkake and powdered Rosettes. Someone also brought several dozen mixed "Sandy's" donuts, long-johns, bismarks and other sticky finger gooey-ness. Yum all around!

BRAD SMITH'S BENCH TIPS

SOLVENT DISPENSER

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, for an alcohol lamp or a nail polish bottle that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes aren't too good for you, either.

A solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents most frequently used. The bottles have a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. I don't spill a drop.

A Google search will turn up many suppliers. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at www.carolina.com The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 mL US\$ 5. They have several sizes labeled for specific solvents.



Discover new jewelry skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

A new volume is available now on Amazon: "More Bench Tips"
See a sample chapter at > <https://amzn.to/2KCyg4> <



Art around the walls



Ebb and flow of conversations around the room

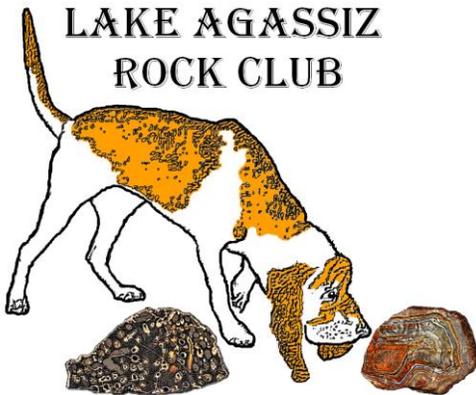


NDSU Geo-vendors Trent, Haley & Sara

Now there's a prize table. Salad on the rocks?

Lake Agassiz Rock Hound

P.O. Box 434
Perley, MN 56574



With a little Imagination Frank S. sent me the digitally created face image, I felt it was in the spirit of Bev Doolittle-style camouflage. But I asked myself, what else is out there in the field of actual, *real* "Pebble Art" creativity? My gosh, what a fantastic display of imagination has been used by some artists. You should all "Google" pebble use in mosaics and art! Here are just a few.

