

Jack H. Ray

Jack was born in western Kentucky but spent his formative years in southeast Ohio. He returned to Kentucky after graduating high school to attend college. He received a Bachelors degree in anthropology from Western Kentucky University in 1978. Jack moved to Missouri in the fall of 1978 to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia under the guidance of W. Raymond Wood and Carl H. Chapman. He received his Masters degree in anthropology from the University of Missouri in 1981. His MA thesis focused on chert resources located in the Truman Reservoir area of southwest Missouri. After graduating from the University of Missouri, he spent a year supervising multiple cultural resource management (CRM) projects, first in east-central Missouri and then in southern Illinois. He returned to Missouri in 1982 where he has spent most of his adult life. He joined the staff at the Center for Archaeological Research, Missouri State University, in the fall of 1982 where he has supervised more than 110 CRM projects in Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, and Iowa. He also has conducted research in the adjoining states of Oklahoma and Kansas. These projects range in scope from small Phase I surveys to large-scale Phase III mitigations of sites containing Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian, and Late Prehistoric components. Most recently, he served as field supervisor during six years of excavations at the Big Eddy site in Cedar County, Missouri. He also periodically has taught courses (anthropology, archaeology, and archaeological field schools) at Missouri State University.

Ray's research interests include early prehistoric cultures, human ecology, geoarchaeology, geomorphology, lithic technology, and lithic resources. His area of specialization is the identification and analysis of Ozarks chipped-stone resources. He has published two books and more than 30 articles in state, regional, national, and international journals. He coauthored a guidebook on projectile point types in southwest Missouri in 2004. In 2007, he published an unprecedented guidebook detailing the availability, identification, distribution, and prehistoric use of more than 60 chert types and other siliceous raw materials found throughout the Ozarks province (covering parts of five states). He has been an active member of the Missouri Archaeological Society since 1981 and the Ozarks Chapter of the Missouri Archaeological Society since 1983. He also is a member of the Society for American Archaeology, Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Midwest Archaeological Conference, and Plains Anthropological Society.