# Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

April 2017

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Hernando Projectile Point

April's Artifact of the Month is a limestone projectile point excavated in 2011 from a depth of 46-50cm at a dig on the Brighton Reservation. It is believed to be about 2000 years old, and would have been used as part of an arrow or spear. It also may have been used as the dart for an atlatl, an ancient spear-throwing device.

Over the course of Florida's long history many different methods of creating projectile points rose and fell in popularity, creating dozens of distinguishable styles that archaeologists study to find when a certain style of point might have been made. This point in particular is known as a Hernando point due to the style frequently being found in Hernando County, and looking at the ages of previously-discovered Hernando points tells archaeologists that most Hernando points were crafted between 500BC and 200AD.

While stone tools are easy to regard as primitive creations from a simpler time, the extreme degree of skill, exertion, and craftsmanship required to craft them using ancient techniques challenges archaeologists even today. Finely-crafted points would have been the result of years of stone knapping experience, and the periodic changes in point style suggest that stone technology was constantly evolving.

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