

# Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

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*THPO Collections 2016.5*

Have you ever sewed by hand? Did the metal needle prick you? The Seminole ancestors didn't have access to metal needles, but what they used could be just as sharp! Before trade with Europeans, many tribes would modify animal bones into a sharp point to use for various tasks, such as sewing. Our artifact for February is such an instrument, known as a bone pin or awl.

This bone pin was collected in 1998 from the Big Cypress Reservation when workers were preparing for new water retention areas. It was found along with turtle shell, pottery, snake vertebrae, and mammal bone. What do you think it was used for? What does it say about the site or what the people may have been doing there? These are all things we consider when analyzing our artifact collection!

