

Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

December 2021

Towards the end of 2020 during our Quarantine Edition, we highlighted an Alachua projectile point made from an orangey-brown chert. This find was very exciting and it represents one of the larger projectile points we house in the collection. Well it seems our archaeology team has done it again! While this month's artifact is also an Alachua projectile point, it's made out of limestone rather than chert. The limestone gives the point a different texture, making it more porous and coarse than the chert as well as more fragile. And even though limestone is harder to work with, you can find it everywhere in Florida.

The entirety of Florida sits on a bed of limestone while chert is generally harder to find. Also, according to a report by the USDA, Alachua county has limestone that sits incredibly close to the surface of the ground, so you can only imagine what it was like during the Middle Archaic and Transitional periods (when the Alachua point type dates back to). Those periods have a date range of 5000–500BCE.

This point measures 2.0 inches in length which is a full half an inch less than the last Alachua Point. Take a peek below at the differences between the two points! On the left is our new find made from limestone and the right is made from chert.



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