

# Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

July 2022



Wade, S.

As we make our way through our annual wet season, Florida's residents and visitors have already been met with a deluge of water. The constant alerts for tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings have most of us wondering when the really big storm is going to hit. Closer to home, storms have a huge impact on the rise and fall of water levels for our various ponds, streams, lakes, and canals. Certain marsh plants are great indicators of just how high the water levels have gotten ([Florida Native Plant Society](#)).



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Alligator or fire flag is this month's artifact (bottom). The plant, which blooms between May and July can grow up to 10 feet tall but can start growing in very shallow water (2-3ft). It is often used for wetland restoration and is a great home for water birds to hide their nest. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation has a large boardwalk that visitors can utilize. There are great examples of alligator flag (above) along the path that can be seen clearly even though the boardwalk sits around 4 feet above the ground. Alligator flag really is a TALL plant so when the water levels rise, check to see if it gets covered!

