

Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

October 2021

The majority of the catalog sheets we fill out end with the word “fragment(s)” in the description section. Most of what the archaeology team collects is highly fragmented animal bone, ceramic, and sometimes even glass. While there is a small amount of fragmented bone that we find that can re-fit together, we often don’t have the time to do so. Instead we just tack on “refit” to the end of our description section sentence and move on to the next catalog number.

However, sometimes the archaeology team comes across pieces of bone that have been re-shaped to form something else, and sometimes, all of those pieces are recovered. Similar to our AOM from February 2017, this month’s artifact is also a bone pin. Without access to metal, Seminole ancestors would modify animal bones into sharp points for various uses. This one, however, came to us in pieces and due to its special use and modification we took the time to put it back together, as you can see below. More often than not these bone pins are fashioned out of deer metapodials due to their rigidity and already prominent groove that runs down the center of the bone. Using a bonding agent called Paraloid® B-72 we will be putting these pieces back together as part of its overall treatment plan.

