

# ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

December 2023

When thinking about pottery, one's mind can go to the diverse nature of it. Modern pottery makers create a wide range of vessels. So, it can be expected that pottery makers in the past also made a variety of pottery types. This month in Collections we have chosen to again highlight one of the many pottery types, with this Glades Tool rim sherd.

Like many ceramic types, Glades Tool pottery is a diagnostic artifact, meaning that it has a known time frame. This helps archeologists date any non-diagnostic artifacts found with it, for example, any animal bone that was a result of food preparation. In this case, the Glades Tool pottery dates from about 1400 AD to 1513 AD, and mostly occurs in South Florida ([floridamuseum.ufl.edu](http://floridamuseum.ufl.edu)). Not all the pottery the THPO Collections section receives are able to be identified, some are so weathered that it is impossible, at least by the naked eye, to know what kind of pottery it was. Some pieces are so small that they are less than the size of your pinky nail. Others can be easily mistaken as small rocks or concretions.



The Glades Tooled pottery type is most easily characterized by the series of parallel lines across the top of the vessel, or in this case the pieces of pottery. These ridges were supposedly created when a small round tool was pressed down into the damp clay (Goggin and Sommer 1949:35). According to Goggin and Sommer (1949:35), all cases of Glades Tool pottery design are characterized by simple, repetitive, patterns. This is not to say that there is not a wide range of variety in this type of pottery. Some things that can create variation are the depth of the marks (Goggin and Sommer 1949:35), and angle of the lines (McGregor 1974:11). There are examples of this variety in Figure 1 (left). The Glade Tool pottery type is just one type that belongs to the Glades series. Other notable Glades series pottery types are Opalocka Incised, Miami Incised, and Fort Drum Punctuated ([floridamuseum.ufl.edu](http://floridamuseum.ufl.edu)).



Figure 1 ([floridamuseum.ufl.edu](http://floridamuseum.ufl.edu))

For more information about the Pottery types of Florida visit the resources at [www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu](http://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu)

## Work Cited

Goggin, John M., and Frank H. Sommer, III. 1949. "Excavations on the Upper Matecumbe Key, Florida". Yale University Publications in Anthropology 41.

"Glades Tooled (Impressed Rim)". 2019. [floridamuseum.ufl.edu](http://floridamuseum.ufl.edu). Retrieved October 17, 2023

(<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/ceramiclab/pottery-types-gallery/glades-tooled/>)

McGregor, James A. 1974. "A Ceramic Chronology for The Biscayne Bay Region of Southeast Florida". Master's thesis, Department of Anthropology, Florida Atlantic University. Florida Atlantic University Digital Library, 13667.

"South Florida Types (Glades Series, etc.)". 2019. [floridamuseum.ufl.edu](http://floridamuseum.ufl.edu). Retrieved October 17, 2023

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