

# Artifact of the Month

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

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This exciting find from the Brighton Reservation is an enameled metal teapot from the 1900s, with a unique pattern called marbled graniteware. Graniteware was patented in 1848 in New York, and became popular for its bright, joyful patterns. As you can see, this teapot has sustained some heavy damage from a lifetime of use out in the Everglades. The South Florida environment is so unfriendly to metals, that the THPO Tribal Archaeology section rarely finds metal objects in such good condition.

When exposed to hot, humid climates, metal alloys like iron or steel begin to break down and corrode. Enameled metals also have a thin layer of glass fused to the surface, which makes the object even more susceptible to cracking and corrosion. We take extra care to ensure this piece doesn't deteriorate any further by closely monitoring its environment, and checking regularly for new spots of rust. Hopefully this teapot will be preserved in our collection for many generations to come!

