

# F.A.T.C. NEWS

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Newsletter

Volume 27, Number 2



## FLORIDA SURPRISE MINNOW PART III



**THEY GET  
NO RESPECT!!**

**To Flop or Not to Flop**



**Poe's  
Lures  
by  
Zebco**



**Richardson  
Steel Fishing  
Rods**



**Collecting...  
Never Despise  
Small Beginnings**



**Bagley's  
Midnight Special**





# FATC Daytona Beach Spring Show

Many thanks to our Daytona Beach Show host, Larry Lucas.



The Plaza Resort is a wonderful venue for the show



View of pool and beach from a balcony



A special section of the room was set aside for Eger Bait Company displays and some of the best collections in the world were in attendance



Jim Duncan's Mullets colored creek chubs



Rare Eger Lures

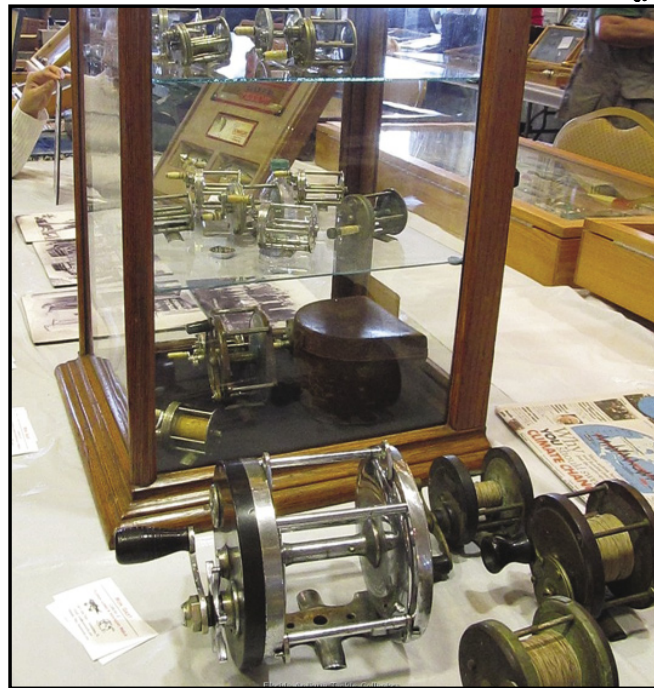


Robin Taylor's beautiful Creek Chub Beetle display





Beautiful antique floats



Reels for sale



Walter Willman prominent Orlando angler



Eger display



2013 FATC Patch



Steve Cox with Best Florida Display award for his exceptional Florida Folk Art



Sally Jett received Best Folkart Display award presented by Mike Hall





Bob Dennis received award for Best Educational Exhibit presented by Mike Hall



FATC President Ed Weston presents 2013 President's Award to Chuck Heddon



Robin Taylor received Jack Funderburk Award For Best Non-Florida Display presented by Tom Wilkerson



Robert Pitman III won award for Best Eger display presented by Tom Wilkerson



Members were recognized for their excellent displays



# FATC Awards Criteria

It has come to our attention that many of our FATC members are not aware of the various benchmarks used to judge the exhibits at our FATC shows. The following is a synopsis of the criteria used to reach our decisions:

- Educational Information
- Identification & Labeling
- Rarity
- Completeness
- Condition
- Overall Presentation
- Uniqueness and/or Originality

An exhibitor who wins a major award at one show is not eligible to win another major award for the same or similar exhibit for a period of one year. This exhibitor however, may win a major award within this time period if they display an exhibit that is entirely different.

Exhibit cards with the name of the exhibit and the owners name should be displayed prominently on their exhibit. These cards can be obtained at the registration desk.

Thank you,  
Awards Committee – Mike Hall & Tom Wilkerson

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# F.A.T.C. NEWS

**The Newsletter of the Florida  
Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.**

May 2013 Volume 27, No. 2

## Contents

Daytona Beach Show Photos .....	2-4
President's Message .....	6-7
Editor's Notes .....	9
Richardson Steel Fishing Rods .....	10-11
New Members.....	15-17
St. Augustine Beach Summer Show .....	18
Poe's Lures by Zebco .....	19
Never Despise Small Beginnings .....	20-21
St Pete Show Registration Form .....	22
To Flop or Not to Flop – That is the Question! .....	23
Bagley's Midnight Special .....	23
They Get No Respect!.....	24-25
Florida Surprise Minnow Part III .....	26-27
<i>On The Cover: Background shot is a beach scene during the 2013 FATC Daytona Spring Show</i>	

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# President's Message

## More random thoughts:

Ed Weston



The FATC Daytona International Show is over and it was fantastic! Everyone I talked with had a wonderful time. A big 'thank you' goes out to Larry Lucas who spent months working to make the show a success. I also want to thank Bonnie Saliba for her long hours working with Larry. Additionally, I want to give special credit to the following for their contributions to the Daytona Show:

- The volunteer crew that helped set up, cover, and mark the tables Thursday morning in preparation for the show opening.
- Jay Zuhlke, our Auction Coordinator.
- Dennis McNulty, our Auctioneer.
- Mike Sims, Paul Snyder, Bill Howington, and Chuck Heddon, who worked the front of the auction room.
- Susan Mais and Liz Yates for running the 50-50.
- Sally Jett, Bonnie Saliba, and Barbara Brace for making sure all the auction items were logged in properly.
- Rick Keating for his expert appraisals
- Joe Yates for his photography, and also for placing the shots on his web site and the FATC web site. Joe runs the FATC web site and does a superior job.
- Mike Hall and Tom Wilkerson for their hard work in judging the wide variety of displays.

Thanks again to everyone who gave up a little bit of their time to help the show run smoothly. With that being said, after speaking with Larry Lucas we still need more help for some jobs I have not mentioned. So step up and support your FATC.

Doug Brace has resigned as the FATC Patch Chairman. Doug has worked hard for ten years and has done a wonderful job. Tom Wilkerson has consented to take over the Patch Chairmanship. The next FATC show is in St. Augustine June 7-9 at the Holiday Oceanfront Resort. Show host, Mike Hall and cohost, John Zimpleman report the Resort has cleared the adjoining stage to give us more room and everything is running smoothly. St. Augustine is an interesting town with superior history and great restaurants. You and your family may want to arrive a couple of days early and take in the sights and ambiance.

Ron Gast will be hosting the FATC late summer show August 23-25 at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach on the Gulf. Ron always has things running like clockwork and this will be an outstanding show. Those who attend will have the chance of seeing the "green flash" as the sun dips beneath the gulf waters.

Dick Braun is going through negotiations for a FATC show in Punta Gorda the last part of October. We have not held a show in this area in





a long time and I am looking forward to returning.

HELP, HELP, HELP—The FATC needs a Show Photographer or photographers. What this entails is taking pictures of the people, displays, and events at our shows and then sending them to Joe Yates for placement on our website.

We also need a Membership Chairman. This is someone who would welcome new members and make them feel a part of the FATC family.

Good News! Scott Morgan has consented to make our 2014 Club Lure. If you have ever seen Scott's lures you know what superior craftsmanship goes into his product. These lures will be of a torpedo type and covered in a watersnake skin. These lures will be available in very, very limited numbers because of the amount of work that goes into each one.

Don't forget that Gary Simpson is always looking for articles for our newsletter. Your articles don't always have to be about fishing tackle. In our last newsletter Jim Duncan gave us some of his secret seafood recipes. If you haven't tried "Jimmy Duncan's Famous Seafood Soup" you are missing a real treat. So put on your thinking cap and send Gary your contributions. One last thing - In the last newsletter I mentioned items

you should carry to the FATC Shows to help you find items for your collection. They were: measuring device, magnifying glass, reference materials, and a list of what is already in your collection. The one thing I left out was an ultra-violet light to detect repaints or repairs on a lure. You don't use this often, but when you need it, you really need it. They make a very small ultra-violet light that you can carry in your pocket or purse, and it is inexpensive.

As always, remember, the best part of lure collecting is not the lures you collect but the friends you make along the way. Have fun and enjoy collecting! 🐟



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## Editor's Notes

By Gary Simpson

Another stellar Daytona show has faded into a bunch of good memories now, and our summer show is just ahead.

If I'm able to make it to St. Augustine myself, I'm thinking about offering some items I've had in my collection for almost twenty years. But then, lots of lures that were desirable back then are less so now. Collecting trends can be mystifying.

I take to every Daytona meet a pretty wide array of tackle to sell, and it is interesting to me how the trends shift regarding the "hot selling" categories of vintage tackle. In my early days of collecting, the big deal was glass-eyed, wooden lures. Dozens of well-funded buyers swooped down on nice Heddens like pirates on gold doubloons. Punkinseeds were like gold. Creek Chubs weren't far behind in popularity. Even nice Pikies in pike scale were desirable.

Things are different now.

Even after seeing this for several years running, it's still interesting to me that the one group I can always count on being saleable these days is 1960's and '70's plastics that are in styles or colors not run-of-the-mill. Put a tough Zara Spook on your table next to an equally tough Zaragossa from the 1920's or '30's and see how many inquiries each receives. The offspring is sure to outstrip the elder.

While tackle made in Florida remains a focus of many members, prices have sure fallen on some. Some glass-eyed Barracudas that once would have brought near four digits can be found now for far, far less. On the other hand, a few Florida makers whose works, ten years ago, flew beneath the collectors' radar now brighten the eyes of several Florida guys on the prowl during room trading. These include Griner, Roane, Louis Stewart, and H.O. Price.

With the unbelievable Wall of Eger we ogled at Daytona, this was certainly a big year for the fish-catching contributions of the Bartow wizard.

Our fascination with semi-modern but incredibly beautiful and well-made Bagley lures remains alive and well. And the Jim Pfeffer baits are time-tested crowd pleasers.

Among reels, it's the Abu Ambassadeurs that everyone goes for on my table. Again, the more common 5000's, 5000C's, and 5500C's with rim rash might sit without a lot of interest, but the same reels in very nice shape—or less common models—are sure to draw buyer interest.

This edition of the FATC News takes readers on a well-rounded tour of tackle collecting.


Charlie Tanner's extensive research on the Richardson Rod Company provides us with knowledge regarding the cool steel rods we might find—or already have in our collections. Jeff Windisman takes us through the history of a Florida fish-catching classic that receives too-little attention from collectors.

Our President, Ed Weston finishes up his three-part saga of the "Florida Surprise Minnow"—lures with which he is uniquely familiar. He reveals not only the existence—but also the total number IN existence—of really rare custom-made Griners.

John Gavin's story chronicles the making of an antique tackle collector—himself.

Bill Stuart alerts us to a cool but ill-fated Bagley lure that a lot of us would love to find. Dick Braun and Craig Comjean teach us a bit more about Zebco and Bagley collectibles, respectively.

Thanks to all you members who contributed articles this issue! I sure hope we can keep up a healthy flow of story submissions....

And, in closing, I just have to say it.....there was no "Gone Fishing" section needed in this issue. Let's keep that up, too! 



# RICHARDSON STEEL FISHING RODS

By Charles Tanner



The Richardson Ball Bearing Company of Chicago produced roller skates in the early 1900's. The company's president was Jennie Richardson.

John Ames Cook purchased the company, and in 1919, registered it as a corporation in the State of Illinois. The company's name was then changed to Richardson Rod and Reel Company. Cook lost no time in acquiring William H. Talbot's company in 1921. This acquisition included all of Talbot's equipment and some of his craftsmen/employees to produce a line of fine fishing reels.

Cook applied for a patent in 1923 and received pat.no. 1,494,530 for a tubular steel fishing rod. The company also received two other patents for fishing rod handles—patent nos. 2,795,073 and 2,874,507. One of these covered interlocking

slots in the handle and rod shaft. The slots were meant to keep the rod shaft in line. A spring tip top for trolling rods that allowed a smooth arc for line instead of a sharp angle was another company idea.

John Cook was the company president until 1954. That year, the company was purchased by R.B. Evans of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Still, the company continued as the Richardson Rod and Reel Co. until 1956.

Richardson made steel fishing rods—round, square, and hexagonal in solid steel. Also, tubular steel and hexagonal-tubular models and telescopic rods with reversible handles. Their rods were made in many finishes and colors that included bamboo and pearl white.



In the early 1940's the Richardson Co. named its rods: Brookside, Peerless, Champion, and Alstar. Some models were designated as follows: Nos. 400 and 990 were baitcasters with offset handles, coming in lengths of 4' 8" and 5' 2". Their shafts were seamless, hexagonal, and tubular. They had silk-wrapped guides and an enameled bamboo finish.





Models 200 and 250, with offset handles, came in lengths of 4' 6" and 5' 0". They were of round, tubular steel with silk-wrapped agate guides.

Round, solid-steel Models 14, 30, 55, and 56 came in 3, 3 1/2, 4, 4 1/2, and 5-foot lengths. The same lengths were available in square, solid-steel rods that carried the Model Numbers 120, 150, and 157.

Four-section tubular steel rods had Model Numbers 89, 754, 844, and 645. They had nickel silver fittings and agate guides. The tubular fly rods and tubular steel telescoping rods were numbered 220 and 284, respectively. The Model 788 was a combination fly/baitcasting telescopic rod. Trolling rods Nos. 80 and 84 came in 5-to-6 foot lengths and sported double-handled wood butts. The double-handled No. 95 came in cork.

Richardson's 1941 catalog also offered a four-section tubular steel rod called the "Beginner's Rod". It carried the price of \$1.60.

I want to thank those who provided much of this information: The Chicago History Museum, ProQuest Historical Newspapers, and Gwen Podeschi with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

To view the U.S patents mentioned above, go to: <http://www.google.com/patents>.

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## Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

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DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR ANGLING HERITAGE

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc. (FATC) is a non-profit, educational corporation, incorporated in the State of Florida. The purpose of FATC is educational through the collection and distribution of historical and technical data regarding fishing equipment, its development, its inventors and manufacturers from the earliest times through the present day, and to assist other groups and individuals having a similar purpose. In order to enhance the knowledge of these subjects, the collection and preservation of examples of fishing tackle is to be encouraged for the benefit of present and future generations.

FATC was founded in 1987. The founders felt that a state-wide organization would provide additional opportunities for residents of Florida and others to learn more about the history of angling in Florida and elsewhere. FATC sponsors four exhibitions, open to the public, annually at different Florida locations. At the exhibitions members display their

collections, interact with the public, and engage in other activities in keeping with the purpose of FATC. FATC publishes a newsletter tri-annually, and an annual membership directory. FATC is not affiliated in any way with the National Fishing Lure Collector's Club (NFLCC) or the Old Reel Collectors Association, Inc., (ORCA) but encourages FATC members to support those organizations.

FATC annual membership dues are: \$35 domestic, \$40 Canada, \$45 Foreign or \$700 (Domestic) Life Membership, \$800 (Canada) Life Membership, and \$900 (Foreign) Life Membership (20x annual dues). Please direct membership inquiries or applications (with your dues) to the FATC Secretary listed below. For membership applications visit our web site at: [www.fatc.net](http://www.fatc.net)

One time ads will be given a 3% discount for prepayment.



# Minutes from FATC Board of Directors

DAYTONA BEACH, FL • MARCH 2, 2013

Members present: Ed Weston, James Duncan, Mike Hall, Chuck Heddon, Paul Snider, Sally Jett, Ron Gast, Dennis McNulty, Rick Vaughn, Butch Carey, Larry Lucas and Sheila Quinn

President Ed Weston called the meeting to order at 7:16am.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of October 27, 2012 Board of Directors meeting were presented by Sheila Quinn. The minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurers Report: Sally Jett presented the Annual Treasurer's Report for 2012 and the January 2013 Report. The reports were approved as presented.

Ron Gast suggested that Sally have access to PayPal to review the statements on a regular basis.

Larry Lucas reviewed the advertising for the Daytona Show. He made arrangements for radio advertising every two hours for a week and there was a very large write up in the local Saturday morning newspaper.

Dick Braun gave a brief presentation on a show he would like to do in Punta Gorda the third week in October. He will get back to us with the details.

Old Business: Shows:

Mike Hall's, St. Augustine Beach show, is scheduled for June 7 and 8, 2013 at the Holiday Isle.

Ron Gast is doing the St Pete Beach show scheduled for August 23, 24 and 25, 2013. Rooms are \$99 if reserved one month in advance.

Club Lures: We have sold almost enough lures to cover our expenses.

New Business: We would like to thank Doug Brace for doing an outstanding job in handling our FATC patches for the past 10 years. Tom Wilkerson has agreed to take over that position.

Rick Vaughn brought up the subject of letting the public in the first day of the shows in hopes of getting more interest and activity. Rick Vaughn moved that we open our shows on Friday at 10:00am to the public. Jim Duncan seconded it. The motion carried.

Ed Weston has asked Bonnie Saliba to deposit all checks within 2 weeks of receiving them.

There was a lengthy discussion of setting a policy on when dues need to be paid. Mike Hall moved and was seconded by Dennis McNulty that dues paid on or after October 1 will count toward the following year. Dues are due on January 1 of the upcoming year. Members who have not paid their dues by the first show of the year will be dropped from the rolls. The motion carried.

We need someone to send out New Member Welcome Packets to new members. We will ask Bonnie Saliba to inform that person as soon as receiving membership dues.

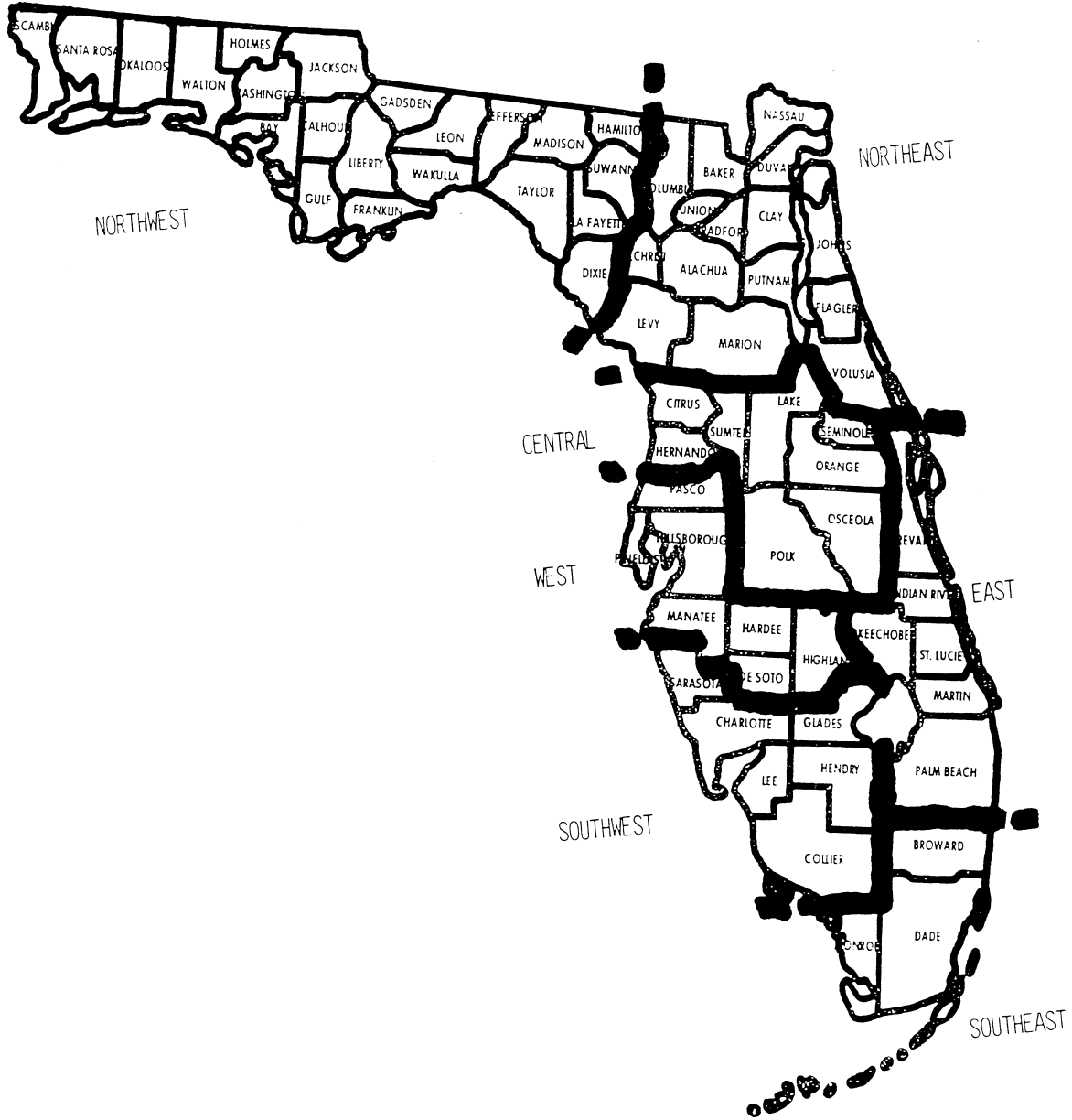
Rick Vaughn suggested using Craig's List to advertise our lure shows. All agreed that was a good idea.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:57am.

Respectfully Submitted, Sheila Quinn, Secretary



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# Thanks to all who helped with my collection!

*~Chuck*

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**FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS  
SUMMER SHOW  
ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, FLORIDA**

**JUNE 7, 8, 9 2013**

**Fri. 8am-6pm • Sat. 8am-6pm • Sun. 8am-12pm**

**SHOW LOCATION:** Holiday Isle Oceanfront Resort  
860 A1A Beach Blvd. St Augustine Beach, FL 32080

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Holiday Isle Oceanfront Resort 1-800-626-7263

Room Rates, \$110.00 plus tax per night, booked by Monday, May 6, 2013 to receive the special F.A.T.C. discount.

**TABLE AND REGISTRATION:** Registration is \$15.00 per member.

8 ft. tables, \$ 30.00 each, wall or aisle. Membership dues must be current to register.

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Show Host, Mike Hall (904) 424-7071, flalake@aol.com and Co-Host, John Zimpleman.

**REGISTRATION FORM:**

Please make checks payable to F.A.T.C and mail to:

Mike Hall  
2435 Ironwood Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32216

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # and E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Guests Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration \_\_\_\_\_ at \$ 15.00 each for a total of : \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ Tables at \$ 35.00 Each for a total of \_\_\_\_\_

Please Specify Wall or Aisle tables \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



# Poe's Lures by Zebco

By Dick Braun

In the last FATC News we covered lures made by Zebco. In subsequent years, Zebco (Brunswick Corp.) also owned the Poe's company—makers of wooden lures well-known and widely used in the 1990's.



I've looked for over 2 years for any catalog listing the Poe lures during the short time that Brunswick owned Browning/Lewis/Poe in 1992 and 1993—but to no avail. The search continues.

The most important thing to check in collecting the Poe Zebco lures is the address printed on the back of the package. It has to say 6101 E. Apache, Tulsa – OK 74115 (the home address in Tulsa of the Zebco Corporation) to be a Zebco/Brunswick/Browning Poe lure.

The first ones produced have these words:

- 1st line: Made in Mexico
- 2nd line: Poe's Lure Co.
- 3rd line: 6101 E. Apache
- 4th line: Tulsa, OK 74115
- 5th Line: Browning Fishing Div.

At the bottom of the package is "Browning 1992".

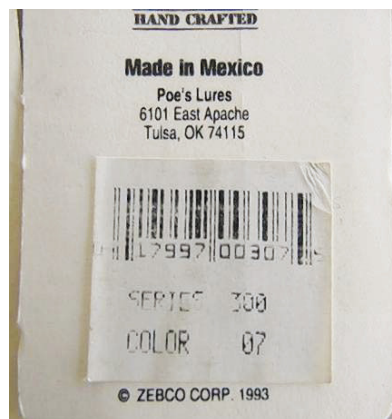
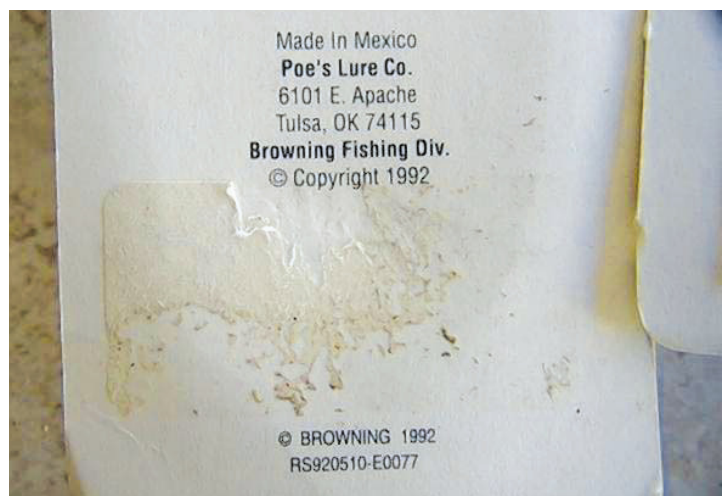
On lures produced the following year, the same package address will read: "Poe's Lures, 6101 East Apache, Tulsa Ok 74115", and at the bottom of the package, "Zebco Corp. 1993".

The early 1992 packages show a Morgan, Utah address, and I've not found a Zebco Poe's after 1993.

The available series in the Browning Poe's lures are as follows: 200, 300,400, 400plus, 500, 600, 700, 1100, 1400, 1500, 1900, 2500, 2600, 2700, 2700W, 2800B, and 2800W.

The interesting thing about the Poe lures is they are all made from "Hand Crafted Cedar". The color patterns are as colorful as any lure out there...and they are 20 years old this year.

Until next time, That-Zebco-Guy, Dick Braun 



# Antique Reel Collecting... Never Despise Small Beginnings

*By John Gavin*

Well, to start with, only once previously had I ever thought about collecting antique fishing tackle and that was on my second fishing trip to Alaska in 1986. While there, I purchased a few ice fishing decoys as I felt they would be the start of a nice collecting hobby. I had never seen anything like them, all hand carved and painted. After returning home, this collection went sour as I couldn't find any other decoys in South Florida. I think I gave them to various friends that found them interesting.

Having fallen in love with fishing as a young boy in the late 1950s, I loved to walk through the fishing tackle areas of stores or visit tackle shops. I also enjoyed looking at fishing tackle catalogs. I remember getting a Penn Reel catalog in a 200 Surfmaster box as a boy and wanting every reel advertised in it. I wore it out I looked through so often. At nearly 61 years of age I still fish as often as possible and still have a nice set of rods and reels ready for whatever species I want to target. My old tackle shop custom built fiberglass rods from the 60s, 70s, and 80s have been replaced with composite rods, and my reels upgraded. Still, collecting antique reels or tackle never came to mind.

Sometime in 2007 my oldest son and constant fishing companion, Joshua, decided he wanted a Penn Senator red 3/0 Special and sought one out on Ebay. He was the successful bidder at \$35.00 and received what he thought was going to be a 3/0 special...but it turned out to be an older black 3/0 Senator in nice condition except the exterior chrome trim ring on the bearing side plate was cracked.



*Penn 3/0 Senator that started a collection*

I was able to order new chrome ring and drag washers and took the reel apart to clean, lubricate, and replace the parts. When I had it all back together I put it on a shelf where we had some photos displaying fish we had caught. The old black 3/0 Senator looked very good sitting on the shelf and I asked my son if we could just leave it on the shelf as an antique. He quickly agreed.

A few months later in the local newspaper, the Daytona Beach News Journal, I saw an advertisement about an upcoming antique fishing tackle show at the Plaza Resort and Spa on Daytona Beach. I asked both my sons if they wanted to go and the response was an immediate "yes". This show, I learned, was the annual F.A.T.C. show in 2008 just after the NASCAR Daytona 500 race. My sons and I arrived and I was like a little kid in a candy store. Wow, there was so much to see and my mind went wild as we walked about. I pointed out reels and lures to my sons that I had learned to fish with when I was a boy. Finding a nice Penn 200M Surfmaster, I showed my sons the reel I had learned to cast with...and caught my first Kingfish with. Seeing my excitement, the owner of the reel reduced his marked selling price from \$30.00, allowing me to purchase it for \$20.00. We walked around some more and found a Penn 200M box being sold for \$5.00, which I also purchased. Now I had the reel



and the matching box like the one I had fished with when I was 10 to 13 years of age. We walked around some more and found a box of 2062 Shakespeare spinning reel parts and looking through it I could see there were enough parts to make one nice reel—this was the spinning reel I used in the late 60s. The displayer sold the entire box to me for \$15.00. Little did I know what was happening...and what that black 3/0 my son purchased on Ebay had started.



*2062 Shakespeare, 3/0 Senator, 200 Surfmaster with box*

We spent around three hours walking around, speaking with the people displaying their antiques, and for me personally, being transported back to the simpler times of my youth. After leaving I couldn't wait to get the two new reels taken apart to be cleaned and reconditioned and added to the lone 3/0 on the shelf. Now I had started my antique reel collection with the thought I would only attempt to get the reels I had owned as boy and young man in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. I started visiting yard and garage sales, going to antique shops, and I couldn't wait to go to the 2009 F.A.T.C. show when it came back to Daytona Beach. By the time of the 2009 show I had about 15 reels in my collection. When I got to the 2009 show with my oldest son, I found a lifelong friend displaying his reel collection—Butch Carey, a man I have known since boyhood when we fished on the Deerfield Beach Municipal

Fishing Pier together. Butch is a member of the club and has been of great assistance to me in expanding my collection.

Today I have over 100 antique fishing reels in my collection and at least 50 more to trade or sell in order to obtain more jewels. In my den this collection which grew from the one old Penn Senator 3/0 is displayed on matching Redwood shelving units garnished with an antique lure here or there. I attended the recent 2013 F.A.T.C. show in Daytona and returned to St. Petersburg where I now reside with twelve additional reels to add to this ever expanding collection.

I have been to every Daytona Beach show since that first one I attended in 2008 and joined the F.A.T.C. some years back. It is a pleasure seeing and speaking with the other members at the shows and always finding something my collection needs when I attend. This is the year I am planning to start displaying parts of my collection at the shows starting with the upcoming St. Augustine show—and then again at the St. Petersburg show. I have been reconditioning vintage reels to sell or trade to those who may be starting their own collections. And to think this all started with one old Penn Senator 3/0.

We should never despise small beginnings! 🐟

## FATC Member Show Registration Form

### Dolphin Beach Resort, 4900 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach August 23 - 25, 2013



**Hotel:** Phone 1-800-237-8916, ask for the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Block or G/FATC/2013. Rates are \$99 (standard) and \$119 (poolside) 30 days prior.  
**Website:** [www.dolphinbeach.com](http://www.dolphinbeach.com)

**Make check payable to FATC and mail to:**

**Ron Gast**  
**2306 Leeward Cove**  
**Kissimmee, FL 34746**  
**Phone: 407-496-7940**  
**Email: [ron@luresnreels.com](mailto:ron@luresnreels.com)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone # and E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guests Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tables:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Wall Tables @ \$35 Each:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Aisle Tables @ \$35 Each:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues (if unpaid): \$35** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepaid Member Registration Fee: \$15 (\$20 at Show)** \_\_\_\_\_

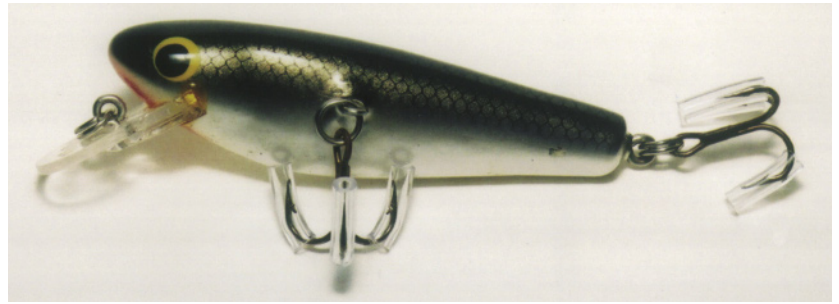
**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_



# To Flop or Not to Flop – THAT IS THE QUESTION!

By Bill Stuart

I've always thought that when you were reeling in a crippled minnow, as long as there was tension on the line the minnow would ride straight in the water. However, when the line tension was then released, the minnow would flop on its side. In 1990 I decided that Bagley should make a crippled shad.



*The Bagley Cripple Shad was not to be. It was not a consistent flopper.*

I talked with our production people and asked them to develop a crippled shad in the 2 – 3 inch range. The key to our success would be the lure's flop-ability.

At the outset I was encouraged by the lures we made. Our only problem was that the lures we made did not consistently flop.

Finally, after 6 or 7 or more batches of 12 each, produced over about as many weeks, the production people said we were ready and should do a pilot batch of 100. Everyone was excited with the

prospect. As soon as the lures were dry, we took them to a nearby lake to test. Each lure was cast and its performance recorded.

The bottom line is that we flopped because the lures would not! Fifty flopped and fifty did not. Folks, you can't stay in business producing a lure with a fifty percent failure rate. Potentially, there are about a hundred and a half of these experimental lures out there somewhere. I hope all you Bagley collectors find one!

## Bagley's Midnight Special

By Craig Comjean

Since he was an avid fisherman, Jim Bagley occasionally fished at night. Also being a lure designer and tinkerer, he was always looking for an edge.

Bagley designed a series of baits that I've called his "Midnight Specials". Produced only in the Balsa B 1, 2, 3, and 4 square lipped lure series, it was one of only two Bagley baits that came with a painted lip (the other being a molded lipped four-inch Top Gun). The "Midnight Special" was painted all Black with an Orange belly. The Black continued on to the top side of the lip, while the Orange continued on to the underside of the lip. The painted



lip helped the lure silhouette against the moonlight, allowing fish a better profile so they could see it better. These lures were produced in small numbers and are Very Hard to find!! A BB1 Midnight Special NIB will bring about \$175.00 on Ebay, a BB2 (the most common) brings \$100+ NIB, while a BB3 brings \$250.00. I know of only five BB4's in the hands of collectors in the "Midnight Special" paint scheme, of which I have two. Expect to pay \$300+ if you find one for sale from a collector.

If you want an edge when you are crankbait fishing at night, a Bagley's "Midnight Special" will catch 'em after dark!!!

# THEY GET NO RESPECT!!

By Jeff Windisman

In the world of collectible fishing lures, there is a topwater plug that gets little respect. However, in the fishing world, it's one of the most sought-after lures of all.



It all started with a design in 1929 that was copied by other companies in the 1930's, then re-designed by these companies and re-named. The lure was finally patented in 1939 and received the name with which it became famous. It has since been manufactured by a number of companies up to the 1990's—some making two sizes and others as many as five. The lure came in an array of color patterns; but in freshwater you couldn't go wrong with the Frog/Yellow belly paint scheme. Saltwater fishers favored the Green Back/White Sides and Belly with Silver Fleck on sides, known commonly as Silver Fleck.

The body shape was one of the most-copied designs ever—used by small garage operations and large companies alike.

What's the name of this famous lure, you ask? Well, it's the "Dalton Special"! The Dalton started life as the PDQ #7, designed and hand made by Ed Brown of Orlando, Florida. Then, with Brown's permission, Paul Manon of the Anglers Bait Company (also of Orlando) made the lure for his company. Manon took Brown's lure, re-designed it, and named it the "Angle Minnow".

From there, Paul Manon met A.C. "Dazzy" Vance of professional baseball fame, and together they started a new fishing tackle business in Homosassa, Florida. At this point they renamed the lure the "Angle Frog". After a few years, Phillip Porter Dalton of Tampa, Florida went to a tackle store in Orlando and purchased a box containing at least a hundred blank lure bodies from the widow of Paul Manon. P.P. Dalton took the lure blanks to the Florida Fishing Tackle Manufacturing Company (Barracuda Brand) and had them painted and packaged. The first box used was green in color. Dalton also met with Earl Gresh of St. Petersburg—a man already famous for his woodworking skills. Dalton had Gresh make a

gross (twelve dozen) more lure blanks for him. These were the first Dalton Specials. Dalton had the Florida Fishing Tackle Manufacturing Co. (FFTMC) paint and install hardware on these Specials.

Once they were finished, P.P. Dalton used them to "seed the market" while he was getting fully set into production.

Picture below shows the Green Box Dalton that P.P. Dalton had Barracuda paint before they went into Shakespeare Company boxes.



The Shakespeare Bait Company was the first to produce the Dalton Special for P.P Dalton. In late 1947, however, Dalton and Shakespeare had a disagreement. At that time, Dalton moved the production of his lure over to FFTMC. Soon after, a third size of the Dalton Special was added. In 1951, P.P. Dalton sold all rights of the Dalton Special to Barracuda (FFTMC)...and in the coming years FFTMC added to the lure line two more sizes. P.P. Dalton was instrumental in these designs, and in the design of the new Dalton Twist.

In 1973, FFTMC sold the rights to the Dalton Special (and also other Barracuda Brand lures) to Marine Metal Products of Clearwater, Fl. Marine Metal made the Dalton Special up 'til 1982, when they sold the rights to Sam Griffin of Okeechobee, FL. For some reason, Sam never produced or sold the Dalton Special as a Griffin Lure.

In 1988, Sam Griffin sold his company and the rights to the Dalton Special to the Luhr Jensen Company of Hood River, Oregon. At this time



Griffin was hired to help run their lure production. Under his guidance, Luhr Jensen produced the Dalton Special under the "Crankbait Brand" series of lures for three to four years. Then they made the Dalton under the "Classic Wood" series up until 1996, when production of the Dalton Special ceased.

Photo below shows a first-production 4-inch Shakespeare Bait Company Dalton Special with no eye detail. It was likely made for P.P. Dalton to okay before full production started.



Photo above shows a FFTMC (Barracuda Brand) Dalton marked "Tampa Fla." Notice the soldered line tie.

Some say imitation is the finest form of flattery. I think this is very true of the many look-alikes the Dalton Special inspired over the years, starting in the 1940's. You have Arel Brown of Charleston, S.C. making three types of Dalton look-alikes he called the "Dolly Jumper" starting in 1947; and the Paw Paw Bait Company producing its bedazzled version called the "Plenty Sparkle" in the early 1950's. Then you have other companies such as the Isle Royale Bait Company of Michigan making two versions called the "Southern Bassler" and the "Eager Beaver". The Creme Lure Co. of Tyler, Texas and Akron, Ohio had a Dalton-inspired lure called the "Cast-Atem"...and also a Dalton Twist lookalike, the "Mad Dad". Even famous maker, Bud Stewart of Michigan got into the act with his "Thing-A-Ma-Jig".

Photo below shows a Paw Paw Bait Company Plenty Sparkle Senior.



That Dalton-style baits were made by all of these—and many other smaller companies—attests to the Dalton's fish-catching ability. And, finally, it has a following in the lure collector market. If you want to start a Dalton collection without a big outlay of money, I suggest starting with either the FFTMC lures marked "St Pete" or the Marine Metals-made examples. The St. Pete-marked lures were made in five sizes and thirty-two different color schemes. The Marine Metals Daltons can be found in twenty-four patterns—and a few special-ordered colors are seen.

There are also contemporary makers producing their versions of the Dalton—a whole new market for the collector or angler. If you want to acquire examples from all makers (old, new, large, and small), collecting the Dalton Special can be an overwhelming task (I can attest to this). But fortunately, the lures were made all over the country, so you can always specialize in Dalton-style lures made near you.

As stated at the start, they get little respect from the collector. But this seems, little by little, to be changing as people learn the history of this great lure.



Photo above shows a boxed contemporary Dalton look-alike made by the late Lloyd Jett.

# FLORIDA

## SURPRISE MINNOW

### PART III

By Ed Weston

In "Florida Surprise Minnow, Part I", I expounded how Jim Frazier and I came up with the idea of producing a lure that looked like a Pflueger Surprise Minnow to give out as Christmas presents. We selected J.C. Griner of Orlando, Florida to execute this lure. I made a trip to Orlando, met Mr. Griner, and the rest is history.



In "Florida Surprise Minnow, Part II", I related that after some time I went back to Mr. Griner and had some more Florida Surprise Minnows made in different sizes and colors. I was fishing bass tournaments and at the end of a tournament I would nonchalantly look into other anglers' tackle boxes. If they had a vintage lure, I would trade them this "hand-made custom wood Surprise Minnow" for the lure I was after.

Now, the story of the Florida Surprise Minnow Part III has no information on the Florida Surprise Minnow. Wait!! I can explain!! Because of what occurred in Florida Surprise Minnow Part I and Part II, I made another trip to Orlando to see Mr. Griner. You must remember that J.C. Griner could copy or make just about any lure you might want to obtain.

I had him make me a few extra-special custom lures.



**Lure #1 Injured Minnow:** At the time, I was collecting Creek Chub Injured Minnows in both the regular size and baby size. So I had Mr. Griner generate a musky or snook size injured minnow. To my delight he made two different injured minnows, one 4 and 1/2 inches in length and the other, 6 inches in length... and both were five hookers.

**Lure #2 Three Sectioned Darter:** I wanted a darter that was very different so I asked Mr. Griner for a three-sectioned darter. I don't believe he relished making this lure






Barracuda (Florida Fishing Tackle) lures and loved the Barracuda Old Albert. I took Mr. Griner a Barracuda Old Albert and asked if he could make one like it. He said he could so I ordered nine—three in frog, three in yellow with black and red spots, and three in a green scale color pattern. The lures were 4 inches in length.

because he was actually producing three lures and joining them into one. The lures were 4 3/4 inches in length and wiggled like a snake. I ordered six lures but I don't recall receiving six because of the difficulty in making the lure.

That's it!! That's all she wrote!! It is finished!! The fat lady has sung!! The saga of the Florida Surprise Minnow is over. I only kept one each of the lures I had Mr. Griner make. So somewhere out there are some very rare Griner lures. If you possess a Griner Old Albert I will be glad to place a one hundred dollar bill in your hand in exchange for that lure. That's not a bad return on a lure that originally cost only three dollars.

Lure #3 Old Albert type Lure: I was also collecting

I hope you enjoyed my reminiscing on the birth of some interesting Florida made lures. 🐟



**Capt. David R. Besser**  
Vintage Fly Tackle Collector

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1-800-626-7263

860 A1A Beach Blvd. • St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

### FATC Late Summer Show

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