

# F.A.T.C. NEWS

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 1



**The Lost Pfeffer Collection**



CASTING -  
"back in  
time" ...



**Creek Chub Bait Co. History**



**Zebco  
"Deceiver"  
Reels**



**Show Me Another**

**The  
Handle  
Rod**





# FATC Palatka Fall Show

Many thanks to our Show Hosts, Bernie Schultz and Tom Wilkerson.



Our newest member Mac Hoover



Larry Lucas' Halloween-ish display



FATC members made the drive to Melrose and the famous Blue Water Bay, owned by fellow club member, Byron Terwillegar.



Bill Roberts' great Viking Frog



The Swearingen Family Collection



A Flying Helgramite!



Jim Duncan's award-winning Creek Chub display



Clarence Smith's display on grading lures



Bill Stuart's Louis Rhead display



Bernie's Cuda's



Our editor and new membership director



Gene Meisberger's Colorado Moth display



A Happy David Lindsay



Ed and Marilynn Zorzi



Mortimer mouse



Mac Hoover's displays: Pflueger and Heddon



Part of Doug Brace's display



Part of Bill Hoerter's winning display



Waterfall into the Koi pond



Chuck Heddon



Bernie Schultz: Best Florida Display



Jim Duncan accepts for his CCBC Wigglers



Outstanding display awards, Stephanie Duncan accepting for Mortimer Mouse, Sally Jett for her Jan Cummings display, Gene Meisberger's Colorado Moths and Mac Hoover for his Pflueger and Heddon display



Swearingen Family Collection: Best Topical Display



Close-up of Jim Duncan's Wigglers



Star of the Halloween tackle show?

# 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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LITERATURE**

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850-574-9718 email: fandi@comcast.net**



# F.A.T.C. NEWS

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

January 2015 Volume 29, No. 1

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## President's Message

*Ed Weston*



The New Year has begun and like last year you don't have to worry, I'm not going to bore you with resolutions that I probably would not keep anyway.

I first want to thank Bernie Schultz for hosting the FATC show in Palatka, on the banks of the St. Johns River. He was adeptly assisted by Tom Wilkerson and Grace Chlastawa. The show was a tremendous success and everyone had a fantastic experience.

Larry Lucas and Stephanie Duncan have been hard at work in preparation for the FATC International Show coming up in Daytona Beach on February 27, 28 and March 1. Larry informs me that the show is almost—and will no doubt be—sold out by the time this newsletter goes to press. This year the Daytona show awards will reflect a slightly different format in response to the feedback we received from the recent FATC survey.

The awards will be given for:

"Best Color Collection"

"Best Florida Collection"

"Best Reel Collection"

"Best Educational Collection"

"Reverend Bob Dennis Award" for Best Topical Collection

"Jack Funderburk Award" for Best Non-Florida Collection

"Best of Show" to be decided by member vote

Appreciation awards will not be given.

Scott Morgan is again providing us with the 2015 FATC Club Lure. The lure is the beautiful Tiger Snakeskin Shiner with glass eyes. Only 51 are being produced. Last year the Morgan-made club lures sold completely out by Saturday—the second day of the Daytona Show.

I was talking recently with FATC members and discovered that some were unaware that our club helps spouses, sons and daughters of members who have passed away. Many times, the survivors are left with a collection and no idea of how to dispose of it. FATC will first try to advise them of the value of the collection. If they wish, we will catalog it and place it in the Daytona auction. There, at the second largest show in the nation, odds are good for a pleasing result. The survivors then receive 100% of the prices realized.

As always, remember: The best part of tackle collecting is not the treasures you purchase but the friends you make along the way.

See you in Daytona.

## Editor Notes

*Gary Simpson*

Welcome to the FATC News Volume 29, Number 1. The diversity of information that is submitted to this little publication always amazes me. This issue again covers a wide scope, offering members knowledge spanning collectible rods, reels, and lures. Then we slip in some historical content.

Through the years, much has been written about the Creek Chub Bait Company of Garrett, Indiana. The company's story has been well-researched and rendered. But we are fortunate that Ron Matthews, a sixty-year resident of Garrett (who also happens to be a fisherman and Garrett historian) has come forward to share bits of information heretofore unpublished regarding the incredibly-important tackle manufacturer. Wouldn't a Henry Dills 'Dinger' decoy be a fine addition to a collection of early chubs? And how about one of those lures Dills hand carved pre-Creek Chub? One of these lures, by the way, is pictured in Dr. Harold E. Smith's fine "Collector's Encyclopedia of Creek Chub".

I was surprised and pleased to receive, out of the blue, the "Lost Pfeffer" article from Ray Diehr. Longtime collectors can all remember seeing super-rare pieces at long-ago shows that someone took home and squirreled away. Now and then these long-lost treasures turn up again down the road... and I think it's neat how the whereabouts of these was revealed. A bunch of us will look forward to casting our eyes upon these unique Jim Pfeffer creations at Daytona.

Doug Brace's submission draws attention to something very few FATC members own—a great


big Pot Belly. These are undeniably rare and cool... and now we'll all want one.

Charlie Tanner covers yet another very neat and rather obscure early fishing rod for which we should keep a lookout. And Dick Braun clues us up on Zebco-made reels and lures that don't look at all like Zebco products.

Just when I was afraid our "Show Me Another" series had run out of steam, I received three fine-looking entries for this newsletter. Thanks to Bill, Bernie, and Joe!

We all enjoy the eye appeal of color collections, and I can't wait to peruse those that will surely fill lots of Daytona show tables. In 1993, I started putting together Heddons in the Strawberry Spot color. I've since broken up that assembly, and these displays will no doubt make me wish I still had it.

Speaking of Daytona, over the last 20 years I've only missed shows when they've fallen on dates conflicting with bass tournaments whose trails I followed. The worm has turned, I guess. While I do still compete with the younger guns, this show has become such a loved and appreciated tradition, I now rank its importance higher. Not sure whether that makes me 'no longer competitive' or 'wise'. I'm going with wise.

I hope you enjoy this edition. Strict club term limits makes this my fifth and final year as FATC News Editor. Well....actually, it's a self-imposed term limit. Either way, all things must pass. See you at the show! 





# FATC 2015 CLUB LURE

The 2015 FATC club lure is the Tiger Snakeskin Shiner produced by Scott Morgan of Jupiter, Florida. The shiner-shaped body is

made of bass wood and covered with the skin of a Tiger Snake, a venomous serpent found in southern regions of Australia, including the coastal islands of Tasmania. The lures have German-made yellow glass eyes, gold plated spinners from the Worth Company and gold plated vintage #2 treble hooks from Mustad and Son. Only 51 lures were produced, numbered 000 to 050. Numbers 000 and 001 will be auctioned off at the Daytona show Saturday night.



Last year at the Daytona show, the club lure sold out by 10:00 Saturday morning. Make sure you get yours early! 🐟

You will be able to purchase your 2015 club lure starting Wednesday, February 25 from Sheila Quinn or Ed Weston. The cost of the lure is \$30.00 and availability will be limited to one per active membership. We will have a blind draw to determine the number of the FATC Tiger Snakeskin Shiner you will receive. The numbers are put in a container; and you draw your number from the container, sight-unseen. However, there will be an exception to this rule. If you have a particular number that you would really like to have (and it has not already been drawn), then you may donate an extra \$10.00 to the Club to get the lure with that number.



# The Handle Rod

Charles Tanner

John D. McMillan started his business, Champion Products Co., in 1948 to produce and sell his invention—a tubular, telescoping fishing rod that collapsed into an offset baitcasting handle. He called his innovation simply, the “Handle Rod”.

McMillan incorporated the company at 1024 Park Ave. Muskegon Heights, MI., and was listed as the president and general manager. In 1963, the company was listed in the local industry directory as being located at 2525 Park St. in Muskegon.

The Handle Rod displayed in the design patent drawing and in early ads was McMillan’s original white metal model containing “Beryllium”, a hardening agent. The rod sections were produced by a process of extruding a block of heated metal

through dies until the desired thickness and length of the rod tube was achieved.

I was unable to find out the factory or factories that produced the shafts or assembled the final product. Some on the web mention Pennsylvania as a possible location, and this idea has some merit. A description as to how another early rod company functioned can be found in the Penrod Fishing Rod Company’s history. This mentions the outsourcing of their rod shafts, and rods being assembled in a second floor apartment over the Gilbertville, PA

**Handle-Rod**  
patent applied for

**NEW COMPACTNESS**

A FIVE FOOT CASTING ROD that COMPLETELY TELESCOPES INTO ITS HANDLE TO JUST ELEVEN INCHES!! Fits into pocket, tackle box, suitcase or glove compartment. Ideal for boat or plane. Rod sections made of *Beryllium Copper* Can never rust or corrode Weighs only Six ounces

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post office. (In Penrod's case, the employees consisted of four family members to attach the guides and handles to the shafts).

Later, Champion decided to produce the Handle Rod in copper/beryllium. In their early ads, they claimed this material to be lighter, and more flexible, and rust-free. The ads also touted the rod that extended to 5-feet, yet could "fit into your car's glove compartment, tackle box, or into one's



pocket". Down the road, I think the Popeil's Pocket Fisherman would latch onto a similar claim.

At some point, copper dust was declared a health hazard; and this caused Champion to return to their original white metal rod. Their ads in 1955 did not mention copper/beryllium.

The company closed its doors in 1966. By then, competition from multitudes of fiberglass rod companies had killed the metal rod business for all metal rod producers.

In my research of the Champion Rods Company, I came across a 2011 auction site listing for a fly rod version of the Handle Rod. The fly rod version should be considered rare and valuable. Values for the bait casting version can be assessed by reviewing examples for sale at auction sites on the web. On average, they are valued at \$30 to \$50. Opening bid for one rod was \$500. Wow! (I have two for sale). 🐟

## An Array of Color Collections

*Bernie Schultz*

One day, while driving home from a tournament, I received a call from club member Larry Lucas. The call wasn't a surprise — Larry usually tries to touch base with me after each event. Our friendship dates back to our old college, bass club days, and he's followed my career ever since.

This time, however, the conversation wasn't as much about fishing. It was more about collecting, and he wanted to get my thoughts on a concept he was considering for the upcoming Daytona show.

Out of the blue, he asked, "What do you think about making 'color collections' this year's show theme? My immediate response was, "Yes ... perfect!"

You see, to this point, all previous themes had centered on various manufacturers, like Eger, Pfeffer and Creek Chub. Finally, the show would offer a theme that everyone could embrace.

A few days later, while pondering the prospects of Larry's concept, it occurred to me that color collections could be interpreted multiple ways. The most obvious of which would be a collection of various body styles in a particular color, such as strawberry or shiner scale.

And it could be represented by a single maker, or any number of makers.

Another obvious interpretation would be single lure types in a range of colors — like Heddon Bassers, for instance, in every catalog color ever produced.

Then it hit me! Color collections could also be defined as variations of a specific color, regardless of make or body style. God only knows, there are countless variations of frog spot out there.

And what about metal — copper, brass, nickel-silver? Sure, these are a bit monochromatic, but they, too, meet the requirements.

Speaking of alternatives, flies and fly rod lures could also qualify. And I'm sure there are others. The idea is to have fun and make the show more memorable — something that just about everyone can participate in, too. I'm sure that's precisely what Larry had in mind when he came up with this concept.

So, hopefully you will create your own version of a color collection for Daytona. Large or small, old or new, I'm confident the judges will reward those who best represent the concept. 🐟

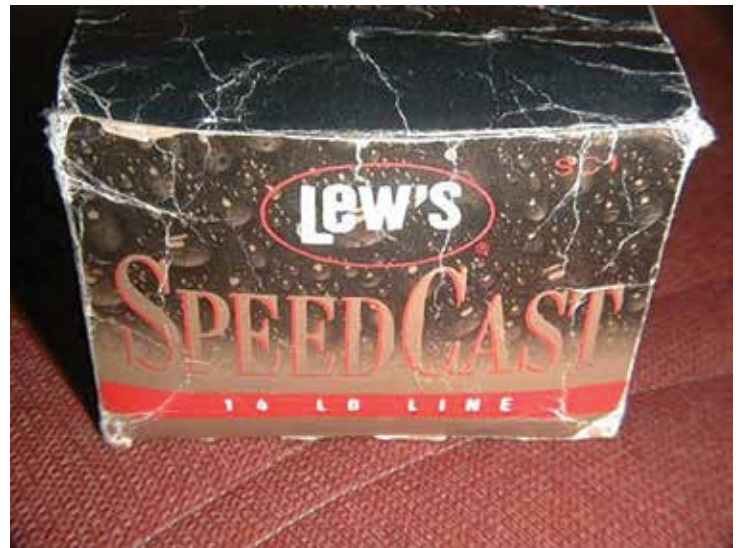
## The Zebco "Deceiver" Reels

Dick Braun



In 1992, the Brunswick Corporation, parent company of Zebco, acquired Browning (reels), Lew's (reels), and Poe's (lures). Using the Browning and Lew's names, Zebco produced at least four different closed-face (spincast) models for the Browning Division and one closed face spinning reel for the Lew's Division.

A gold band around the front cover of these reels reveals the maker. It reads, "Copyright 1993 Brunswick". The fourth reel is the Browning 750, which has the same parts inside as the reel touted as "America's Favorite", the famous Zebco 33. The outward appearance of the 540 and 750 resembles that of the older Spinit reels. Late in 1987, Zebco had sued the Spinit Reel Co. for patent infringement. They won the lawsuit, and thus acquired all of Spinit's molds and parts as settlement. Zebco might have used the Spinit molds to produce the 540 and 750 Brownings.



One Zebco-made Browning was called the Avior, which was the same as the Zebco Omega 144 TS. The TS designation means trigger spin (see photo).

The Lew's SC-1 Speed Cast reel, (see photos) is modeled after the last version of the Zebco 1, right before the advent of the Omega 1.

Under the Browning name, they also produced a model 520 (similar to the Zebco 302), and a model 540 (about the size of the Zebco 404).





If you can find them in the box, these Browning and Lew's reel boxes will both show "Division of Brunswick Corp.", along with a Tulsa, Oklahoma address. So if you're a serious collector of the Zebco line of reels, this is a couple you might have overlooked.

One side note, as I know a lot of members collect lures and not reels. In the two years that Brunswick/Zebco owned Poe's lures, they never printed a catalog that included the Poe's offerings. If you want to collect the Zebco Poe's, you must find them new in their original packaging and look for the 6101 E. Apache, Tulsa, OK address on the back. It may say "Browning Div." or "Poe's". In 1993, it says "Zebco". All of your collection, of course, will be in the original package and perfect in condition.

Good hunting to all, and remember: If it walks like a duck, looks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it just might be a Zebco product disguised as a Browning or Lew's reel, or a Poe's lure.

Until the next time.  
Dick Braun, that-zebco-guy 🐟



# Crossroads Angling Auction

Discovery Auction – Antique Tackle Show - Cataloged Auction at the Holiday Inn in Budd Lake, NJ

## See You in Daytona!

**Crossroads, the only LIVE antique fishing tackle auction house in the United States, not only charges the lowest consignment rate of 15%, but offers more services with a full color catalog and live hands-on preview. Our results from our November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 speak for themselves.**



Marbleized "H.L. Leonard" \$6,500.00



EvH Griswold World Record Price \$13,000.00



Early EvH 1870's Peerless \$5,000.00



Comstock Flying Hellgrammite \$5,000.00



EvH 1896 Catalog World Record Price \$3,100.00



Donaly Redfin Minnow in Box \$4,000.00

## Some Offerings for our Upcoming April 19, 2015 Auction



Extremely Scarce Edward vom Hofe Cascapedia 4/0



Heddon 20 in Natural Scale



Rare 1913 Julius vom Hofe Catalog

For further information on our upcoming show and auction contact: Steve Starrantino Phone: (845) 598-0888

Email: [steve@crossroadsanglingauction.com](mailto:steve@crossroadsanglingauction.com) Website: [crossroadsanglingauction.com](http://crossroadsanglingauction.com) Address: P.O. Box 755 Hillburn, NY 10931



Announcing the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Florida International Antique Tackle Show

February 27th, 28th & March 1st

At the Plaza Resort & Spa on beautiful Daytona Beach, Florida



**Return for the SUN! Return for the FUN!**

**Return for the 350+ tables of vintage fishing tackle on display!**

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Join collectors from around the world for the largest vintage tackle show in the south. More than 25,000 square feet of antique lures, reels, rods, creels, fish decoys and much, much more — including our famous Saturday Night Auction.

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The Plaza Resort & Spa features fully updated rooms, large beachside pool deck, full-service restaurant and bar, and small convenience store. Great dining is within walking distance of the hotel, and Orlando’s theme parks are only an hour by car. For those of you who prefer to fish, multiple charter services are only minutes away!

So come join the fun and bring a friend, it’s an experience neither of you will ever forget!



# A Message from the Show Host

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First and foremost, I am pleased to announce that longtime FATC member, Stephanie Duncan has agreed to serve as my co-host for this year's show. Stephanie is a pleasure to work with and truly one of the most efficient people I have ever met.

Secondly, the theme for this year's show is **Color Collections!**

Instead of having a special section for themed displays, this year we hope the theme will spread throughout the entire showroom, with awards being given to those exhibitors who best capture the color collection concept.

So bring your best and help us make this year's event even more special!

Lastly, I would like to encourage each of you to include a piece of artwork for your display — a painting, sculpture, or anything else that may somehow relate to your exhibit. We feel this will not only enhance the appearance of your display, it will also add to the experience for those attending.

The show will, once again, be open to the public on Friday at 11am until 4pm, and Saturday 9am until 4pm. By allowing the public early access last year, we signed many new members. And we're hoping that trend continues this year.

In closing, I'd like to remind you that our organization's future depends on strong, steady recruitment. So please do your part in encouraging others to visit this year's show.

I look forward to seeing each of you in February, if not sooner. Till then...

All the best,

Larry Lucas





Presents its 24th Annual

# Florida International Antique Tackle Show

February 27th, 28th & March 1st

At the Plaza Resort & Spa on beautiful Daytona Beach, Florida



Hosted by the beautiful Plaza Resort & Spa, the hotel is offering a special nightly rate of \$113 with free parking. For more information on hotel accommodations, visit [www.plazaresortandspa.com](http://www.plazaresortandspa.com)

For additional information on the show, or to join the FATC, go to [www.fatc.net](http://www.fatc.net)

Or contact show hosts Larry Lucas 386-527-4338 [larry@flowerscentral.com](mailto:larry@flowerscentral.com)

Or Stephanie Duncan 561-575-7956 [surlure@gmail.com](mailto:surlure@gmail.com)

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

**Stephanie Duncan 15646 89th Avenue North, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418-1840**

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Please Print Clearly (Extra Name Tag?)

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

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

Telephone & Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues (if unpaid, please pay with separate check): \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special needs or requests? \_\_\_\_\_

Payment must accompany registration form. Refunds for cancellations must be requested 30 days in advance — cancellations occurring within 30 days of the show date will not be refunded! You must be an FATC member to exhibit, trade or buy at the auction. Questions? Please ask!

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Tackle Collectors, we really need your assistance in trying to bring our book, *Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures*, to a close. To date, we have over the past 21 years produced 6 volumes containing over 2000 pages and 350 plus lure makers. In addition, there is finally a 22 page comprehensive Index. We really need your help trying to learn more about 100 lure makers, of which some 50 or so are listed here. The others will be listed in the next edition of the *FATC News*. Several of us are working on another 200 plus that are going into volumes VII and VIII.

Merritt Island Bait Company; Merritt Island

Spin – Ex

Miller; Melbourne

Stout, W. C.

Miller Tackle (Sarasota I think)

Suncoast Enterprises; 1950s; Sarasota

Moore, Ed, Lures; Welaka

Sutton Co.

Nelson, Bernard V.; Tarpon Springs

Thurrow

O'Hara, Gordon; 1950s; Winter Park

Tom's Flies

Patterson, Charlie; Ft. Myers

Treasure Coast Tackle

Pompanette; 1954; Dolphin Dilly

Walsh, Ed; St. Petersburg

Ray, Bill; Palm Bay

Wedgewood Tackle

Roysler Lures; 1960s; Tampa

Willoughby

S. S. Lures; Maitland

Wheeler Lures; Zellwood

Schneider Lures; 1983; Lake Park

Whitmore, Robert; Cocoa

Shaw

Wilcox, J. L.; 1927

Solo Lure

Williams; Winter Park

Southern Bait Co.; Herbert A. Thomas; Orange City

Action Master Co.; 1960s; Hialeah.;

Weedless Wonder

SESCO Distributors; Kitchen Sink Spinner

Jacksonville (maybe just a distributor)

Smith Tackle Co.; S. L. Smith, PO Box 585; Eustis,  
FL 32726

Nelly, Neal

Mackerel Motion; 1995; Brandon

Parnell's

McAfee, Joe

Loomis Lures; Orlando; NZ

Kemp, Al

McCree, W. A.; Orlando

Lakeland Lures

Melosh

Leber, Raymond C.; Port St. Lucy

Miller, Richard; Rockledge

Little, William; Jacksonville

Lash Lures; Lake Mary

Jigger Joe; c 30s-40s; Miller Bait; Lockhart

Penco Tackle, Inc.; Destin

McWhorter, Leslie; Miller's Flap Tail; Jupiter

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<b>F A T C  A D  R A T E S</b>	<b>Classified "Tackle box" ads</b>	<b>\$3.50 1x</b>	<b>\$10.00 3x</b>	<b>E F F E C T I V E  2 0 1 1</b>
	<b>Business Card ads (black &amp; white)</b>	<b>10.00 1x</b>	<b>29.00 3x</b>	
	<b>1/4 page black &amp; white ads</b>	<b>50.00 1x</b>	<b>120.00 3x</b>	
	<b>1/2 page black &amp; white ads</b>	<b>90.00 1x</b>	<b>215.00 3x</b>	
	<b>Full page black &amp; white ads</b>	<b>160.00 1x</b>	<b>380.00 3x</b>	
	<b>1/2 page color horizontal</b>	<b>200.00 1x</b>	<b>450.00 3x</b>	
	<b>Outside back cover – color (horizontal only)</b>	<b>275.00 1x</b>	<b>619.00 3x</b>	
	<b>1/2 page color (Contents page only – vertical)</b>	<b>300.00 1x</b>	<b>679.00 3x</b>	
	<b>Full page color (except covers or center)</b>	<b>375.00 1x</b>	<b>900.00 3x</b>	
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<b>Single center page</b>	<b>450.00 1x</b>	<b>1,019.00 3x</b>		
<b>Centerfold (No vertical center gutter)</b>	<b>850.00 1x</b>	<b>1,919.00 3x</b>		

## Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

A NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
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.

# GONE FISHING...

## Ken Bay

Ken Bay was born in Bristol, Connecticut, in September 1920, and died November 24th 2014. He was predeceased by his wife Jeanne in 2006 after 65 years of marriage and his son. He is survived by his daughter Leslie J. Bay and his daughter in law, Arlene F. Dumont. Ken graduated from Morse College in Hartford with a degree in accounting and business administration in 1940.

He joined the Air Force and flew twenty-six heavy bomber combat missions over Europe in World War II and fifty-three attack bomber combat missions over Korea during the Korean Conflict.

Following his military service, he got back into fishing and became intrigued with the idea of tying a fly and then using it to catch fish. Ken looked for books on salt water fly fishing and flies only to discover that there was just one book on the subject, which had been published in 1950. This led to Ken's first book in 1972, *Salt Water Flies*, which was also the first book ever devoted to salt water flies. Today it is a collector's item.

He went on to write in 1974 *How to Tie Fresh Water Flies*, which was also published in Germany and Japan. Also in 1974, Ken received the coveted Buz Buszek award as Fly Tyer of the Year from the Federation of Fly Fishermen. In 1979 he wrote *American Fly Tyers Handbook*.

Over the past twenty years, Ken has written for or been written about in *Florida Sportsman Magazine*, *Saltwater Fly Fishing* and others featuring his flies. A few of such articles are "Ken's River Shrimp," "Ken's Bay Muddler," and "Ken's Bay Mullet."

In 1969 he was elected a director of the National Federation of Fly Fishermen. From 1973-1979 he served as Treasurer of the Striped Bass Fund, a non-profit organization devoted to striped bass propagation in the Hudson River. Ken was elected President of the New York City Theodore Gordon Flyfishers for 1976-77.

In 1988 Ken retired from Acme Danneman Co., Inc., of New York City, a tool and die manufacturing and distribution business, where he had been the Controller for nineteen years and President for eleven years.

Ken and Jeanne then moved to Daytona Beach and joined FATC. He exhibited at the Daytona Beach Show for many years. At some point Ken moved back to Long Island to live with his daughter, Leslie. Subsequently, the FATC elected Ken an Honorary Member of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors on June 10, 2011.



# GONE FISHING...

## William "Bill" Wilson Howard

Born on February 1, 1928, in Benton Harbor, Michigan, Bill Howard passed away on August 30, 2014 at home in Stevensville, Mi. A world traveler who had visited 204 countries, Bill also was an avid hunter and fisherman since childhood. He lived an amazing life. After high school, he joined the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Parachute Division. At one point he embarked on a journey that took him to 62 countries. During this time he was gored by a Cape Buffalo, contracted malaria in Uganda, and became a mercenary against the Mau Mau tribe in Kenya.



Bill collected vintage Colt guns, Ford Mustangs, and Creek Chub and Heddon flyrod lures. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie, 11 children, 19 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

# Thanks to all who helped with my collection!

*~Chuck*

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# CASTING - "back in time"...

D.J. Brace

Two well known St. Petersburg, Florida, fishing column writers from years ago were Charles Kruse of *The Evening Independent* and Rube Allyn of the *St. Petersburg Times*. They routinely reported on area fishing for Florida's west coast readers.

Often mentioned in their articles was Ab Bender, of **Bender's Fishing Tackle Co.**, Pinellas Park, Florida and/or his **Pot Belly** lures. During the late 1940's their columns regularly noted the success local anglers experienced with Bender's Pot Belly and his Smarty plugs. The Pot Belly, in particular, was frequently linked to catches of sea trout, redfish, snook and small tarpon. On March 24, 1949, Kruse reported that in an area north of the famous Gandy Bridge, trout and several bonefish were taken on Bender plugs.

Success of Bender's Pot Belly lures was not limited to just salt water. One reported outing included Ab Bender and 4 others. They were fishing 6-miles north of Groveland, Florida, in Lake County. The group caught a total of 71 bass, ranging in size from 1 to 12lbs. and 61 were caught on Pot Belly lures!

Of particular interest to today's tackle collector was the column written by Rube Allyn - *St. Petersburg Times*, June 16, 1950; it reads in part...

**"A new large fish casting plug is on the market, put out by Bender Fishing Tackle Co. It is a giant version of the Pot Belly plug".**

The wood body on Bender's new "giant version" Pot Belly measured over 5-inches! This new bait was twice the girth and nearly 2-inches longer than his currently produced large size Pot Belly! A few weeks later, Kruse of *The Evening Independent* reported Bender and a companion "jumped 2 tarpon" on his Pot Belly "Senior".

Ab Bender's giant Pot Belly lure was short-lived; within a few years Owen Chase acquired Bender's lure making business. An advertisement in the *St. Petersburg Times* dated February 13, 1953, indicates CHASE ROD & TACKLE CO., St. Petersburg, Florida, is the maker of the "POTBELLY" lure. 🐟



Note the tarpon rig on the middle giant Pot Belly. Bottom lure is Bender's large Pot Belly Series No.90, also available in a smaller size Series No.92.

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**POTBELLY**



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St. Petersburg, Fla.  
Mfrs. of Kingfish Brand Tackle

# THE LOST PFEFFER COLLECTION

Ray L. Diehr

Sometime before turning the final page of Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures Vol. 1, I was hooked by the classic simplicity and almost playful colors of Jim Pfeffer baits. Being a Yankee, however, I thought collecting them could be a logistics problem.

No problem.

As luck would have it, former NFLCC President, John Shoffner was shopping his diverse Pfeffer collection to the highest bidder. The collection included thirty-plus lures, including two one-of-a-kind pieces hand carved by the man himself. So I made John an offer I hoped he couldn't refuse.

He couldn't.

Years went by with the collection out of sight, but definitely not out of mind. I'd run into John occasionally at the Nationals or at one of his own Ann Arbor shows, and it was always the same. He'd tell me how he was besieged by collectors to divulge the whereabouts of those "long lost" Pfeffer lures. But John always treated our deal like a lawyer/client relationship. He'd laugh and say, "I still haven't told them". Then he'd laugh some more.



Well, those distinguished hunks of cedar, paint and varnish have helped warm me through decades of long, cold Michigan winters. I thought maybe it was time they had a chance to enjoy the soothing warmth of a sunny Florida vacation. After all, they were born in Orlando.

Both of the unique Pfeffers will be on display at our Daytona show, come late February. The 7 1/4-inch Musky Shiner is the longest lure made by Pfeffer. It was carved for a northern friend, but somehow never was delivered. The Horse Head lure was experimental, and never offered to the public.

So that's the story of these old, special Jim Pfeffer lures. I hope you enjoy seeing them while they're again on Florida soil. 🐟

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# CREEK CHUB BAIT CO. HISTORY

## Henry Searight Dills 1872-1927

Ron Matthews



Henry S. Dills, an original founder of the Creek Chub Bait Company, clearly loved the outdoors.

Before famously starting up one of the largest fishing lure manufacturers of the day, Dills had already lobbed a volley into the world of manufacturing an outdoor sports product. He was

granted a patent for a duck decoy March 17, 1903, having applied on June 16, 1902.

Ads in a 1903 Outdoor Life Magazine offered these take-down decoys for sale.

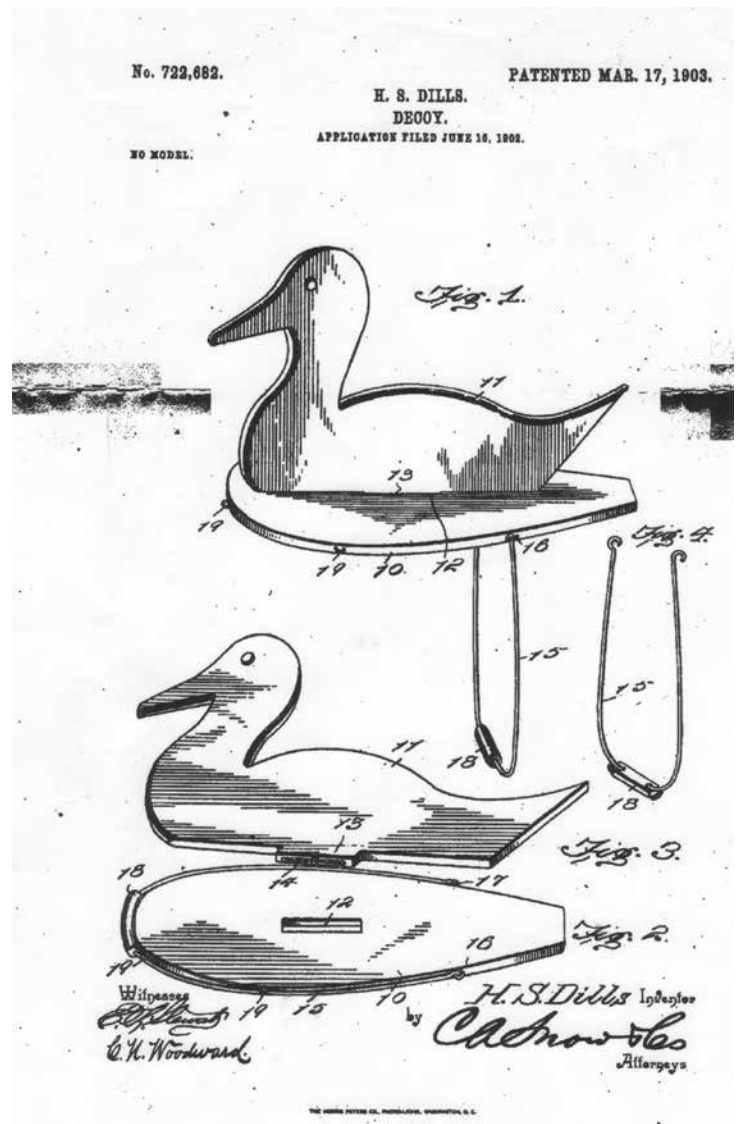
During his decoy-producing days, Dills lived in Auburn, Indiana (about five miles from Garrett) and worked for the B & O Railroad. The Outdoor Life ad showed an address of West 11th Street, Auburn, Indiana. Several years ago, I asked Dekalb County Historian, John Martin Smith why no house numbers were shown on the ad. He replied, "Simple, in 1903 the City of Auburn did not have house numbers". Mr. Smith went on to explain that the Auburn streets were mud at that time, and that there was no electric power. Dills' duck decoys were rough-cut, and he did not have great success in selling them. Interestingly, he called his decoy "The Dinger". Years later, he and his Creek Chub Bait Company partners would reuse this name on a fishing lure. In these early, decoy-producing days, Henry Dills was also making some fishing lures. Unfortunately, we know little about these earliest efforts.

While his ducks did not succeed in a big way, Dills' next venture into sporting goods certainly did.

Around 1915, he was able to find two investors in Garrett—George Schulthess and Carl Heinzerling. By 1916, the three had a partnership and a business they named Creek Chub Bait Company. Dills contributed \$200, his on-hand materials, plus a patent he was working on for the 100 Wiggler. Heinzerling and Schulthess each put up \$500.

From this, the three grew their business.

Henry and his wife, Minnie had one son, Gordon S. Dills. Gordon was Minnie's maiden name. This name would be bestowed yet again on a grandson named Gordon Allen Dills.








By the time Henry Searight Dills passed away in 1927, he had significantly changed the sport of fishing with such lure innovations as the diving lip and the scale finish.

Not to mention giving rise to one of the most successful and prolific tackle manufacturing companies of the 20th Century.



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

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## Show Me Another

The Palm Beach Pier Bait is a well-known and desirable Florida lure. However, these, by-and-large, are two-hook lures. Bernie Schultz's example seen here is a larger, three-hook version. Bernie asks, "I wonder how many more big ones are out there"?



## Show Me Another II

Joe Stagnitti sends this great looking "Show Me Another" entry. He says "Here is my contribution to possible 'only one known' lures. I'm quite confident that it is an early Florida bait". Anybody seen another?



## Show Me Another III

Bill Roberts has owned a lot of exceptionally rare Heddon lures, and could probably pick from a few that qualify for "Show Me Another" status. This one will certainly do. The Vamp is a frequently-seen lure. The earliest round-nose Vamp is quite rare. A round-nosed Baby Vamp? Probably only this one.



**Show Me Another**



**June 12, 13, 14, 2015**  
**St. Augustine Beach Show**  
**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  
(904) 471-2555 [www.holidayisleoceanfront.com](http://www.holidayisleoceanfront.com) Room rates: \$112.00 per night,  
booked by May 11, 2015 to receive the F.A.T.C. rate.

**TABLE AND REGISTRATION:** Registration, \$15.00 per member. 8ft. tables, \$35.00  
each, wall or aisle. Membership dues must be current to register.

**REGISTRATION FORM AND SHOW HOST INFORMATION:**

Please make checks payable to F.A.T.C. and send to show host, or pay and register on  
line at [www.fatc.net](http://www.fatc.net)

**Mike Hall**  
2435 Ironwood Dr.  
Jacksonville, FL. 32216  
(904) 424-7071  
e-mail: [flalake@aol.com](mailto:flalake@aol.com)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone # and E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Guests Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Registration** \_\_\_\_\_ **at \$ 15.00 each for a total of :** \_\_\_\_\_  
**I would like** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tables 8' at \$ 35.00 Each for a total of** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Please Specify Wall or Aisle tables** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Payment must accompany registration – Refunds for cancellations must be requested 30 days in advance. Any cancellations after 30 days will not be refunded. You must be an FATC member to exhibit, trade or buy at the auction. Membership renewal at the show will involve waiting in two lines so pay your membership dues now! In an effort to give the public a better show, we are asking anyone with tables to wait until after 4PM on Saturday to break down. Emergency exceptions will be made only by the show host. If you chose to break down early, you may not get a table next year.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### The 24th Florida International Show

February 27 - 28 & March 1, 2015 - Daytona Beach, FL  
The Plaza Resort & Spa  
Toll free 866-500-5630 or 855-327-5292

### St. Augustine Beach Show

June 12 - 14, 2015 - St. Augustine Beach, FL  
Holiday Isle Oceanfront Resort  
1-904-471-2555



**2015 FATC Club Lure**

**2015 FATC Club Patch**