

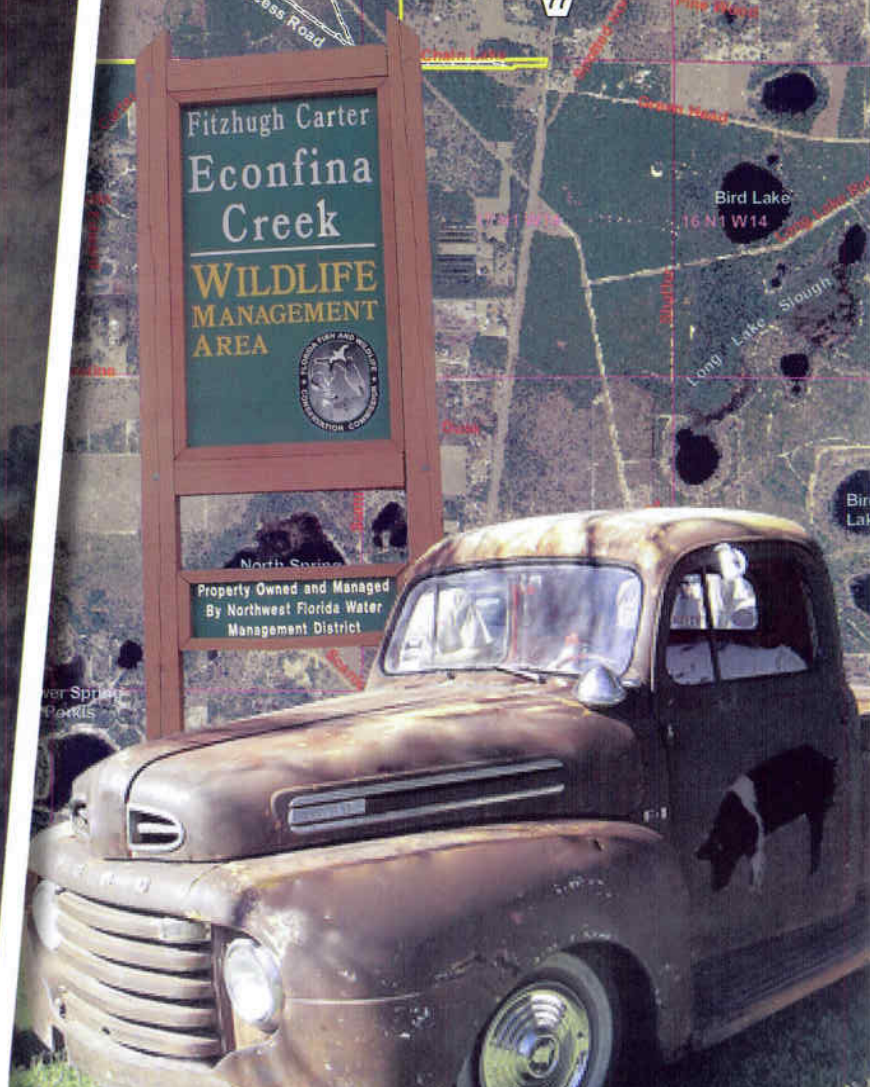
F.A.T.C. NEWS

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 22, Number 4



THE BLUE BOY FROM CARTER'S HEAVEN





These J. C. Griners from Orlando provide a colorful example of this Florida lure maker's highly collectable designs



The price is right for John Campbell's fantastic sets of bamboo rods!



An amazing assortment of W. T. J. Lowe spinners wins an award for Terry Swift



Lloyd Jett receives his Best Florida lure plaque for FATC lure makers from Dennis McNulty



Leave it to Doug Brace to find this many Jim Bo variations; congrats Doug!



Award Winners

AT THE ST. PETE BEACH SHOW
August 2008

EXHIBIT WINNERS:

Best Educational Lures

Bernie Shultz (*Barracuda*)

Best Topical Lures

Terry Swift (*Lowe Spinners*)

Best Florida Lures

Lloyd Jett (*Contemporary FATC Lure Makers*)

OUTSTANDING DISPLAY:

Jan Cummings (*Old Spinners*)

Mike Sims (*Florida Shiners*)

Doug Brace (*Jim Bo*)

Steve Cox (*Barracuda*)

Roth Kemper (*Florida Baits*)

Larry Lucas (*Porters*)

Ed Bauries (*Florida Baits*)

Mike Mais (*True Temper*)

Larry Benard (*South Bend*)



This case of tough Shakespeare plugs was a real crowd pleaser...



Mike Sims' award winning Barracuda Florida Shiner display



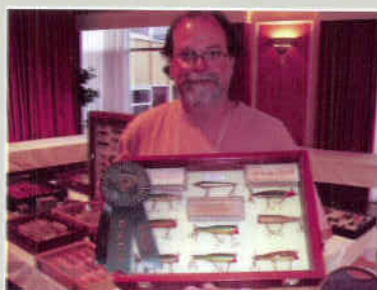
Some of Larry Lucas' outstanding Porters on display



Dennis McNulty presents the Best Educational plaque to Bernie Shultz



Ed Bauries and some of his beautiful Florida baits, a case full of "killer Cudas"



Roth Kemper's nice case of Robinsons secured an award for Florida baits



"Super Dude" Steve's award for Barracuda lures



PROUDLY PRESENTS



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F.A.T.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

October 2008 Volume 22, No. 4

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Mike Stallard, of Tampa, FL, made these cool and colorful baits



Lloyd's collection of lures made by contemporary FATC members



Mike Mais put this great assembly of True Temper Crippled Shad and Speed Shad lures together for us to enjoy



Glass-eyed "Cudas" galore from Roth Kemper's extensive collection



Mike, Steve, Roth, Jan, Ed, and Larry proudly show off their ribbons

Cover Art: In our version of 18th century English artist, Thomas Gainsborough's famous portrait of "The Blue Boy", the quintessential fancy lad in the blue silk costume manages to sport a familiar fishing hat and bait bucket from previous FATC News issues. He provides a hint of the intriguing and historic story to follow, which begins with a classic lure and expands to encompass a true home grown engineer and visionary, Mr. Fitzhugh Carter. Using Northwest Florida Water Management District's satellite map of the Fitzhugh Carter Tract as a backdrop, the Blue Boy is accompanied by a 1948 Ford F-1 pick-up truck, which, believe it or not, has a great deal of relevance as to how the story unfolds...

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Vice President... Mike Mais, Ocala, FL
Secretary... Ed Bauries, Jupiter, FL
Treasurer... Lloyd and Sally Jett, Quincy, FL
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Don Morrow, New Port Richey, FL	Ed Pritchard, Jupiter, FL
Chuck Heddon, Longwood, FL	Dennis McNulty, Chesapeake, VA

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DELUDED (DILUTED?) DIGRESSIONS

By Steve Cox

Change is good! No, change is bad! Well, change is... CHANGE. Having just sat through the first presidential debate, with both sides advocating change, it is hard to discern whether there really are any changes in the making. The American public is nauseated at the spectre of greed (and the inevitable fear that follows) in our current economic crisis. We have more government regulation than ever, but it's been front loaded at the consumer level, while all along, it should have been directed at the thieves on Wall Street, in corporate management, and in Congress. Too many foxes guarding the hen house for sure!

Now we are asked by a hoard of "public servants" to bail them out of this crippled ship. It reminds me of one of Mel Brooks' quotes as Governor William J. LePetomane from the classic movie, *Blazing Saddles*, "Holy underwear! Sheriff murdered! Innocent women and children blown to bits! We have to protect our phony baloney jobs here, gentlemen! We must do something about this immediately! Immediately! Immediately! Harrumph! Harrumph! Harrumph! Hey, I didn't get a harrumph out of that guy..."

The repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933 represented change of immense proportions. After many years of lobbying, the wealthy banking industry finally got their way, and the fire wall between banking and insurance was demolished. For those of us in the insurance profession, we knew this was a **bad** idea. The banks could now wield the "club of credit" on those needing loans, by forcing them to do their insurance business with the bank as a condition of the financing being approved.

Then, the banks were allowed to sell investment products, and in many cases encouraged to create new ones! Once again, this change sounded like a **really bad** idea, and unfortunately it has been just that. But, never in our wildest dreams did most of us anticipate that banks would be incapable of managing their **own core business**, that is, **banking!** What a mess, and all in the name of change...

The fishing tackle industry has also changed. Once the entrepreneurial bastion of hundreds of innovative, talented makers, it is now down to a handful of corporate conglomerates. They own all the storied trademarks, and have replaced the beautiful materials and craftsmanship of the past, with so much mass produced junk.

However, there is a silver lining in this cloud. The current offerings cause collectors to appreciate the classic workmanship of the old companies that much more. Heddon, Creek Chub, Pflueger, Shakespeare, and now Paw-Paw, are highly coveted, as are most of the Florida makers. With each passing day, new legends are forming. As a case in point, Bagleys have always been well made, but even the most ardent Bagley collector would classify them as a contemporary manufacturer. The same is true about Rebel and Boone. Prices for all Bagleys are going through the roof, and baits like the Rebel Super R, Crank R, and the early Confederate Flag boxes are rising as well. The early Boones have now been noticed by collectors, and there is no doubt this trend will continue.

If the "old line" companies had not changed, there probably wouldn't have been room for new makers to penetrate the market, and so the story goes... At any rate, and whether we like it or not, change will come. Some of us will thrive, while others will be permanently snagged in the rocks. It may be time to take the necessary steps to secure our place as a survivor, and change to weedless hooks while we still can. Now, if I can just find enough Mason jars to put my lures in, I can bury them in a safe hole in my back yard next to the Krugerrands.

Regarding literary excess, my hometown newspaper, *Panama City News Herald*, ran an *Associated Press* story in mid-August about some of the grand prize winners for **hyperbolic** writing in San Jose State University's 26th Annual Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest. First place went to Mr. Garrison Spik's opening to an unwritten novel "Their was a New York love, a checkered taxi ride burning rubber, and like the city, their passion was open 24/7, steam rising from their bodies like slick streets exhaling warm, moist, white breath through manhole covers stamped 'Forged by DeLaney Bros., Piscataway, N.J.'" Another winner, Beth Fand Incollingo, wrote "Like a mechanic who forgets to wipe his hands on a shop rag and then goes home,

hugs his wife, and gets a grease stain on her favorite sweater – love touches you, and marks you forever."

Before you give up and throw this issue in the trash, let me reassure you: It is my goal that our members not be subjected to any "over the top" literary license from our authors or the editor! Many collectors know a great deal about tackle, and their writing style is exactly the way they verbally express themselves. As a result, their talking doesn't necessarily translate well on paper. However, don't let shyness or self consciousness about writing skills get in the way of a good idea for a story. Tackle knowledge is what this club is about, and every member can contribute a great story about their area of expertise. All ideas about tackle are welcome, so don't hesitate to send them in.

This issue features Bernie Shultz's tribute to Joe Stagnitti and his lure trading ability, Rick Osterholt's article about the first National Bass Fishing Tournament in Leesburg, and the cover story about my recent experiences with a tackle referral from a friend. His kindness opened up a rare lure find and a story on a legendary panhandle "fishing hole" and its builder, Mr. Fitzhugh Carter. Finally, we revisit last issue's **ancient** FATC photo collage with some surprises, identifying the members in cameo.

The St. Pete Beach show, hosted by Ron Gast, was a really nice event, and about the only place in the state that tropical storm Fay missed. We still had some rain and wind, but that just made the indoor tackle on exhibit so much better! While we're on the subject of shows, Mike Mais' Crystal River Fall Show is scheduled for the end of October. In honor of this timing, we've including a spooky little piece about scary lures and their names, for those so inclined to "let their imagination be tweaked." I'll be trick or treating with my youngest daughter, Haley, and will miss most of the show, but am hoping to make it down for Saturday, Nov. 1, if possible...

Remember, change may be OK, **if** there is a real reason, rather than change for change's sake alone. In the wise words of Benjamin Franklin, "We must all hang together, or assuredly, we shall all hang separately."

Quit wishin', go fishin'!

Steve

A call to FATC members and all old-time Florida outdoorsmen:

I was talking to Ms. Kelly Broderick, Editor of *Florida Wildlife* magazine, requesting permission to reprint the April 1960 article for this issue's cover story. She graciously allowed us to use a photocopy supplied by Northwest Florida Water Management District, but unfortunately she did not have an original available. She then related that the magazine had ceased operations in 2003, and resumed in 2005. During the interim, much of the publication's archive, including photos, slides, etc., disappeared. Ms. Broderick indicated that their office may not even have a full set of all back issues of the magazine. I suggested that we alert our readers of the magazine's dilemma, and if she was willing to provide a list of missing issues, perhaps our membership would be able to assist in locating them from their own personal collections or possibly from other sources.

Therefore, if you ever subscribed to *Florida Wildlife* and kept your copies through the years, please check your inventory, and contact me if you wish to sell, donate or provide a reproduction of the needed copies. We will publish the list of specific missing back issues as soon as we receive it from Ms. Broderick's office. This would be an excellent opportunity to give back to a wonderful source of Florida outdoors history that so many of us have enjoyed for decades!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am the proud parent of a ten year old daughter in the 5th grade. My wife and I are very involved with her education. We pay close attention to teaching trends and communicate with her teacher often. One of the hot concepts in teaching is called the "head fake". Not to be confused with a football player faking a defender on the field, teachers refer to this as the phenomenon of a child learning one thing and then wanting to learn something connected to that subject.

For instance, a student wants to learn about computers. Once she gets into it, she discovers that she needs to learn graphic arts. As she learns that, she discovers that she needs better language skills to do what she wants to do on the computer. Teachers and administrators are realizing that this happens to almost all children, and are using this knowledge to encourage students to branch out and become passionate in areas they never knew they cared about.

I see this happen in our club all the time, and I'm sure you have too. A club member who collects Jim Pfeffer lures starts to branch out and collect other "folkie looking" Florida lures like Robinson or Uncle Charlie. Another member collects reels and then finds a rare one attached to a rare rod, and all of a sudden, a rod collector is born. Just like students, this evolution of interests is a wonderful thing. It prevents boredom from setting in and gives us all a reason to keep searching. Continuing our quest allows us to further existing friendships and form new ones. It gives us motivation to go to shows and makes us more well-rounded collectors.

Sometimes, as we build a collection in another area, we discover that our interests aren't as strong as we thought they were. Now we have "traders". In the meantime, we have met new collectors and learned a lot along the way. Most of the time the "head fake" phenomenon occurs without us even knowing it's happening. This is great with children, since we wouldn't want them to think it was our idea. They would run from it like a plate of Brussels sprouts! Most of the time we don't realize this has occurred until a number of years pass by. Only looking back can we connect the dots and see the path we have followed.

Sometimes we need to be led softly down the path, which brings me to the point of this message. I would like to give the club a gentle push. A few years ago, Bernie Schultz came to me with an idea he had for the FATC putting on a show outside of Florida. He suggested the Savannah, Georgia area, stating that to his knowledge, there had never been a show there before. We batted the idea around for a couple years, but he could never convince me that we could get enough members to attend for the club to break even.

Several months ago, I was trying to come up with new show locations when Bernie's idea came back to me. I thought about merging our show with a show from the Carolina Club. I knew they did a show in South Carolina each spring, and the wheels started turning for a way to combine our spring show and theirs. I spoke to CATC president Max Hand, who liked the idea. He ran it by his board of directors, and I presented it to ours, and everyone loved it. As people over 30, it is normal to resist change. I was very impressed with how everyone has taken to the idea, considering it runs counter to everything we have done in the past with our respective clubs.

Now it was time to work out the logistics. I called Karen and Arthur Edwards, who live in the Savannah area, and asked them to do some leg work and find a location. They went out and found several

venues for the show, with affordable hotels nearby. We also have a date, so mark your calendars for May 22nd and 23rd, 2009.

Bernie Schultz has agreed to work on this project for our club until his job takes over in February. The very capable Ralph Acker will be coordinating for the Carolina club, with Karen and Arthur, members of both clubs, serving as our location coordinators. Our clubs still need to work out the small details as far as table costs, splitting revenue, how to handle the auction, and a few things that haven't even occurred to us yet. This is new ground, and there are bound to be challenges. The biggest of these, agreeing to do something new, has been overcome.

Many of the Carolina collectors support the FATC and I know members from our club regularly attend their shows. Even so, we will now get to meet some people we may have dealt with in the past, but never face to face. It will also be an opportunity to show our collections to a new group of collectors, see some new tackle, and invite a fresh community in to see what we are so passionate about. I see the possibility of other joint shows in the future. It may inspire a show in the Florida panhandle with the Texas group, or perhaps even a collaboration with the NFLCC.

As a club, we need to start thinking of new and exciting ways to get together. We need to think "outside the box" and make our show worthwhile for people like Dennis McNulty to travel all the way down the east coast. We need to go to shows where we don't see the same lures in the same cases we've seen for the past ten years. Let's challenge ourselves to stop viewing our hobby the way we always have, or we'll be looking back and wondering what happened!

Speaking of looking back, I would like to thank Ron Gast for putting on a great show in St. Pete Beach. The hotel continues to be a nice location for a show and affordable, too. Our next show will be in Crystal River on October 31st, November 1st and 2nd. At the time I'm writing this, there are only a few tables available, so it will most likely be a sell-out. It's my understanding this resort is beautiful, and a great place to bring the family. The show does fall on Halloween, and Editor Steve Cox has incorporated this theme into a fun piece for this issue's Past and Current Notes of Interest.

Our Daytona International is right around the corner. Show dates are February 20th, 21st and until noon on the 22nd. We have sold about 60% of the tables so far, and my goal is to have them all sold by January 1st. Many of you know that my wife and I own a company that imports and distributes fresh flowers. Since the Daytona Show is the week after Valentines Day, which is our busiest time of the year, we would appreciate everyone responding with your registrations and payment as soon as possible. Your early reply will allow us to better process your reservations, and pose less conflict with our business schedule during this special time of the year.

We are also adding a new feature to our magazine with this issue. Most organizations of which I have been a member print their board of directors meeting minutes and make them available to their membership on a regular basis. We are going to start that as well. If space allows, we will print a summary of our quarterly meeting. Try to stay awake as you read them.....

I hope to see a bunch of you in Crystal River and remember, I can always be reached, and will take your comments and suggestions very seriously.

Until next time, embrace the "head fake",

Larry



The Origins and Early History of F.A.T.C.

PART 2 REPRISÉ BY STEVE COX

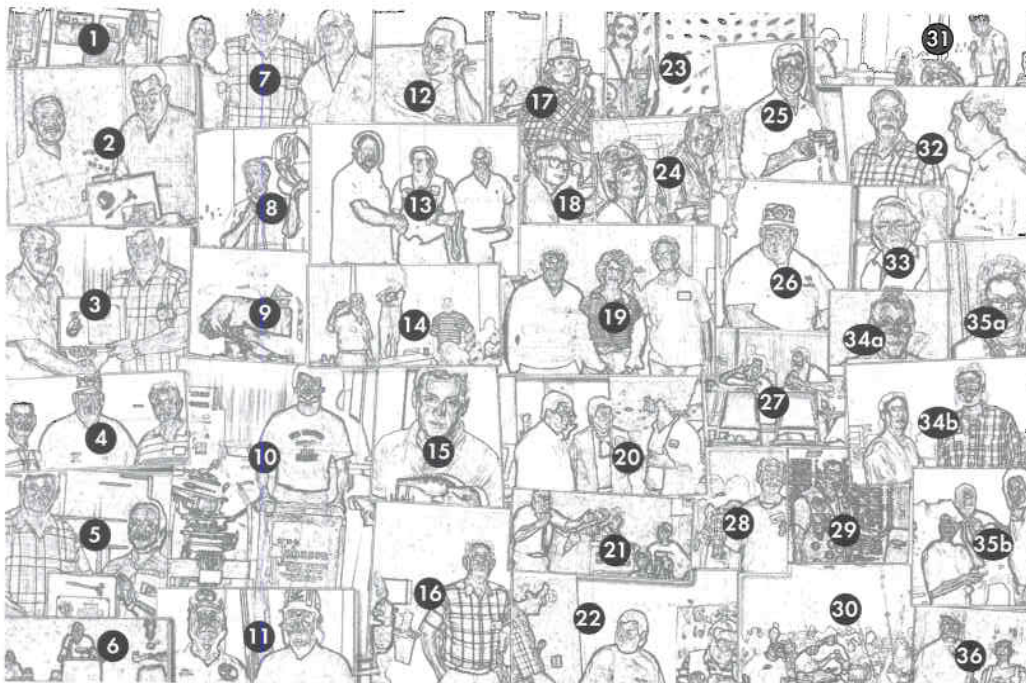
In the last issue of *FATC News* the membership was challenged with the task of identifying all of the antique, antique lure collectors represented in a photo collage of pictures reproduced from the first five years of the club's newsletter. Many of you have commented on how **young** many of you looked. Several of you also asked why we had two sets of #34 and #35. This was obviously a test to see if you were paying attention. Actually, the duplicate numbers were not noticed until after the magazine had been mailed. Therefore, they have been revised to provide a #34 and #35, "a" and "b" and the graphic artist responsible for this egregious error has been sacked! Upon further review, however, it was quickly noted that this issue of the magazine would not be possible without him, and so he was cheerfully rehired with no further fanfare.

Suffice it to say that "Father Time" has been kinder to some of us than he has been to others. If some of you have difficulty identifying the photos, it could be an indicator that you are in the latter category. It could also mean that you really don't care, and that's OK too. If, like me, you were not in the club in the late 80s or early 90s, perhaps this exercise in history will be beneficial, especially in the event that some future editor puts **your photo** in the magazine 10, 15, or 20 years from now!

Note: Numbers 6 and 14 include photos of individuals unidentified in the original newsletters - any clues?



1. Arlan Carter
2. Ron Gast & Charlie Price
3. Norm Pinardi & Charlie Price
4. Gibby Gibson, Ken Web, Ray Heffington
5. Charlie Price & Ron Gast
6. Dick Wilson, Don Morrow, Dan Basore
7. Susan Farley, Charlie Price & George DeBay
8. Jim Wiley
9. Kenneth E. Bay
10. Mike Sims
11. Ray Williams & Bruce Heinzen
12. John Shoffner
13. Doug Brace, Fred Kerr, Don Morrow
14. Don Morrow, Alan Schmidt, Bill Fitzgerald
15. Mike Estep
16. Walt Blue
17. Russ Griffin
18. Jim Strickland
19. Bill Ballan, Peggy Hall, Arthur Taylor
20. Bill Ballan, Brian McGrath, Ed Pritchard
21. Don Morrow, Ed and Carolyn Corwin, Natalie Burson, and Charlie Heddon
22. Ron Gast, Charlie Price, Fred Kerr
23. Gibby Gibson
24. Gwyn Price, Norm Pinardi
25. John Mack
26. Ken Webb
27. Don Raphael & Tom Greene
28. Clyde Gabbard
29. Rev. Bob Dennis
30. Show Scene
31. Milo Watson, Wanda Wiley, Carolyn Corwin, Jim Wiley, Ray Heffington
32. Bill Dean & Chuck Heddon
33. Charlie Kirk
- 34a. David Budd
- 34b. Ed Weston & Steve Fussell
- 35a. Bobby Pinardi
- 35b. Natalie Burson, Steve Linkous, Mark Burson
36. Carl Sexton & Kae Fleming of CATC



Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures Vols. I – VI

price for US delivery Vol. I – V, \$42 includes ph&i (Vol. VI, \$49 includes ph&i)

Florida Lure Want List

Eger Pork Rind Bottle
 Eger Reel
 Eger Rod
 Eger Spool of Line
 Jim Pfeffer Sunfish
 Jim Pfeffer Pigfish
 Jim Pfeffer Mullet
 Porter Gator Bait
 Porter Orange Box
 Early Period Robinson Lures
 Early Robinson Fly Rod lures
 Dazzy Vance Wooden Box
 Dazzy Vance 2pccb Box
 Dazzy Vance Lures

Fly Rod Lure Want List

Francis Fly Co. Catalog & other information
 E. H. Peckinpaugh Flies/Lures:
 Alma bug NOC
 Fish Getter Hopper Fly NOC
 Jake Scott Twin Hook Pattern
 Hickman Fly Pattern NOC
 Floating Night Bug w/ single hook
 Dick Splain Bone Fish Fly NOC
 Dick Splain Salt Water Fly NOC
 Skitter Frog NOC
 Mousie w/ cork body & Rub. Legs
 Froggie w/ cork body & Rub. Legs
 Ted Williams Spin-Pop & Fly-Pop Flies
 Peckinpaugh Doodle Bug (a.k.a. Lucky Bug)
 Pony (any breed)

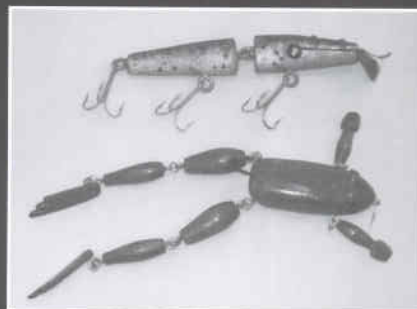
Bill Stuart

The Museum of Fishing
 PO Box 1378
 Bartow, FL 33831

tele: 863-533-7358

Bstuartmof@aol.com

Can you identify these lures? Reward offered!





Past & CURRENT

NOTES OF INTEREST



MIRA-LURE or ... MIRR O LURE?

Recently, readers of the FATC Newsletter were tasked to identify a "Barracuda" sew-on patch, thought to be a FFTMC promotion item. However, the scarce patch was found to be offered to purchasers of new 1967 Plymouth Barracuda automobiles; it was not a product by Florida Fishing Tackle Mfg., Inc.

Perhaps readers could clear up yet another tackle mystery. Why did the L&S Bait Company of both Illinois and Florida use two different spellings on the packaging of their product? Current company management has no explanation.

All three boxes are from the same time period of packaging. The spelling with the letter "A-" and only one "R" appears on two different size boxes.

Doug Brace

TACKLE TALK

If you need an answer to a tough tackle question, ask FATC's panel of Know-It-Alls. Your inquiry will be forwarded to our panel, at which time they will confer amongst themselves or alone to provide an answer, which will be published in the following issue of FATC News. Please remember:

Answers \$5, Correct Answers \$10, Answers Requiring Thought \$20, Dumb Looks are still free.

Hello Doug,

Craig Comjean said to contact you regarding history of an undated FATC patch as show:

I bought it from a fellow who said he designed it for the FATC Club but never received credit for the design. I believe his name was Kelly. Can you date it, do you know who actually designed it and the value?

I would appreciate any help with this.

Regards,
Bob Peak

Your patch was the FATC's first Club patch. In 1990 the FATC asked the membership to submit designs for a possible Club patch. Five different drawings were submitted for consideration; one was accepted.

According to a published article in an FATC Newsletter dated January 1991, "Jack Kelly, Ron Gast and Fred Kerr served on the committee which was responsible for design and production".

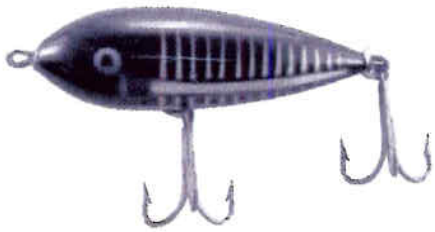
The patch was first made available to the Club's membership at a Ft. Myers meet held November 9th, 10th, and 11th of 1990. Only 160 patches were produced; 89 sold initially at \$5.00 each. This patch is

distinctive for 3 reasons. It was the Club's first patch, it was the only Club patch produced without a year in the design and it was the first patch to "sell out".

As to value, in February of 2004, a collector on "Joe's" offered a complete FATC patch collection for \$400.

-Doug Brace

No tricks, all treats



Everyone knows the Heddon Zarra Spook is a real fish killer, and this black shore version shows off the bait's skeleton...



Two different views of the Heddon "Bat Wing" ice decoy showing off its wings



October 31st and Macbeth wouldn't be complete without a witch, this time of the Shakespeare Sea Witch variety... "Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn, and caldron bubble"



A bizarre combination of colors adorn this Joe Pepper Roman Spider



A scary jet black, Comstock Flying Helgrammite (if you ever saw a live helgrammite, you know it is even scarier than the lure)



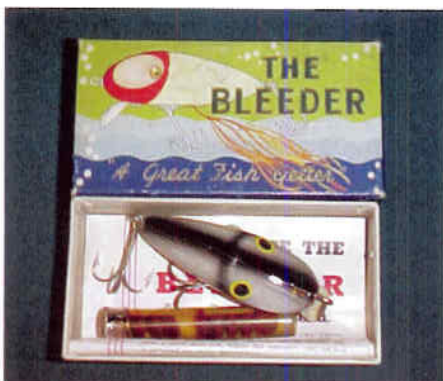
Larry Lucas' Porter Pop Stop, in the rare color 13F, a great Halloween black and orange, and the only one Larry's ever seen!



The demon face on this Jamison Wig-L-Twin makes this little lure easy to identify...



You get double trouble with this Heddon Vampire in cool black spot on orange



What would Halloween be without a slasher movie and a bleeder to go with it?



This great Newton Black Ghost line spool, found in Fitzhugh Carter's tackle box, comes complete with a haunted apparition on the label!



Some think the scariest thing to happen to the tackle collecting hobby in recent memory is the online auction monster... yikes!

THE BLUE BOY

FROM CARTER'S HEAVEN

By Steve Cox

It's always surprising how the seemingly most insignificant twists and turns in our daily lives can make a major impact on what we do, what we say, what we have, and the opportunities that abound. One case in point occurred when the phone rang at my office on a morning in early August. A gentleman named Jackie Howell had heard from a mutual friend that I collected antique fishing tackle. He had a large group of glass eyed, wood lures, accompanied by numerous plastic lures as well, mounted in oak-framed glass cases. He needed to raise cash and asked if they might be of interest to me. Surely, this had to be a trick question. Every collector jumps at the chance to see new inventory, and I am no different! We arranged to meet at my office later that evening, and the rest of the day was spent dreaming about what might show up...

Jackie arrived on time (always a good sign) and brought six oak cases of miscellaneous baits into my conference room. We spread them out on the table to scan the assortment. My hope and enthusiasm faded when it was obvious there were condition issues with the baits. So many great lures in such rough shape! It was apparent, though, that these didn't rust away, neglected in an old waterlogged tackle box; these lures had been fished, and fished hard!

A great deal of respect was owed the old-timer who fed his family with thousands of casts and the corresponding number of times these baits had hit the water, for they were *true warriors*. Tooth marks, hook drags, pointers, chips, busted glass eyes, worm burns, and paint worn down to the primer; old braided black nylon tags where they had been cut off, re-tied, and cut off again — yes sir, these lures commanded R-E-S-P-E-C-T, the same kind mentioned in the great 1960s Aretha Franklin/Otis Redding soul tune of the same name. In all, there were 118 different lures arranged haphazardly in the cases.

Making some quick mental notes, the list of lures was extensive; 3 Heddon Punkinseeds (one fly rod size), 2 Crazy



Crawlers, 3 Bassers, 3 Lucky 13s, and 2 five-hook Dowagiac Underwater Minnows to start. Then, there were 5 Creek Chub Pikies (two with double line tie), 4 Injured Minnows, 2 Wiggle Fish, several Darters, some Pflueger Pal-O-Mines and a Scoop. The count continued with Shakespeare Slim-Jims and Sea Witches, South Bend Bass-Orenos, Paw-Paw Shiners, a cool Paw-Paw Muskie River Type, some Shur-Strike, Isle Royale, and Horrocks and Ibbotsen baits, Nichols Pier Baits and Doug English Sportsman Lures from Texas, and an array of L&S, Woods, Brooks, Bomber and other plastics. Oh yes, let's not forget the Florida lures, and there were the usual suspects: several Eger Dillingers and Wiggletails, two rough 9999 Convicts, a total beater of a glass eyed Barracuda Darter in Silver Flash, and a couple of Universal Pistol Balls that seemed familiar, but could not be recalled. Hopefully, they were some kind of rare shrimp, but alas, it was not to be...

Jackie could see that my excitement had faded, so he picked up an unusual folk art lure he said was made by the original owner of these baits, Mr. Fitzhugh Carter. Mr. Carter's name was well known in our area, and it was definitely a cool piece. Jackie said Mr. Carter told him that he made the lure, and on their next fishing trip, he tied it onto his wife's line. Her first cast with the folk art bait resulted in a giant 13 lb. 8 oz. largemouth!

Okay, this was a nice example of Florida folk art, and I could probably sell the rest of the lures at the next show; perhaps



Two more views of the Blue Boy featuring the Barracuda name stenciled on the belly and the rather curious shape and apparent backward facing direction of the hand air-brushed red gill marks.





Mr. Carter's hand carved and beautifully hand painted surface lure that his wife used to catch the 13 lb. 8 oz. bass on the lure's first cast.



Mr. Carter was never bashful about "doctoring" a factory bait, and a number of his brand name lures had been altered, repainted, or otherwise tampered with. This example, from one of his tackle boxes, is a Creek Chub Injured Minnow in silver flash with multiple hand-painted red and silver dots adorning both sides.



Jackie Howell and one of his many monster bass taken in the Florida panhandle.



One of the fattest jacks ever seen! Its as big as Jackie's cat and was taken at Carter's Heaven.

even getting my money back if they weren't priced too high. However, it would be nice to find something for **my** collection. Besides, the oak cases didn't match my cherry cases, and a buyer would have to be found for them, too. Jackie offered to keep the oak cases, knocked \$200 off the price, and threw in a large aluminum and glass jeweler's display case in the deal. I told Jackie I would think about it, and we loaded the cases back into his car.

The next couple of days were pretty hectic at my office (it is most annoying when career demands get in the way of my hobbies), but then we had a brief lull in the daily bedlam. I called Jackie back and asked if he had any photos of the lures he might be able to e-mail. He said he did, and when they were received, my eye caught a lure which had previously gone unnoticed. How did I miss it? Could it be a Barracuda No. 40 Twitchin' Cuda Darter in Blue Boy, with glass eyes? No way! Every knowledgeable Barracuda collector (complete with his FATC Barracuda Archive CD) knows that Blue Boy didn't show up as a catalog color until 1948, and by then the glass eyed Barracuda lures had long since changed to painted eyes, with the possible exception of the Torpecuda.

Calling him immediately, plans were made to bring the lures back to the office for one last look, and he came over later that day. When the case with the Blue Boy was laid out on the table, it was easily confirmed that this was the real deal! The Barracuda name was stenciled on the belly, along with the pair of hand air brushed red gill marks, curiously slanting in the opposite direction of others seen before. This indicated an early bait, perhaps as far back as the mid to late 1930s, and possibly, a custom order. While one eye was cracked and partially missing, the unmistakable small pupil of the remaining eye was definitely "Cuda" glass! Now there was a reason to do the deal...

Jackie has become a new friend and is a fellow collector, with a master's knowledge of Indian arrowheads and other artifacts. He also brought another surprise when he showed me a case of lures made by a fishing buddy of his. Showing him some of the similar lures that I had found five years ago, we realized we had examples from the same maker. The resulting decision was to make these the subject of another story for *Volume VII of Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures*.

This turn of events has been a most pleasant astonishment, because of new friends made, the addition of a rare Florida bait to my collection, and a bonus being the Fitzhugh Carter folk art lure. A resource was also found to help my daughter, Haley and me learn more about her fledgling arrowhead collection. Furthermore, a new lure maker for the Florida reference books has also been revealed, and an interesting story for FATC News has been identified, one which recaptures an important era in fishing Florida's panhandle. All of this occurred because of a referral from friend and client, Nick Patronis, who doesn't even collect old lures, but knew someone who did!

For more on Fitzhugh Carter, Jackie's story follows with expanded information, as told to me.

NEWS FLASH



Just before going to print, we received confirmation photos from Gary Robinson of Nacogdoches, TX that another No. 40 Blue Boy in glass eyes exists! Gary's beautiful lure and early logo box, marked No. 40 BB, is further proof that the color was available long before our first record of it in the 1948 catalog. Note: Gary's lure has a decidedly lighter and more turquoise shade of blue than the Carter bait.