

# F.A.T.C. NEWS

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Newsletter

Volume 31, Number 3



## Marsh Conference



## An Old Man and a Bucket of Shrimp



## Harrison SW Florida Fly Reels



## Steel Fly Rods, End of an Era



## Dennis "Mac" McNulty, Remembered



## Collecting Vintage Paddles



# Lake City Summer Show

Many thanks to our Show Host Mike Hall.



J.D. with a good one





Lake City show host Mike Hall



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# Lake City Show Winners



Bill Hoerter won best educational display



Dennis McNulty won best topical display



Steve Cox won best Florida display



Dennis and Mike running the auction



Dennis McNulty's award winning display



Bill Hoerter's award winning display

# 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 – Rick Vaughn and Paul Snider

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# F.A.T.C. NEWS

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

September 2017 Volume 31, No. 3

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## President's Message

Mike Hall



I can't even begin this message without offering my deepest sympathy and support to Judy McNulty and so many club members on the unexpected loss of our friend Dennis "Mac" McNulty. A Life Member of every tackle collecting club out there, Dennis has attended more shows than any club member ever. Mac's knowledge and participation at the shows along with his willingness to educate, and share his collecting experience will be missed by everyone who knew Dennis. Remember his stories, and how they made you feel, by doing that, he will always remain with you.

The Lake City show was fortunate enough to have Mac as our auctioneer, along with his award winning 'toy outboard collection.' I, and others are grateful for the time we spent together that weekend. Thanks to all that attended, and hope to see you in a few weeks at the Fernandina Beach show. Our show host, Jim Berglund, has a great facility reserved with plenty of room, in a great location that is sure to attract plenty of public traffic.

This will be our first "Free Admission" (to the public) show, and with free appraisals, we should expect to have a busy show. Historic, Fernandina Beach offers old time antique stores and restaurants and the famous Palace Saloon, Florida's oldest bar since 1903. Fishing, beaches, a great place to visit. You should make this show, after all, it's a long time to the Daytona Show...actually not too far off. Already have reservations made and tables sold, looking forward to hosting The Daytona International Tackle Show again in 2018. 🐟



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## Editor Notes

Johnny Garland

### Three items I want to address in my "Notes" this issue.

First: My deepest sympathy to Judy McNulty. Judy, you really had a "Good Man". Dennis was in a very small group of people who was willing to help the new collector without making him or her pay outrageously for the education. Even though Dennis wanted to make a profit, money was not the most important thing. Friendship and fun was what lure collecting was about to Dennis. I will always remember a humorous quote from him, "I buy high, sell low and make it up in volume".

Second: The Daytona Beach Show is getting close and it always produce several Bagley bait collectors. At this time, Gene Meisberger is arranging for Lee Sisson (a great lure designer and painter) to come to the Daytona Beach Show and speak with all who may be interested. Lee worked with Jim Bagley several years. He and Jim developed and designed many lures which we have come to appreciate for many reasons. To me personally, what I appreciate the most about Lee Sisson are some of the colors which he designed which were many. I remember Jim Bagley telling me how Lee designed the color "Hot Tiger" (H69T) and how many other lure companies copied it and called it "Fire Tiger". Gene hopes to provide us with more information on Lee's time with us in the next issue of the F.A.T.C. News.

Third: I truly love this club and I have always wished I lived in Florida where I could give more of myself to it. I have been honored to be allowed to serve as your Editor. However, I am not an Editor and I feel I have not done a very good job. I can check spelling, omitted words and picture placement, but I am not very good at grammar and sentence structure. We have a young man who falls into the class of Steve Cox and Gary Simpson. I have spoken to him and I believe he would consider serving as our Editor with a little encouragement. I am passing his name onto our President, and hopefully he will accept. I hope the next issue will be my last and the new Editor can take over following the Daytona Beach Show. Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your Editor. Sincerely, Johnny 🐟

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# Harrison SW Florida Fly Reels

Stephen Rampersad



**“If you want to build a saltwater Fly Reel that is truly the best ever made, you have to learn everything there is to learn from the past... and then start all over again.”**

*- T. Felton Harrison Jr.*

Until recently, very little was known about a masterfully designed line of Florida saltwater reels created by T. Felton Harrison of Pensacola, Florida.



Harrison SW (SaltWater) Fly Reels were available in 4 sizes:

Little Wing II (4-6wt Trout) 5.1oz 3.75"x1"

Los Roques (6-8wt Bonefish) 7.7oz 3.75"x1.628

Archangel (8-10wt Tarpon) 10.1oz 4"x2"

Jupiter (10-12wt Marlin) 11.9oz 4.35"x2.45"

Each reel was offered in a Direct Drive and Anti-Reverse model and could be purchased in the following colors: Gold, Black, and Pewter.



*T. Felton Harrison, Sr. and Mary Ruth Harrison*

T. Felton Harrison Jr. was born to Dr. Thomas Felton Harrison Sr. and Dr. Mary Ruth Harrison in 1947.

T. Felton Harrison Sr. was the President of Pensacola State College (aka Pensacola Junior College) from 1964-1980. Although his job entailed administration of the school he would always find the time to meet with the school sailing club and talk about his love for the hobby. President Harrison's most noteworthy accomplishment, by school standards, was spearheading the merger of PJC with Booker T. Washington Junior College (WJC) in 1965. WJC was the first black junior college built in Florida and had served the black community since 1949. Jr.'s mother, Dr. Mary Ruth Harrison was initially a classical pianist but decided to have, what she referred to as, a normal family life and taught music while raising her young son. Her love for learning and children lead her to later earn her doctorate in elementary education. She then worked for Escambia County School System as a principle at N.B. Cook and Navy Point Elementary Schools.

T. Felton Harrison Jr. was the oldest of 3 children (1 boy and 2 girls). He was born in Gainesville, Fl., but moved to Pensacola at a very early age. With the tremendous influence of 2 great minds in his life, the drive to excel was ever present. Although much of his weeks were filled with school, music

lessons, and choirs, he would greatly anticipate the opportunities to get on the water. "Felton grew up on the water and cherished the time with his father... fishing was truly their passion", said a family member. A graduate of Pensacola High School, he then went on to pursue his A.A. from Pensacola Junior College and B.A. from the University of West Florida. During his college years he played the organ in a local band called The Laymens. After college Harrison went to work for Westinghouse in the sales/purchasing department where he dealt with aerospace and high security government contracts for over 20 years. After leaving Westinghouse Harrison began to give thought to a possible new endeavor. He was confident saltwater fly reels, then available in the marketplace, could be improved upon with knowledge he gained from the aerospace industry. Implementation of this new concept would come shortly.

T. Felton Harrison Jr. was known as a very interesting and unique individual. He was organized, methodical, and a bit 'quirky' according to his friends. He spent much of his free-time focused on

fishing in some way, shape, or form. From trips out on the water and writing stories of fishing adventures to dreams of elite tackle design and construction. Calling fishing just a hobby would have been an understatement; fishing was truly a way of life. Harrison's vivid imagination and unique way of storytelling could inspire an ordinary trip onto paper as a magnificent tall tale that included funny characters, epics battles, and a plot



*T. Felton Harrison, Jr.*



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Cover of Harrison SW brochure

Fly Fishing Magazine Ad

that would have you waiting for what could possibly come next. His writings have been featured in Florida Sportsman, Fly Fishing Journal, and Gray's Sporting Journal to name a few.

In the late 1980's T. Felton Harrison Jr., of Pensacola, Florida, set out to construct the best saltwater fly reels ever built. When he began this endeavor he reached out a friend and co-worker who owned a local machine shop, Machine Tool Master, Inc. MTM was located at 2251 North E. Street, Pensacola



and specialized in machining and fabrication. His connection with Westinghouse allowed him to tap into the greatest minds in the nuclear and aerospace



industry for input on design and construction material of this quality reel. His relationship with MTM machine shop gave him the great ability to experiment with these designs and material options. Harrison also utilized his connection with longtime friend and fishing buddy Bill Greer, Senior Field Editor for Florida Sportsman Magazine, to gain additional insight from the fishing community. A process of elimination began from the basic aluminum and steel construction all the way to the very advanced palladium and beryllium used in construction of reactors and orbiting vehicles. As a result of this, he concluded that pure titanium, titanium alloy, and uniquely processed aluminum alloys would best suite his needs for this project.

Harrison also reinvented the wheel, if you will, by modifying a basic cork drag to a graphite impregnated cork drag. He then incorporated a polished titanium drag plate pinned and bonded to two hand milled titanium palls. According to Harrison, this system was designed to be smooth as silk, almost indestructible, and able to move tremendous amounts of heat away from the drag without distortion to the system. Once a reel was purchased it was fabricated to the highest quality and precision by 2 of the best machinists known in the business at that time. Each reel was machined and pieces hand fitted without the assistance of a single computer controlled machine. Every reel maintains a tolerance of One/one-thousandths of an inch or less, end to end. Each reel was then tested on a 40 year life cycle, simulating 40 years of use and exposures not just 40 years of ownership. These processes ensured that all components were analyzed and tested to ASTM and MIL standards for corrosion resistance, wear, fatigue, fracture toughness, and even thermal analysis. According to friends and family, "Harrison was truly obsessed with

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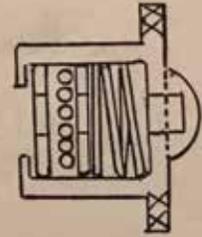
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It also removes all moving parts from the spool, thereby rendering extra spools considerably more affordable.

A slightly less simplistic arrangement exists in the anti-reverse models, due to the addition of the handle. However, the spool changing process is so simple and fast that the extra spool concept remains highly appealing in both models — with *no increase in price* for anti-reverse spools!

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'SOMBRERO' DRAG MODULE



making the very best fly reel". Following a brief illness at the age of 55, T. Felton Harrison passed away on September 29, 2002.

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*- T. Felton Harrison Jr.*

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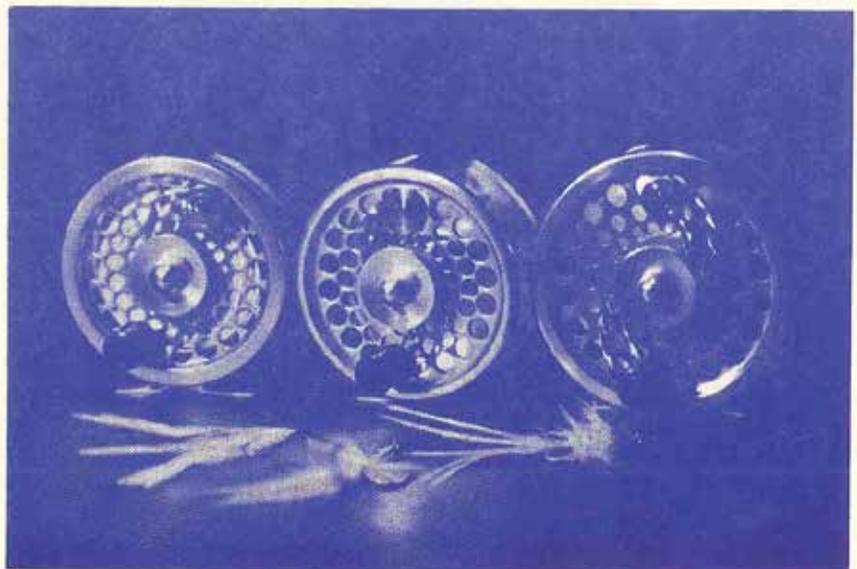
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# AN OLD MAN AND A BUCKET OF SHRIMP

*Provided by D.E. Wolf*

This is a wonderful story and it is true. You will be pleased that you read it, and I believe you will pass it on. It is an important piece of American history.

It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a giant orange ball and was starting to dip into the blue ocean.

Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now.

Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier. Dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.'

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk

back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say. Or, to onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant .... maybe even a lot of nonsense. Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Busters.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida ... That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all,



they fought hunger and thirst. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive. Every day across America millions wondered and prayed that Eddie Rickenbacker might somehow be found alive.

The men adrift needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft.

Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait . . . and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they

were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull... And he never stopped saying, 'Thank you.' That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

*Reference: (Max Lucado, "In The Eye of the Storm", pp...221, 225-226)*

PS: Eddie Rickenbacker was the founder of Eastern Airlines. Before WWI he was a race car driver. In WWI he was a pilot and became America's first ace. In WWII he was an instructor and military adviser, and he flew missions with the combat pilots. Eddie Rickenbacker is a true American hero. And now you know another story about the trials and sacrifices that brave men have endured for your freedom.

As you can see, it is a great story that many don't know. You've got to be careful with old guys. You just never know what they have done during their lifetime. 🐟

# Thanks to all who helped with my collection!

*~Chuck*



Cell: 321-439-4011

[cheddon@mpinet.net](mailto:cheddon@mpinet.net)

# Steel Fly Rods, End of an Era

Charlie Tanner

Soon after the end of World War II, two makers of steel rods using the knowledge they acquired while manufacturing items for the war effort. Their new rods were seamless drawn from a solid block of a measured blend of metals, that when finished

were extremely strong and flexible. They had bamboo and pearl-ized finishes. The tip sections were thinner, highly flexible and stronger than split bamboo rods. These manufacturers reached the pinnacle of success in the building of steel fly rods. Their popularity was short lived though, with the influx of cheap Japanese bamboo rods and competition of fiber glass rods. Rod makers like True Temper, Union Hardware and others gave it their best effort to compete but the steel rod era was over. These companies continued to produce steel golf shafts and still do today, but they gleaned on their experience in making fishing rods. 🐟



Close up of the Union Hardware model showing the Pearl-ized finish.

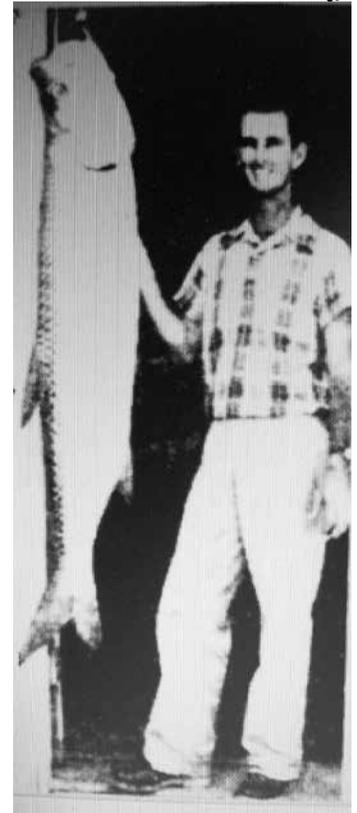


The rods pictured left to right are:  
 Union Hardware 2 Pc. 8 1/2 ft. Model No. A4065-2 Wt. 6 oz. with a pearl-ized finish.  
 Gep "Actionized" 2 Pc. 9 ft. 6 1/2 oz. with a bamboo finish.  
 Bristol Model No. 25 2 Pc. 8 ft. 5 1/2 oz. with a tan enamel finish.

# Marsh Conference

*Doug Brace & Larry Lucas*

On August 15, 2015, while ticket holders anxiously awaited the arrival of Taylor Swift for her concert at Levi's Stadium, California, another less publicized event was taking place in Rockledge, Florida. Over 100 assorted **MARSH** plastic baits, boxes, including 2 loose labels, were gathered together, in one place, in an attempt to draw conclusions about **Johnny Marsh's** numbering system. To date, no cataloging or numbering system has been found for MARSH baits. This was the first time so many Marsh products were available for comparison. The following, based on observations and conclusions, tends to confirm an earlier theory put forth.



## **Marsh Marvel** darter Series No.51

Marsh filed as a Florida corporation on May 28, 1952.

The Marvel was likely his first packaged lure. Using a colorful 2PCBB; early



packaged lures are heat-stamped, "**MARSH MARVEL**". Box ends, printed with **MARSH MARVEL**, are stamped (in blue) with 2 spaced digits followed by 2 more digits, for example: **3 2 51**.

The first digit indicates the number of hooks, the second digit is the color pattern and the last two indicate the series number. Stamped color numbers found consisted of 2 through 6; however, at least 12 individual patterns were noted amongst scale patterns, shore patterns, chevron sides, two-color solids, in addition to a frog pattern.

The *Daytona News Journal* on July 31, 1954, reported a 70-pound tarpon was caught near the Port Orange Bridge on a "Marsh Marvel"! The proud angler, local postman George BonFluer, was pictured next to his catch.

## **Rattalure Series** No.59 and No.60

Hook designation for the Rattalure differed from the Marsh Marvel.

In this case No.59 was 3TH bait and No. 60 denoted a 2TH bait. The third digit that followed was again, 2 through 6, for the color. Packaging was the existing 2PCCB used for the Marsh Marvel, with paste-over labels reading "Rattalure".



Due to the later introduction of the Rattalure, there are far more Marsh Marvel boxes to be found than examples of paste-over labels for Rattalures. Additionally, earlier research indicated Lewis Dinkins of Sanford, Florida owned the mold for the Rattalure. Marsh's production of this bait ended when Dinkins sold his mold to the Hub's



Chub Co. Arcadia, Indiana. It should be noted here that the mold Dinkins owned was only for the casting size; it was Hub's Chub that created the mold for a smaller, spinning size. Hub's Chub also discontinued spelling Rattalure with the letter "e". When the Marsh Rattalure came to an end, production of the Marsh Marvel continued on.

**Plunkin Pete** and **Sneaky Pete**

Series numbers for these two models remain unknown. A Marsh Marvel box with the unusual stamping of **00 X01** was found; possibly it was for one of these two baits. While nearly identical, Plunkin Pete was a surface lure and Sneaky Pete, a sinker.



Both Plunkin Pete (top) and Sneaky Pete (bottom) are not always found stamped with the name.



**Pier Bait** model P-38

Early MARSH pier baits had wood bodies. In the example shown here, the underside is marked with the letter "M". Popularity of the Marsh pier bait was not limited to the Daytona area alone. On March 28, 1947, A *Miami News* article commented on a new clothespin plug introduced in Daytona by Johnny Marsh. In yet another *Miami News* article, the writer having witnessed the success of the Marsh pier bait, encouraged Marsh to seek out Florida companies for distribution. It is interesting to note, this is 5 years before Richard Porter filed for a patent on his highly successful, yet similar, lead-head Sea Hawk lure.

In order to produce his lures in plastic, Johnny Marsh needed a plastics production facility. Local Daytona businessman **Keith Vining**, had such a business. Vining learned about plastics while in the Navy. After the War he became involved in many facets of the plastic industry. He manufactured life saving buoys, used on Florida's beaches, and household items including very collectible, by





today's standards, Lucite tackle boxes. Vining was a man of numerous talents, photographer, professional writer, contractor, inventor; he would later teach courses locally, in plastics production. Marsh was indeed fortunate to both learn from Vining and to have the use of Vining's facility.

Johnny Marsh's sister, Kay, recalled her brother later moved his lure production south of Daytona. There is evidence to suggest that Marsh began producing the Marsh Marvel and Plunkin Pete in New Smyrna Beach. Once again a plastics injection molding facility was needed. This time it was **D-K PLASTICS CO., INC.**, owned by John DuPlig. D-K Plastics filed as a new corporation with the State of Florida in June, 1960 and was located on U.S. Hwy. 1, in New Smyrna Beach. DuPlig had recently relocated from Delawanna, New Jersey where he operated D-K Plastics.

Cellophane packaged examples of both a Plunkin Pete and Marsh Marvel have been found with paper labels containing



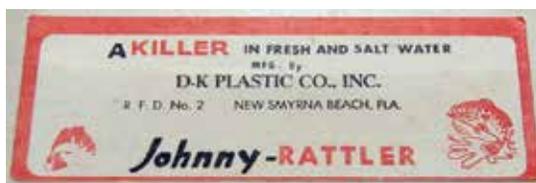
the D-K Plastic Co. logo. 1964 was the last listing found for D-K Plastics. Johnny Marsh died 10-years later, November 21, 1974. DuPlig passed away in 1981, at the age of 62.

The added revelation that D-K also produced the "**Johnny-RATTLER**", came from F.A.T.C. member

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Joe Yates; he has documented 3 different color patterns. While the Rattalure had a smooth chin, the Johnny Rattler came with a distinctive notch below the line tie. It's rather ironic that Marsh would be involved with both lures at different times in his life. The same can be said of Shakespeare with the **Dalton Special** and the **Shakespeare Special**. Again, the difference in this case is also a notch under line tie.

D-K packaging for the "Johnny RATTLER" was a lidded, clear, hard-plastic box. This was an obvious improvement over earlier cellophane packaging.



Photos courtesy of Joe Yates



Note: For additional MARSH reading, see Vol.III of *Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures*. Contained within the MARSH chapter is reference to a Marsh trademark. This recorded trademark was actually for the Tennessee duck-call maker, Johnny Marsh, not Florida's fishing lure maker. 🐟

**FATC**  
 FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS

**New Member:**  
**Angel Gabriel**  
 2609 Pembroke Dr. • Orlando, FL 32810  
 abdula0708@yahoo.com

**Correction in Director:**  
**Please note: Jon Schottenham**  
**Should be: Jim Schottenham**



President: **Mike Hall**, 904-424-7071, flalake@aol.com  
 Vice President: **Chuck Heddon**, 407-862-7562, cheddon@mpinet.net  
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FATC Newsletter Editor: **Johnny Garland**

109 Oscar Miller Rd., Johnson City, TN 37604, 423-943-3333, bagleyfanatic@gmail.com

<b>F A T C  A D  R A T E S</b>	Classified "Tackle box" ads (black & white)	\$3.50	1x	\$10.00	3x	<b>E F F E C T I V E  2 0 1 1 7</b>
	Classified "Tackle box" ads (color)	5.00	1x	12.50	3x	
	Business Card ads (black & white)	10.00	1x	29.00	3x	
	Business Card ads (color)	15.00	1x	40.00	3x	
	1/4 page ads (black & white)	50.00	1x	120.00	3x	
	1/4 page ads (color)	75.00	1x	200.00	3x	
	1/2 page ads (black & white)	90.00	1x	215.00	3x	
	Full page ads (black & white)	160.00	1x	380.00	3x	
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	Outside back cover – color (horizontal only)	275.00	1x	619.00	3x	
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	Full page color (except covers or center)	375.00	1x	900.00	3x	
Inside front or back cover	525.00	1x	1,179.00	3x		
Single center page	450.00	1x	1,019.00	3x		
Centerfold (No vertical center gutter)	850.00	1x	1,919.00	3x		

# 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.

# Collecting Vintage Paddles

*Gary Simpson*

Looking back on about 25 years of accumulating old fishing equipment, it might just be the 'side collections' that have brought me the most pleasure.

One of my favorites is boat paddles.

There is something appealing about imagining the fishermen of long ago in small wooden vessels easing along the weedy shallows of southern lakes with paddles. Perhaps chunking Eger Grass Frogs...or maybe even looking to gig a fish with a stone-tipped spear. After all, for hundreds of years before the days of modern boat propulsion, the primary tool of the boatsman was the shaped stick.

That collecting paddles has become such an enjoyable pastime for me, I suppose, comes naturally.

My freshwater fishing has taken me from Okeechobee to Ontario, casting from sleek, fancy boats and using state-of-the-art trolling motors. But to be honest, I have always felt more connected with the water when fishing "low and slow" from the bow of a plywood skiff, paddling stealthily.

My paddling started one evening on Newnan's Lake, near home here in Gainesville. My dad and I had been fishing the mouth of Prairie Creek. When it





was time to head back to Kate's Fish Camp, the old Johnson Seahorse wouldn't crank. He beckoned me, an 8-year old, to the little boat's bench seat at the bow and gave me the second paddle that was standard equipment in those days. Side by side, we paddled back to the camp. His instruction was to keep up with his paddling stroke as he softly spoke the simple but effective cadence—"deep... and pull, deep...and pull". After that day, I was a paddler.

Until the eighties, my fishing was done primarily in small "fish camp boats" with either my dad or myself paddling. Our rods, reels, line and knowledge improved through the years, but our fish-stalking method remained much the same.

The wooden paddles you see today are likely to have been produced by Caviness Woodworking in Mississippi. The company was founded in the late 1940's by the late James T. "Jimmy" Caviness and became incorporated in September 1954. Initially, the company produced wooden furniture parts and brooms as well as paddles and oars. His area in North Mississippi sported an enormous amount of fishing habitat, and Mr. Caviness saw the need for quality, low-cost paddles. He retired in 1972 at the age of sixty-eight and died in January of 1989, having answered that need like no one else.

In the years since Jimmy Caviness's retirement, the family business (still in Calhoun City, Ms.) has continued and thrived with James B. (Jim), James D. (Don), Michael E. (Mike), and James K. (Kris) Caviness at the helm. The company catalog further states, "During almost 70 years, Caviness Woodworking Company, Inc. has grown from a backyard operation into the world's largest manufacturer of paddles and oars. This growth can be directly attributed to the hard work and dedication of its employees and their determination



*L-13 sculling paddle*

to become not only the largest company in the paddle and oar industry, but also the best."

Being my top paddle choice for use, I do collect earlier examples of Caviness Feather Brand paddles...but these shouldn't be considered scarce. However, one of my favorite paddles is a rare Feather Brand Model L-13 sculling model made in Memphis by Feather Brand Paddles (see above). It would seem that Feather Brand Paddles of Memphis was in business before the Caviness days. The Patent Number 2,380,870 on the L-13 would have been issued in 1945—barely pre-Caviness. There certainly is a relationship between the companies, though, as Caviness uses to this day the same 'bent feather' logo seen on this cool-looking old L-13 paddle.

In the sixties I remember hearing the names of Gainesville men whose fish-catching prowess was much-admired. These anglers, I was told, were proficient at sculling—a paddling technique quite mesmerizing to watch. The sculler’s motion is fluid and repetitive. His short paddle doesn’t leave the water between stokes. This was considered a technique for the advanced paddler. Today, it’s pretty much a lost art.

Another sculling paddle I’ve been able to acquire is a wrist-saving design produced by the E.Z. Arm Paddle Co. in McMinnville, Tennessee.



*E Z Arm sculler*

Other paddles you might run across include Indian Head and Navajo Brand examples. The earlier Page Brand and L.L. Bean paddles were very well made. The Old Town Canoe Company in Old Town, Maine made, not surprisingly, beautiful paddles. Even Umco, the famed producer of tackle boxes, apparently briefly put out a paddle. I was surprised to find one in a local antique shop.

Another sub-group for paddle collecting is the miniature ‘souvenir paddles’ that were produced primarily in the north starting in the late 1800’s.



But, like folk art lures, many of the most pleasing paddles are homemade, or produced by a company I am not yet able to identify. At least, I seem to be most attracted to these. Pictured at the top of page 17, the T-handled one on the far right was made for me around 1970 by my old friend, Buddy DeGraff when we were teenagers. Of all my paddles, it is the ugliest...and the dearest to me.



## Dennis “Mac” McNulty, Remembered

*Ed Weston*

It didn't matter if you called him Dennis or Mac, he was always eager to talk or just listen to what you had to say. Before you knew it, you had become one of Dennis McNulty's legend of friends. Dennis had that knack of becoming a colleague with everyone almost instantly.

I don't remember when I first encountered Dennis, but it was many years ago, I am sure it was at a tackle show. It didn't take long before we became good friends.

Dennis's knowledge of tackle was unbelievable. He had the best overall knowledge of tackle and tackle related items I have ever seen. This includes lures, reels, catalogs, toys and the list goes on.

Dennis retired from the Navy after serving his country for 20 years. While in the Navy, one of his assignments was the tracking of vessels that did not belong to the United States of America. I guess it was kind of a secret at the time and he did not say much about it.

Many people don't know that Dennis was an excellent marksman with a rifle. He was so good that the Navy sent him to compete against the Marines in their Annual Rifle Competition. This was shooting without all those fancy scopes like they have today. Dennis was able to win several metals.

Dennis was a life member of the FATC, NFLCC and Orca. He was the auctioneer for the FATC and he was recognized for his outstanding service to FATC by Larry Lucas (President at that time) by presenting Dennis the FATC President's Award. He served the Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors as their auctioneer and called the auction of the NFLCC show in Decatur, Alabama.

Mac loved barbecue ribs. He developed a system on his Weber Grill of doing baby back ribs that would make your mouth water. The neat part about

it is that only took 1 1/2 hours from start to finish. Normally most people would have to endure five to six hours to get good results. I know his secret and don't think he would mind me sharing it.

“Mr. Fix It” is another name you could hang on Dennis. He could fix just about anything. When Dennis would attend the Decatur Show, he would go a week early and spend time with John Mack. John's wife, Elaine, always had a list of items that needed his expert touch. When finished, he and John would head to Robert Pittman's to fish.

Dennis was always one of the first people to set up at many of the tackle shows he attended and he was one of the last to leave. He figured if he traveled all that way to a show, why leave early when he might sell something.

On the way to tackle shows, Dennis was always stopping to look for items from Antique and Thrift Stores. There was the show in Nokomis, Florida, he found a most unusual item for his table. It was a stuffed Armadillo. I told him he was crazy and that Armadillos were the only animals that could contract leprosy. He did not sell it at that show, but he did double his money on the Armadillo from a lady who fell in love with the animal.

Dennis was my best friend but I wasn't the only one. Dennis was John Mack's best friend. When Dennis passed away I had to call John and tell him of Dennis's passing. John just couldn't believe it nor wanted to believe it. John said “Dennis was my best friend”. I told John that “Dennis was my best friend too”. Isn't it amazing that two men hundreds of miles apart had the same best friend. Dennis just had that affect on people.

Dennis left us quietly in his sleep on the morning of June 16, 2017. The only reason I can justify for Dennis leaving us so early, was that God needed a new “Best Friend”. 🐾



## Tribute to Dennis McNulty

*Todd Fortini*

Dennis was one of the pillars that held the lure collecting world's "house" up. Always at every show, always willing to help his fellow collectors. If that meant selling something, fine, but didn't always involve his selling something. He took time to chat and get personal with people, and that means gold to me!

Dennis has sold me a LOT of lure hardware for my creations over the past 8 years, and anyone who has purchased any of my lures can bet that the hardware on their baits is from Dennis. He was always kind to me and understood that luremaking IS NOT a huge moneymaking hobby, and hence, gave me very good deals. He was always willing to explain where he got any piece of hardware, and the details he could remember was astounding! He would yell "HEY TODD" if he saw me first at a show, and I would yell "HEY MAC" if I saw him first..... that might be small but small things have big meanings in our lives. 🐟

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## A favor to ask...

As an FATC board member, I can assure you that in every board meeting the issue of show attendance, building membership, and getting the word out about the club and upcoming shows is addressed. Show hosts are greatly appreciated for their efforts, but they can't do it all. Typically our shows rely on social media, like Facebook and Craigslist, newspaper ads, and show fliers created and distributed by the hosts.

Here's where I'm hoping you, as members, can help.

If you live within 20-30 miles of an upcoming show, you most likely know the best places to target for advertising. Local papers and publications specific to the area are great places to start. Most have upcoming events or event calendar sections, as well as websites that are free and easy to contact to share our show and club info. Many local radio and TV stations also have upcoming events calendars, along with websites. And in some cases there are local radio shows related to outdoors/fishing/hunting, which are also great places to target.

For the local club shows I've been involved with, I've created simple fliers and left them at tackle shops, barber shops, West Marine, etc – anywhere the type of people who would have interest in our show or club might be found. Most of these places are more than happy to allow our fliers to be posted.

Our upcoming show in Fernandina Beach would be a great place to start! But don't forget this for other upcoming shows as well, even Daytona. If even just a couple members that live near or know the area could give any of these options a try, it could make a difference. If you are so inclined to help advertise our shows, please contact me and I'll send you the computer file with current fliers and you can print your own, or I'll print them and send them to you. I'll make these available for all upcoming shows. Below is a sample of a standard half page sized flier to distribute, and can also be used as a standard press release, even if you don't hand them out locally.

Thank you in advance, I know with your help this will make a difference in our shows and maybe a hidden treasure will show up off the streets from the public, or we'll sign up new members that will make your efforts well worth the little time it takes.

Rick Vaughn ~ 941-223-8996 or fishboy6500@yahoo.com



# Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Fernandina Beach Florida September 15, 16 & 17, 2017

**SHOW LOCATION:** Fernandina Beach Parks and Recreation Department

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Days Inn & Suites Amelia Island

2707 Sadler Road, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 (904) 277-2300

Room rates: \$94.00 per night, kitchenette \$114.00 per night plus local tax and \$15.95 per night resort charge, that includes two drink vouchers per night.

**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 with Paypal or Credit Card at [www.fatc.net](http://www.fatc.net)

Jim Berglund  
4003 Windhover Lane  
Middleburg FL 32068-5821  
(904) 303-6503 email: [thetackleshackflorida@yahoo.com](mailto:thetackleshackflorida@yahoo.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 \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests \_\_\_\_\_

REFUNDS for cancellations must be requested 30 days in advance. CANCELLATIONS after 30 days will not be refunded. You must be an FATC member to exhibit, trade or buy at the auction. BREAKDOWNS -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.



## The FATC News

109 Oscar Miller Rd.  
Johnson City, TN 37604

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

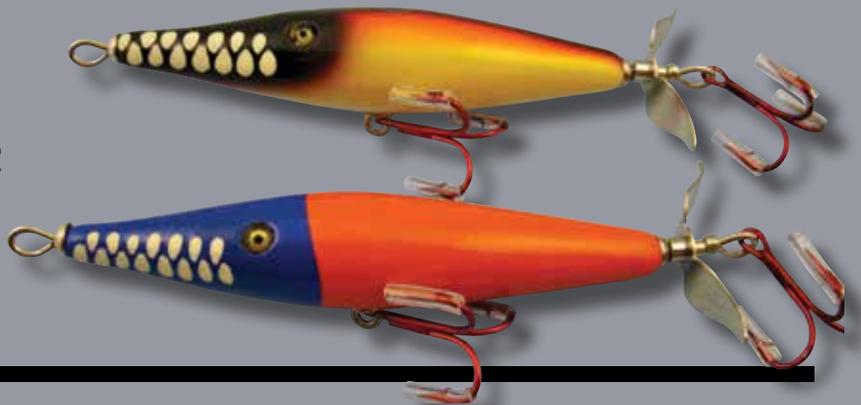


### **Fernandina Beach Fall Show**

September 15, 16 & 17, 2017  
Fernandina Beach, FL  
Days Inn & Suites Amelia Island  
1-904-277-2030

### **Daytona Beach International Tackle Show**

March 2, 3 & 4, 2018  
Daytona Beach, FL  
866-500-5630 or 855-327-5292



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**2017 FATC Club Lure**