

# F.A.T.C. NEWS

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 2



**Bagley's Deadly  
Dozen Rarest Baits**



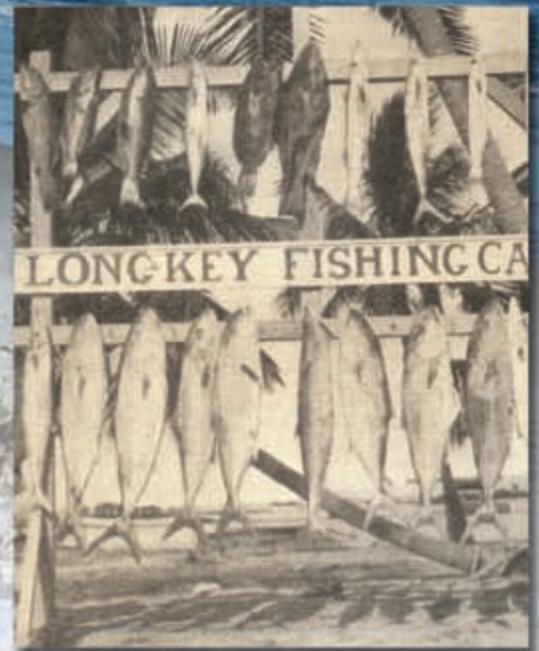
**Whistling  
Dixie**  
*Snag Holmes' Recollections*



**Miles  
Furman  
and his  
First  
Catch**



**WITH  
BAIT  
AND  
FLY  
IN  
1915**



**Daytona International Show**

# The Florida International Tackle Show - Daytona

Thanks to show host Larry Lucas



Steve Cox receives the Best Florida Display Award from Mike Hall



Robert Pitman – Best Pfeffer Display



Rev. Bob Dennis – Best Educational Display "Carolina Stuff"



Jim Hall receives the Jack Funderburk Award for the Best non-Florida Display



Rare Eger Lures



Ralph Hecht Outstanding "Bass Bug ID Display"



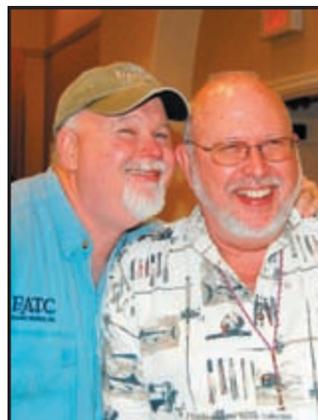
Exhibitors with their ribbons



A small part of the monumental Pfeffer display.



Tough Big Game Reels



President's Award – Doug Brace



Rare and Outstanding Lures

# 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.

Thanks you,  
Awards Committee – Chuck Heddon & Ed Weston

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LITERATURE**

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# F.A.T.C. NEWS

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

April 2012 Volume 26, No. 2

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# President's Message

by Ed Weston



It is a honor to be selected President of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors for the next two years. Following the giant footsteps of Larry Lucas leaves one in a little bit of awe. Larry, thank you for your four years of dedicated service as President, always leading the FATC forward.

I don't know if you can call the following paragraphs a message, I would just call them organized random thoughts. There might be a message in there somewhere?

The FATC Daytona Beach Show is over and what a spectacular show it turned out to be! Larry Lucas worked on the show for months and the results speak for themselves. A special thanks to Bonnie Saliba for the many hours she put in so that the show would run smoothly. If you see or talk to Larry or Bonnie, please tell them how much you appreciate their efforts.

We not only had collectors from all over the United States but we had collectors from Canada, Japan and the British Isles. The lure and reel exhibits were superb, totaling over fifty. Five gold stars to the collectors who entered the Jim Pfeffer section, you will probably never see that many outstanding Jim Pfeffer lures in one place again. Lewis Townsend allowed the FATC to debut his new Jim Pfeffer book and Lewis was there for those who wanted a signed copy.

The FATC decided to sell a club lure at the Daytona Beach show after not having a club lure for over ten years. Only 101 Sunshine Orange Crackleback Mice were produced by Roth Kemper. The lure was very well received and over 2/3 of the lures were sold. At the present time we will continue to only sell the club mouse lures at our shows.

One for the heart strings: Did you see Dick Braun's exhibit where the kids came by and spun the wheel of fortune and were given a hat or lure case or a

rod and reel? It was like you gave them a million dollars.

Our website has gone through some changes, thanks to Joe Yates, Larry Lucas and Bonnie Saliba. You can now pay your dues online, pay for your show and tables online, and if you want to advertise in the FATC newsletter you can pay for that online. This makes everything just a couple of clicks and you are done. One other thought, this is a great way to sign up new members. Just tell them to go to FATC.net and everything is right there for them to become a new member.

Gary Simpson is always looking for new articles for our newsletter. I know within our membership there must be thousands of stories about lures, or events that relate to lures. So put something down on paper or the internet and send it to Gary.

Our next FATC show will be in Bartow, FL at the Bartow Civic Center June 15-17, sponsored by Bill Stuart. This is a great venue with plenty of room. Make plans to attend and bring a friend.

One more for the heart strings: Over the past year we have lost some dear friends to the Great Fishing Grounds in the sky. Please keep their families in your thoughts.

Remember, the best part of lure collecting is not the lures that you collect, but the friends you find along the way.

Have fun and enjoy collecting. 

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## Editor's Notes

by Gary Simpson

I hope the arrival of this issue of the FATC News finds everyone well and making great field finds. For me, this has been a year on the water. The first four months of 2012 has taken me on multiple day bass fishing trips to Okeechobee, the St. John's River system, Lake Seminole in South Georgia, and Santee Cooper in South Carolina. It's been a long while since I've fished so much. This lifestyle, though, was once pretty normal for me...and it's starting to feel that way again.

At Santee, I had a neat experience. On the second day there, I opted to drive down the lake and launch at a rather remote fish camp. I parked out front at dawn and walked in, hoping to find a cup of coffee. The younger of two men there and I started talking fishing. The camp owner and Santee Cooper native mentioned that the largemouth bass I was seeking would school together with striped bass—and then, to underline his point, he motioned to a pair of mounted fish on the wall. "My granddad caught these on a single cast," he said. Facing each other, a chunky black bass and a nice striper had a lure between them—one hooked on the front treble and one on the rear. "What kind of plug is that?" I asked, (always on the lookout). As I strolled over to see a little better, he said, "A man named Jim Pfeffer used to make them and sell them to us." By then, I was close enough to see it well. "It's a chewed-up Santee Special!" I exclaimed, probably too loudly in the early morning quiet. The man chuckled, surprised that I had ever seen one.

Geez...a rare Pfeffer in the wild on the banks of the famous lake. That was cool, indeed. I didn't make an offer on the bait. It is right where it should be.

Speaking of the prolific Orlando luremaker, if you missed the 2012 Daytona show, you missed out on a unique spectacle. Aside from the usual eye-popping exhibits of rare tackle, the large section of tables honoring Pfeffer and his fish-catching works of art wowed everybody. FATC members have been seeking out these baits for decades and I've got to believe that a large percentage of the most unusual we've been able to locate was on display all at once, affording a rare treat to the collectors perusing that portion of the Grand Ballroom. A special tip of the hat goes to Robert Pitman, winner of the "Best Pfeffer Display" award for his huge contribution to the plethora of Pfeffer.

In this issue, we welcome new FATC President Ed Weston, talk 'tough Bagley' with Craig Comjean, gather a bit more insight about a popular Florida luremaker from Larry Lucas, and find out just how much a fishing trip to Florida cost those longing northern anglers...back in 1915.

Additionally, Dick Braun and Jesse Furman offer their stories and insights; and we again bid a fond farewell to friends who have passed on.

And finally, a belated credit - the great early Florida flag that served as the backdrop for the cover of our last issue (26-1) is the property of our own Steve Cox.

Hope to see everybody in Bartow. 🐟

# Bagley's Deadly Dozen Rarest Baits

by Craig Comjean

I'm often asked, "What are the rarest Bagley baits"? First off, one must define rarity. Is it one of one, a prototype, a color or series made in small quantities, a 'special ordered' bait...or, is it a lure with a very high perceived value placed on it by collectors? I believe it is all of the above. Having said that, here is my list of the rarest Bagley baits and their values I've been able to determine over the last seven-plus years of research.

## Number 1: The Bagley Lightning Bolt lure.

This lure was produced as a way to draw attention to the Bagley exhibit at the AFTMA (American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association) Show by Bill Stuart. It was never a production lure and only three or four were made. One was lost in the museum fire and only two others are presently accounted for...Value? Like the Bugatti Veyron, if you have to ask, you can't afford!

## Number 2: The Bagley Bicentennial Lure.

Made in 1976 to commemorate this country's 200th Anniversary, it was given out by Jim Bagley to the top regional sales representatives. The total made and given out is not officially known but this author has been able to account for eleven lures only. In talk-



ing with Bill Stuart, the former owner of the Bagley Bait Company, and Lee Sisson, designer of the lure, the general consensus is that there were probably a dozen produced. This leaves at least one more out there still...Value-\$2500 and maybe more!

## Number 3A: The 2-inch Spinner 007.

Produced for a very short time due to its light weight. This author has only been able to account for four in total with one of those being in the hands of a Japanese collector. Value-\$2000+.

## Number 3B: The 2-inch 007.

Like the 2-inch Spinner 007, this bait was produced for a very short while. Only 14 are known to me including the original prototype. Value-\$750-1800., depending upon the color.



## Number 4: Chatter B 3.

This lure never went into production and was 'specially ordered' by two men from California. Only 24 lures in total were produced in six different colors. Twelve have been sold to collectors. Value-\$1200+, and maybe more!



## Number 5: The Meer Kat.

Another lure that never went into production. I have only been able to account for sixteen Meer Kats. This was the last lure Jim Bagley was working on before he sold the company to Bill Stuart. It came in two sizes and three styles ( Floating, Shallow Diving, and Deep Diving). Value-\$1000-1500 depending on size and style (deep diving is the rarest).



**Number 6: The Poor Penny.**

Never put into production and I know of only 18 examples. Jim Bagley experimented with this lure while fishing with his friend, Tom Mann of the Mann's Bait Company. Jim couldn't get the balance of the bait to his liking so he gave his idea to Mann who went on to modify it a little into the now-famous Little George. Tom sold millions of them and made lots of money on Jim's idea. Value-\$500-1000 depending on color and condition.



**Number 8: The DB9.**

This HUGE lure was produced for the Japanese market. Only 250 of the 9-inch lures were sent over to Japan—basically as a promotional and marketing tool. They came in a variety of colors and cost 10,000 yen (??). Earlier versions had a line tie while later ones did not. I know of only nine examples in various colors in total among collectors here and in Japan. Value to collectors-\$400+.



**Number 7: Any "R" colored bait.**

There are seven documented special ordered "R" colors seen on DB3's and DKB2's. Color codes were R1-R7...but I believe there was an extra uncataloged color, R8, that was never recorded. It is purple on black with scales. R1 seems to be the most common of the "R" baits, while R3 and R6 are the tuffest. Value to collectors-\$400+ for the R1-DB3, and \$1000+ for all other "R" colors in DB3's only. DKB2's have lesser values.



**Number 9: The 2-inch sinking Bang-O-Lure.**

With a very limited production total, it came in eighteen colors that I have found. Only twenty-four are known to this author. Collector value-\$300-750 depending on color and whether it is in packaging.



### Number 10: The "World Bass" BB2 in FOIL.

This lure was never put into production. It was given out to participants in the World Bass Association fishing tournaments. If someone using this lure during the tournament caught the biggest bass with it, he would receive a special cash prize. I know of only nine World Bass lures in the foil finish. Collector value: \$450+



### Number 11: The 7-inch B-Flat.

This lure was supposedly never produced...but this author has tracked down a total of thirty in various colors. It was mentioned only once, in the 1985 catalog, but no picture was shown. Collector value: \$350 loose and \$450+ if new in the package.

### Number 12: The Super Grass Rat.

This lure was produced for Cabela's Sporting Outfitters for their catalog. It came in two different sizes and a variety of colors. Sold only through Cabela's, these are quite scarce. Collector value: \$135-200 depending on color and packaging.



### Number 13 (making this a baker's dozen): The 5-inch Twin Spinner Minnow.

This uncataloged lure was supposedly never produced, but so far, 100 or more have turned up in about 27 different colors. It was pictured on the cover of a catalog...but never appeared in one. Collector value: \$55-225, depending on color and packaging.

All information listed above is the most accurate my research has uncovered. If you have additional information, please email me at [cacantiquelurecollector@comcast.net](mailto:cacantiquelurecollector@comcast.net) so that I can update my records. All sources of information will be kept confidential unless you say otherwise. If I've made any mistakes, please feel free to correct me. That's how I learn.

Happy Collecting, Craig. 🐟



**FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS  
SPRING ANTIQUE TACKLE SHOW  
BARTOW, FLORIDA**

**June 15-17th 2012**

**FRIDAY NIGHT SET UP 8-10 PM**

**Members 10-close; Sat. Members 8-close/Public 9-close;  
Sun. 8 – noon.**

**SHOW LOCATION: BARTOW CIVIC CENTER**

2250 S. Floral Avenue – Bartow, FL 33830

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Information on hotels will be in the next issue of the FATC News

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

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

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Bill Stuart (show host) by phone at 863-533-7358 or by email  
Bstuartmof@aol.com

**REGISTRATION FORM AND SHOW HOST INFORMATION:**

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

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ Tables at \$ 30.00 Each for a total of \_\_\_\_\_

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

Requested table location \_\_\_\_\_

# Whistling Dixie

by Larry Lucas

The inspiration for this article began with Ed Pritchard. About a year and a half ago, Ed told me about a gentleman that he swam with named Snag Holmes. He was 82 at the time...a nice man with a sharp mind. He told Ed he grew up in Daytona Beach and his father, Snaggs Holmes, was a painter for Dick Porter.

In mid April of this year, Snag came to see me at my office in Daytona. He brought his wife and a bag full of lures that he said were from his fathers tackle box. He believed that all or most were Porter. I began sorting them out and soon determined that only three were Porter, two of the large size Sea Hawks in the original packages and a Pirate with no hardware. There were three Dixie baits in the group, a beat up Pop Stop, a small Dixie shrimp and a bait I could tell was Dixie, but had never seen before. The rest of the lures in the bag were a couple Pfeffers, an Eger, a Barracuda, some mystery banana baits and a few "yankee" lures, most in very rough shape.

Mr. Holmes described Dick Porter as a slender man of about 5'8". He said that although Porter looked weak, he had incredibly strong hands and was the most talented artist he had ever met. He told me Porter could draw or paint anything. Someone would bring him a fish and he would draw it out and it looked exactly like the fish. His air brush skills were second to none. As we can tell from the lures that have survived today, Dick Porter was not only a skilled air brush man, but he took the time to paint them the correct way. Most of his lures have stood the test of time. If they weren't chewed on by fish or dinged up in a tackle box, they look as good now as when he painted them 60 or 70 years ago.

Snag also told me about a lure that he helped Porter produce many times. It was an olive shell designed for pompano fishing. Porter would get the olive shells from the beach and boil them to get the animal out. After they were dried, he would put a single hook in the crease of the shell and pour lead in it.

When it firmed up, he would take a few chicken feathers and tie them around the hook. I know of several manufacturers that used olive shells, but I have never seen one that looks like what Porter made.

Another story he told me may have a connection to the Doc's Menhaden lure. He said that a man named Johnny Mize

*Mr. Francis A. "Snaggs" Holmes Sr., Lure maker and painter at the Dixie Bait Company.*



worked at the Daytona Boat Works. After hours, he would go to their machine shop and make small metal baits for schooling bass in the St. John's River. He told me that they would plate them with silver, and even did a few in gold. Could these have been sold to Doc's? It has often been asked if Porter painted the Doc's baits. If the lures were made here in Daytona, it certainly would have been easy for Porter to paint them. He was only a few blocks away. We may never know....

Snag also said that Johnny Mize made some good quality wooden lures, but he didn't know what name they were sold under. I showed him the pictures of the speculative Porter baits on page 600 of volume III of Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures and he said they looked familiar, but couldn't positively identify them as being Mize or Porter.

A few other comments Snag made confirmed that Dick Porter drove a city bus to help make ends meet. He also told me that Johnny Marsh was working with his Dad at the Dixie bait company. We knew that Johnny worked at Porter Bait Co. after 1946, but I was not aware of him helping in the 1930's. Apparently Johnny Marsh left Dixie in the late 30's because he came up with some innovative lure designs and didn't think Dick Porter gave him the credit he deserved. Snag said that when Marsh opened his own lure business he vowed not to produce anything that looked like a Porter. We can tell from the Marsh lures that they were far in appearance from anything made by the Porter Bait Company.

Snag also confirmed to me that Dick Porter was a master fisherman. He said many nights they would all head up to the Main Street Bridge to fish after work. Dick would come in with his split bamboo rod and J. A. Coxe reel and toss a Sea Hawk under the bridge light. He said he would never touch the reel handle when retrieving a bait, but only spin the spool to get the lure back. He said all the other fisherman tried to copy his retrieve, but only got backlashes. He stated that Dick would quickly catch three of four trout, enough for his family's dinner, and go home.

Many of the stories Snag told me were not about Porter, but about Daytona in the 30's and 40's. They don't belong in this article, but I enjoyed hearing them nonetheless. Snag declared that Dick Porter loved to paint more than anything. It wouldn't surprise me to learn that he painted for any area lure maker that approached him. Again, we may never know... 





# The History of the Lure: Part I

By Jesse Furman

Nile River – 2,000 B.C. A fisherman patiently waits on the banks of the Nile with his silk hand line extending into the river hoping to catch dinner for him and his family. The hours slowly go by. It suddenly dawns on him that the reason he hasn't caught any fish is because the guy down at the local tackle shop has sold him the latest and greatest gadget lure instead of using his usual inline spinner that caught 13 just yesterday.

Bethsaida – 29 A.D. Phillip, one of Jesus' 12 disciples, was sent to catch fish for the masses. After an entire day of fishing, he came back embarrassed with only two small fish because the lure he was using was some crazy contraption he saw on an infomercial. Jesus, not wanting Phillip to be abashed, then turned the two small fishes into 5,000 – thus making everyone happy.

Greece – 177 A.D. Oppian of Corycus, a Greek author, has written a major treatise on fishing called the Halieutica. In it he writes chapters on nets, spears, tridents, traps and the amazing convenience of the Pocket Fisherman.

Rome – 294 A.D. Claudius Aelianus wrote about fly fishing for trout and other kinds of sport fishing. He made lures of feathers, lead, bronze and wild boar's bristles and used horsehair and twisted flax to make fishing line. He started the first lure collecting club and charged 35 Aureus a year and held a yearly meeting in Daytonaus sometime in February.

Stafford, England – 1653 A.D. – Izaak Walton publishes *The Compleat Angler*, in it he celebrates the art and spirit of fishing in both prose and verse. Sales of the first edition are mediocre. He sees his book sales skyrocket in the second edition when he places a price guide and reference for early Heddon boxes and a comparative anatomy of the difference between a Monarch and a Neverfail.

Theresa, N.Y. – 1866 A.D. William Chapman has been creating a myriad of spinning and casting lures and gets his first fishing lure patent for a detachable hook on a trolling spoon. He produces thousands of them. In 1890 he opens his own ebay store and starts selling them for a "Buy it Now" of \$8.99 plus \$4.95 shipping. Then a fire



destroys his business, thus sending him to Rochester to start anew. Because of the production loss he sees a lure sell for \$375.00 in a Lang's Store auction in the spring of 1899. Following classic supply and demand, he only produces 3 lures a year until his death in 1909.

Jacksonville, GA – June 2, 1932 George W. Perry, a 19-year old farm boy, caught what was to become America's most famous fish. The twenty-two pound four ounce largemouth bass was 32 1/2 inches in length and 28 1/2 inches in girth.. Perry and his friend, J. E. Page, were fishing in Montgomery Lake, a slough off the Ocmulgee River, not for trophies but to bring food to the table during those days of the great depression. The fish was originally thought to be caught on a Creek Chub Perch Scale Wigglefish, but it was later discovered Perry was using an Alabama rig.

Kissimmee, FL – February 1988 Florida Antique Tackle Collectors have their first show. Forty five people attended and Twenty Seven tables are sold

Daytona, FL – March 2-4, 2012 Florida Antique Tackle Collectors have their "Florida International". Hundreds attend and Three Hundred and Forty tables are sold

Palm Beach Gardens, FL – April 19, 2012 for the first time, almost three year old Miles Furman asks his Dad, Jesse Furman if they can go fishing. 🐟



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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>	
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## 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.

# Minutes from FATC Board of Directors

PLAZA RESORT AND SPA, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA • MARCH 3, 2012

President, Larry Lucas called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the March 3, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting were presented as written. A motion was made by Paul Snyder and seconded by Ed Weston to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Sally Jett presented the Treasurer's Year End Report. Motion was made by Ed Weston and seconded by Paul Snider to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion carried.

Larry Lucas gave a special thank you to Ed Weston, Sheila Quinn, Sally Jett, Chuck Heddon, Mike Hall, Jim Duncan, Norm Pinardi, Paul Snyder, Ed Pritchard, Dennis McNulty, Bonnie Saliba and Gary Simpson.

Elections were held. The following positions were voted on and passed:

- President: Ed Weston
- Secretary: Sheila Quinn
- East Director: Jim Duncan
- Southwest Director: Norm Pinardi
- South Director: Butch Carey
- Central Director: Ron Gast

The following appointments were made:

- Vice President: Chuck Heddon
- West Director: Rick Vaughn

The Bartow show is June 15, 2012 and being hosted by Bill Stuart. The Fall show is being hosted by Ed Pritchard and Ed Bauries at a date to be determined.

Old Business: Congratulations for a job well done go to Roth Kemper for manufacturing our Florida Sunshine Orange Crackleback Club Mouse Lure.

Mike Hall and Tom Wilkerson will take over the duties of Awards Chairmen.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:21PM.

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# Thanks to all who helped with my collection!

*~Chuck*



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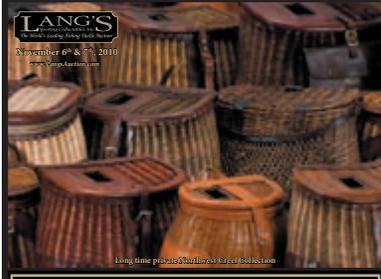
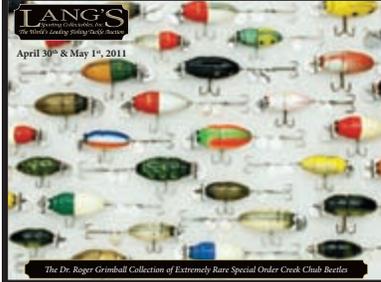
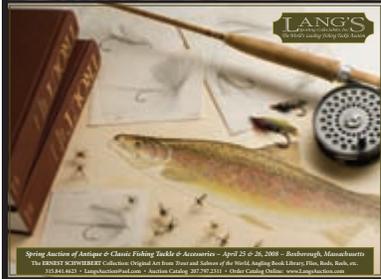
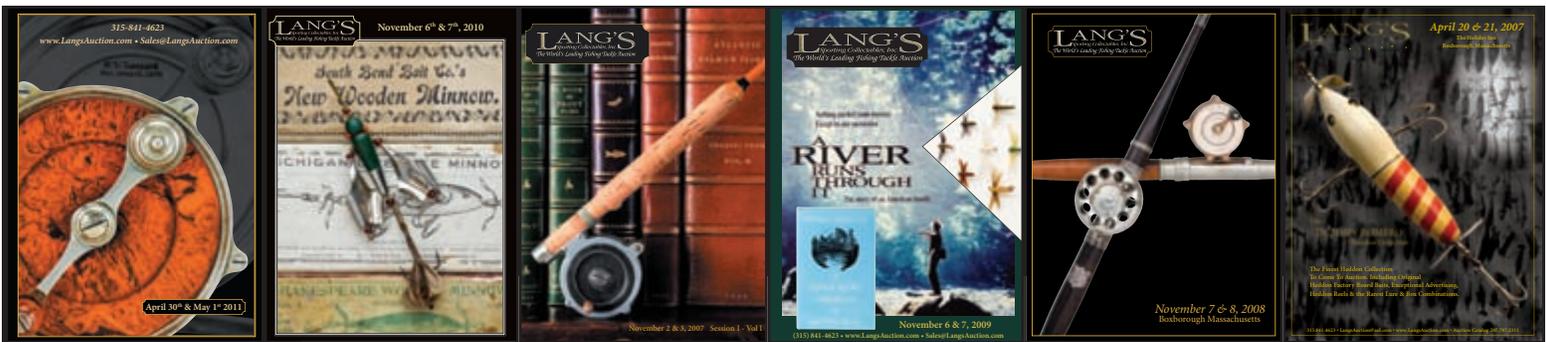
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# GONE FISHING...



## **Victor Clifford Densmore**

Victor Clifford Densmore, 82 of Gainesville, passed away on March 24, 2012. Born in Miami, FL to the late Victor and Roma Rae Densmore, he was raised by his grandparents Charles and Margaret Coleman in Eau Gallie, FL. He was a former resident of Orlando and Palm Bay, FL. An exceptional husband, devoted father and grandfather, he will be greatly missed by his loving family. A second generation native Floridian, he was an avid salt water fisherman, UF graduate and lifelong Gator fan. He served his country during the Korean War in the Air Force and retired as a colonel in the Army.

In addition to his career in the aerospace industry, he was the owner and producer of Florida's famous Jim Pfeffer fishing lures for 40 years. He is survived by daughter Linda Robertson and son in law Mark Robertson of Gainesville, daughter Brenda Stuglik and son in law Mark Stuglik of Wellington, grandchildren Jessica and Kelly Thorsen, Stephanie Robertson and Austin Stuglik, and sister Doris Lovell of Atlanta, Ga. He is predeceased by his loving wife of 57 years, Betty R. Densmore.

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## **Mark Monroe Walsh**

*Submitted by the Editor*

Mark Walsh of Gainesville, FL died on March 8th at the Malcolm Randall Veterans Administration Hospital in Gainesville. He was born November 6, 1950 in St. Petersburg to A.R. and Eunice Grant Walsh.

Mark graduated from St. Petersburg High and attended St. Petersburg Community College, Santa Fe Community College, and Troy State University before finishing at the University of Florida. He served in the U.S. Army for three years, where he was trained in radiology. Later, he would be employed by the Malcolm Randall V. A. Hospital as a Radiology Technologist for 33 years.

Mark was a devoted husband to his wife of 26 years, Stephanie (Stevie) Tison Walsh. Along with her, he is survived by his mother Eunice Walsh, his sister Virginia Walsh, and a long list of extended family and friends.

An unforgettable FATC member and friend for several years, Mark's general collecting tastes ran toward larger rods, reels, and lures—but just about anything really neat might strike his fancy. He lived an interesting life, and I always enjoyed his stories when we traveled to FATC shows in Daytona.

In failing health throughout his last years, Mark fought on in the most admirable fashion. He maintained his drive and mustered the strength to enthusiastically traverse the entire Daytona show floor repeatedly despite feeling poorly.

On the way home afterwards, he happily looked over an eclectic mix of treasures he had amassed to bring back to Gainesville.

Having developed an interest in the Lew Childre Company of Foley, Alabama, he was compiling information for an article he planned to submit for the FATC News.

Most recently, Mark had come to appreciate Kentucky reels. When he had to miss the Daytona show this year, he instructed me to find him a Meek with a nice cork arbor. This would be his last antique fishing treasure.

Many of us will miss Mark sorely.



## **William H. Green**

*Submitted by Bill Stuart*

William H. "Bill" Green, 94, of Sarasota, formerly of Stuart, died February 6, 2012. He was born December 5th 1917, in Ohio. His survivors include sons, Jan of Sarasota, Tim of Hawaii; daughters, Bonnie of Boardman, Ohio, Lisa of East Rochester, Ohio; a brother, Frank of California; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Because he was underage he joined the Canadian Navy and changed over to the U.S. Navy when he was of age. Bill was a machinist on both submarines and surface ships. Upon his discharge he joined the Army Reserve and was sent to Saudi Arabia to manage an electrical power plant. When Bill returned from that tour he worked as a machinist in Ohio. Bill's favorite pastime was participating in Civil War military reenactments, which he did for many years.

He was a very knowledgeable angler in all types of equipment. However, he seemed most interested in fly fishing. For years Bill had a booth at the Stuart Flea Market selling antique and usable fishing tackle. He attended the 2nd NFLCC meeting in Paris, Kentucky. Bill joined the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc. soon after the organization was formed.

He remembered what everyone collected, and tried to find things that fit people's collections. It was obvious that Bill cared about people. He was great about talking with the young people who would come to our shows and he listened to what they had to say. He brought several new members into our club. Bill participated in all our shows. In 2008 he moved to Sarasota to be near his sister.

Bill was small of stature but a meticulous dresser and gentleman through and through! We knew his wife Ruth Anne, who attended our shows until she died. A year or so later Bill had advertised in the Stuart area for old tackle. A lady, named Victoria, responded. Bill visited her and bought her tackle. She found more tackle and called again. Bill liked her tackle and he liked her and proposed. They were married on Valentine's Day. We met her to the Daytona. Victoria died on May 24, 2003.

Bill was cremated and will be buried at a later date at the Sarasota National Cemetery. The National Cremation and Burial Society is in charge of the arrangements. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all his family.

# That Zebco Guy's 2012 Daytona International Show

by Dick Braun



Planning to go to the Daytona show, I've got the camper van and the Zebco trailer. Need to find a campground close enough that I can ride the scooter to and from the show without ending up road kill.

Okay, not too hard...found one nearby. Three nights is \$105, not bad at all. The

\$100 deposit is a little steep, but that only leaves five bucks still due. We got that taken care of. Now, on to what we're going to take to show and to sell.

Then comes a call from a friend. "Hey Dick, I've got a room I want to share. I'll be there from Wednesday, on." "Thanks, Bill, but I've already made other plans. The wife is coming with me and we've got a campground booked. We'll arrive Thursday for room trading. Thanks for thinking of me—I would have been happy to share if Sherrill wasn't coming along."

Fast forward about a week. Father-in-law, ninety years old, takes a turn for the worse. He ends up in the hospital and is going to a rehab live-in facility for 30 days of intensive physical therapy. Mother-in-law is 84 and can't see real well to drive, and wife informs me that she will have to stay home for mom and dad. Of course, I agree.

Okay, call good friend Bill back to see if sharing a room is still an option.

"Hi Bill, Dick here. Is the room share still open? Good. I'll arrive early Thursday and will help with the room Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and leave early Sunday morning. Is that alright with you? Fine, see you Thursday." Quick, get to the website to cancel the campsite. WHAT? No refund on deposits if less than 30 days to booking? Call and explain that it's a medical emergency. They will refund \$85...well, not too bad.

Now, time to pack the van and drive to the Plaza and room with Bill. Take the Kid's Zebco Rod and Reel display and give-aways for the kids, and off to Daytona. Arrive with no problems, find Bill and get the room key. Find Johnny Garland's room and let him know I've arrived. Check out the show hall

and the logistics for setting up...all the usual stuff for a show.

Get everything set up with no problems and everything goes great Friday. Of course, even with three tables there's not enough room for everything. Wait just a cotton pickin' minute—I know I didn't bring this much stuff! Oh well, just shove it someplace and hope the right buyer sees it.

See old friends and tons of vintage gear. I know I didn't bring enough money...hope I can sell some stuff so I can buy different stuff! Where in the world am I going to put it all? Kind of glad the wife isn't here now. I'm not catching heck about too much stuff.

Saturday rolls around and the voice is going, going, almost gone, when Larry comes by and asks me to do a radio interview about the show with the local DJ. Now I'm really glad wife wasn't able to make it—the DJ is a knockout!

At day's end, go to dinner, back for some room trading, and finally, back to the room. Bill suggests we talk out on the balcony where I can have a smoke. Okay, but it's buggy...let's close the sliding door. Sounds good. When we're ready to go back in, we have a problem. What!!? The \$#@^ door locked—now what? Wait, I'll call my good friend, Johnny. He'll call the front desk, they'll send somebody up and we'll be fine. It's 10:00 pm and Johnny answers. "Hey Johnny, we need a favor." I go on to explain our situation. He says, "No problem, I'll call as soon as I get up in the morning". (Johnny's a great friend). Now, having Johnny help is like calling the cute DJ and broadcasting the whole thing. I swear, before the bell hop got to the room to rescue us, everyone at the show knew about the incident. (By the way, the door didn't lock—just got stuck. Bell hop said it happens 5 or 6 times a week. Those doors are pretty airtight.)

Packed up Sunday and headed home. Can't wait for next year; maybe then I'll find a Zebco I don't have.

Working on a next issue's installment: "Building a Better Mousetrap: Odd Closed Face Reels." Until next time! 🐭



*Editor's note: In December of 1915, the Outer's Book cost the sportsperson fifteen cents. In it, the popular sporting magazine of the day offered its readers a breakdown of costs, should they be fortunate enough to take a trip to the top fishing destination in America.*

*Thanks to Liz Yates for finding this century-old article and lending it to us for a reprint in the FATC News.*

# WITH BAIT AND FLY

*Edited by H. N. KATZ*

This department is conducted with the express purpose of aiding fishermen and to help them aid one another. To that end communications are invited upon subjects pertinent to implements and methods of the craft. Any disciple of Sir Izaak will be given an opportunity to express his views providing he uses the language of a sportsman, and does not indulge in personalities. It is understood that each article is published upon its own merits and the publication of an article does not signify that the editor is in accord with the views expressed.

## Expense and Equipment for a Florida Fishing Trip

By FRED BRADFORD ELLSWORTH.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE AUTHOR.

**F**REQUENTLY the query is asked of me: "What is the cost of a fishing trip to Florida, and the tackle required?"

The expense of the trip depends upon the starting point, the place one goes to and the time one desires to sojourn there. Take, for instance, a person going from Chicago to Long Key, where both the fishing and the charges are fairly typical of what will greet you in this section. The railroad fare and other expenses would be about as follows:

Chicago to Long Key and return.....	\$72.90
Meals to Long Key and return.....	16.00
Tips to Long Key and return.....	6.00
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$94.90

Most people generally remain over for a

day in Jacksonville to break the monotony of the trip, which at best is a very tedious one. Jacksonville is an interesting, cosmopolitan city, and well worth the time. Then there are others who having never been to Florida before, plan to stop off at the famous East Coast resorts: St. Augustine, Ormond, Palm Beach and Miami. There, during the winter months, life is one grand carnival without a Lent to mar the gaiety.

The rates for accommodation at Long Key run from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day, American plan. Assuming one wishes to spend a month there at the former rate, it would be:

30 days at \$3.00 per day.....	\$ 90.00
Tips to waiters, bell hops, maid, etc.	20.00
<hr/>	
Total .....	\$110.00

The rates for boat charters per day, and the boats are:

Enterprise .....	\$20.00
Stranger .....	15.00
El Moro .....	15.00
Dolphin .....	12.00
Tarpon .....	12.00
Dories .....	7.50
Rowboats .....	1.50

A number of outside boats are added to the fleet as circumstances demand. The dories are only used along the shore and viaducts as a rule. So, for fishing on the reefs or anywhere else, it will cost one \$15.00 a day for a boat, or \$450.00 a month. It is customary for two to fish in a boat and if a person is alone and desires company, it is generally easy to find some one to accompany them and share the expense. A rate and a half is charged for a boat for tarpon fishing at night, which is too much.



A LITTLE "CONK."

Rods and reels rent at the camp at \$3.00 per day and \$5.00 for a special rod and reel. This is an exorbitant price and invariably causes a protest to be made, without avail. The charge may include an extra spoon and hook or two, but not always. Also it is necessary for one to have an extra line, plenty of hooks, leaders and sinkers. It is very unsatisfactory to use rented fishing tackle of any kind, for it is not dependable. Equipment of this kind often goes to pieces when least expected and then you are likely as not charged almost its original value. Most heartrending of all to lose what is perhaps your first big fish, which might have been brought to gaff had the tackle been up to standard.

The tackle shop located in the postoffice is controlled by a news company. Rightfully it should be under the management of the camp, when it could be run for the benefit of the patrons, not to graft from them. It ought to be in charge of a competent tackle salesman, a practical man if possible, who thoroughly understands repairing reels, etc. Any angler should be willing to pay a fair price for things, but does not wish to be used as a "hall-tree" to hang it on.

If you are a fresh water angler and have never fished on salt water before, my candid advice is to purchase a good outfit beforehand. Obtain the very best and you will never regret it. It may save you many a disappointment.

My counsel would be to buy a split tonkin bamboo tarpon or tuna rod. It would be preferable to have the rod conform to the tackle specifications of the Tuna Club of Catalina Island. The rod then would be of wood, consisting of a butt and tip, and must not be shorter than 6 feet 9 inches over all. Tip not less than 5 feet in length and weighing not more than 16 ounces. A 24-thread line is used. A well made rod of this kind would cost about \$30.00. It would have a heavy agate tiptop and double agate guides. A cane wound hand grasp above and below the reel seat is the best in my estimation, and superior to those that are wound with cord. A locking reel seat is the thing and the reason therefor is obvious. By all means obtain an extra tip. Then if the one you are using is broken you have one in reserve.



COTTAGES AT LONG KEY FISHING CAMP.

With such a rod you are eligible to fish under club rules at Catalina and the Tarpon Club at Aransas Pass.

In the solid wood rods, which are less expensive, there is the greenheart, customarily used. A good one can be had for about \$15.00. Personally, I think a bethabera rod a wonderful stick if properly made. Ironwood also makes an excellent rod.

Equipped with your tarpon rod you will find it well adapted for all around fishing at Long Key. For tarpon it is just the thing and on the coral reefs where the game amberjack, kingfish and barracouta hold full sway, it will be found satisfactory; also for sailfish. If by accident you hook onto a grouper he will at once bore down into the rocks, but with this rod you may possibly be able to prevent it. If he does get caught you may be able to bring him out again without losing your rigging or having to cut the line. An amberjack will occasionally run under a shelving rock also and same applies in this case. Sharks frequently take one's bait and, if you enjoy strenuous physical exertion, there is a grand opportunity to display your muscular power for a few hours or more—generally more.

If you are a fresh water light tackle enthusiast, here is the opportunity to indulge

in a fishing that will test your skill to the very utmost. It is really the greatest sport imaginable. To conquer large salt water fish on light tackle should be the height of every angler's ambition. Clubs are making every effort to encourage this form of fishing and the heavy tackle anglers are slowly being won over.

The "Light Tackle Class" specifications of the Tuna Club of Catalina call for a rod of wood, consisting of a butt and tip, which must not be shorter than 6 feet over all. Butt to be not over 14 inches in length. Tip not less than 5 feet in length and to weigh not more than 6 ounces. A nine-thread line is used.

You would want this rod made of split bamboo also, and a good one will cost you \$20.00 or \$25.00. In order to get as much weight in this sort of rod as possible, some makers place the agate guides only on one side and make the trimmings light as possible. To prevent the line from cutting across from one guide to another and cutting the rod, also causing friction on the line when it is bent in playing a large fish, five agate guides are used, besides the agate tiptop. Two tips should be secured. If fishing according to rules governing light tackle at the Tarpon Club, Aransas Pass, it will necessitate your having an

18-inch butt instead of a 14-inch one, as required at Catalina. This only applies to light tackle.

For your tarpon rod you will want a reel of the type of the 6/0 Edward Von Hofe & Co.'s "Universal Special," which costs \$45.00, or their "Star Special," the same size but a finer reel, the price of which is \$60.00. It is well to have two reels, one for emergency, same as you doubtless have for bass, trout, muskies, etc. These reels will hold a thousand feet of line, if necessary. A twenty-four-thread is the standard line for these reels and quite sufficient, though some use heavier ones for tarpon.

These reels are too cumbersome for your light tackle rod. Even a 4/0 reel is heavy, but often used. A 3/0 reel is more suitable, and a nine-thread line is standard. The "Universal Special" in this size costs \$40.00 and the "Star Special" \$53.00. As with the others, two are indispensable.

The Cuttyhunk lines are widely used. They are green in color and made of the best quality of Irish linen. Following are the different sizes and the prices:

9-thread on 200 yd. spools.....	\$2.20 net
12-thread on 200 yd. spools.....	2.40 net
15-thread on 200 yd. spools.....	2.60 net
18-thread on 200 yd. spools.....	2.80 net
21-thread on 200 yd. spools.....	3.00 net
24-thread on 200 yd. spools.....	3.20 net
27-thread on 200 yd. spools.....	3.40 net
30-thread on 200 yd. spools.....	3.60 net
36-thread on 200 yd. spools.....	3.80 net

Multiply the number of thread line by 2 and the pound breaking tension is obtained.

In the way of hooks, etc., would be suggested:

1 doz. No. 7 Wilson spoons, at 75c ea..	\$ 9.00
1 doz. No. 10/0 Van Vleck Tarpon hooks, mounted .....	3.00
1 doz. No. 7 O'Shaughnessy, unmounted hooks (for sailfish).....	.60
3 doz. No. 9 O'Shaughnessy, unmounted, at 84c doz.....	2.52
4 doz. No. 3/0 Rudder sinkers, at 30c doz. ....	1.20
3 doz. brass barrel swivels, at 25c doz. ....	.75
6 doz. No. .029 6-ft. wire leaders, at 35c doz. ....	2.10
1 rod belt.....	2.25

Total .....\$21.42

The tarpon hooks and Wilson spoons are often used exclusively at Long Key, but it is well to have plenty of No. 9 or 10 O'Shaughnessy hooks with you, also sinkers, swivels and leaders. Then you can easily make your own riggings when fishing with a bait on, or put on new leaders when rusty.

A word of warning regarding the transportation of your fishing rods will no doubt be appreciated. They are most too cumbersome to carry with you and for this purpose especially made rod trunks can be procured. These are 72 inches long and 6 inches square and cost about \$10.00. Shipment by express is the most economical way. If you check the rods through with your trunk, the railroads will charge you an exorbitant excess price for every inch above 45 in length. I speak from experience because my rod trunk the last trip, cost me \$9.80 when sent with my baggage. Returning, via express, the charge was \$3.05. Quite a difference and saving.

An admirable plan, if you fish a great deal, and well worth the expense, is to have a rod trunk made to order that will hold all of your tackle. Then everything is together and you know just where to find it. I had my trunk dealer make me one of the same material as my wardrobe trunk. It was 73 inches long and 7 inches square. The bottom space was for my salt water rods. In the cover I had a tray made on hinges with a cover to it. In this I place on one side my fresh water bass rods. The remaining space was partitioned off the full length with various sized spaces. These were utilized to hold tools, spoons, hooks, sinkers, swivels, lines, etc., etc. It was most convenient in every way and I regretted not having one made before.

Bait at the camp costs 75c a dozen for grunts. Mulletts sells for 20c apiece. When not trolling for amberjack with a spoon or cut bait, grunts are always used. Unless one runs into a school of "jacks" it is customary to catch an amberjack, barracouta, grouper or kingfish with a spoon or cut bait in hopes amberjack will follow up. When this occurs a hook is immediately baited with a lively grunt and tossed overboard. Then, if luck is with you, the amberjack takes it. Oftentimes the grunts are used in still fishing, and one has to be

careful for fear the groupers will take them, unless one enjoys grouper fishing. A grouper would take a box car if he could. Mullet is the tarpon lure par excellence, but kingfish and barracouta are often wild for it. I once caught one of those rare and beautiful fish, the dolphin, out in the Gulf Stream, and found it an excellent cut bait for kingfish. But baits of kingfish are often on excellent lure for barracouta. For the much prized sailfish, mullet, ballyhoo and mackerel are used. Mackerel is resorted to for the bonita and dolphin. All of the salt water fish at Long Key will take a spoon. Besides the fish above mentioned are mutton fish, yellowjack, jackcrevelle, and many others awaiting the angler's skill.

One contemplating a trip to Long Key should give the subject of wearing apparel careful attention. It is of the utmost importance that one goes properly prepared. For days at a time the weather is simply ideal. Some days the sun is so hot it will almost burn up your hat on the water and cook your face and hands frightfully unless protected, but a sunstroke is unknown there. Again, the climate is very spasmodic indeed. One day it is hot and the next sometimes very cold, a chill that penetrates to the marrow. Clothing one wears in the north in winter is found indispensable at such times. Even an overcoat is necessary under such conditions.

On the water I always wear light woolen underwear, no matter how hot the day is. If one becomes overheated from physical exertion playing a big fish it absorbs the perspiration and prevents catching cold. Again, if it suddenly turns cold or one gets wet, there is a like protection. I wear a white canvas and pith, tropical helmet hat when fishing. They are the best hats to protect the head and eyes from the penetrating sunshine. Amber glasses are also necessary. My fishing clothes consist of a rain coat, hat, and rubbers, a

khaki suit and wool outing shirt. Sometimes I wear a white duck suit and canvas shoes.

After a strenuous day's sport on the water, if very tired, I often entered the dining room in my fishing clothes and felt no embarrassment whatever. As a rule, though, I put on a sack suit of gray or blue and if the weather was hot, a white duck or Palm Beach suit. There was no pretense at dress, though occasionally tuxedos were worn. The ladies often dressed for dinner, but usually in becoming good taste and not elaborately.

When dinner was over the guests repaired to the sitting room in the lodge. Here they read, conversed, played cards or sat on the spacious verandas. The anglers held full sway and many were the interesting stories related of the day's experiences or tales of exciting fishing and hunting trips in other climes.

The climatic effect on people at the Key was strange to note. It is a conceded fact that all tropical climates are enervating to a greater or less extent. Some felt very depressed at times. Others caught severe colds and some contracted rheumatism. A great many suffered indigestion. This may have been change of climate, but was more likely caused by the food and manner of cooking it. Personally, I found the climate enervating. On the other hand, I had contracted a bad cold several months before leaving home. Through carelessness and neglect it reached a dangerous stage and caused apprehension. Medicines seemed of no avail and I arrived at Long Key in that condition. In a week's time it was gone entirely. I was frequently wet through and through out fishing, but never caught a cold, nor contracted rheumatism. I probably avoided the latter by sleeping at night between woolen blankets instead of damp linen sheets. Many others followed this plan also.

Editor's Note:—From the foregoing article it is evident that a month's fishing in Florida waters is nothing to be lightly undertaken. To purchase a fairly complete outfit and spend a month at this typical camp would cost well over four hundred dollars, exclusive of transportation, even though the angler put in less than half his time at the more expensive "outside" fishing. There are many fishing resorts in Florida, some charging more, some less than at Long Key. No doubt some of the costs could be brought well under Mr. Ellsworth's estimate, especially if one held down on, or already possessed, a considerable part of the outfit. Nevertheless it is quite apparent that the northern visitor, unless he has special connections, must pay well for his sport.





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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### FATC Spring Show

June 15-17, 2012 - Bartow, Florida  
Bartow Civic Center  
2250 South Floral Ave.  
Bartow, FL 33830



The National Fishing Lure Collectors Club

### 2012 NFLCC National Show & Meeting

July 19-21, 2012 - Fort Wayne, IN  
Grand Wayne Convention Center  
120 West Jefferson Boulevard



### 2012 FATC Patch

### 2012 FATC Club Lure

