× 337

colored, in addition to being rare. The two-piece cardboard box is a wonderful picture box; again, it is nicely colored, and there are only three known. A few years ago a box with the lure sold at Lang's for a total cost to the buyer of \$14,200. I know of a lure selling for \$7,800 and another for \$7,500. As far as I'm concerned, if the box commands as much or more than its lure, this is the epitome of rare. Today, what is the lure and box worth?

Using this as a guide for the following extremely rare baits and boxes, I offer my commentary, complete with photos for emphasis, to illustrate where scarcity and pricing may be headed in the hobby. Some collectors believe that true rarity (one or two of a kind known), can actually hurt the value. The reason for



this is that these "one of a kind" lures/boxes are relatively unknown, and they also are aware the possibility of getting one of these unique items is slim to none. My belief is the opposite; those rare and elusive pieces are MORE valuable, and I would expect to have to pay a premium for them. Remember, I started collecting 30 years ago, and my loves are the oldest baits, and not the newer baits made from "space age" materials, with their fad-induced prices. Give me the rarest and oldest wood!

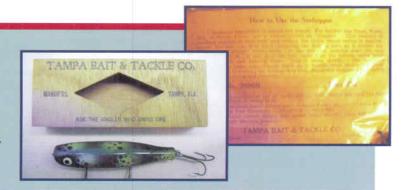
Dazzy Vance double line tie Darter, marked "Dazzy Vance 2000" on the belly.

This has to be one of the prettiest Florida baits in existence. Another advantage is its Dazzy Vance wooden lure box. I only know of one of these darters with this identifying mark on the belly, and there are a total of four Dazzy Vance wooden boxes known. I would value any wooden box over a two-piece cardboard box with the same rarity and condition. For inventory, insurance or sales value, should this be priced in the range of the Ammie Lee? Apparently not, according to some serious collectors whom I respect.



Tampa Bait & Tackle wooden box and lure.

I know of three of the Tampa Bait & Tackle diamond window wooden boxes. A Tampa Bait & Tackle lure, found new, in the box, is another example of a beautiful paint job. I have not seen another one just like it. When the lure and box were found, it also contained the papers. This is the nicest Tampa Bait & Tackle combo I have ever seen. Using Ammie Lee as a guide, what is this worth?



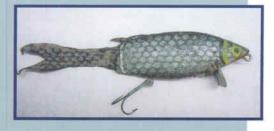
The J.C. Lockner Kneedle Bait with glass eyes, Clermont, Fla.

This bait is shown in *Streater's* as the predecessor of the Heddon Torpedo; it's also found in Vol. 1, *Florida Lure Makers, (FLM)*, page 156. It is the only one I know of. How valuable is this one?



The Meadows Minnow, Orlando, Fla.

This bait was obviously influenced by F.L.B. Flood. The only thing we do know about this bait is that one was tagged in the Pflueger Archives as attributed to: Mr. Meadows, Orlando, Fla. and dated in the 30s. My friend Bill Stuart had one of the two known, and it is shown in Vol. IV, page 1036, FLM. The terrible fire in Bartow claimed Bill's Meadows bait; what a tragedy to many Florida lures. Now, we know of only one of these baits. Is the value of the remaining lure increased by the loss of its companion? If so, by how much?

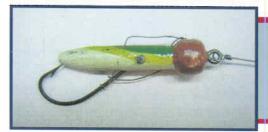






The Hempstead Minnow, Miami, Fla.

There is only one known of this bait, a five hooker from the 30s, which makes it another rarity in Florida baits. See Vol. 1, page 122, FLM. Value?



Cox's Clothespin, Tampa, Fla.

Presumably, only one known. See Vol. VI, page 1547, FLM. This is a pre-1920, clothespin (pier type lure) with unusual features. Is this a type of bait some collectors value less because of its design?



The Costa (Istokpoga) Zara, "no chin" type with glass eyes.

Most of us are familiar with the Costa Hammerhead, but only two of these "no chin" types are known. Both were fairly recent finds from two different locations and are not in *FLM* books as of this writing. Does this rare counterpart of the Hammerhead benefit from an already strong market value for its Costa cousin?



Jack's Hand Made Baits, Tampa, Fla.

This box, from the 1950s, is the only one of its kind known. It's not a picture box, but has nice verbiage. See Vol. VII, FLM (available soon). The lure is not valued at much and is available. What is the only box known worth?



Superstrike Shrimp Box, Jacksonville, Fla.

This box can be seen in Vol. IV, page 841, FLM. There are only two known. The bait is available, and the price, while not cheap, has been established for some time. The Superstrike picture box with the shrimp on its lid sold on eBay for \$6,100. I am aware of four of these. Does this make either of the two featured on page 841 worth twice as much as the four of the other variety?

As some have heard, I'm in a battle with health issues again and have recently sold my collection. As a result, present and future values are less of an issue for me now than they may have been previously. However, all input and opinions are still important to me. I know I am supposed to know everything, but the older I get, the more I learn how little I really do know. While my collection was extensive, there were some of the rare Florida pieces I was never able to obtain; it would be worthwhile to know how many of these scarce baits really do exist. Perhaps then, a more accurate valuation could be offered. Hopefully, this article will be a good starting point.

Your friend and fellow collector,

Hoyd Jett

For more information on the Museum, check out their website at: www.tacm.com

P.S. If any of the members want to express their views on the subject, or if they have any of these lures and/or boxes, I would like to know for our club's records. The opinions of serious collectors are very important. Please email me with them at: Isjett@tds.net.



PROUDLY PRESENTS



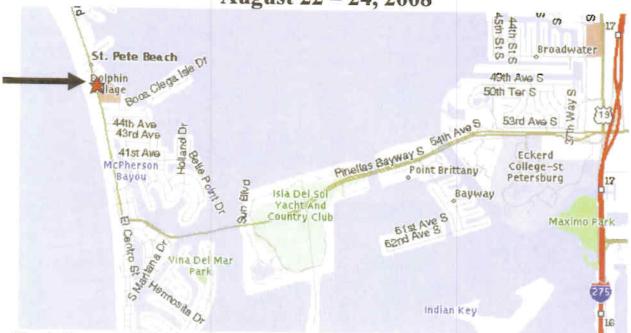
Barracuda Barracuda

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Saturday: Members 8AM – 10PM Open to Public 9AM – 5PM

Sunday: Exhibit tear-down

You must be a membe	r of FATC to be admitte	ed on Friday,	exhibit or trade.
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Name			
Address			
Telephone # & email address			
Guest Name(s)			
Tables:	Wall Tables @ \$35 Each:		
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Prepa	id Member Registration Fee: \$15 (\$20 at Show)		
	TOTAL ENCLOSED:		



Gone Fishing...

FATC Secretary, Ed Bauries, recently received notice from Martha Thomas that her husband, member Peter Thomas of Port Charlotte, FL, passed away in October 2007.

Martha noted in her letter that Pete enjoyed tremendously his membership in FATC and the few shows which he was able to experience. She stated, "The last show he was able to attend was the winter annual in Daytona Beach in 2007. It had been a goal of his to attend that show, and although his health was starting to fail significantly, he was able to make it."

"I want to thank you for the information you put forth for the members and tell you how much Pete looked forward to getting the quarterly newsletter. Even when he was too ill to do much else, his eyes would light up when the newsletter arrived in the mail."

"Thank you for the many hours of enjoyment you gave to my husband. Sincerely, Martha Thomas"

FATC wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Thomas and family.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New Members

Harry Mathews

1720 Mineral Springs Road Hoschton, GA 30548 770-932-0033 luredog@bellsouth.net

Ted Tiberio

36 Weatherwood Lane Rochester, NY 14624 585-594-4796 585-415-1643 tedjt@rochester.rr.com

Ronald Schelfo

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Larry Lippincott 1220 Sherbrooke Ct. Raleigh, NC 27612

Rick Erickson rerick6991@aol.com

George C. DeBay III 335 Lake Arbor Drive Palm Springs, FL 33461 561-254-0761 yabed@hotmail.com

Chip DeBay 335 Lake Arbor Drive Palm Springs, FL 3<u>3461</u>

Susan Farley 4402 Goodfellows Court Tucker, GA 30084

CAN YOU NAME THAT OLD LURE COLLECTOR?

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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 statewide 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 quarterly, 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 website at:

200

FATC AD RATES

Classified "Tackle Box" ads	\$3.50 1x	\$12.00 4x
Business Card ads (black & white)	10.00 1x	36.00 4x
¼ page black & white ads	50.00 1x	160.00 4x
½ page black & white ads	90.00 1x	285.00 4x
Full page black & white ads	160.00 1x	512.00 4x
½ page color horizontal	200.00 1x	600.00 4x
Outside back cover – color (horizontal only)	275.00 1x	825.00 4x
1/2 page color (Contents page only – vertical)	300.00 1x	900.00 4x
Full page color (except covers or center)	375.00 1x	1,200.00 4x
Inside front or back cover	525.00 1x	1,575.00 4x
Single center page	450.00 1x	1,350.00 4x
Centerfold (No vertical center gutter)	850.00 1x	2,550.00 4x

The FATC News is the quarterly publication of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

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NOTHING VENTURED, GAINED

GARAGE SALE
333 E. BASS LAKE ROAD

By Marvin Lilly

THE DAYDREAMS OF A GARAGE SALE PICKER

It was a mild spring morning, and I was up early to field some work calls. I went outside to get the morning paper, and spotted my neighbor Steve, the police officer, who was just getting home from his night shift. We waved good morning to one another.

I wanted to skim through the paper as quickly as possible and then get to the most important part, the classified acls. As I read through the garage sale listings, one encouraging prospect stood out, which read: Estate Sale Friday 8 - 4, no early birds, antiques, collectibles, furniture, clothes, fishing tackle, etc. I thought to myself, "Yeah, cool!"

I looked at my watch; it's 7:15, if I hurry I might be able to get there in time. So, I threw on some clothes and out the door I went. I'm on a mission, an old tackle mission, searching for baits, lure containers, fish catchers, fishing poles, call it what you will... its all fishing tackle and I'm on the trail. Maybe this will be a good one! With a little luck, Jim Pitt, Ron Gast, Mark Platé or any of the other legendary pickers didn't read the paper today. It's 7:30, I've got to hurry, and #&?!... a school zone. The sale is in Winter Park, and perhaps there are some early Boone baits, or better yet, Pfeffers. Hey, maybe I'll finally find that Sunfish, or Pigfish I've been hunting all these years.

Man, what are you dreamin? Wake up, anyway! "All right" I say to myself, "breathe slowly, keep your cool." Now I'm looking for the address, and the paper reads: 2008 Lake Shore Drive. As I round the corner, there it is! #&?!... there's a line of cars. My closest parking place is a quarter of a mile from the sale.

I rush to beat a few people to the door, as a lady yells out, "If you don't see a price on something just ask." "Excuse me, excuse me, ma'am. Where is the fishing stuff?" "I'm not sure" she replies. "John," she yells, "Where is the fishing stuff at?" "Yeah, its in the garage." As I weave feverishly through the maze of people; "Excuse me, excuse me." I've made it to the table, and there's a plastic Plano tackle box. With anticipation, I open it... #&?!... nothing but hooks, sinkers, Mirrolures, bobbers, junk. "Hey, John, is there any more fishing stuff?" "No, I think that's it." Oh well, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

I mutter to myself, "Maybe they missed something." With near desperation, I dig through the cabinets, the boxes, the drawers; maybe there's an Orlando Bait Co. box on the top of one of these old shelves. A half hour later, I realize John was right, no more tackle here. Disappointed, I turn to leave. Making my way back through the throng of eager browsers, I reach for the door and go back to my van. I've got to head for home and get some work done.

Tooling through the back roads on my way to my house, I spy a small sign: Garage Sale, 333 E. Bass Lake Road. Sigh... probably a bunch of cinnamon brooms and baby clothes, as I think of the late great Wade Holt, the one who coined that phrase. I wonder, WWWD (What would Wade do?) as I walk up the driveway to the sale. I see an old woman sitting in a chair pricing some items. I say "Good morning", then proceed to ask the question I always ask.

"You wouldn't happen to have any fishing equipment, would you? Rods, reels, tackle boxes, anything?" The old lady looks up at me and says, "You know, I think I do have an old tackle box around here somewhere. Let me take care of this customer and I'll see if I can find it." "That's fine", I say, "take your time."

Five minutes later, she begins her search for the box. As I follow her to the utility room to try and lend a hand, she says "I think I saw it on that top shelf several years ago. Son, look up there and see if you can find it. I'm too old to get on that ladder." "Yes ma'am, no problem." I reply. I walk up the creaking steps of the antique ladder. Moving a few cardboard boxes around, I see towards the back of the shelf, what appears to be an old wooden tackle box! I try to contain my excitement, as I grasp the box with both hands. It is quite heavy, I think to myself; I hope it's not full of lead weights...

I walk to the old work bench and place the box down. The lady proceeds to tell me that the box belonged to her father, and that he was a fisherman for as far back as she could remember. She appears to be in her 70s. I try to remain courteous and listen to her story, all the while masking my excitement as to what may be revealed once the box is opened. Like a young child on Christmas morning, I have to open the box, **NOW**. Raising the lid, I can't believe my eyes! There, in the top tray, lay an assortment of baits; Pfeffers, Boones, Egers, Barracudas... the box is loaded! The lady continues to tell me how her father worked as a brick mason in Orlando in the 1920s and 30s, and how he fished many of the lakes in central Florida, as well as the Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon.

While I listened to the lady talk about her father, I couldn't help but journey back in time and visualize the old fisherman carrying the box with him on his trips to Lake Conway, Lake Ivanhoe, Butler, East Lake, and the St. John's. I wondered, if the box could talk, what stories would it tell? I'm sure there would be tales of good and bad days on the water, thunderstorms, 100 degree days, ten pounders, conversations between the man and his fishing buddies over the sweet smell of a cigar, and of course, the one that got away. I realized that as a lure collector, we're not just preserving tackle, we're sometimes preserving someone's legacy.

As I lift up the top tray, the box reveals more glorious treasures. Twopiece cardboard boxes are stacked in the bottom! I see an early Eger box, a Barracuda reel, Pfeffers galore, and that Orlando Bait Co. box I've been trying to find for Lloyd Jett all these years!

The old lady captivated my interest for more than an hour, as she recounted the stories of her father and his life. After a while, we cut a deal on the box. I thanked her for her time, her story, and her willingness to share her father's keepsakes with me. I made my way down the driveway to my van. I'm very excited as I drive away, but I remind myself to savor this moment. Is this my find of a lifetime? Most likely, but it won't stop me from continuing the hunt. After all, nothing ventured, nothing gained.



Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures Vols. I - VI

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

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Jim Pfeffer Mullet

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Dazzy Vance Lures

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Froggie w/ cork body & Rub. Legs

Ted Williams Spin-Pop & Fly-Pop Flies

Peckinpaugh Doodle Bug (a.k.a. Lucky Bug)

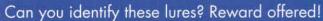
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A MAN FOR ALL REASONS BY BILL STUART



"Preacher" Bob with some of his award winning Eger lures on display



Bob and wife, Sue



Bob, circa 1976, with a twelve pound Florida Bass



Bob with a seven pound, five ounce Bass caught at Lake Tillery, NC

We know him as a collector, exhibitor, chaplain, fisherman, ball player, lure maker, artist, or as an adult only entertainer. Does that sound like the Bob Dennis we are acquainted with? Many of us call him "Preacher", and we have seen and heard his memorial services at Daytona and the National. However, most of us do not know him as a fisherman, or as a ball player, or a lure maker, or as an artist, and we certainly are unfamiliar with (and are not even sure we want to become familiar with) him as an "adult only" entertainer! He's a man of many skills; yet, most of us met him the first time sitting quietly by his display.

It only takes one look to recognize that Bob is a tenured and serious collector. I believe it would be fair to say that he has hauled more tables full of displays more miles than anyone I've ever encountered. I think he selects the car he drives based on how many displays it will haul! He has probably also won as many awards as anyone in the antique tackle hobby. We've seen his educational and award winning displays of Eger Baits; Creek Chubs, Critters, Carolina Baits, Buck Perry Spoons, and the list goes on.

Many of us have had the good fortune to meet and visit with Sue, Bob's wife of over fifty years, who has traveled with him to many of the shows! On the other hand, we've never had the pleasure of meeting their two children. Their daughter is a major in the Salvation Army in Oklahoma, and their son works for EDS at the U.S. Naval base in Norfolk, Virginia.

Over time, I've met men who have known Bob for many years, even some who call him "Preacher", without the knowledge that he is an ordained minister.

Of course, most of us have, or have had, friends with a nickname such as "Preacher" or "Doc." I don't remember the first time he led the memorial service at the

National, but I do recall one gentleman admitting he didn't know Bob was a "real preacher".

One of the things that I am sure of is that those who have experienced a loss really appreciate Bob's words of comfort and encouragement, drawing on the power of God's Word to bring the peace that only He can give! Bob is rock solid in what he has to say and does not beat about the bush. The Rev. Mr. Bob Dennis served the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for forty-three years. Thirty-seven of those years he was a full time pastor. He also did evangelistic work in many different churches.

Most of us have not experienced Bob's substantial skills as a fisherman. Well, he has been one for a long time and is still going strong. When he learned there was a fishing club in the state of North Carolina, he joined the Charlotte Bass Masters. They called themselves the Bass Assassins, and their logo was a hornet's nest. When they had their patch made, the embroidery company misspelled the club's name, writing it as "The Bass Assins". No, they did not have it changed!

He has always been a good fisherman and enjoys fishing and competing in the local tournaments. Bob won his first tournament on Lake Norman around 1971, and has captured several other top prizes since. He would have liked to fish the tournament trail. Bob even had a successful businessman approach him about sponsoring him on

One of Bob's custom

crank baits

the pro circuit, but he was already full-time with a higher calling! He still fishes established North Carolina tournaments regularly. However, Bob does have a "dark side", because he will do bad things to fishing lures that a man of the cloth should never do. In fact, if he were ever to be arrested for lure abuse, he would surely be convicted, because there is lots of evidence!

We have proof that he will do most anything to a lure that he believes will help him catch more fish. Bob will circumcise a lure's lip in a heartbeat, move its hooks around; even take some off. He often adds or removes a bucktail/spinner, or a little paint if the fish don't seem to be hitting what he is throwing that day. What he has done to Bagley lures over the years makes me shudder just to think about it!

Bob said, "I've always been fascinated with lures, and I even made some in the early 1940s." He started seriously accumulating lures in the 1950s, but it was not until the NFLCC was formed in about 1976 that he dove head first into collecting. He made crank baits in different shapes and sizes from 1972 through 1979.

All these insights aside, Bob thought in his younger days that he was born to play ball. He loved baseball! The coach started him on the high school team when he was in the eighth grade, so he played five years of high school ball and four years on an American Legion team. Bob was a first baseman, which he played with ease. He was small and gained his full height in the eighth grade. As he started his third year of Legion ball, the pro scouts told his coaches to switch him to another position because of his stature; and as a result, he played some at short stop and second base. For four years of high school ball, Bob's batting average was .398, and for four years of Legion ball, he hit .396.

He went on to play both short stop and second base for what is now High Point University. Through all the years, he played baseball or softball on town or church teams until he was close to sixty years of age. He says, "some of my best times where when I played baseball." Many believe, along with Bob, that if he had ever grown up, he could have played first base professionally.

Bob is also proficient at the art of decoupage. He had given a beautiful piece of his work to me, and we used it as the cover of Bagley's 40th Anniversary catalog. The original of that work was damaged in the fire; and another piece he had given me was destroyed. However, I have the cover of the catalog framed and it is hanging in my tackle room. Bob is not limited to cutting and pasting, as you can see his artistic flare in the layout and design of his displays. He also expends painstaking efforts producing the captions and labels on his exhibits, so that we may learn as we enjoy studying them.

Then there is that bit about "adult only" entertainment that you did not know. Heavens, it sounds like something we might not want to, either! Why, just the other day he was quoted in the *Post* as saying something to the effect that what he does is geared only for adult audiences. We may know him as Bob or "Preacher", but there are literally thousands that recognize him only as "Josephus Horatio Erasmus John Henry Clay Robert Earl Pancakes, Jr. III". However, most of them just call him "Josche".

You would think him the "Malprop Man" because he tells his audiences right up front that he is running for "Poly-Tickal Office". He says, "the Bureau Cats in Washington have robbed them long enough and that they should vote for him and give him a chance". Believe me, Bob is no amateur, because by the time you read this article, he will have given more than 500 performances since he began this work in 1979.

We have all heard Bob tell funny stories. They are a part of his stock in trade. He tells them to make us laugh, because there is a Bible verse in Proverbs that reads, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."



Bob's Bagley decoupage used in the company's 40th Anniversary catalog.



Josephus Horatio Erasmus John Henry Clay Robert Earl Pancakes, Jr. III, in all his eclectic splendor, from performances in October and November 2005!





The FATC News

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FATC Summer Show

August 22 - 24, 2008 Dolphin Beach Resort, St. Petersburg Beach, FL Show Host: Ron Gast, rkgast@cfl.rr.com 407-933-7435

FATC Fall Show

October 31 - November 2, 2008 Plantation Inn & Resort, Crystal River, FL Show Host: Mike Mais, mmais68569@mindspring.com 352-622-2868

FATC International

February 20 - 22, 2009 Plaza Resort & Spa, Daytona Beach, FL Show Host: Larry Lucas, larry@flowerscentral.com 386-254-5179 or 386-295-7281

NFLCC Regional Meet Calendar August 23, 2008, Rochester, MN... 763-557-9313 or 262-632-4735

September 19 - 20, 2008, Grapevine, TX... 817-295-7750
September 26 - 27, 2008, Decatur, AL... 256-355-6726 or 256-565-8191
October 4, 2008, Wisconsin Dells, WI... 715-877-3328
October 18 - 19, 2008, Allentown, PA... TBA
Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, 2008, Kelso, WA... 360-274-8045 or 206-526-5814
November 7 - 8, 2008, Osage Beach, MO... 573-480-3939 or 573-793-3303
January 9 - 10, 2009, Pigeon Forge, TN... 615-449-5431
January 10, 2009, Carthage, MO... 417-358-5942 or 417-623-7112
March 6 - 7, 2009, Indianapolis, IN... 765-653-3670
March, 2009, Palmyra, NY... 315-597-4793

CATC Fall Show

October 10-11, 2008

Days Inn Conference Center, Southern Pines, NC
Show Hosts: Ralph and Chris Acker
cracker4121@embarqmail.com
910-949-2342