

F.A.T.C. NEWS

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 1

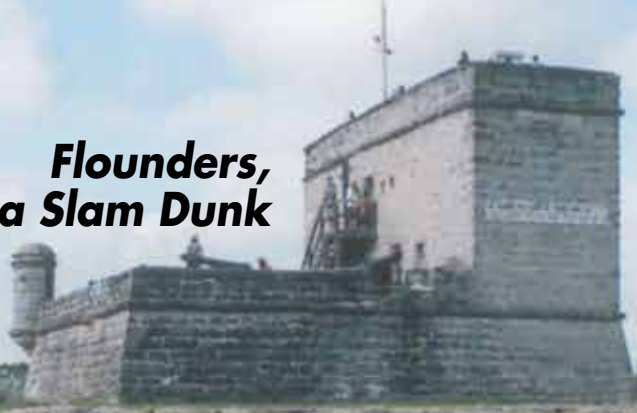


A Bird in the Hand



**FATC 2014
Club Lure**

**Flounders,
a Slam Dunk**



**Tenacity, Networking
& Some Luck**



Show Me Another



To B or Not to B...Flat!





FATC Palatka Winter Show

Many thanks to our Show Host, Bernie Schultz



Crystal Cove, Room Trading Show Site



River view from the Crystal Cove Resort



Ready for business



Beautiful Texas Nichols



The rare bird featured in this issue



Lure conference in the hallway



Are there really that many Red Robinson boxes?



Gene Meisberger's fly rod lures



Great spread of Florida baits



Bed full of lures



Tom and Steve looking at Barracudas



Assorted fly rod lures



Doug Brace's one of a kind Robinson



Gene Meisberger's Punkinseeds



View from a trading room



Cancer research Bagley



Craig showing off his Griners

FATC Awards Criteria

It has come to our attention that many of our FATC members are not aware of the various benchmarks used to judge the exhibits at our FATC shows. The following is a synopsis of the criteria used to reach our decisions:

- Educational Information
- Identification & Labeling
- Rarity
- Completeness
- Condition
- Overall Presentation
- Uniqueness and/or Originality

An exhibitor who wins a major award at one show is not eligible to win another major award for the same or similar exhibit for a period of one year. This exhibitor however, may win a major award within this time period if they display an exhibit that is entirely different.

Exhibit cards with the name of the exhibit and the owners name should be displayed prominently on their exhibit. These cards can be obtained at the registration desk.

Thank you,
Awards Committee – Mike Hall & Tom Wilkerson

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F.A.T.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

January 2014 Volume 28, No. 1

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President's Message, January 2014

Ed Weston



The New Year is upon us, so without another second going by let me wish everyone a healthy and happy 2014. At this point I am supposed to talk about New Year's resolutions....wait—don't stop reading, I don't do New Year's resolutions. I would like to tell you some of my wishes for the FATC that I would hope would come true this year. I will only mention my top three.

Wish #1: Increased attendance at our FATC lure shows. I talked to several members throughout the year who have not attended any shows and the excuses are many and varied. All I would ask of these members is to plan a little bit in advance so that you can be a part of the show and not miss out on all the fun.

Wish #2: More volunteers to host a show and/or work at a show. One of my biggest fears is that we would not have someone to host our shows.

Wish #3: That we would have a backlog of articles for the FATC News. We have a large resource of knowledgeable collectors in the FATC with a storehouse of information on lures, reels and rods. I wish more of these members would share some of their stories and knowledge and send them to Gary Simpson to be published in our newsletter.

The Daytona Beach International show is just around the corner on February 28th and March 1st and 2nd. Larry Lucas has said it is going to be better than ever. There will be special awards for the best Creek Chub display and the best Al Foss display. Awards will also be given for the best educational display, the best topical display, best Florida display and the best non-Florida display. This year the club will be donating 5 dollars for every judged display to the American Cancer Society to help fight against breast cancer. Everyone who participates will receive a special pink ribbon for their involvement. I would encourage you to arrive a couple of days early and participate in the fabulous room trading.

Dick Braun has firmed up a FATC show in Punta Gorda on June 5, 6, and 7 of this year. We have not had a FATC show in the Punta Gorda area for over 10 years, so this should be a show to be remembered.

Bernie Schultz has planned a Halloween extravaganza on the banks of the St. Johns River in Palatka at the Crystal Cove Resort. We have had two room trading shows here and it is a great area for a regular show. The official dates will be October 31 and November 1 and 2.

This year at the FATC Daytona International, we will be selling our fifth FATC club lure. It will be a Scott Morgan handmade lure covered in a Water Snake skin. There will be only 50 made, so they'll be going fast. 🐍



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Editor's Notes

Gary Simpson

In this issue of the FATC News, we greet 2014 with feature pieces by Bernie Schultz and Ed Slane.

Bernie's recent jaw-dropping acquisition, a Herbert Kinney Bass Bird complete with impossibly-rare box and paper is surely one of the "Holy Grail" pieces for collectors of Florida lures. He recounts the uncovering of this important find, and once again reinforces our persistent hope and belief that "It's still out there".

Somewhere in our past lies the source of our love for old fishing tackle. For most of us, the seed was planted during childhood...likely starting with grandfather, father, or uncle. We might trace it all to an event...perhaps a trip. Or maybe it commenced with something as simple as an intriguing photograph in an old Field and Stream magazine. Whatever got us started, it played a big part in shaping our lives. Without understanding this, one might think that Ed's story is about an ill-fated fishing trip for bottom dwellers.

In their regular submissions, Dick Braun shares a very fortunate and significant Zebco find, and Craig Comjean educates us on the Bagley B Flat series.

Our "Show Me Another" series has three submissions...two lures made in Florida and one made in Dowagiac, Michigan with Florida in mind. Can you shock the owners and come up with a match from your collection? Or maybe you, too, have a lure that you believe to be unique. Either way, let me know!

Patch Coordinator, Tom Wilkerson has our 2014 club patch ready, this one commemorating the

Blue Spring Bait Manufacturing Co. of Marianna. The lure depicted is their most famous...the Humpty Dumpty. Tom reminds us that club patches look great—not only with displays, but also on clothing and sporting gear. Furthermore, they make great gifts and eventually become collectible like the baits they represent. Tom will have the patches for sale at his Daytona show table.

We look forward to the exciting, informative, relaxing, rewarding, and always fun Daytona International Show. Whatever it is that lights your tackle collecting fire, you will likely find it at the Daytona show. I can't wait to study the special Creek Chub and Foss sections, buy a snakeskin-covered club lure and a Humpty Dumpty patch, and see the friends I only see at this show. I'm hoping a lot of reel collectors attend. For the first time, I plan to bring about as many reels as lures.

Thinking of Daytona, the only thing that bothers me is that I could swear we were just there six months ago. Eight, tops. The years are passing too fast. 🐟



FATC 2014 CLUB LURE

Water Snake Skin River Bend Minnow

Ed Weston

The 2014 FATC Club Lure will be unveiled at the FATC Daytona Beach International Show February 28 and March 1 & 2. This year it will be a fabulous water snake skin-covered "River Bend Minnow" produced by Scott Morgan.

There will only be 50 of the FATC 2014 club lures made. Each lure will be numbered and have its own numbered box. It is 4 1/4 inches in length, made of bass wood and covered with a real water snake skin (*Homalopsis Buccata*). The eyes are greenish glass, not plastic, with two gold plated spinners and two gold plated #4 treble hooks. The body shape is similar to that of an Eger Dillinger.

To produce one of Scott Morgan's snake skin lures, it takes six to seven days. He first makes the lure body. The skin has to be cut and prepared and glued to the body. Six coats of protective finish are applied with sanding in between, and finally the eyes and hardware are attached. WOW! That is a lot of work!

The lure was named "River Bend Minnow" because while Scott was walking through River Bend Park in Jupiter, Florida, he noticed minnows that look just like our FATC Club Lure behind one of the water dams in the shallows. River Bend Park in Jupiter is the site of the second Seminole Indian War.

You will be able to purchase your 2014 FATC Club Lure beginning Wednesday, February 26 at Daytona in Sheila Quinn and Ed Weston's room. Cost of the lure is \$30. There will be a blind draw to see what numbered FATC River Bend Minnow you will receive (the numbers are put into a container and you draw your number out of the container sight unseen). However there will be an exception to the rule. If you have a particular number that you would really like to have and it has not been drawn, you may donate an extra \$10.00 to the Club and you get that numbered lure.

This year our club lure is exceptionally beautiful. Make sure you obtain yours early, for they will surely sell out! 🐟





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F A T C A D R A T E S	Classified "Tackle box" ads	\$3.50 1x	\$10.00 3x	E F F E C T I V E 2 0 1 1
	Business Card ads (black & white)	10.00 1x	29.00 3x	
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	Full page black & white ads	160.00 1x	380.00 3x	
	1/2 page color horizontal	200.00 1x	450.00 3x	
	Outside back cover – color (horizontal only)	275.00 1x	619.00 3x	
	1/2 page color (Contents page only – vertical)	300.00 1x	679.00 3x	
	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

One time ads will be given a 3% discount for prepayment.

To B or Not to B....Flat!

Craig Comjean

The B Flat is a Bagley lure that has not really caught on yet with collectors. There are quite a few Bagley collectors out there...and I'm one of them...but in general these lures are overlooked. Maybe that's because of their size and shape.

The B Flat comes in four sizes and four styles. The 2" B Flat is a square lipped tight wobble wonder in the cold water of spring and late fall. Try a Tennessee Shad, Fire Tiger or Grey Shad and you're bound to fill the boat. The 2" Diving B Flat is also a fish catcher, attaining a depth of ten feet on ten pound test line. Next in the 2" B Flat lineup is the very hard to find 2" Sinking B Flat. It has a round, reinforced lip and will slowly sink at a rate of about eight to ten inches per second. These are very collectible.

Next is the 6" B Flat. It has a nice profile to show colors and it is somewhat scarce. Some collectors have zeroed in on this one because it was made in a lot of "10" rated colors.

The hardest and RAREST B Flat is the 7" uncatalogued B Flat. It was mentioned as being available in the 1983 Bagley Catalog, but no picture was ever



Top to bottom: 8", 7", 6", Diving 2", Sinking 2", and Standard 2" B Flats



7-inch B Flats



shown of it. This is one of the rarest Bagley lures to find. I can only account for thirty-five in total among collectors. New-on-card 7" B Flats have changed hands for \$450.00, while loose ones bring \$300.00.

Finally we come to the "big daddy" of all Bagley baits—the 8" long B Flat weighing in at 2 1/2 oz. Bagley's largest bait is a Musky killer with its slow walk-the-dog underwater glide. You need stout tackle to throw this baby!!!

Finally, there was a prototype 8" Diving B Flat with a Super Deep Lip, but only four are known to me.

So next time you're out fishing in the spring or late fall for bass, or hunting muskies up north, try a B Flat and you'll say, "To B or not



Sinking 2" B Flats

to B, a B Flat is for me"!!
Good luck and Happy Collecting :) Craig 🐟

Thanks to all who helped with my collection!

~Chuck

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ACCOMMODATIONS: The Plaza Resort and Spa 866-500-5630 or 855-327-5292

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

8 ft. tables, \$ 35.00 each, wall or aisle. Membership dues must be current to register.

QUESTIONS: Contact Show Host, Larry Lucas (386) 527-4338 or porterman@cfl.rr.com

REGISTRATION FORM:

Please make checks payable to F.A.T.C and mail to:

Stephanie Duncan
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Name: _____

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



June 5 & 6, 2014

Punta Gorda, Florida

First show in this area in 13 years!

**Members From: F.A.T.C., O.R.C.A., C.A.T.C.,
& N.F.L.C.C. are all invited to participate in this show**

SHOW LOCATION: Punta Gorda Waterfront Hotels and Suites, Punta Gorda, FL
You can see an overview of Punta Gorda at: <http://Youtu.be/5TrXu726ZpE>

ACCOMMODATIONS: Punta Gorda Waterfront Hotels and Suites 941-639-1165
FATC Room Rates, at \$67.50 per night. Waterfront rooms are on a first come, first serve reservation basis!

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8 ft. tables, \$ 35.00 each, wall or aisle. Membership dues must be current to register.
ORCA, CATC, NFLCC, & All Club Members: Registration Fee \$15.00

QUESTIONS: Contact Show Hosts Dick Braun (941) 639-8330 / tzg.8330@gmail.com
Rick Vaughn (941) 223-8996 / FishboY650Q@yahoo.com

REGISTRATION FORM:

Please make checks payable to F.A.T.C and mail to:

Dick Braun
741 Longbeach Ct
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 639-8330

Name: _____

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Phone # and E-Mail _____

Guests Name(s) _____

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Please Specify Wall or Aisle tables _____ Total Enclosed _____

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Tenacity, Networking & Some Luck

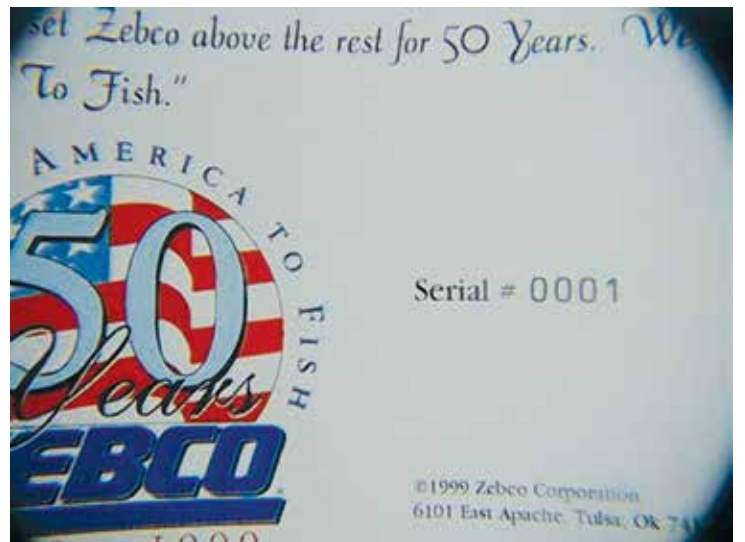
Dick Braun

The year is 1999 and it is the 50th anniversary of the Zebco Reel Company. In their first 50 years, Zebco had produced some 220 million reels...quite a manufacturing feat.



To celebrate, the company came out with some special commemorative reels. A model 202, a Zebco One, a spinning reel, and a very special Zebco 33 LTD reel that they numbered 1 through 1000. Each reel came in a Plexiglas case sitting on a walnut base, complete with a Certificate of Authenticity. The reel and the COA share a corresponding number. Until recently the lowest number that, in 13 years of collecting Zebco reels, I had been able to find was #29. I found it on ebay early one morning with what I considered a very fair Buy-it-Now price, so I bought it. The owner sent it, and in shipping the Plexiglas case got a crack in it (or it may have already had a crack). I contacted the seller and he offered to have a new case made for it, and I thought that was really great of him. But the new case was going to be \$60 which I thought was a bit much. So I replaced it with one from a high-numbered reel that I already had in my collection. The seller had worked for Zebco for over 30 years, and retired from the company. He also offered to help answer any questions that Danny and I had in putting together the Zebco Reels book that we've been working on for several years. Of course, I took him up on his kind offer.

In one of our conversations, he mentioned that his ex-boss also had some of the numbered 33LTD reels and he might be willing to part with them. I asked which numbers he had and almost fainted when he told me that he had numbers 1, 13, 16, 18 & 28. Numbers 1, 16, 18, & 28 were still in the original cardboard shipping boxes with the corresponding number of the reel on the outside of the box.




It took about 45 days to put a deal together but I'm happy to say that the whole group of low-numbered reels has a new home. He also included several other special reels in the deal. A Quantum Tour

Edition US 600 baitcast reel with a 6 bearing system along with its walnut case, two Omega 2003 National Sales Meeting special reels, and several other rare Zebco items he had.

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that I would someday own the 0001/1000 33LTD Reel.

In closing, don't give up hoping that someday you will find a very special reel. Tenacity, networking, and a little luck could pay off for you the same way it did for me.

May the Hunt Continue! Dick Braun, that-Zebco-guy 

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Bogdan Model 0 w/Spare Spool



"Tommy Gun" Rod and Reel Combo



Bud Stewart Musky Duck



CB 'Bruce' Lewis Perch

Last three illustrations are just a partial listing from the Jeff Kienny Folk Art Collection

See you at the Daytona Show!

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

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Flounders, a Slam-Dunk

Ed Slane

Anyone who collects anything probably already knows that nostalgia plays a big part in our collecting. Whether we're trying to get back to our youth or just remembering those great old times; it's there and we can't deny it.

In the case of your writer, a halcyon youth provided great present-day memories for a near octogenarian. Numerous stories have been put to paper with reference to this time period, but none more poignant or seriously nostalgic than the one you're about to digest.

Fishing has been a lifetime avocation, and the hunt for ever-larger fish and larger fishing boats has been endless. Billfish of all designations have been a primary target, and Hatteras, my boat of choice. The 53' convertible has proven to be everything ever needed by this angler. Commodious, comfortable, and highly maneuverable, it fit the bill among eleven others of different sizes. With an individual lifetime goal of a "grander" (a one thousand pound fish) never being realized, a claim to a 705-pound giant Bluefin Tuna is the apogee of this angler's career. "Close, but no cigar".

All this had to have a beginning. The beginning was simple and austere. The lowly bottom dwelling, mud

covered, worm sucking, eye migrating flatfish called the flounder was to be our starting point.

Unfortunately for the flounder, he was delicious on the table.

At age 13, I discovered Stu MacLachlan, a local Freeport, Long Island policeman who eventually would become my first "fishing buddy". By age 5, trout and bluegills were a summer pastime, but that was fresh water stuff and everyone knew that the real action was in the salt. As I had only meager funds at age 14, Stu would rent a rowboat for us for fifty cents a day from Hudson Point Fishing Station. We would row about 100 yards to our special "private" flounder hole. Spring flounders were heavy, thick and very meaty after a winter of little activity. The fun we had at our flounder hole has never been surpassed. Not in the Bahamas, Costa Rica, Virgin Islands, Alaska, Grand Cayman, Nova Scotia, or Catalina. Tuna sandwiches on rye as provided by Stu's wife, Lora, and bottles of Pepsi kept cold in a bag over the side would never be forgotten as we laughed through a half day of joy.

Frequently when we had all the flounder we could use or give to friends, we would haul up our tomato can anchor filled with concrete and row another



two hundred yards to a most productive clam bank. When each of us had about half a bushel of clams and a dozen or so flounder we would happily row back to the fishing station. Proud of our bulging burlap sacks, we encountered numerous fishermen not quite as fortunate as we.

It is that adventure that, sixty six years later, I'm trying to recapture; and Larry Lucas advises that flounder are frequently caught near his home in Daytona Beach. With no idea of this upcoming fishing trip, my good friend Butch Carey from Key West made me a gift of a Schultz Jones Beach reel in about 3/0 size. Being a collector of Schultz Freeport and Schultz Jones Beach reels, this one would serve as original equipment on the flounder trip since it is in mechanically perfect shape. As fate would decree, in the back corner of a bedroom closet would stand my original "flounder rod", in old but very good condition. Stu and I had fashioned two of these short sticks in his kitchen in 1947. That's why mine was still in a closet some 66 years later.

The day has arrived! Anticipation is at a peak. Some things are not exactly the same...no Stu MacLachlan, no row boat, etc. But on the plus side, we've got Larry Lucas, a pristine 17' Hells Bay flats boat, a beautiful warm day, tuna sandwiches, Pepsi, and the fulfillment of a lifelong dream about to unfold.

We drove about 30 miles to a place called Bing's Landing, where we met Chris Herrera, our guide for the day. Obviously well known as evidenced by the numerous salutations he received, this young fisherman inspired confidence in both Larry and me. On the way northbound along the Intracoastal Waterway, Chris stopped several times to cast about 12' of mono net over schools of finger mullet. His casts were accurate and productive, providing us with about a hundred small silver swimmers.

The stage was set. The props were all in place. The bit players and extras were well rehearsed and ready to perform. The star of the show, however, was nowhere to be found. We fished the Matanzas Inlet that was slightly reminiscent of Boca Grande in that there were numerous boats doing the same thing as we in a relatively small space. Chris repositioned us several times in the inlet, attempting the obvious in the throes of a strong outgoing tide, to no avail.

We took a brief break for lunch on board and to shout to missing ears, "Tourists"—a term that Stu used occasionally to get a laugh. This time, it did not.

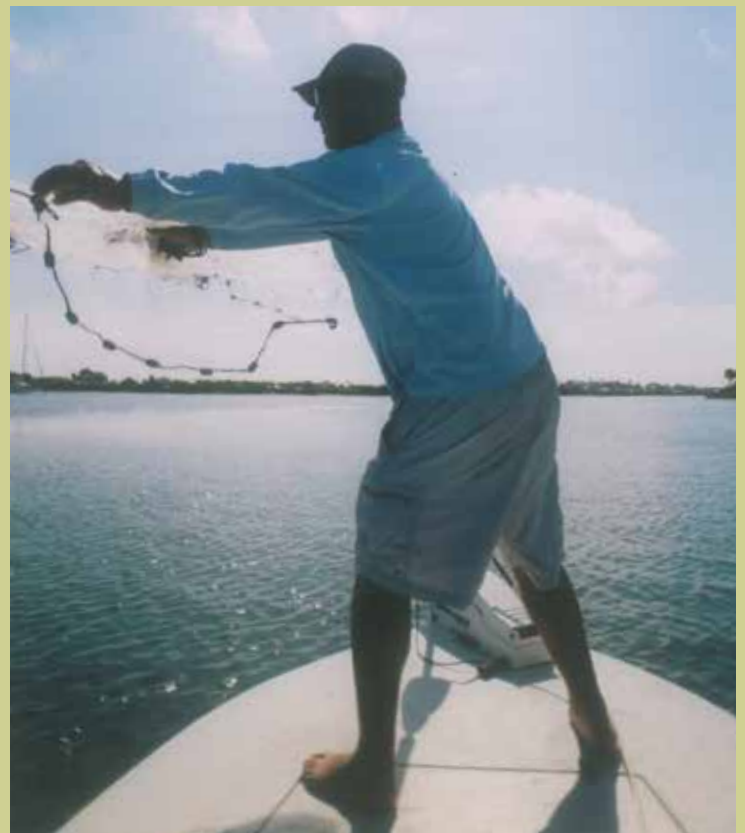
Not one to fold easily, Chris kept trying. We navigated to a couple of his private flounder holes. Believe me, they were private! Without local knowledge you'd never know of these spots. On this day, not even the flounders knew where they were. The game was over!

Our attempt at a successful nostalgic replay was not to be. If a mistake was made, it was mine. I thought, "Flounders—a slam dunk"! I even promised fillets to a few friends.

Upon returning home, I'll visit the seafood store where the person behind the counter will be instructed to toss the package to me. It will truly be flounder that I caught.

In conclusion, it's called 'fishin'', not 'gettin'', and this was a truly great outing that ended with a dinnertime trip to the Lucas household with the whole family of which I'm now a part. What could be better?

'Til next time, tight lines and great collecting. 🐟



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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

Action	Casey; Winter Park	Keefer, Jack; Old Town
Sabo, Ted; 1940s; New Port Richey	Greb, "Red"; 1947; Miami	J. M. Lure Mfg. Co.;
Bait Miser; Bradenton; pre-ZIP (PZ)	Cobb Bait Special	Old Fisherman Lures;
Shogun Lure Co.	Hansen; Erik	PO Box 946, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639
Brosche, Micharl J; Fla. Shiner; Apopka	Florida Complete Fishing Kit; Orlando	Kennyley Corp;
Swearingen ?; Buddy's Bait; Groveland	Hayman, Lee; 1947; St. Petersburg	820 N.E. 24th Lane, Cape Coral
Carlos & Cleo; Homosassa	Frederick Lures	Quality Tackle Co.;
Li'l Hummer Lures; Pompano Beach	Hollenbeck Spincast Flies; Tavernier; PZ	Okeechobee; Water Scout-type bait
Coffee, John; 1935; Tampa	Billy Baits; Jacksonville	Klemack, AL; Moore Haven
Little Egypt	Indian River Tackle Comp; Melbourne; PZ	Jet-Bait; 1971; Miami
Double E Enterprises	Gordon, Alex; O-Fishy-Al's; Lake Monroe	Rich's Miracle Lure; M. D. Richmond,
Stone, Charles; Wicked Strike; Miami	J & M Lures	2625 11th Ave. Vero Beach; 32960
First Strike; Sarasota	Hall Em In; Orlando	Gator Lures, Inc.; PO Boxm 1135; Cape Canaveral, FL 32920
Artificial Lure Co.; Ft. Walton Beach	Jig-A-Lure; North Miami	If you've any information, any please either contact Bill Stuart or Doug Brace
Fortune Lures	Hipson & Hipson; Stuart	Bill Stuart, 863-533-7358
Bally Trol Rigs; Destin	KSW-Scotter Baits; Tampa	Doug Brace, 321-636-7584
Gale Lures; Orlando	Hunter, Jake & Theodore; Boca Raton	Bstuartmof@aol.com
C&H Ultimate Tackle; Jacksonville; 1994	Katydid Corp; an automatic hook; The Gangster; Ocala;	djbrace@bellsouth.net
Goins; Orlando - a part of the Pfeffer Story	Ruslin Enterprises; 9061 DE Duncan St.;	
	Hobe Sound; Snook Getter	

Show Me Another #1

Larry Lucas

This lure was a gift from my wife for Valentine's Day a few years ago. A friend found it in the field and sent me a picture asking my opinion. I fell in love with it...and my wife overheard. I believe it is a Dixie Bait made here in Daytona Beach, but we may never know for certain. The twisted wire between the props and washers is similar to other baits attributed to Dixie, as is the large scale pattern on the back. It is 30% smaller than other Dixie Shiners with similar color patterns, and I have never seen another like it. If you have—or have seen—something similar please let me know. Maybe we



can solve another lure mystery. Many thanks to my friend for selling it, and to my wife for not buying me a tie.

Show Me Another #2

Bernie Schultz

I believe this to be a one-of-a-kind Uz Pemberton prototype, circa 1920s. There's a lot of mystery involved with Uz, one of Florida's earliest production lure makers. His estate was sold off in a small and discrete auction in the '80s, and thanks to that "find" we learned a lot about him. He evidently had ties to Herbert Kinney and William Eger, both of whom were period competitors. Kinney died early on and Eger lived on for decades building his brand. Early prototypes from both makers were found in Pemberton's effects. There are still so many unanswered questions...



You won't see many revolving-type wooden lures from Florida. I doubt that anyone can match it, but you never know.

Show Me Another #3

Made by Heddon in the early 1920's, this lure was called the Florida Special.

While they are not at all easy to find, it is not the lure itself that owner, David Lindsay of South Carolina,



believes to be unique. It's the combination of lure and color—non-catalogued and special-ordered. A longtime collector of Heddons in green crackle-back, David is careful about speaking in absolutes, saying, "I don't know of another like it, but that doesn't mean it is not out there somewhere".

You might find a Heddon Florida Special. And, certainly, you can locate plenty of Heddons in this color. But if you can send us a photograph of another Florida Special in GCB, then you can be the first to "show us another"! 🐟

A Bird in the Hand

Bernie Schultz

When FATC club member, Louie Tilghman began distributing his "I Buy Old Fishing Tackle" cards, his plan was to network with **all** the pickers and antique dealers within his territory. So for years he would travel throughout the region, introducing himself as "the tackle collector".

His routine was simple; after making the introduction, he would spend a few minutes getting acquainted, then offer his card and ask them to call on him anytime they turned up something old related to fishing.

Among those he communicated with was a husband and wife team by the name of "Dan and Patsy". (For obvious reasons, Louie would prefer not to share their last name.) Louie knew the two were stellar pickers — hardworking, well established and knowledgeable, too. He made sure they had a copy of his card anytime they crossed paths.

Although he had high hopes of someday hearing from Dan and Patsy, the call he received on October 24th, 2013 far and away exceeded his expectations!

Dan called to say that he had discovered an odd, bird-shaped lure while cleaning out an old barn near Blackshear, Ga., and that the bird — though not in the best shape — came in its original box with paperwork. Louie asked him what the box label read and to his amazement, Dan replied, "A Kinney Bird, made in Tampa, Florida!"

Louie's heart pounded out of his chest. "A Kinney Bird?!"

What happened next became a blur, but Louie recalls meeting with Dan that day and taking possession of the rare angling artifact. During the exchange, Dan reported that it was his wife, Patsy, who saved the rare bird from certain extinction. He said the barn they were cleaning out was to be leveled and burned in just a few days, and had it not been for Patsy's keen eye, they would have never noticed the old tacklebox and fishing rods hidden behind a pile of rubble in a back corner of the barn.

THE FLORIDA CONNECTION

After acquiring the entire tacklebox, Louie raced home to further inspect its contents. Inside was an assortment of old lures, including a neat six-pack of Toney Accetta lures in the original box. Also in the box he found a 1941 Florida fishing license, issued to a Gertrude Overstreet of Gainesville, Fl. — the same woman who once owned the property where the barn was to be destroyed.

Upon finding the license, Louie's interest grew. Why would a woman own a Kinney Bird lure?



But as he thought further...why not? Sorta made perfect sense. Birds are cute and the lure was certainly colorful. Just the thing a well-to-do lady angler might possess.

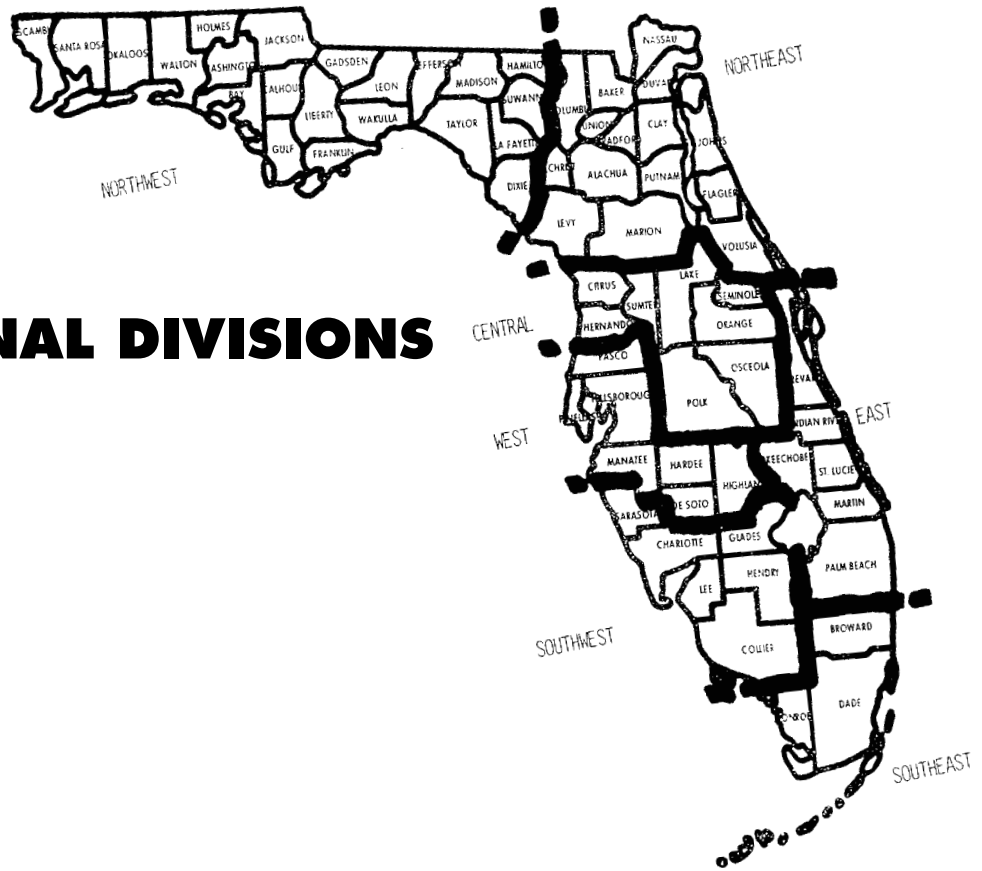
Or did the lure once belong to her husband? According to Louie's research, Gertrude was widowed before the war, while living in Florida. At some point she grew homesick and returned to the town of Blackshear, where she never remarried. And according to those that knew her, she never fished again either.

Her tacklebox was stowed away inside the barn, and until Patsy the picker discovered it, it remained there for more than half a century.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Louie Tilghman for sharing this story. And especially to Patsy the picker for having such a keen eye. If not for her, the second-known example of a Kinney Bird lure box from Tampa would never have been found.

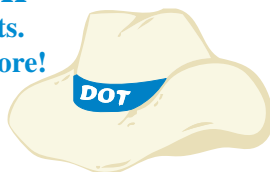
Also thanks to Ed Weston for providing the images for this article. 



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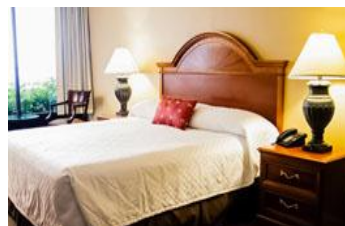
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