

F.A.T.C. NEWS

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 3



**Bill Stuart's
Lore & Lures**



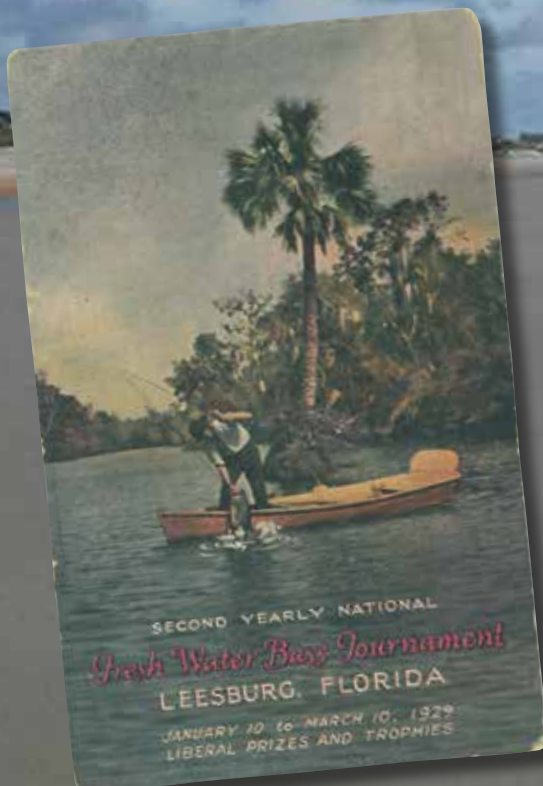
CASTING "back in time"



**Leesburg National
Tournament**

The Porter Pop Stop

**THE STUBBY
ROD/REEL COMBO**



PFEFFER FINDS





St. Augustine Beach Show June 2015

Many thanks to our Show Hosts Mike Hall and John Zimpleman.



President Ed is ready, too.



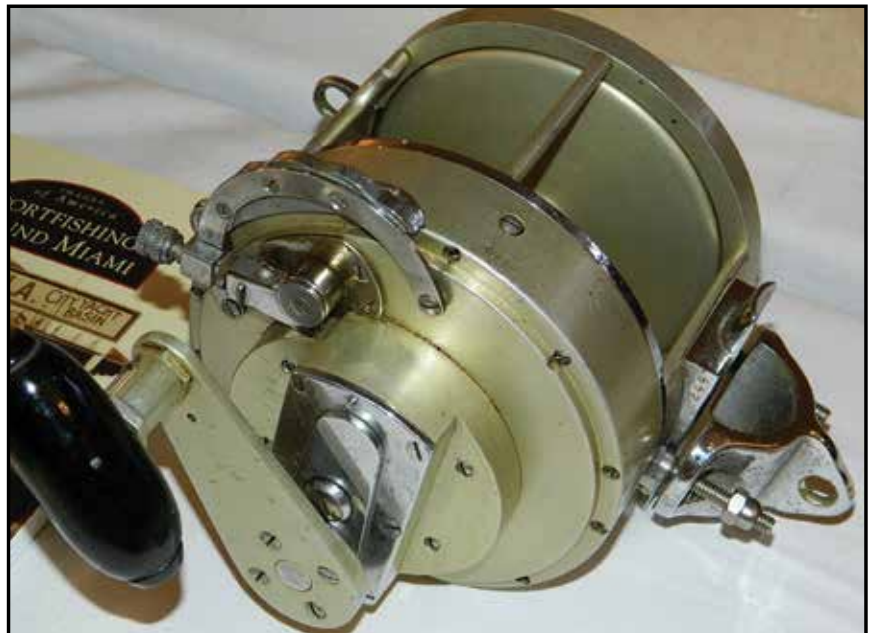
Show Co-Host, Mike Hall is ready for arrivals



Beautiful and rare Heddon saltwater lure



Award-winning Creek Chub Plunkers



Large and early Fin Nor reel is as big as your head



Bill Hoerter's award winning display



Tough Creek Chub Wigglers



A fine gathering of rare Creek Chubs



The Vom Hofe "off the street"



Show co-host John Zimpleman's award winning Florida display



Bernie Schultz's Royston shrimp



Show room is filling up!



The best Porter Pop Stop collection ever?



Dazzy Vance Lures



Pfluegers in the scramble finish

St. Augustine Beach Show Winners



Jim Duncan



David Lindsay



Bill Hoerter



John Zimpleman



David Lindsay with his winning Shakespeares



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Thanks to all who helped with my collection!

~Chuck

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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.**

November 2015 Volume 29, No. 3

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Our central location puts you 30 minutes or less from major attractions such as: Disney World®, MGM, Epcot, Universal Studios, and Sea World.

President's Message

Ed Weston



Wow! If you did not attend the FATC show in St. Augustine you really missed something special. The location was fabulous, right on the ocean in the oldest town in America. Then you had the city's attractions and awesome culinary delights. The show was wonderful, run by Mike Hall and John Zimpleman. The tables were full and the exhibits, outstanding. The auction was to be remembered, highlighted by a rare Edward Vom Hofe Tobique fly reel that sold for three thousand dollars. That's right...three thousand dollars! You never know what will come in from the public.

Larry Lucas and Stephanie Duncan are already working hard on the 2016 FATC International Show in Daytona Beach coming February 26-28. We have been hosting this show in Daytona Beach for the last 25 years, so this year is very special. It will be our Silver Anniversary. Two spotlight awards this year will be for metal and for packaging. For more information go to our website: fatc.net.

I have purchased two new tackle collecting books that you might be interested in obtaining. The first is "A Collectors Guide to Tom Mann Lures & Tackle" by Merv Willoughby. Merv has done a fine job of detailing Tom Mann and his products from 1958 through 1985. There are over 1000 color photos along with a rarity guide. The book is configured to give you a picture of the collectible with its color and rating all in the same location. This makes it easy to read and refer to the items.

The second book is "Rotary Head Fishing Lures Vintage & Modern Classics" by Terry Oxley. I have always been fascinated by lures that revolve but have never had the knowledge to collect them. This book will solve that problem. Terry has divided his book into eight large sections with color photos and pertinent information about each lure. There is one section devoted to musky Rotohead lures which really caught my interest.

I have always been of the opinion that the money you spend to purchase a book will always come back to you tenfold. The expertise and knowledge you gain from reference books are invaluable. You might want to give both of these books your ruminations.

Did you know that FATC has a Facebook page? It is packed full of all sorts of enlightening information and tidbits. Give it a look.

As always, remember: The best part of tackle collecting is not the treasures you purchase but the friends you make along the way. 🐟



Outgoing Editor Notes

Gary Simpson

First, let me apologize for the late arrival of this edition. We always want to get the News out ahead of the club's next tackle show—and things were on schedule and about halfway done when the stuff hit the fan. Along with some other setbacks that piled on, my home was broken into and ransacked one day in early September. Among the items stolen was the laptop that held every element of this club publication. And so, that's how "the dog ate my homework".

The misfortune happened to occur during this fifteenth and final issue that I'll have the pleasure of editing, but I guess it goes that way sometimes. And there is one big silver lining regarding my break-in. The thieves had no interest in old fishing stuff. Woohoo!

This sad happening did, however, demonstrate to me the need for special collectibles insurance coverage. The loss could have been nasty, indeed, if vintage items had been targeted.

Better late than never, I hope, this FATC News brings you all kinds of neat material. Doug Brace offers wonderfully researched information about an earlier Florida lure maker. Charlie Tanner's regular knowledge-bolstering offering covers another interesting vintage rod/reel combo.

We also benefit from Larry Lucas's area of lure expertise and peruse exciting lure finds made by Stephen Rampersand.

One of our sagest members has placed much of his collection on permanent display with the Polk County History Center in Bartow. Featured prominently, of course, are outstanding pieces from Bill's extensive Eger collection. We relive the exhibit's opening and offer a peek at some of the eye-popping relics to hold us over 'til we can all visit it.

Additionally, upon reading Rick Osterholt's excellent piece in our last issue chronicling the National Bass Tournament held long ago in Leesburg, Ron Gast sent a great brochure further documenting the event held annually in the late 20's and early 30's .

On the facing page is our incoming editor's message. Very few members will need to be introduced to Johnny Garland, who seems to meet no strangers. Johnny is sure to put out a newsletter that's informative and fun to read...and, I think, those are the most important things. During my time in this capacity, Johnny has often made great and much-appreciated contributions to the News. Maybe now I'll be able to return those favors.

I very much appreciate all of the help, submissions, and encouraging comments from club members over the last five years. It is only with these that the FATC News editor can get along; so let's all get behind Johnny with articles, suggestions, encouragement, and thanks. 🐟

ZEBCO Collector

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Dick Braun

1949-1999 USA Produced Reels

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Incoming Editor's Message

Johnny Garland

The first thing I want to say is "Thank You" to the FATC officers and members for giving me this opportunity to be more involved in this wonderful club.

I am aware that collecting clubs are having a tough time recruiting. I feel this is more due to the economy than any other thing. Yet there is one thing that will help the FATC to maintain and hopefully grow in the years to come. And that is the same thing that keeps me excited for the FATC meets—Fellowship.

The FATC is a unique group and it always has been. When I went to my first Florida (Daytona) show in 2001, it was because of Bill Stuart and Ken Webb. However, after arriving at the show I found there were many others much like these two friendly, generous, and helpful men. Over the past fifteen years, I've had memorable experiences that I know will last me a lifetime.

I am going to note some of those just to show what will attract young collectors and keep them interested and coming back for more.



At one of my early St. Pete shows Mike Hall, who at the time I hardly knew, gave me his 10th anniversary patch and silver medallion. Later, walking by a Wright and McGill display at Daytona, I developed one of the greatest relationships of my life when Smitty (Clarence) Smith began to tell me just WHY he liked those Wright & McGill lures.

I remember how a young flatlander came up to me at an Ocala show and said he was going to start

hiking and wanted to try the Appalachian Trail (which runs through Tennessee). I thought to myself, "Oh boy, this is not like your Florida trails". But, did he ever prove my skepticism wrong. Mike, Susan, and Jacob Mais have become annual visitors to our home in Tennessee. Ed Weston and Sheila Quinn have, as well. Our home is always open to our fellow club members and, to this date, this has not been a bad decision. Bill, Smitty, John Mack, Arthur and Karen Edwards, Dick Braun, Ricky Cox, Craig and Nicholas Comjean, Frank Carter, and others I'm sure have made our home a nicer place.

Many kind acts have been shown to me by members including Paul Snider, Joe and Liz Yates, Bob Dennis, Reese Platt, Jeff Windisman, David Apple, Steve Cox, Ron Gast, Kuni, Bob and Sue Bebee, Felix Fly, Buddy Wallace, Jim and Stephanie Duncan, Lloyd and Sally Jett, Jim Boswell, Mark Cotterill, Jan Cummings, Bernie Schutz, Jack Fenwick, Chuck Heddon, Mike Hines, Larry Lucas, Joe Stagnitti, Tom Wilkerson, John Yancey, Gary Simpson, Vera Bagley, Dan Basore, Henry Caldwell, Carl and Peggy Garmon, Larry Bernard, Jim Frazier, and Lewis Townsend. All have done something that holds a special memory in my mind, and have made my experience in the FATC a good one.

My piece of advice to all members is this: Just keep being the friendly, generous, helpful, and kind individuals you are today. Membership will take care of itself. 🐟

Capt. David R. Besser
Vintage Fly Tackle Collector

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CASTING - "back in time"...

D.J. Brace

This time, "the lure to know more" takes us to Clearwater, Florida. The time period is 1950 and Robert C. Moser, age 34, has recently located



here from Grand Rapids, Michigan. He brings with him both knowledge and experience from the field of engineering. He had previously worked as a Flight Test Engineer for Bell Aircraft, in New York. At Bell Aircraft, he was involved with the P-39 Airacobra aircraft which was brought into service by the U.S., at the outset of WWII. While employed by General Motors in Grand Rapids, his work led to being granted a U.S. patent for a component used in automobile engines.

It didn't take long for Moser to settle in on Florida's west coast. By 1951 he formed a business partnership with B.C. Skinner. At **Skinner-Moser**, Chief Engineer was Moser, with Skinner as General Manager of nearly 40 other employees. The work force produced a newly designed valve tappet for auto-mobile engines. The tappets were the end result of years of prior experimentation by Moser. Here again, his work led to another U.S. patent. In a 1952 *St. Petersburg Times* article, discussing the valve tappets, Skinner was quoted saying "**They make a Chevrolet sound like a Rolls Royce**". Comments like "indestructible" and "will practically last forever" were linked to the company's product.

The business was tucked away in an orange grove located in nearby Dunedin, where Skinner was a lifelong resident of the area. The grove was owned by Clinton Foods, the producer of Snow Crop concentrated citrus juice. Skinner, Moser's partner, was a member of Clinton's Board of Directors.

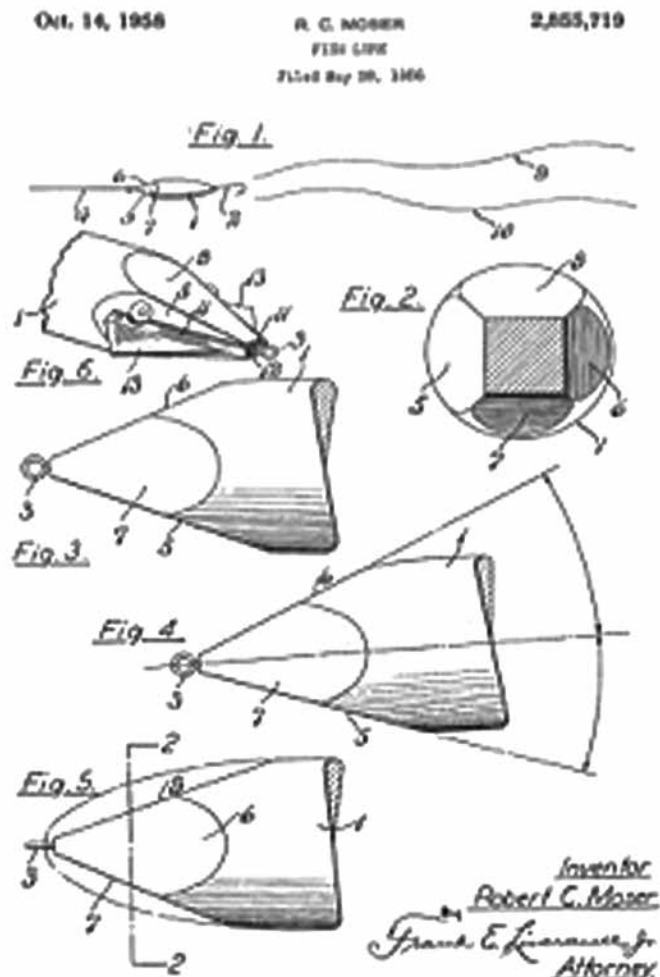
The Skinner-Moser business venture lasted only a few short years. The end likely came in November of 1954, when Minute Maid purchased Snow Crop for 40 million dollars! At the time, it was reported to be the largest transaction in the history of Florida's citrus industry.

By this time, the inventive mind of Robert C. Moser was hard at work on another project - fishing lures. This newest endeavor no doubt had its roots in Moser's close proximity to some of Florida's finest fishing waters. Local newspapers of the time, devoted columns to the daily reporting of mackerel runs, catches of sea trout, kingfish, grouper, snapper, black bass and annual tarpon rodeo's.

Moser's lure business had its beginnings in his lakefront, residential mobile home, located on East Bay Drive in nearby Largo. Realizing

more room was needed, he built a separate structure on the same property for lure production. The business grew and in 1955, he created the **Miracle Tackle Company**.

Being his own pilot, Moser would fly to tournaments and sports shows promoting his products. One such event he participated in was the March 1956 Sentinel Sports Show, located in Milwaukee. Open to the public, over 160,000 people attended this annual event. According to a *Milwaukee Sentinel* article dated June 12, 1956, due to the popularity of Moser's "**Miracle Lures**" at the show, a new **Wisconsin Miracle Lures, Inc.** was created. On July 29, 1956, Colt Distributing Co., St. Petersburg, Fl., advertised seeking a franchised distributor for Miracle Lures. The ad, placed in the *Daytona News Journal* stated Colt was the





Big, Medium and Little MO. Big MO measured at 5-¼ inches. Surface models, like the green Middle MO pictured, came with dual line ties.

national distributor of Miracle Lures and that they had an opening in the Daytona area.

Three months after attending the Milwaukee Show, Moser filed with the U.S. Patent Office on May 28, 1956, seeking protection on his manufactured fishing lure. The lure was Moser's "Little", "Middle" and "Big Mo" series. The "MO" was similar in design to Heddon's 1914 patent of their series No.1600 "Deep Diving Wiggler, which also had metal horizontal planes at the nose of the bait. In fact, Heddon's patent No.1114137, is referenced in Moser's patent, which was granted October 14, 1958, No.2855719. The patent was assigned to **Miracle Lure, Inc.**, Largo, Florida. The patent description stated "The body of the lure could be made of any suitable well known material".



Rube Allyn, noted Florida newspaper columnist and author (*The Water Wagon* – 1952) reported regularly on fishing related topics during the 1950's and 60's. In his Jan. 9, 1957 column for the *St. Petersburg Times*, Allyn devotes a good deal of text to Moser's "Miracle Lure". Of significance is Allyn's statement **"This column will swear the Mos out-catch any lure you can fish against them- in the hands of a fisherman"**.

Newspaper accounts of the time also touted another Miracle Lure, the **"Little Savage"**, when used for sea trout and snook. Moser was again in the papers when he netted a 9-pound, 6-oz. sea trout on his "Little Savage". The catch was made the day after Christmas, 1957, at nearby Ozona. Caught on 6-lb. test line, it was thought to be the largest sea trout taken in the Suncoast area, at the time.



Columnist for St. Petersburg's *The Independent*, Charles Kruse, reported on another of Moser's angling events which took place at Florida's Rainbow Springs in 1958. Moser, with hundreds of onlookers as witnesses, caught 59 bass on 56 casts (triple hook-up). Kruse went on, **"The next day he competed against eight other nationally advertised lures and took 125 bass, 9 bream and 12 Florida shiners while the other lures accounted for none"**.



Recently, I sat down with Jonathan Moser, one of Robert Moser's sons. He recalled the event at Rainbow Springs. **"On one of his casts, my father had 3 fish on his lure"** - one on each treble hook. He also recalled a crew filming the event; there were cameramen in the water! At times, my father would come and get me at school. **"We'd go fishing or he'd take me flying - he flew his own Beechcraft Bonanza"**.



Moser's lure advertisements for 1958 indicate a name change; Miracle Lures, was changed to **Miracle Fish**. For their 1958 catalog, Tampa's large wholesale supplier *Gillette Tackle Co.*, printed a colorful 2-side page for Miracle Tackle Distributors, Inc. Largo, Florida. Printed directly under a banner ad for **MIRACLE FISH** is the statement: "formerly MIRACLE LURES". The colorful *Gillette* catalog sheet was for the "MO" and Little Savage, both depicted in actual size. Model information, pattern description and a color chart was shown.

1958 and 59', brought advertising in national sporting magazines. Contained within a Miraclefish ad was an offer for readers to send away for a free "DIAL-A-LURE" promotional. **"Just dial the fish you want. Best lure for that fish appears in the window"**.

Columnist Kruse reported that in 1959, Moser continued to spread the success of his lures... **"He will fish bass waters at Tulsa, Little Rock, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston, Port Arthur, Shreveport and intermediate points"**.

During the discussion with Jonathan, he opened his father's tackle box. **"These are the jigs I was telling you about"**. This was a first for me. There were 20-30 colorful lead-head jigs of varying sizes, some with bucktails others with nylon tails. **"I remember the molds for them - he taught me how to tie the tails; they were sold on a card"** he said.

State of Florida records indicate Moser's business came to an end in 1963. When asked how this came about, Clara Nell, Moser's widow, offered the following explanation... **"One day while working at Miracle Lure, two well-dressed Japanese businessmen visited Bob. At this time he employed over 30 people. The Japanese had brought with them duplicates of Moser's lures, which were produced in Japan. They indicated their product could be manufactured in far greater numbers, at less expense"**.

Other details from this incident were lost with Moser's death but she recalled him retelling this story over the years. She also remembered he contacted Florida Senator George Smathers and another Florida businessman/politician Vernon Holloway. Additionally, Clara Nell recalled her husband saying that he hired an attorney to represent him but disappointed with the results, dissolved his business.

Jonathan Moser added how distraught his father was with the lure business. He recalled that at one point his father testified before Congress during a congressional inquiry into the Japanese and their disregard of U.S. patents in the marketplace.

Although the business came to an end, Moser's inventive nature kept on working. Once again, he sought patent protection from the U.S. Patent Office. On March 21, 1963, he submitted an application for a new type of golf club head to be used as a sand iron. Subsequently, on May 10, 1966, he was granted patent number 3,250,536. The patent was assigned to Golf Eez, Inc., Largo, Florida. Robert C. "Bob" Moser died Nov. 29, 2003, at 87 years of age; he had no less than eight patents credited to his name.



Daytona New Journal July 29, 1956

Notes:

"DIAL-A-LURE" photo courtesy of Michael Sims F.A.T.C.

The 1956 *Milwaukee Sentinel* article further stated P.E. Keller was President of the new company with his territory being Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan; Moser remained President of the parent company.

For additional detailed reading on Miracle Lure artificial baits, see Volume III of *Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures* – 1997.

Recommended additional reading is Rube Allyn's *Water Wagon* – 1952. Allyn chronicles his houseboat trip in Florida waters with St. Petersburg's Florida Fishing Tackle Mfg. icons, Carl Reynolds and "Boots" Bradford. 🐟



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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	
	1/4 page black & white ads	50.00 1x	120.00 3x	
	1/2 page black & white ads	90.00 1x	215.00 3x	
	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	
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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

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

The Porter Pop Stop

Larry Lucas

The Porter Pop Stop is my favorite vintage lure, a Florida product with a body shape pleasing to the eye and made in beautiful colors. I have even found them to be great fish catchers.

This display features the Porter Pop Stop and its packaging. The Pop Stop is one of Porters earliest and most popular lures. It began production in the Dixie Bait company days from about 1935 until 1939. This display features only the lures of the Porter Bait Company from 1946 until the late 60's. All the baits are arranged by color pattern and the number Porter assigned to them. In the first case, we start at color number 00 and go through number 16. The second case begins at



number 17 and goes through number 37 with some uncataloged colors at the end. I put the correct boxes with each color pattern and the lure. As you can see, the lower numbered baits have the earlier boxes. The earliest box is the 2 piece cardboard orange box. We believe this box was only made for 6 months to a year based on the small numbers of them found. The next box is the 2 piece black cardboard box. This box was most likely used for about 4 years. Then came the window box, which I believe was in production until 1952 or 1953. Again for a short period of time, a yellow cardboard bottom with a





clear plastic top was used, but I doubt if they were used more than a year. The final box was the hinged 2 piece plastic box, which was used until the company closed.

At first glance, you would assume the lure would be fished much like a traditional popping bait. Throw it out, let it sit and then pop it. While I'm sure you could catch fish this way, the guys I've talked to that fished with them told me they would "walk the dog" with them. They said, and I have since proven, that you reel them in with twitching of the rod tip and the bait would dart under water with a very similar action to a Zara Spook....except an inch or two under water.

It is interesting to see how a color pattern has evolved over the years. Take a look at color number 10, blue mullet, and note the shape of the lure. The earlier version is more slender and the color pattern is much different than the later version. I feel that most of the color patterns were changed due to cost of production. They made an effort to simplify some of the time-consuming earlier paint jobs. Also you can look at pattern number 24, (four baits), and see the evolution of that lure. The first #24 has a very complex



paint pattern, beautiful but difficult to mass produce. Each variety after the first is easier to produce.



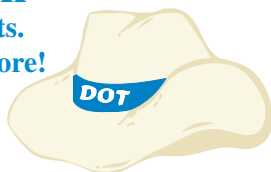
The uncataloged baits at the end of the second case, right column are interesting, the first is orange and black and is only one of two known. Interestingly, I acquired it on Halloween a number of years ago. The second lure down is a Ted Smallwood pattern, the third is similar to #05, silver flash, but with no scale pattern on the top. The bait on the bottom was given to me by a friend, it is most likely not a Porter, but a very cool bait that I treasure. 🐟

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THE STUBBY ROD/REEL COMBO

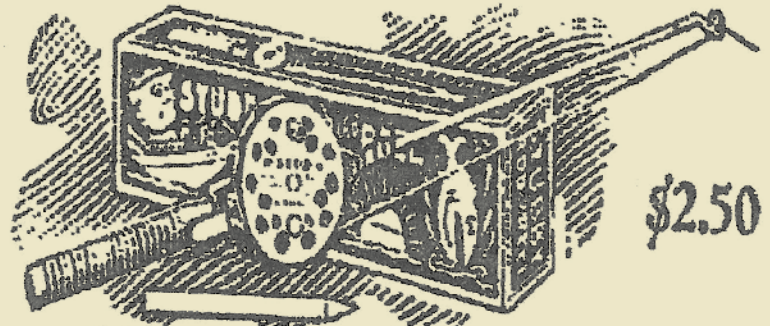
Charlie Tanner

The American Display Company operating out of First and St. Claire Streets in Dayton, Ohio produced this little wonder for the fisherman wanting to travel light.

The company was in business from the early 1920's into the '40's. Its president, Milton B. Dunkelberger, invented the 'Stubby', earning for it patent no. 1,497,364 in 1924. Working along with Milton was his brother, Byron C., who held the post of company vice president

The brothers produced fishing tackle originally, then turned to the manufacture and sale of mechanical window displays. In addition to the Stubby (pictured) and its trolling version, the

Casting-Trolling-Still-Fishing!



STUBBY ROD AND REEL

A Complete Fishing Outfit

Fits the Pocket, Tackle-Box, Traveling Bag. Ball-Bearing Reel. Send for Circular.

Ask Your Dealer!

THE AMERICAN DISPLAY CO.
Dayton, Ohio, U. S. A.





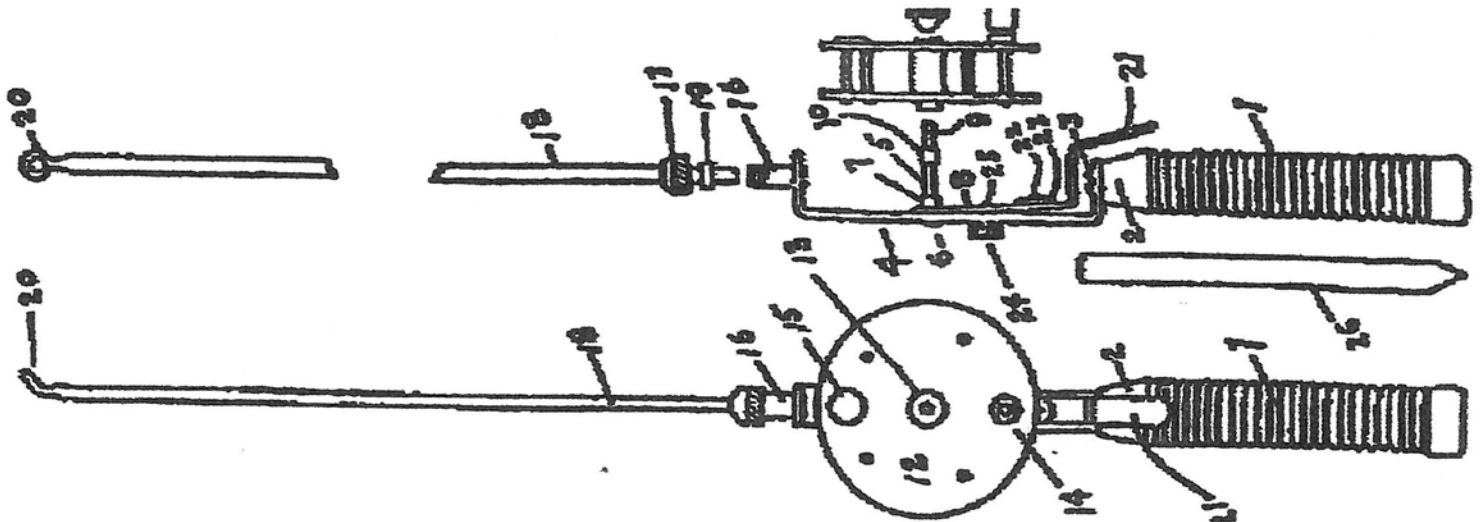
company offered a number of fishing tools. Best known among collectors is their line of Carter-Dunk lures. In the 1940's they produced a rod, the "Dunks Steel Casting Rod" that came with three tips and one aluminum handle.

A statement from one of their ads lays out a business model: "Rather unusual combination, but in this day and age nothing is really unusual". The ad further states, "With the aid of the equipment necessary to make good Fishing Tackle we have

been able to make MECHANICAL DISPLAYS that are truly mechanical. Our Experience in both lines is at your command".

The Stubby has a collector value of around \$75.

I would like to thank Nancy Horlacker with the Montgomery County Historical Society for her help in researching this history. 🐟



Milton Dunkelberger's patent 1,497,364 of June 10, 1924

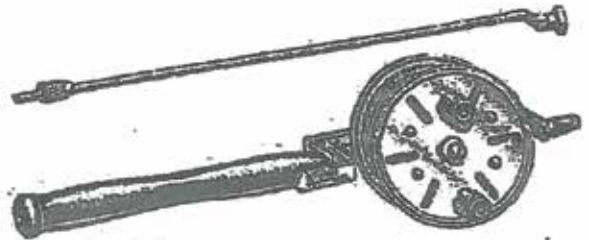
U. S. FISHING ROD PATENTS

STUBBY ROD AND REEL



Stubby No. 1

Stubby Rod and Reel No. 1—For casting, trolling and still fishing. Easy to carry and quick to get into action. Fits the pocket, tackle box and traveling bag. Only 28 inches long when jointed and 12½ inches unjointed. The rod has a special designed metal tip and a screw joint connection. The single action, easy running, aluminum reel is Ball-bearing. Line-drying and Quick-detachable. It is 8½ inches in diameter and holds from 80 to 100 yards of line. Packed one in box. Each \$2 50



Stubby No. 2

Big Stubby Rod and Reel No. 2—Especially made for heavy fishing, casting or trolling. 35½ inches long when jointed and 19½ inches unjointed. Extra heavy duty tip with special guide designed to handle copper wire or line with least amount of wear on wire or line. The single action, easy running metal reel is 5½ inches in diameter with capacity for 200 yards of copper wire or heavy trolling line. Packed one in box. Each \$5 00

PFEFFER FINDS

Stephen Rampersand

We all have different reasons behind the collections we build... "I just like them", "I fished with them growing up", or "grandpa had one just like it" among them.

A few years back, my wife and I acquired a few hand painted lures from a gentleman in Lakeland. These lures were all very different from anything I'd ever come across, having hand painted gill marks and painted eyes. Some had frog spots...others, scale patterns, and one was a Red Winged Blackbird pattern on a banana lure. How cool! I remember thinking, "Some guy really did a great job painting these folk art baits in his garage...wait...what's that stamp on the bottom... Jim Pfeffer"? That's the moment it all began. Throughout the course of the next few months I dug up all I could about this Pfeffer guy, from his birth to his time in the Marines to his days carving baits to sell at Denmark Sporting Goods in Orlando. I was truly captivated by this man and his lures.

I love to fish, and learning of a guy who made lures for so many years that actually caught lots of fish was very intriguing to me. Living so close to the area where Mr. Pfeffer made, sold and fished these baits made it all the more exciting.

I recently moved to Winter Park. On the first Saturday in our new home, I found an unfished Pfeffer lure hanging on a gentleman's work bench that was purchased by his father shortly before Denmark's shut its doors for good. This single find lead to another, and then another. I've had the privilege of meeting folks that fished with Mr. Pfeffer and others whose fathers and grandfathers



personally knew him, or at least fished with his lures.

The reason I've written this article is to share my story and show some of the recent additions to my collection. Over the past few months, I followed a few leads from one family on two collections of lures. These turned out to be special order baits made by Jim to showcase his arsenal of both fresh and saltwater fishing lures, along with some prototypes. Among the finds were large surface shiners, a foiled Hud Chug, a Dalton-type pier bait,

and my favorite of all—yet another Red Winged Blackbird, but this time on a Darter.

The gentleman from whom I received part of this collection shared very interesting childhood recollections. His father was a dear friend of Mr. Pfeffer, and he recalled numerous trips with his dad to Mr. Pfeffer's house. During their visits, there was always much talk of the one that got away and which lures were most effective. He recalled that his father, before leaving Mr. Pfeffer's house, was offered a chance to pick

out a new batch of lures to try out! Although Pfeffer was already producing a saltwater line of baits for trolling, they wanted something to sight cast for the topwater bite. These surface baits were quickly and crudely put together for just that purpose. He recalls his father catching a tuna on a Pfeffer topwater plug given to him during one of those visits. This is just one of many great stories that were shared with me about this once in a lifetime find of rare Jim Pfeffers.

I do not want to anyone to misinterpret this article as being a Pfeffer reference guide. It's simply the story about how I came across a pair of collections from a single source. Although the families from which they were obtained would authenticate them as originals, who's to be sure? At any rate, I plan to keep and display this find together.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story and show some of my one-of-a-kind Jim Pfeffer lures. 🐟



"Red winged blackbird, this time on a darter" (bottom)



"Foiled Hud Chug" (bottom left), "Dalton-type pier bait" (top right)

“THE 25th FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL” TACKLE SHOW

**Daytona Beach, Florida
February 26th, 27th and 28th, 2016**



**Return for the SUN,
Return for the FUN,
Return for the ANTIQUE FISHING TACKLE!**

The F.A.T.C. “Florida International” will again be back to the Plaza Resort and Spa on the beach in Daytona Beach.

Join antique fishing tackle collectors from around the world for America’s second largest show. Join us for over 300 tables of antique lures, reels, rods, creels, fish decoys and much more including our Saturday Night Auction.

Here is your chance to escape the frigid north, and enjoy the warm tropical breezes and watch the waves roll up on the beach while buying and selling old fishing tackle.

Truly tackle trading in PARADISE!

The Plaza Resort and Spa is located right on the Atlantic Ocean and has two restaurants, a small convenience store, a very large pool facing the ocean, and dozens of great restaurants within walking distance. Orlando and its many theme parks are only an hour away.



Here is news about some of the exciting things planned for the 2016 Florida International Tackle Show in Daytona.

AWARDS - This is the 25th Anniversary of the Daytona International and in honor of our **Silver Anniversary** we are featuring **Metal**. We will leave this up to your imagination, maybe metalized or metal lures, metal reels or rods, it is up to you. Bring your best and we will have an awesome award. Our second category will be **Packaging**. This could mean boxes, crates, anything you can think of that shows how your vintage tackle was packaged. We will also offer an award for this category.

Back by popular demand we will award a **Best of Show** and **Best Reel Collection** in addition to our normal categories.

EARLY ACCESS - As an added service to our members, we will open our showrooms on Thursday night, the 25th to allow you to bring in your displays & tackle. This will not be for set up, just bring it in and drop it at your tables. The F.A.T.C. will pay for security that night to make sure your valuables are safe. We will let you know prior to the show dates the exact times we will be open.

PUBLIC - Our show will once again open to the public Friday from 11am-4pm and Saturday 9am-3pm. We signed up a lot of new members this year by opening an additional day and that is what we need to do as an organization.

We look forward to seeing everyone in February, if not sooner.

All the best,

Larry Lucas & Stephanie Duncan



**“THE 25th INTERNATIONAL”
SILVER ANNIVERSARY
February 26, 27 and 28, 2016**

SHOW LOCATION: The Plaza Resort and Spa
600 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Plaza Resort and Spa
TOLL FREE 866-500-5630 or 855-327-5292 Room rates: \$118/city or ocean view, \$138/ocean front, \$158 ocean front suites all rates includes **FREE PARKING**

TABLE AND REGISTRATION: Registration, \$15.00 per member. 8ft. tables, \$35.00 each, wall or aisle. Membership dues must be current to register.

REGISTRATION FORM AND SHOW HOST INFORMATION:
Please make checks payable to F.A.T.C. and send to show host, or pay and register on line with Paypal or Credit Card at www.fatc.net
Stephanie Duncan
15646 89th Avenue N
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418 -1840

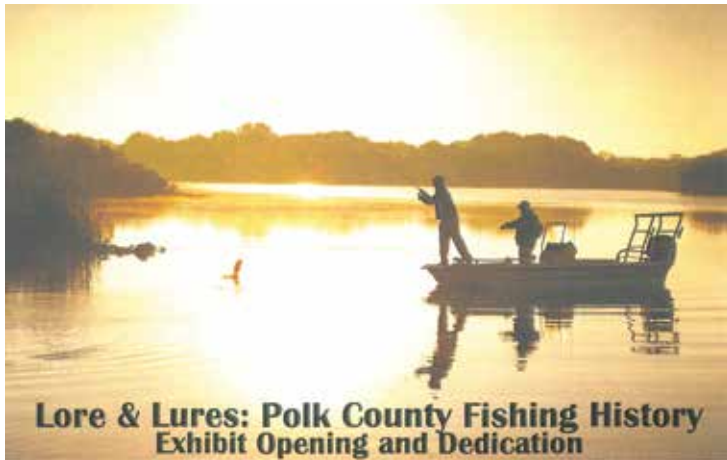
Show hosts Larry Lucas (386) 527-4338 or larry@flowerscentral.com
Stephanie Duncan (561) 575-7956 or surlure@gmail.com

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone # and E-Mail _____
 Guests Name(s) _____
 Registration _____ at \$ 15.00 each for a total of : _____
 I would like _____ Tables 8' at \$ 35.00 Each for a total of _____
 Please Specify Wall or Aisle tables _____ Total Enclosed _____
 Special Requests _____

REFUNDS for cancellations must be requested 30 days in advance. CANCELLATIONS after 30 days will not be refunded. You must be an FATC member to exhibit, trade or buy at the auction. BREAKDOWNS -In an effort to give the public a better show, we are asking anyone with tables to wait until after 4pm on Saturday to break down. Emergency exceptions will be made only by the show host. If you chose to break down early, you may not get a table next year.

Bill Stuart's Lore & Lures

Bill Stuart



"On August 13, 2015, The Polk County History Center at 100 East Main St., Bartow, Florida, highlighted the dedication of a new exhibit titled Lore & Lures featuring the Eger Bait Company of Bartow, Florida. The Polk County History Center is at 100 E. Main St., Bartow, Florida. The History Center hours are 9 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. For information call 863-534-4386 or go to www.polk-county.net/boccsite/our-community/history-center."

This announcement touted a beautiful display of early, Florida-made fishing tackle about to be exhibited for the enjoyment of the public. Donated by our own Bill and Nancy Stuart, the heart of the display is Bill's amazing collection of rare Eger lures made long ago near the site of their permanent display.

Tom Palmer of the *Lakeland Ledger* writes. "It is well known that Polk County is considered the largemouth bass capital of the world, but less known is that Bartow was once the location of the largest fishing lure manufacturing company in the Southeast." Palmer was referring to a comment by outdoor writer Artie Shaw in 1941 in his Fish Foolers column, in the *Florida Wildlife Magazine*.

Jeff Roslow of the *Polk County Democrat* reported that, "all of the items in the new Eger display are on permanent loan by W.H. Bill and Nancy Stuart of Bartow." Roslow goes on to quote Stuart, "My purpose for the collection was to capture one of each series of the baits and one each of the colors



Photo credit – Jeff Roslow, Polk County Democrat: Bill Stuart



North side of display from the rear.

Painted. Stuart also noted that the collection presented contained some 160 lures and boxes, and even so the collection is not complete, but it's close."

Stuart was introduced by Jennifer Bush, Chairman of the Polk County Historical Commission, who noted she was sure there was "a boatload of fish tales yet to be told."



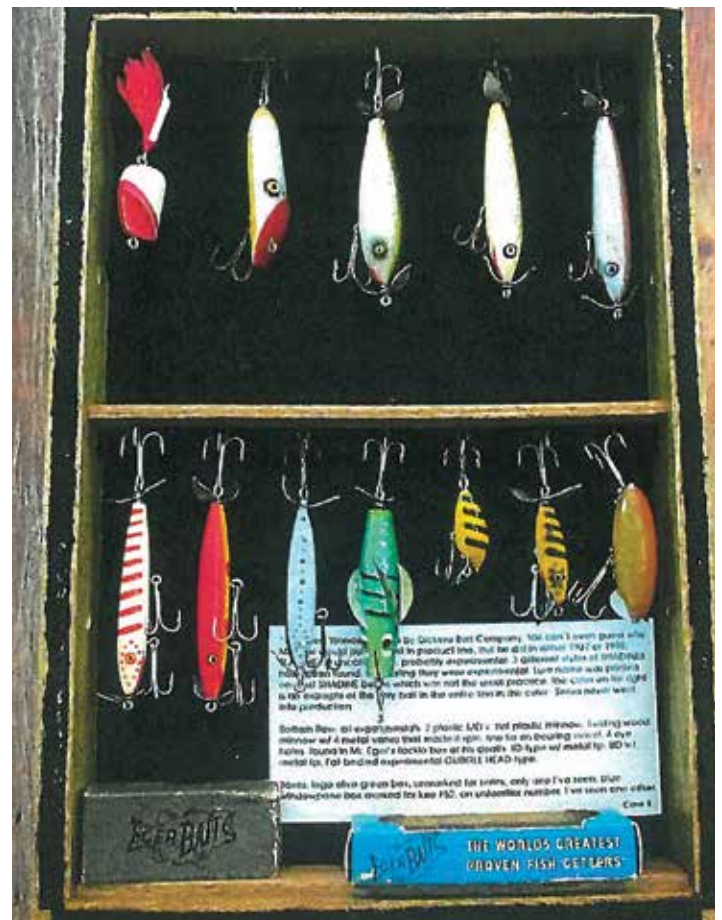
Stuart introduced his remarks by noting: "Mr. Eger had been a fisherman all his life, but he had never been completely satisfied with the contents of his tackle kit. Consequently, Eger began carving a few lures for his own use. He then related how Eger's hobby burgeoned into a commercial enterprise as the result of a memorable encounter with another fisherman.

Stuart further said: "Urban legend has it that one afternoon while trout fishing in

600 Darter-type series and 5 arrangements of the Underwater Dillinger



Gurgle Heads. Spoons in 3 sizes, made by South Bend Bait Co. Shrimp made by Fred Nichols Lure Co. in 3 styles but orders filled with whatever was in stock



Weedless Wonder by Dickens was cataloged, the rest are probably classified as "Experimental," 2 Dillenger-types 2nd row are both plastic and maker is not known.



Classic Egers of all types

Tampa Bay with then Florida Senator Spessard Holland, neither of them was catching anything. However, a man in a boat nearby was reeling them in right and left."

"Chagrined with their empty fish box, Mr. Eger pulled over to the "lucky" man to ask him what lure plug he was using. Turns out, it was a design the man had made for himself. On the spot Mr. Eger offered \$100 for the lure and rights to the design. Unfortunately, the man's name has been lost."

"Rumor has it that it was Holland's \$100 that Eger used to buy the lure and the design rights. According to legend, in a matter of just a few days Mr. Eger was making lures. If correct, Mr. Eger was working on the lure to be known as the Florida Special which ultimately became the John Dillinger named for the most notorious criminal of that day. If the Florida Special was the first then the Fish Hawg, a metal bait, and the wooden painted bulbous head lure called the Grass Frog rounded out the original three lures Eger made."

Stuart went on to say: "The next lure Eger made was the Frogskin Frog. Mr. Eger took an unpainted Grass Frog body and glued a frog's skin on it. He asked the question, 'can you believe he actually glued a frog's skin on

that bait?' Now Eger had two baits, one named for a known killer and the other a first of its kind ever! The American fishing public loved it!"

Stuart, a third generation Bartow native, expressed his thanks to Myrtice Young, Preservation Manager of the Center, and her staff for their cooperation in planning the display. He also pointed out that Bartow had done many things for him and his family since 1879. This is his opportunity to give back to the community.

In closing Bill revealed his first encounter with Eger Baits: "In 1944 when Eger held an open house at his new plant, Stuart and 2 of his friends could not attend because Eger had the audacity to have his open house during school hours. Stuart and his friends appealed to their dads to ask for a special tour and within a day or so Eger gave them a special tour and he gave each of them two lures out of his "seconds box." One of the lures given to him that day is a part of the display." 🐟



Mammoth Sargent Sea Diver probably a special order, also a Mammoth Plunker to compete with Barracuda's large plunker.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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2015 FATC Club Lure

2015 FATC Club Patch