

# F.A.T.C. NEWS

FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 36 NO. 2

PICTURES FROM THE  
PUNTA GORDA SHOW



THE PENROD COMPANY

THE NEW  
PORPOISE MINNOW



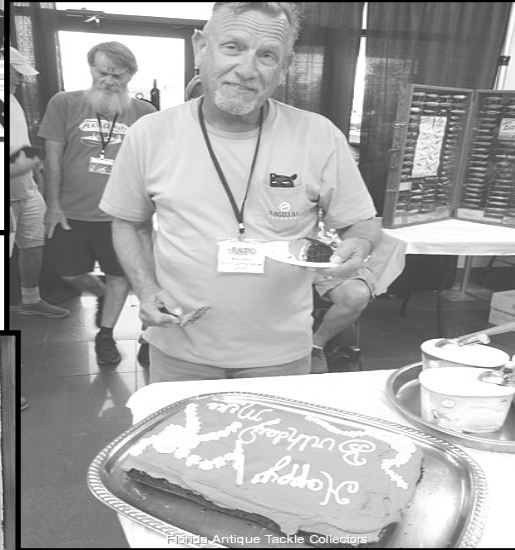
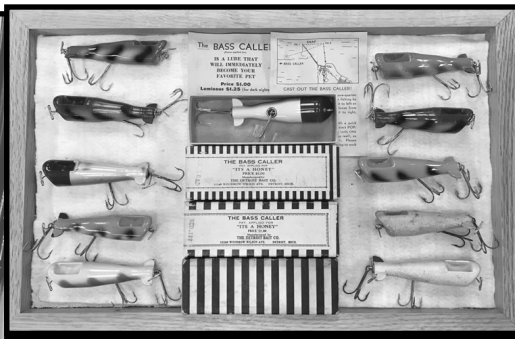
PORTER ADVERTISING LURES



# FATC PUNTA GORDA SHOW



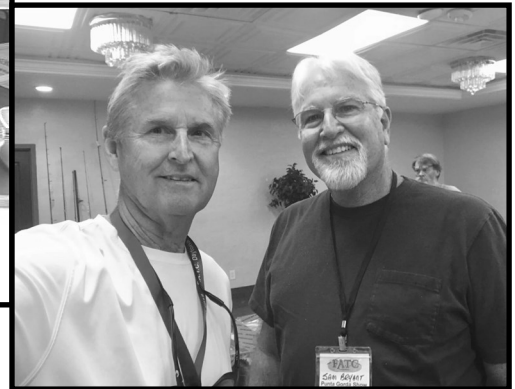
**SCOTT MORGAN AND HIS LURE DESIGNS**



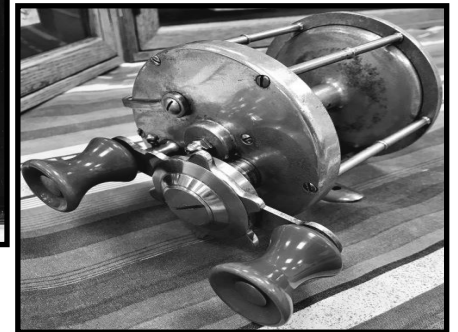
**"BIRTHDAY BOY" MIKE HALL**



**COACH TOM AMSTUTZ AND SOME TUFF BAITS**



**BERNIE SCHULTZ & SAM BRYANT**



**BUTCH & PATTI CAREY**



**RON GAST & ED BAURIES CHECKING OUT SOME LURES**




## FLORIDA LURE COLLECTION ON DISPLAY IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

If you ever attended the FATC lure show in Daytona, one of the first things you saw when you walked through the door was Frank Carter’s timeline display of Florida made lures. As amazing as the display was, most people do not realize that it was only a small part of Frank’s overall timeline collection. Most of the collection is now on display at the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee, Florida. They currently have 270 lure cases on display in an exhibition about Florida fishing that will run through September 25th. Another 100 lure cases are not on display at this time.

### Recent Aquisitions

Many lure makers lived and worked in Florida throughout the twentieth century. Some formed large companies, while others set up workshops at home to make lures as a hobby and to give to friends. Regardless of the size of the operation, Florida craftsmen created a wide variety of colorful lures that have since become much sought-after by collectors.

Long-time collector Frank Carter aimed to develop a timeline of Florida fishing lures to help document and preserve the history of Florida’s fishing lure industry. The collection took many years to assemble. Mr. Carter loaned a section of the timeline for display in the Museum’s 2014 temporary exhibit *The Lure of Florida Fishing*. After he passed away, his widow donated the lures to the Museum as he had wanted. Thanks to the generosity of Frank and Linda Carter, the lures are now part of the Museum’s permanent collection where they will help to interpret a century of lure making in Florida that arose to meet the needs of sport fishers in the Sunshine State.



Some of the fishing lures on display in *The Lure of Florida Fishing* 2014




Grover Cox's Tampa Minnows, ca. 1915-22




Frank Sams' trolling spoon, New Smyrna Beach, ca. 1908-30s  
Patented in 1908, the Edward vom Hofe Company, a northern tackle producer, acquired the rights to the spoon's design in the 1930s.




H. B. Costa Bait Company, Tampa, ca. 1920s  
While this lure's actual name is Istitopoga, it is often referred to as Hammerhead because of the shape of its head.




Walter Clwenger hand carved lures, Tampa, 1950s




Benjamin Smith, St. Augustine, ca. 1940s-50s  
These are early plastic lures.




Kirby Huff, McIntosh, ca. 1920s




Jim Pfeiffer Company, Orlando, ca. 1930s-50s




Daniel Webster Borum hand carved lures, St. Augustine, ca. late 1920s




Eger Bait Manufacturing Company, Bartow, ca. 1930s-50s




"Uncle Charlie" Edwards, Orlando, ca. late 1940s




Grover Cleveland Inlow hand carved lures, Orlando, ca. 1930s



Garland Brothers, Plant City, ca. 1930s  
The lure on the right is unusual in that it has a wood body but a cork head, making it especially buoyant in the water.



Captain Bill Smith's Tarpon Sliders, Islamorada, ca. late 1930s-70s  
Captain Smith was a well known fishing guide at Islamorada in the Florida Keys.



Joe Butler hand carved floats, Tallahassee, ca. 1920s-50s  
A float keeps the hook from sinking to the bottom of a river or lake.

A story in the museum’s current newsletter describes the collection; “Long-time collector Frank Carter aimed to develop a timeline of Florida fishing lures to help document and preserve the history of Florida’s fishing lure industry. The collection took many years to assemble. Mr. Carter loaned a section of the timeline for display in the Museum’s 2014 temporary exhibit *The Lure of Florida Fishing*. After he passed away, his widow donated the lures to the Museum as he had wanted. Thanks to generosity of frank and Linda Carter, the lures are now part of the Museum’s permanent collection where they will help to interpret a century of lure making in Florida that arose to meet the needs of sport fishers in the Sunshine State.”



The photo shown here is Frank Carter posing with Museum curators during the 2014 temporary exhibit.

Frank Carter’s timeline is arguably the most comprehensive collection of Florida lures ever assembled. The exhibition is certainly worth your time if you happen to be in the area. The Museum of Florida History is located at 500 South Bronough Street in Tallahassee, Florida.



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Ed Bauries

Wow! What a show! Many thanks to Dick Braun and his crew for hosting another wonderful FATC event in Punta Gorda.

The show was well attended by members as well as the public. There was a buzz about the room with lots of buying, selling and trading. Several items came off the street for the auction, including a nice Vom Hofe reel. Special thanks to all of our members who donated items for the auction in support of our club.

I was assisting with appraisals when one of our members, Bob Blalock had walk in with a Gilson tackle box loaded with items as well as other treasures from his collection. Bob has been part of the FATC for a very long time, he said that he has always loved the club and that he wanted to give back. Bob's generosity made many members very happy with the items they were able to add to their collections in addition to helping the club. Thank You Bob!

Another big thank you to Jim Berglund and his family for hosting an amazing dinner party. I'll admit that I was somewhat apprehensive at first, as the main course to be served was rabbit. Jim was able to negotiate a deal with the chef for all of those who were brave enough to attend. A truly magically meal. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Just another example of what can happen when you step out of your comfort zone. Just like Twizzlers, Jim's rabbit made mouths happy.

This brings us to our next show, the Savannah Southern Classic. This is a collaborative event with the CATC-Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors. This will be a well attended show at the Embassy Suites airport location. Mark your calendars for this event; [November 11th and 12th, 2022](#). You can find hotel and registration information for this event at [www.fatc.net](http://www.fatc.net) or on Joe's Old lures under the web resources tab to upcoming shows.

Its never too early to start planning for Daytona, which will be quickly approaching after the Savannah show. The dates for the Daytona show are; [February 28th, 29th](#) and [March 1st, 2023](#). Please note: this year the show will take place on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This is another example of stepping out of your comfort zone. Due to the rising cost of the venue and to keep the cost affordable to the members, we had to get creative. This will be the first FATC show that will be held on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Other clubs have done this in the past and have been successful. Let's plan ahead and make this one the best Daytona show ever! I ask our directors please reach out to our membership in reference to this change.

I look forward to seeing you all in Savannah. I appreciate all the hard work and effort put forth by all to keep the FATC a club we all can be proud of.

Ed Bauries  
FATC President



# EDITOR NOTES

Jeff Windisman

Well it looks like I miss a great show at Punta Gorda. I hate to miss our shows, but sometimes life just gets in the way of our fun. But coming in November our dual show with the CATC that will be held in Savannah, Georgia, which as of this writing is close to being book full.

This issue of our newsletter we have some great stories for your enjoyment. The first is from Joe Yates and the Porpoise Minnow, made by the Southern Bait Company. It gives us a little more incite into how the connection between the Southern Bait Company makers. He also gave us another unknown Florida maker to identify. Larry Lucas shows us the advertising baits of the Porter Bait Company. Charlie Tanner has a story on the Penrod steel-rod handles. If you are in Tallahassee for any reason, you need to go to the Museum of Florida History. There you will see the late Frank Carter's extensive Florida Time-Line Collection.

Something for the members that don't want a regular ad and just looking for a certain thing. You can get this small "Classified" Ad for only \$10.00 for [3] three issues of our newsletter. They will be the size of the ones shown below and be block on a page. These will only come in black & white, no color ads. If interested call or email your Advertising Director.

The Dalton Man

WANTED  
PAW PAW PLENTY SPARKLES  
5500-SENIOR, 5600 JUNIOR  
JEFF WINDISMAN  
jkw lure2@outlook.com

WANTED  
BLACK ONLY

WANTED  
NO COLOR

WANTED

# MESSAGE FOR MEMBERSHIP

## "PLEASE READ"

A friendly reminder to all members. If your *home address, phone number, or email* has change. Please inform the Membership Director of the changes as soon as possible. In the passed we have had members call saying the haven't received their newsletter and find out that their address has changed! Please make sure your phone or email is up to date. Sometimes, we have to change our providers and when doing this you can't keep your old phone number or internet, especially moving to a different area. So please keep information up to date, so other members can contact you with that deal on tackle, you have been wanting!

Send changes to:

Membership Director-Jeff Windisman  
Email - jkw lure2@outlook.com  
Phone - 863-326-0757

**MISSING**

*An Article by YOU*  
**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE**

NOTE: Of all of the nice displays that we see at the shows and of all of the information that is in the your heads - we all have a lot we can share.



I'm making a plea to our membership for your knowledge in fishing tackle collecting. We need the membership to write about your passion in collecting. It doesn't matter what it is, can be lures, reels or rods, floats, tackle boxes, hooks anything in our tackle collecting world! So take a little time in the evenings and put together a story on what you would like to write about. *Ill give an incentive for stories, I will pay for your club entry fee to the next FATC show when story is received by me!*

## FATC BOARD MEETING—PUNTA GORDA

Submitted by Grace Chlastawa

June 18, 2022

Pres. Ed Bauries calls meeting to order at 7:15 am

- ~Ed Bauries started meeting with idea to have [4] four FATC shows a year, stating he would look into the Stuart/Sebastian area.
- ~Ed asked that all directors reach out and try to get former members to re-join the club. One suggestion was offering free membership for the first year or a free table at upcoming show?
- ~Ron Gast volunteered to send out a “Mail Chimp” email to all members, telling about the club.
- ~It was suggested that a comparison of table costs at other shows be mentioned to the members. Our tables go for \$35.00 each. What do they charge at other clubs? Ed Bauries said that he would work on a comparison report.
- ~A discussion came up about refunds prior to shows. It was discussed that members need to notify the show host at least [1] one month in advance in order to get a refund.
- ~Daytona 2023 is a Sunday-Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday show. It was set up this way in order to try to keep cost down. Directors were asked to start looking for other venues for our annual “Big” show. And don’t forget about the price of tables for the upcoming Daytona show going up after July 1st and again December 1st. No tables will be reserved until they are paid in full. Also no refunds will be issued after January 1, 2023.
- ~Ron Gast is trying to get a show in August 2023 in St-Petersburg. The show in Crystal River is scheduled for September 14-17, 2023.
- ~The last item of discussion was how to cut cost on the newsletter. Nothing specific; further discussion at future meetings

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 am

Board Members present; Ed Bauries, Butch Carey, Grace Chlastawa, Ron Gast, Larry Lucas,  
Ed Weston, Tom Wilkerson, Joe Yates

## UNKNOWN FLORIDA MAKER

By Joe Yates

This issue's unknown lure is a wooden bait that resembles lures made by a half-dozen or more other Florida companies. Topwater baits with notched sides have become almost generic since Lewis Dinkins began carving them in the 1940s. His wooden lure evolved into the plastic "Rattalur" made for him by Johnny Marsh of Daytona Beach, Florida. Nearly identical "Johnny Rattler" baits were made by Capt. Jim Strader, York Sports Products and Lew Rhoden. A few lure makers such as H.O. Price have made similar baits with wooden bodies.

The lure shown here measures 4 1/2" in length. It weighs approximately 3/4oz. And has no belly weight. The wood is dark in color and is probably Spanish cedar.



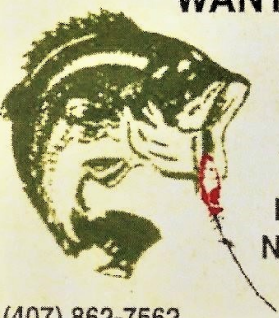
The lure has three notches cut into each side. A single belly hook is secured by surface hardware. The hooks are fairly heavy and are suitable for either freshwater or saltwater fishing.

I acquired the lure years ago in a group of Florida-made baits on eBay. I believe that it was likely made in Florida, but I have never seen another and do not know where or when it was made. Any help in identifying the lure would be greatly appreciated.

# Thanks to all who helped with my collection!

*~Chuck*

**WANTED:**



(407) 862-7562

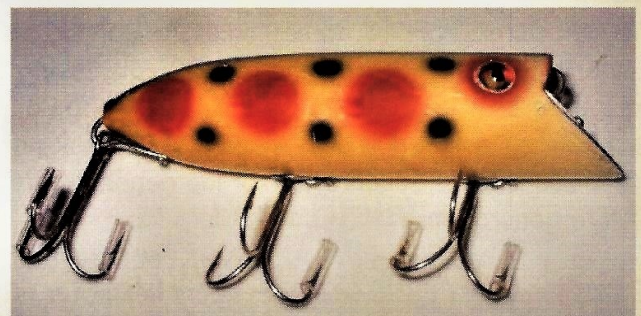
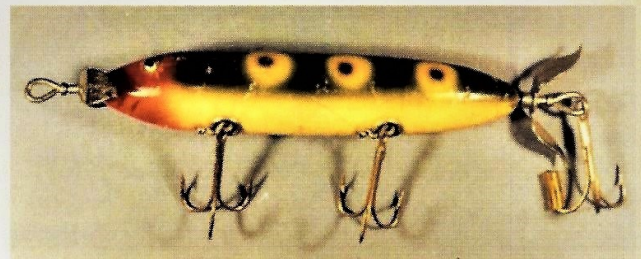
*Genuine*

**Heddon**

LURES

C. HEDDON  
519 Sugar Ridge Ct.  
Longwood, FL 32779

FATC  
NFLCC



Cell: 321-439-4011

cheddon@mpinet.net



## FATC FEATURED MEMBER

Tom Wilkerson



### **Tell us some history about yourself;**

I was born in Newport, Arkansas. When I was very young, my family moved a lot. We finally settled in southwest Michigan. I graduated from high school in 1975 from Dowagiac Union High ... "Go Chieftains". Believe it or not, some things comes full circle! Being divorced one time, I'm now marry to my beautiful wife, Grace Chlastawa, who is also involved in our club as treasurer. We live outside a small town called Orange Springs, Florida in Putnam County. My Favorite fishing spots are Rodman Reservoir and the Oklawaha River.

### **What got you interested in collecting old fishing tackle, and when did you become a member of the FATC;**

A older friend from Michigan had started buying and selling fishing tackle at a flea market, and wanted me to be his Florida picker! I started going to yard sales, estate sales and so on. My friend suggested I buy a book on old fishing tackle, after this I was

hooked! I joined the FATC in either 2001 or 2002. I went to my first show in 2004 [Daytona] and have been going to our shows ever since.

### **What is your passion in collecting?**

My main passion is "Lures". I prefer 5-hookers such as Heddon 150s, but I also collect Creek Chub Pike's in the different models. But I still like the general collecting of other lure makers, with my collections being varied.

### **Tell us about your best memory as a collector;**

My best memory as a collector would fall into the; "It's Still Out There" or the lucky find category. Approximately 10 years ago I was talking with my younger sister in Michigan, on the phone. She had found an add on Craigs List listing for antique lures for sale. It was a Tuesday evening when I called the number for the lures. A mechanic in Battle Creek, Michigan had taken the lures to pay for a transmission repair. I spent the next few days building a repour with the mechanic. The deal was made and my sister picked up the lures the next Monday and sent them to me. It was a total of 65 Baits, most in good condition, with 21 of them being Heddon 150s, which 15 are still in my collection.

### **What is the one item that your still looking for?**

I have been looking for a Creek Chub #3012-Jnt. Husky Pike in solid red, [which I have a box for], and I know it's a very rare color to find, But! And always any Heddon 150s in good to excellent condition.

### **What are your thoughts on where our club needs to go into the future;**

Considering the last two or three years, I think the FATC is in good shape. We have a good nucleus of members. The members are what makes the FATC work! Finding new venues is important Too.

# SOUTHERN BAIT COMPANY AND THE NEW PORPOISE MINNOW

By Joe Yates

With the up coming lure show in Savannah, Georgia it seems fitting to re-visit the story of a fishing lure with a connection that was once there.

In the late 1930s a wooden lure known as Wyatt's New Porpoise Minnow was being manufactured by southern Bait Company in Savannah. By 1947 a plastic version of the lure was being sold as; Tilton's New Porpoise Minnow by Southern Bait Company in Coral Gables, Florida and later in Miami, Florida. Both of these lures were designed in Savannah by a gentleman named John Lester Wyatt.

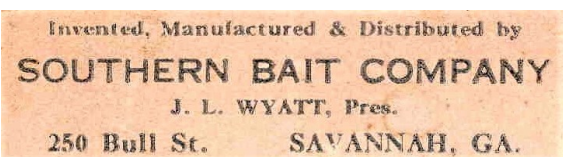
Wyatt was born in Lovett, Georgia on February 22, 1869. He was the fifth of nine children born to John Lucian Wyatt and his second wife, Mary Emma Hutchinson Wyatt. His father grew up on a farm and himself a farmer his entire working life.

John Lester Wyatt served in the U.S. Coast Artillery Corps from 1915-1916. He was a private in the signal corps of 74th Company and most of his time in the service was spent at fort Screven on nearby Tybee Island, Georgia. An accident in 1916 resulted in the loss of two fingers from his left hand.

Wyatt was working as a shoe salesman in Savannah when he married Alberta Lee of Bulloch, Georgia on December 20, 1920. The couple had a daughter in 1922 when Eloise Emil Wyatt was born. This is a photograph of the Wyatt family.



By 1922 Wyatt was managing the Newark Shoe Store in Savannah. H worked in the clothing industry throughout the 1920s as a salesman for Hub Clothing and as a clerk for Bond Brothers before taking a job as a salesman for McCrary Refrigerators in 1930.

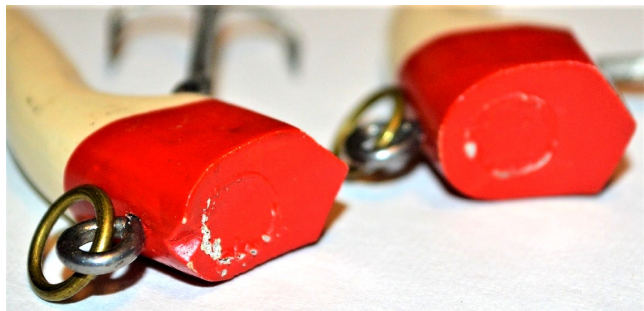


Sometime in the mid-1930s, John L. Wyatt started a business of his own. It was called Southern Bait Company and was located at 250 Bull Street in Savannah, Georgia. Wyatt was both owner and President of the company. The only bait known to have been sold by the company was called Wyatt's New Porpoise Minnow. Lure packaging tells us that the Porpoise was "Inventing, manufactured, and Distributed by Southern Bait company.

A short story in Volume VI of Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures described the Wyatt Porpoise Minnow: "this lure with its very attractive lines appears almost delicate. If you stand the lure on its tail, it looks like the cabriole leg from a Queen Anne dining table.

There were actually two variations of the New Porpoise Minnow, both of which are shown here. The difference in the two can be seen only by looking closely at the head of the lure. The one at the top, has a very small notch cut in the top of the head just in front of the line tie. [shown in picture on next page]





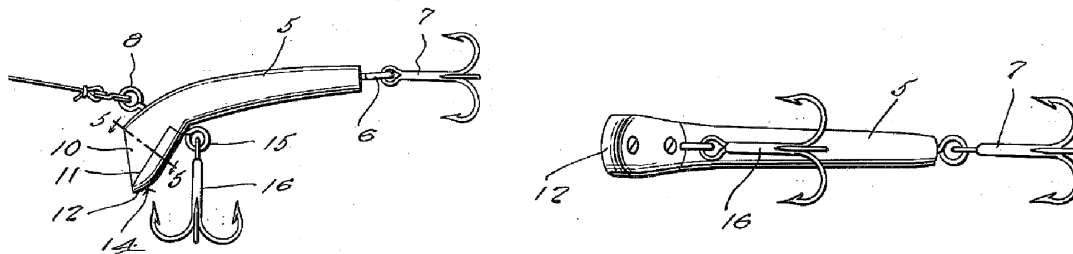
[Shows notch cut at left]. Both lures measure 2 1/2” long. The notched lure weighs 4/10 ounce and the un-notched lure is a bit heavier at 1/2 ounce. The lure body is made of wood and has a round lead weight in its face.

Wyatt’s New Porpoise Minnows were packaged in a sleeved two-piece cardboard box. The box top is illustrated with a colorful graphic of the lure. It tells us that the Porpoise was made for both salt and fresh water fishing. One side panel of the box describes “THE MINNOW WITH ACTION” and indicates that each box contains two minnows at a cost of \$2.50.



The bottom of the box explains the difference in the two lure models and how each should be used: “THESE MINNOWS are equally effective for Fishing in Fresh Water as in Salt Water. Use Minnow with Notch cut into the head for Shallow Water and Close to shore. Use Other Minnow for fishing in Deep Water and Cove.”

The box bottom also displays a patent number for the lure. John L. Wyatt applied for a patent for an artificial minnow on January 24, 1939. Patent number; 2,184,031 was granted on December 19, 1939. Two of the illustrations from his application are shown here:



Wyatt’s patent application described an artificial minnow with a rigid body having a rounded and weighted front end that would “produce a wobbling movement of the rear end thereof as well as a transverse rocking movement in simulation of the motion of a swimming fish.” One objective was “to provide an artificial minnow of simple and practical construction, which is efficient and dependable in use, relatively inexpensive to manufacture and otherwise well adapted to the purposes for which the same is intended.” He specified that the body of the minnow was to be “preferably constructed of substantially light-weight wood or similar buoyant material.”

You will probably notice that the illustration in the patent application do not look exactly like the wooden Porpoise Minnows shown above. They more closely resemble a Porpoise Minnow made of plastic like the one shown here. The plastic lure body measures 2 1/2” and the lure weighs 4/10ounce. A metal weight is attached to the underside of the lure head with a screw. The lure has been found in a half-dozen colors including white with red head, yellow with red head, white with red head and tail, yellow with red head and tail, gray with red head, and clear body with yellow stripes and red head. It is likely other colors were made as well.



The plastic version of the lure was called Tilton's New Porpoise Minnow and was sold by Southern Bait Company, Incorporated of Coral Gables, Florida. The Florida Corporation was formed on December 3, 1947 and was located at 135 Coral Way in Coral Gables, Florida. Corporate officers were:

David W. Hendrick, Jr.	President and director
Benjamin W. Turner	Vice-President and Director
Phyllis Immler	Secretary-Treasurer and Director

By early 1949 officers of the company had changed. E.J. Tilton was President and Treasurer, Benjamin W. Turner was vice-President, and David H. Hendrick, Jr. was listed as an officer with no title specified. Phyllis Immler was no longer listed as an officer. Agents for the company were attorneys Turner and Hendrick. The Volume VI story mentioned earlier incorrectly that the company filed for dissolution on February 17, 1949. The company was actually dissolved several years later on May 10, 1952. It is more likely that the 1949 date coincides with a move by the company to Miami, Florida. Their new location was 3763 S.W. 27th Terrace in Miami, Florida.



Lures sold during the time the company was located in Coral Gables were packaged in a folding top cardboard box like the one shown here. The box top was illustrated with a colorful image of the lure. It also bore "the minnow with Action" slogan and patent number seen on the box used by Southern Bait Company of Savannah, Georgia.

A cellophane window box was used for packaging the lures after the company address changed to Miami, Florida. The bottom of the box explained that "Tilton's Minnows are made of the finest plastic material available" and claimed they "will last forever." The box side panel guaranteed the lure as "chip-proof - unbreakable."



**SOUTHERN BAIT CO., INC.**  
*Coral Gables*  
FLORIDA

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**TILTON'S NEW PORPOISE MINNOWS**



*For Salt and Fresh  
Water Fishing*

A fish getter that dives down and wiggles its tail in the face of those hard to raise lunkers, daring them to strike—a proven lure that gets results. The Tilton Porpoise Minnow is made of durable plastic in many color patterns that will catch fish and hold them.

See Your Tackle Dealer

An advertisement for Tilton's New Porpoise minnows appeared in the 1948 edition of *Goin' fishin' in Florida*. Notice that the ad shows the Coral Gables address. Note also that the graphic in the advertisement looks more like the wooden lure than the plastic lure, even though the text says that the lure is made of durable plastic.

Fabricating fishing lures from plastic requires specialized tools and skills. There is little or nothing in the backgrounds of the officers of Southern Bait Company that help us understand how any of them could have been lure makers. As already mentioned, Benjamin W. Turner and David H. Kendrick, Jr. were both attorneys. Turner was also a banker and financier. Hendrick served multiple terms as Councilman and Mayor of Coral Gables, Florida.

The namesake for the Florida-made Porpoise Minnow was Edwin John Tilton, Sr. He was born on November 10, 1900 in Savannah, Georgia. His 1970 obituary described him as "a well-known engineer and pilot, having been a pioneer in aviation in the Savannah area." The 1940 federal Census recorded Tilton as a resident of Savannah

who was employed as a locomotive engineer. Both John Tilton and John Wyatt were active Masons in Savannah and it is possible that is where their paths crossed.

It is not clear how or when Tilton acquired the Porpoise minnow business from John Wyatt. We do know from a family member history written by Tilton's granddaughter that Edwin J. Tilton, Sr. had owned several businesses up and down the coast from Savannah to Miami. The majority of them were marinas, plus a laundry service located on Bull Street in Savannah, Georgia. "Remember that the Savannah based Southern Bait Company was also located on Bull Street." Tilton was living in Florida when the Coral Gables company was formed. He passed away on April 1, 1970 in fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The story about the Porpoise Minnows from Volume VI of *Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures* concludes with this paragraph: "A final note about this company. There does not appear to be any connection between this 'Southern' company and any other company with Southern as part of the company or corporate name." We now know there is at least one connection, though it may be as flimsy as a single sheet of paper.

In 2007 I traveled to Alabama and visited with Louise Thomas Varnedoe. She worked for her father, Herbert A. Thomas, making fishing lures as a young girl in Florida in the 1940s. Herbert A. Thomas started the Southern Bait company in Mineola, Florida in the early 1930s. He and his two daughters made fishing lures in a backyard shop at their home in Ormond, Florida beginning in the mid-1940s. Thomas is associated with Southern Lures made or sold at any number of Florida locations. So, what, if any, was his association with Southern Bait Company of Coral Gables and Miami?

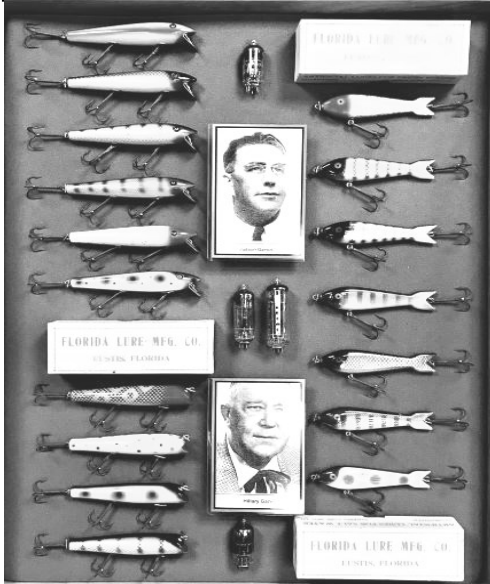
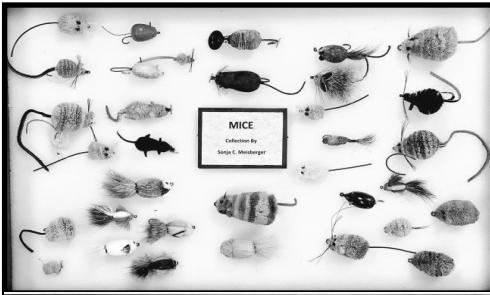
Louise had a shoebox of lures that came from her father's workshop in Ormond after he passed away in 1953. She also had a few pieces of paper. One of them was the only letterhead ever seen for Southern Bait Company, Inc. of Coral Gables, Florida. The illustration on the letterhead is a lure that is very different from both the wooden Porpoise minnow made in Savannah, Georgia and the plastic Porpoise Minnow from South Florida.



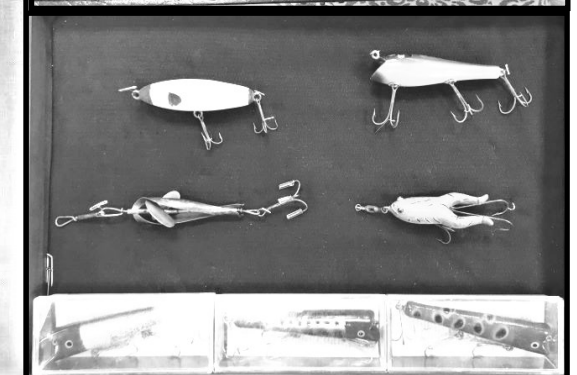
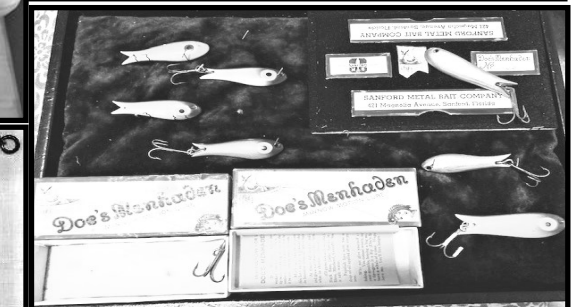
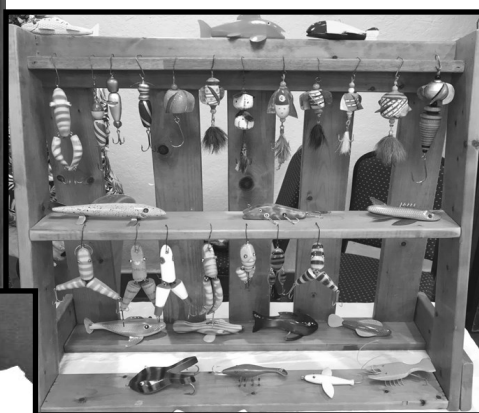
Why would Herbert Thomas have a letterhead for Southern Bait Company of Coral Gables, Florida? We know he was making and selling plastic shrimp lures in the 1940s. Was he somehow involved with making the plastic Porpoise Minnows in Coral Gables? We do not know the answers to these questions. We do know that there were no porpoise minnows in the shoebox of lures that Louise rescued from her father's workshop. Perhaps some additional information will turn up some day.

Some of you that will be attending the November show in Savannah might be interested to know that the address occupied by southern Bait Company in the 1930s is now an antique shop. The proprietor was not aware of that bit of history and had never heard of a Porpoise Minnow when I told him about John L. Wyatt. Any Southern Bait Company box for a Porpoise Minnow should be regarded as quite rare. The lures turn up from time to time, but not very often. The first one we found came from a Savannah antique shop many years ago. You just never know why you might see in the old city!

# FATC PUNTA GORDA SHOW



**SHOW HOST FOR PUNTA GORDA  
SHERRILL & DICK BRAUN**



# THE PENROD COMPANY

## BERYLLIUM-COPPER FISHING RODS

Charlie Tanner

I own one Penrod, beryllium rod and a second handle [no shaft] with the Penrod Company of Gilbertville, PA. impressed on the reel seat. I had no other information on this company. In many of my research efforts, I contact a local library or historical society. Sometimes the effort leads to a blind alley; however my inquire about the company with the Douglas Township Municipal Library bore fruit!

While the library had no information on Penrod, they referred me to Bill Zern whose brother once ran a sporting goods store in Gilbertsville. Bill knew that local resident, Bob Wolfgang whose mother and father worked for Penrod. Bob phoned me with following information; Penrod Co. began production right after WWII by Harry Gable and his partner Abram Espenship. Harry and Abram outsourced the parts for their beryllium-copper tubular fishing rods.

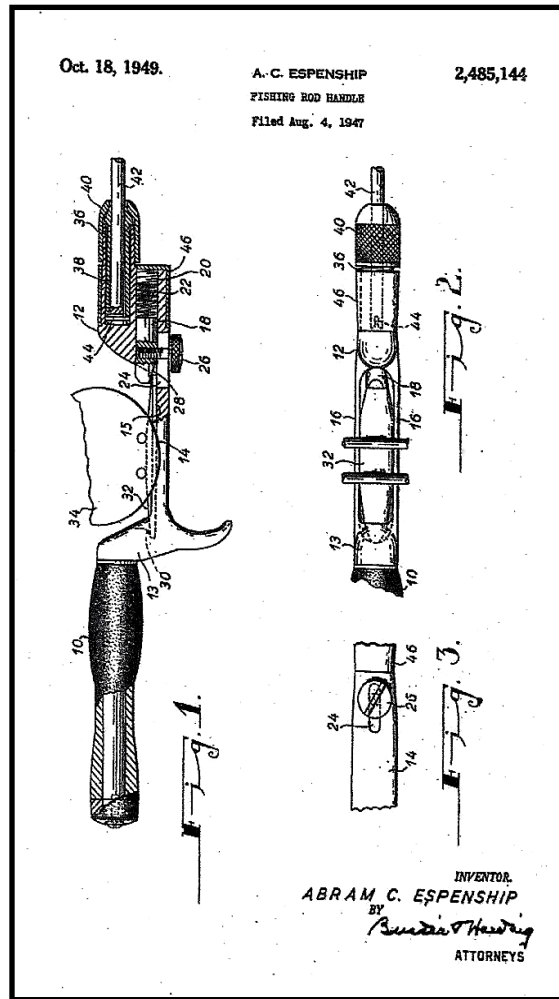
The company had four employees, Bob Wolfgang's Mom and Dad along with his Aunt Estelle, with Harry Gable's niece making up the workforce. They made bait casting, and also made flyrods and saltwater models. Abram Espenship held the patent [#2,485,144] for a off-set bait casting handle that they used on many of the companies rods.

When the parts for the rods arrived on their second floor shop over the post office, the crew soldered on the guides and wrapped them in their trademark colored thread; purple and orange. The company remained in business until 1955, when fiberglass came on the scene.

Their beryllium-copper fishing rods contained; 2% beryllium, 3% cobalt, and 95% copper. They were flexible and wouldn't rust, however if they were left unattended over the years they would show come green colored corrosions, just like an old copper penny. Penrod rods are rather rare. A collectors value could bring around \$30.00 for a rod in good condition.



The top shows the original patented handle by Abram Espenship with the beryllium shaft. The bottom shows a later version of the handle.



Above shows the patented handle by Abram Espenship in 1949.

## PORTER ADVERTIZING LURES

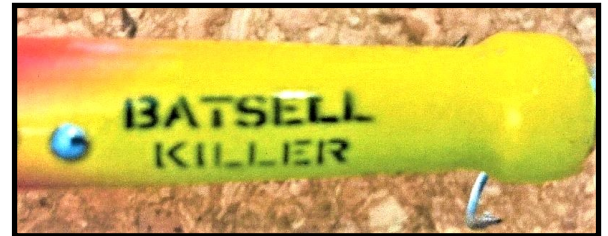
By Larry Lucas

A few weeks ago, I was having a conversation with a couple of knowledgeable collectors about the fact the Porter Bait Company was located in a small town with a low population. How could a company survive in such a small community, especially when they could produce many times more lures than what they could sell? I believe Porter was able to think outside the box to find ways to increase sales and production by marketing to companies with a message stenciled on his lures. This is a picture of some of the baits [below right] that we believe were used for advertising. Some of them are well documented and others, we can only speculate on.

We will start off at the top left with the lures marked "BATSELL". This connection is well documented. Porter made the Killer pier bait for the Batsell Hardware store in Brownsville, Texas. We don't know how the connection came about, but there are many examples of Batsell Killers in collector's hands. What hasn't been seen before, is a Pop-Stop [below] stenciled Batsell. This bait is either early Dixie or very early Porter.



*Shows collection of Porter advertising lures.*

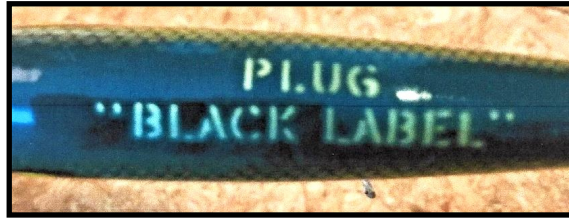


Below the Batsell's are two Pop-Stop lures in Porter's color pattern number 34. The lures are stenciled "Sportsman's Candy Stick". We don't know who these were made for but I know they were very popular in the Peace River on Florida's west coast. The box is marked #34 just like a normal bait in that pattern.

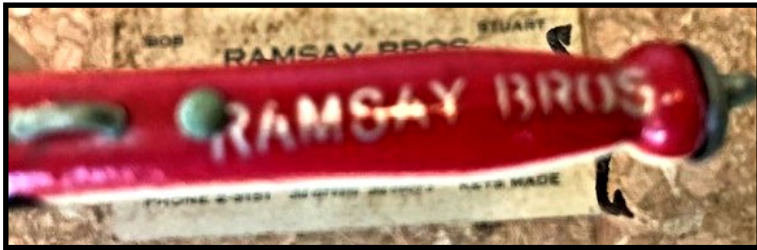




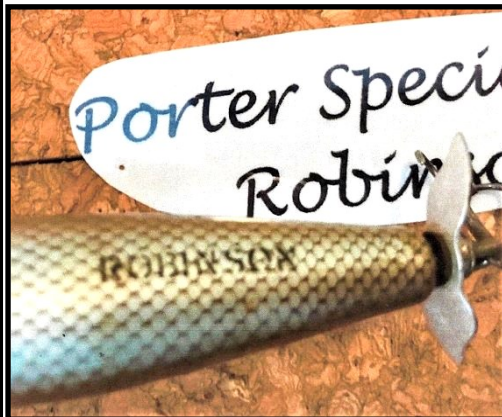
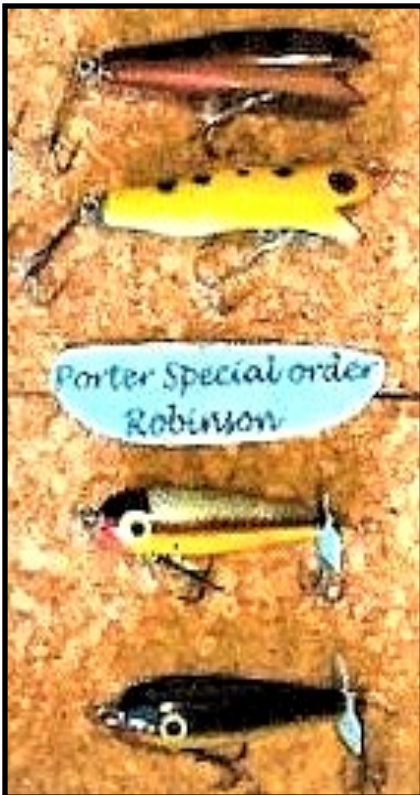
The two lures in the lower left middle are Porter Stix's, a common lure. What isn't common is the stenciling, "Plug Black Label". We have no idea what this means. Several collectors believe it was done for Black Label Beer, an old brewing company that started in England in 1840 and came to America in 1933. We may never know for sure.



Moving to the top right corner, we have lures marked for Ramsay Brothers of Daytona Beach. They were a well known tackle shop on Main Street very close to the Porter Bait Company. It is easy to see how the Ramsay Brothers contracted with Porter to make personalized lures for their store. What I have never seen before is the box insert marked Ramsay Brothers. [displayed on cover]

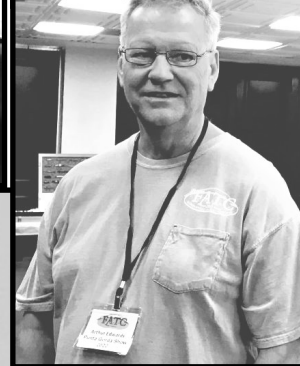
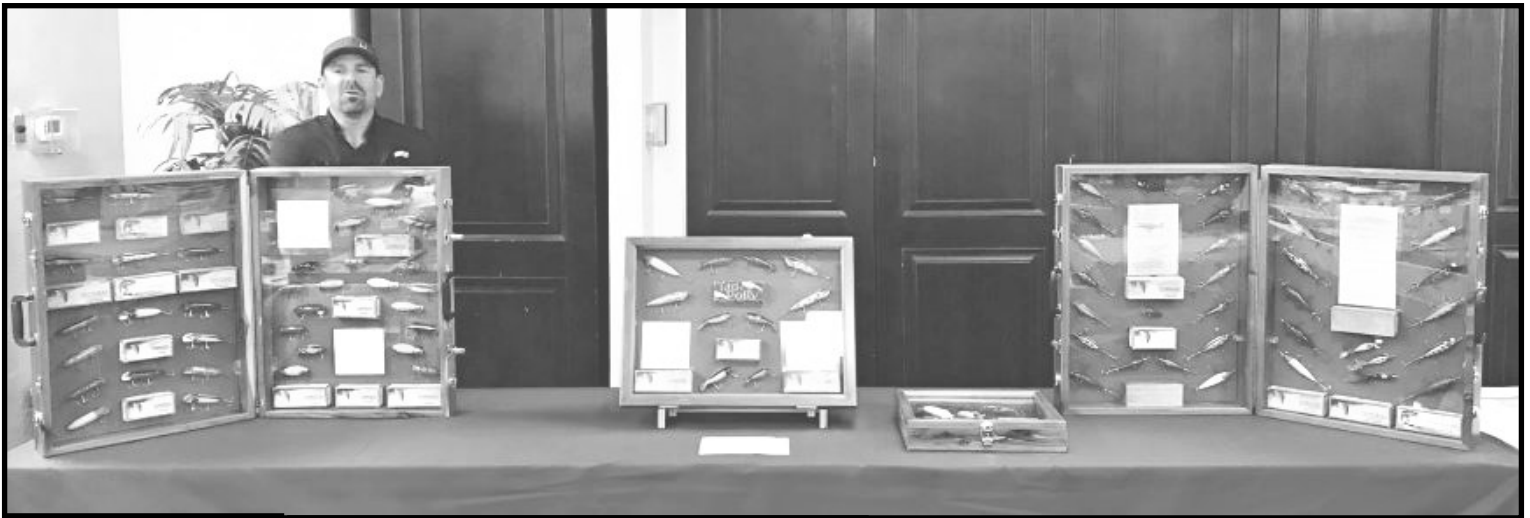


Last but not least are the lures marked Robinson. We have found two different body Styles, the top bait is a Porter Kid Dart-O and the bottom bait is one we aren't familiar with, but definitely Porter. What we don't know is which Robinson is referenced on the lures. For years, it was thought to be Robinson Sporting Goods in Atlanta, Georgia, that did distribute Porter Baits. We have never seen a Robinson bait offered in any of the catalogs we've seen. Another option was discovered about ten years ago when a 1962 Daytona phone book was found to have a Robinson Sporting Goods on US 1. Again, we may never know who it was made for.



In my opinion, the only lure in this group that was successful was the Batsell baits. There are too few of the other lures in the marketplace or collectors hands for a volume of them to have been made. If you have any input on this topic, please get in touch with me.

# FATC PUNTA GORDA SHOW



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**“FATC AD RATES” EFFECTIVE 2020**

Classified “Tackle Box” Ads {Black & White}	\$3.50	1x	\$10.00	3x
Classified “Tackle Box” Ads {Color}	\$5.00	1x	\$12.50	3x
Business Card Ads {Black & White}	\$10.00	1x	\$29.00	3x
Business Card Ads {Color}	\$15.00	1x	\$40.00	3x
1/4 Page Ads {Black & White}	\$50.00	1x	\$120.00	3x
1/4 Page Ads {Color}	\$75.00	1x	\$200.00	3x
1/2 Page Ads {Black & White} “Horizontal”	\$200.00	1x	\$450.00	3x
1/2 Page Ads {Color} “Horizontal”	\$300.00	1x	\$679.00	3x
1/2 Page Ads {Black & White} “Vertical”	\$160.00	1x	\$380.00	3x

**FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS INC.**  
 A NOT-FOR PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED  
 TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR ANGLING HERITAGE

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Inc. [FATC] is a not-for-profit educational corporation in the state of Florida. The Purpose of the 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 present day and to assist other groups and individuals having a similar purpose. In order 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 about history of angling in Florida and elsewhere. FATC sponsors three exhibitions, open to the public, annually at different locations. At the exhibition members display their collections, interact with the public and engage in other activities in keeping with the purpose of the FATC. The FATC publishes a newsletter tri-annually and annual membership directory. FATC is not affiliated in any way with the National Fishing Lure Collectors Club [NFLCC] or the Old reel Collectors Association Inc. [ORCA], but encourage FATC members to support those organizations.

FATC annual membership dues are \$35 Domestic, \$40 Canada, \$45 Foreign or \$700 Life Membership [Domestic], \$800 Life Membership [Canada], \$900 Life Membership [Foreign] 20x Annual dues. Please direct membership inquiries or applications [with your dues] to the FATC Treasurer listed above. For membership applications, visit our Website at: [www.fatc.net](http://www.fatc.net)

## **2022 FATC CLUB PATCH**



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **CATC/ FATC Combined Show**

**November 10,11 & 12 2022**

**Hilton Savannah Airport Conference Center & Hotel**

**FATC Show Host; Bernie Schultz: [www.bernieschultzfishing.com](http://www.bernieschultzfishing.com)**

**CATC Show Host; Steve Herzog [zzogmann1@yahoo.com](mailto:zzogmann1@yahoo.com)**

### **FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUE TACKLE SHOW**

**FEBRUARY 27th, 28th & March 1st, 2023**

**Plaza Resort & Spa Daytona Beach, Florida**

**Show Host; Larry Lucas**

**[theporterguy1@gmail.com](mailto:theporterguy1@gmail.com)**