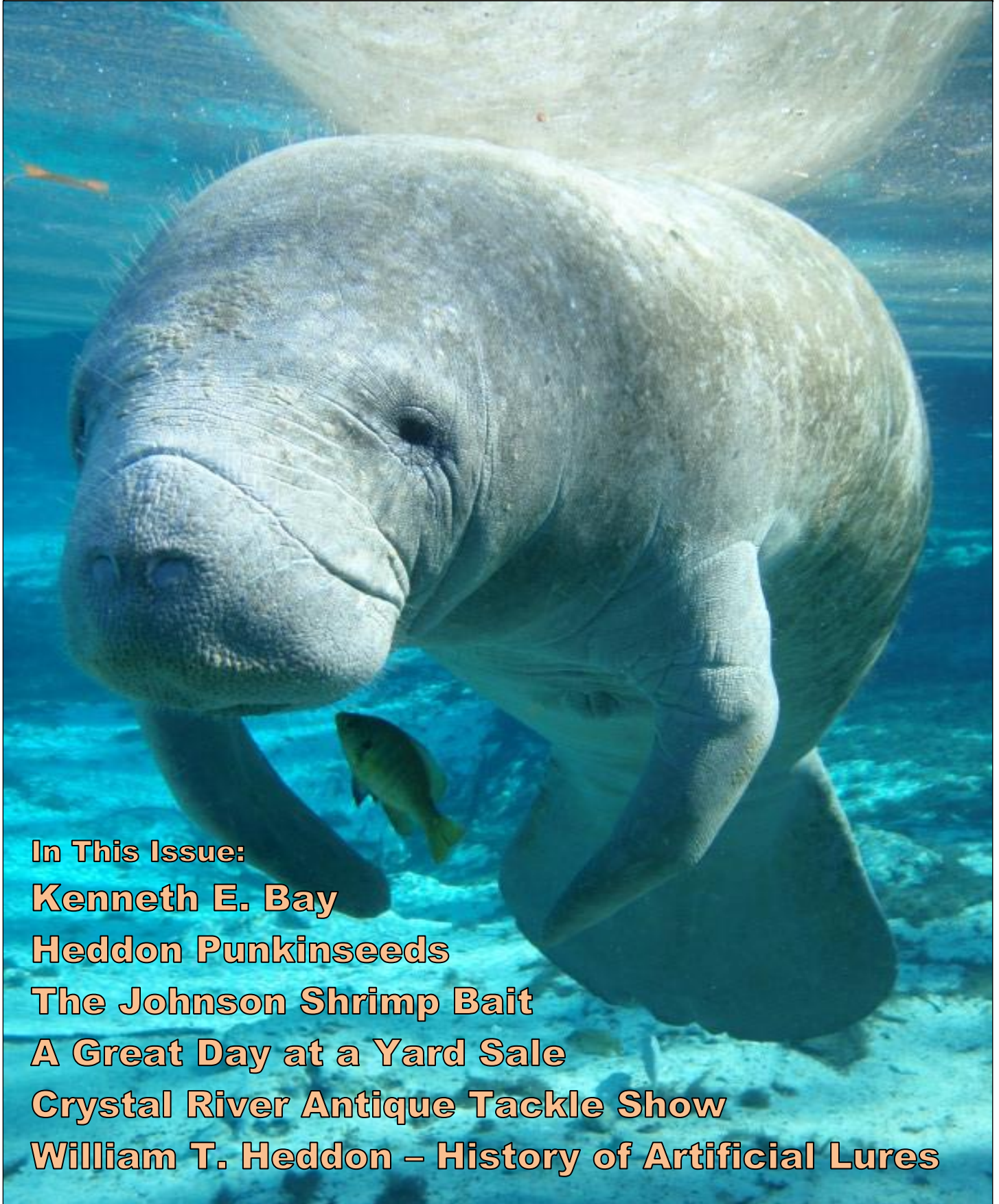


F.A.T.C. News



Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Newsletter

Volume 38 No. 2



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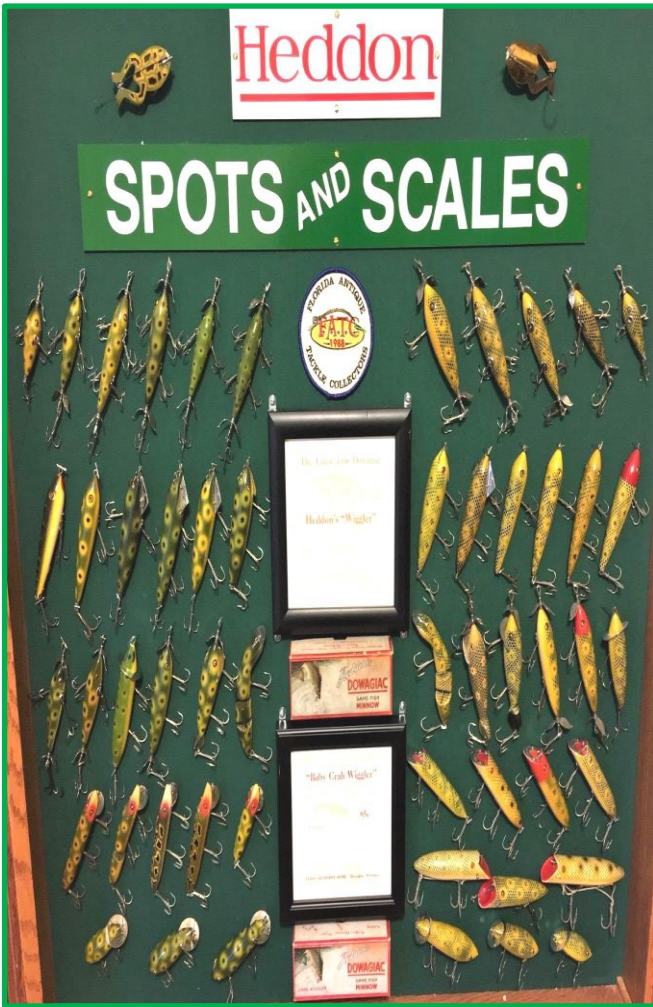
William T. Heddon – History of Artificial Lures



Photos from the FATC show held in St. Augustine, Florida – March 2024

Additional photos are available online at:

[https://fatc.net/Pictures/ShowPictures/St Augustine 2024/album/index.html](https://fatc.net/Pictures/ShowPictures/St%20Augustine%202024/album/index.html)



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FATC NEWS
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS, INC.
 Spring 2024 Volume 38 No. 2

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Cover:

Manatee in Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge
 Photo by Tracy Colson of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

F.A.T.C. News is published tri-annually by the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, a voluntary "not-for-profit" corporation. Past issues can be viewed online at our website: www.fatc.net

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President's Message

Jim Berglund



Hello everyone!

If you weren't at the last Saint Augustine show you probably didn't get the word that I, Jim Berglund, have volunteered and been elected to the office as president of the FATC. As a member of over 15 years, I believe it is a right to step into a leadership role, and as a volunteer, I am glad to do it. As I've told many members before, I go to all the shows anyway, so why not.

As always, we are preparing for a few upcoming shows. One of them being in Crystal River in late May and the other being the Altamonte Springs show in September. I would like to thank the members that come forward and put the shows together if it weren't for the hard work of these members, we would not have these wonderful shows to get together and buy, sell, and trade lures, and just have a good time. Remember it all starts with you, the members.

I would like everyone to know that I had a wonderful time at the Savannah show and hope all that were there had a great time too. We are working right now to have another one of these combined shows with the CATC. We would like as many to participate as possible to make it another great fall show. St. Augustine went off without a hitch well, maybe one or two hitches but it was still a great show. Larry Lucas and Chris Smith once again did a wonderful job as the show hosts and help was appreciated from all the other members who came to assist in this huge endeavor. Thank you to all!

Being that I am a new president, I would like to put it out to everyone out there who reads this message. My door is always open. The only bad ideas are ones that are not shared. This group depends on its members to keep it going and to keep our events enjoyable. My phone is always on and unless I'm driving a tractor I will answer.

I look forward to the future with all of you and wish all of you good fortune until we meet again.



Editor's Corner

Joe Yates

The picture on the cover of this issue is a perfect example of some of the beautiful places where FATC holds its shows.

The headwaters of the Crystal River are Kings Bay, which has more than seventy clearwater natural springs. The Kings Bay / Crystal River group of springs is the second largest in the state of Florida. Only a short drive south are the famous springs of Homosassa. A number of other natural springs can be found between Crystal River and Homosassa.

Crystal River is home of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge. It is a place where Florida Manatees gather in large numbers to escape the cold water of winter. The 72° water of the springs might feel cold to you and me, but it offers life protecting warmth to the manatee.

There is no guarantee that we will get to see any manatees when we get together for our show at the end of May, but chances are pretty good that we will. Regardless, we will be surrounded by some beautiful scenery and there are ample opportunities to do a few things other than play with old fishing tackle. Liz and I are staying over after the show and I have scheduled a fishing trip with a good friend. It's always nice to make a little vacation around an FATC show. Perhaps you can make a little vacation trip with your own family.

Thanks to several people who have contributed stories for this issue of the *FATC News*. They sure do make my job easier and I appreciate anything and everything that anyone cares to pass along. Please send all story contributions either by email to: FATCnews@gmail.com or you can use my postal address in the Directory.

Thanks,
Joe Yates

Did you know that FATC is on Facebook? Visit our page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Florida-Antique-Tackle-Collectors/100075497846925/>



Remembering Todd Mangan

F.A.T.C. Editorial Staff

As many of you know, our club has suffered the loss of numerous members — the most recent of whom is our longtime friend, Todd Mangan.

Todd passed away suddenly, just before the St. Augustine show. According to his wife Kathy (Skrzypczak), he spent days rearranging his lure cases for the show and had them setting by the door, ready for an early departure the next morning. Unfortunately, he passed that evening.

Born in Peoria, Illinois on October 1, 1964, Joseph “Todd” Mangan was 59 years old. He lived in Martin County for 39 years and retired in 2022, after 36 years of service in press operations with Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers.



Many of you will recall Todd’s award-winning Charmer collection, and more recently, his Shapleigh Hardware collection — both of which were world class.

Todd was a regular at our shows, always friendly and engaging. He enjoyed the camaraderie and sharing his passion for the hobby. He was also a member of the National Fishing Lure Collectors Club, active with many of their shows as well.

He loved fishing, boating, hunting and spending time in the Keys and along the Treasure Coast with Kathy and their closest friends. He also loved his teal blue 1968 Chevy Camaro, which he took to car shows.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kathy and the family. Rest In Peace.



FATC Member Wayne Edens is featured in an article in the April/May 2024 issue of *Garden & Gun* magazine. Wayne tells a story about acquiring a small collection of lures in 1988 from a client who needed money. That was the first stop along a path that has taken him to owning one of the foremost collections of antique fishing lures in the country. Pick up a copy of the magazine for a nice read about a good guy and his collection.





St. Augustine a Huge Success!



Patti Carey and Grace Chlastawa working the registration desk

The 2nd Annual Florida International Antique Tackle Show was held over the weekend of March 1-3, 2024 and was a grand success. Collectors from across the country displayed and sold all kinds of antique fishing tackle spread over hundreds of tables in the huge ballroom of the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Florida.

The Outdoors Show crew from Jacksonville Sports Radio 1010AM/92.5FM did a live podcast from the show during the day on Saturday and several videographers streamed feeds from the



The Outdoors Show

tackle show on YouTube. The public showed up in force. Some brought tackle for appraisal and several nice items were consigned to the Saturday night auction.

Most FATC members had no trouble finding pieces to add to their collections. All kinds of fishing lures, rods, reels, tackle boxes and memorabilia could be found by anyone who looked. A small snapshot of the tackle for sale and display can be seen in photographs available on the [FATC website](#).

Several people were acknowledged at the Saturday night meeting.



Joe Yates and Chuck Heddon were recognized as Honorary FATC Members



Chris and Laura Smith received the President's Award

FATC encourages members to bring a display of old fishing tackle to shows and recognizes the very best at a Saturday night awards ceremony. The competition is always fierce. Here are this year's winners.



John Hoover won Best Educational Display Award



Bill Hoerter won Best Rod/Reel Display Award



Luke Pemberton won Best Florida Lure Display Award



Bill Premaza won Best of Show Award

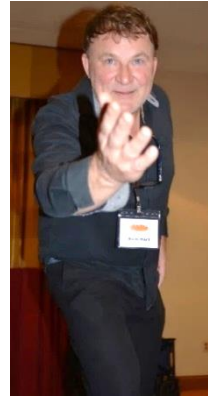




Rylee Howell drew the winning ticket for the 50-50 raffle and Barbara Brace and Rich Hart look for the lucky winner.



Mike Sims had the hot ticket and won the raffle.



The Saturday night auction drew a crowd. Auctioneer Rich Hart did a great job, as always, in a packed room of bidders and watchers.

The highlight of the 200+ lots in the Saturday night auction was an Eger Grass Frog that came in off the street. Woo Hoo!

The annual FATC business meeting was held on Sunday, March 3rd, 2024. Among the business conducted were elections for the offices of FATC President and Secretary. Jim Berglund was elected President, replacing outgoing President Ed Bauries. Joe Yates was elected Secretary, replacing outgoing Secretary Bill Premaza. It was decided that club membership functions will be part of the role of the Club Secretary, rather than a separate position. Two members were also elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Mike Sims and Jack Fenwick are replacing Directors Sam Bryant and Dale Van De Voort, whose terms have ended.



Four FATC Presidents were able to spend some time visiting with each other at the show. Newly elected President Jim Berglund is shown with outgoing President Ed Bauries in the front row. Former Presidents Mike Hall and Larry Lucas are shown in the back row.

Planning and running a large show like St. Augustine require a lot of work over a period of many months. Show hosts Larry Lucas and Chris Smith did a great job from start to finish. Thanks to them and also to the small army of people who helped make up packets, man the registration desk, sell raffle tickets, run the auction, and perform all the other tasks that help to make this one of the best antique fishing tackle shows in the country.



Larry Lucas has hosted great shows for many years

Plans are already underway for next year and we hope to see everyone again in 2025.

A Great Day at a Yard Sale

by Gary Wheeler

My name is Gary Wheeler. I live in Dunnellon, Florida. I've been collecting since about 1992 and fishing since about 1950. By the way, it's a tie for which one I like best. I fished in the streams and ponds in southeast Missouri and northern Arkansas with mostly a cane pole and bobber.

After moving to Michigan as a teen, I learned what a rod and reel were all about. I could make a "bird nest" out of any reel I ever met. The bluegill ponds and lake Michigan kept me fishing all kinds of tackle as I learned more about fishing from some "old timers."

After a hitch in the Marines (and learning about salt water) I moved to Florida in 1983, and boy did I ever learn about salt water fishing from a brother-in-law. We fished the Gulf, Atlantic, canals, and anything else that held water.

In '92' someone stole all my fishing gear, so my son-in-law gave me a bucket full of stuff and I started all over again. It was so much fun going to yard sales and flea markets that I started looking for "old stuff" like antiques.

Since my wife and I retired and traveled around the country and fished in most of the states, we've found many lures, reels, poles, and tackle that are interesting. The hunting is great fun as well as rewarding with some excellent finds.

The most fun and rewarding happened to us in Michigan in a little town called Lawrence. We stopped at a yard sale that looked like our style. It started out as most do, until we noticed some lures on a table. Among them were lures like Heddon punkinseeds and vamps, Paw Paw wiggler, Pflueger metal baits, and many other good lures. So, we bought about fifteen of them, and why not, they were only fifty cents each.

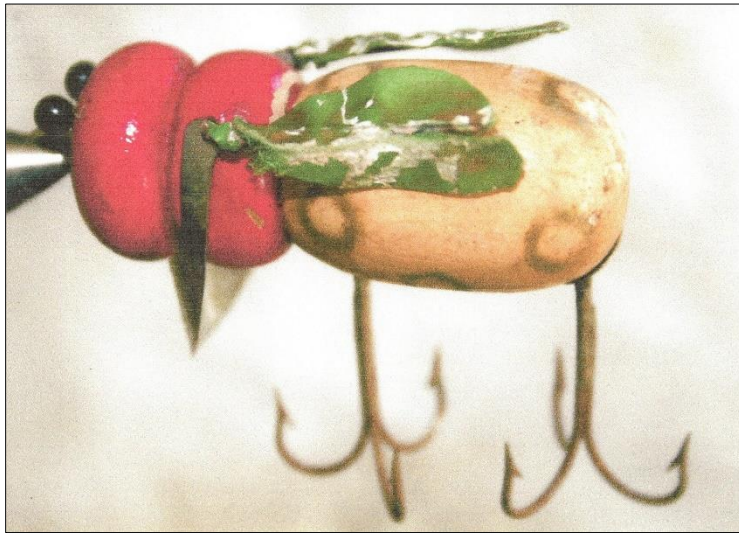
Very happy with our treasure, we went back to the truck with a smile from ear to ear. We were sitting in the truck, looking the lures over, very happy with what we found when my wife said, "are you sure we didn't miss anything?" I thought about her question and decided to go in for another look at them.

As we entered the garage, I noticed the owner go behind a visqueen screen that covered what was not for sale. Shortly after, he returned with a cigar box and approached us and asked if we were interested in some.

In this box was an assortment of old wooden lures in great shape from different manufacturers. I felt these would be out of my price range when he said, "you know I have to have more for these." I answered back with, "I'm sure you do" and asked how much he wanted for the thirteen lures in the box. He studied a minute and said "\$2.00 each." Well, I quickly counted out the \$26.00 for the lures and we went back to the truck to take a closer look in the box.

In that box was a collector's dream. Heddon, Paw Paw, Pflueger, South Bend, and others. Among them was one I didn't know. It was red and green with a movable lip made of aluminum. Well, I grabbed my book to find the answer and after some searching, I found it.

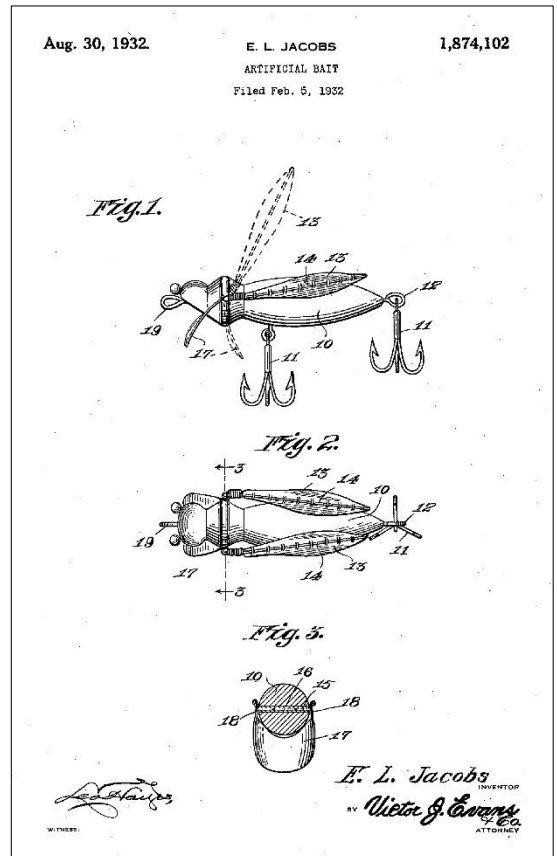
We were excited when we discovered I had a “Jacobs Horse Fly” that we paid \$2.00 for, that was worth “much, much more.”



It shows you that you never know when or where that yard sale or flea market will produce a great find. The “hunt” is exciting as well as the “find.”

Good hunting!

Gary Wheeler



Patent application dated 1932 by
E.L. Jacobs #1,874,102

FATC 2024 Dues Notice

Club dues are payable on March 1st of each year. Now is the time to renew your FATC Membership.

For your convenience, FATC can accept online payment for membership. Payment can be made with PayPal or credit card. You can pay online at the FATC website using this link:

<https://fatc.net/Membership.htm>.

You can also mail your check for \$35 to our Secretary, Grace Chlastawa. Her address is:

FATC
Grace Chlastawa
133 Lake Susan Road
Hawthorne, FL 32640-6404

Please remember that you must be an active paid member to register or have a table at FATC shows. Your membership also must be current in order for your information to appear in the FATC Membership Directory. We expect to distribute the Directory in April 2024. If you are not paid by March 31st your information will not be listed and you will not receive a copy of the Directory.

Heddon Punkinseeds

by Jim Boswell – NFLCC 1992

There is an article in the *NFLCC Magazine* June 1998 written by Jerry Martin and Jim Bourdon titled Heddon Punkinseeds “They are Cute”. I made some contributions to that article, and I believe they wrote a very nice piece.

I have been asked by several collectors to write an article on Punkinseeds. When I received those requests, I made copies and mailed them the NFLCC article. I have changed my mind and decided to write my story before I hang it up. I will take you down my Punkinseed journey trail, and I hope you will enjoy the trip.

Many collectors have not realized that when the Punkinseed was a “Gleam in Heddon’s Eye”, the performance and colors were unknown. Sometime in 1938/1939 Heddon had to decide what a sunfish, blue gill, crappie, etc. looked like in appearance and decide would it catch fish. Heddon didn’t put their name on a lure until they were sure it would work and had been tested by their Field Testers. My first introduction to the testing pieces came from Orlando, Florida. A large cache of casting reels was sold for an estate. The reels had been in a safety deposit box for several years. Included with the reels were four Punkinseeds. Lloyd Jett was involved in the sale. He wouldn’t put the Punkinseeds into his collection. Reason, Heddon was not stamped on the belly. He called me and gave me his thoughts. I took a chance and I bought them. When you find a 740 without Heddon Punkinseed on the belly and most of the time a high hump on the forehead, you have a Field Test model. You will also notice the color variation will be different from the colors you see today. I have several pieces and thought you might enjoy seeing colors from the beginning.



#1 - Very early field test perch

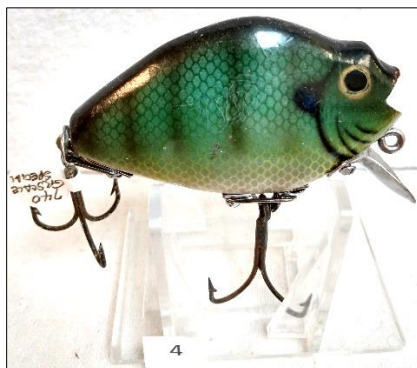


#2 - Second version field test perch



#3 - Last version of perch pattern

Picture #1 is the very early field test perch. Joe Stag was kind enough to let me put it into my collection. Picture #2 is the second perch field test version. Picture #3 is the last version that we have as the standard color perch.



#4 – Field test bluegill pattern



#5 – Final version bluegill pattern

The field test bluegill is in Picture #4. You will notice Heddon started off with black vertical bars and gill marks. The final version has blue markings and comes with white or red bellies in Picture #5.



#6 – Field test model of early shad pattern



#7 – Later version of shad with silver glitter

Picture #6 shows the field test model of the early shad, and Picture #7 shows the later model version of the shad with silver glitter.

There has been a considerable amount of misunderstanding regarding a 740 and 730 Punkinseed being made exactly the same size when introduced in 1940. The idea was to create a floating model and a sinking model. The 740 floating model is labeled HEDDON FLOATING PUNKINSEED. The 730 sinking model is labeled HEDDON SINKING PUNKINSEED. The only difference is the belly markings and one belly weight hidden under the front hook hanger on the Sinking Model. The boxes were labeled 740 and labeled 730, but when you discarded the boxes, you had to be able to read the belly. See Picture #8 of both on top of each other.

When the 1941 Heddon catalog was issued, Heddon noted that the Heddon 730 Sinking Model is slightly smaller. So, now the confusion is over. Floater is 2 ½ inches and Sinker is 2 ¼ inches. The 740 belly is now marked Heddon Punkinseed and the 730 belly is now marked Heddon Sinker Punkinseed. The 2 ¼” Sinker had the same hardware configuration, 2pc/2pc and line tie on the chin. Heddon’s Catalog for 1942/1943 had a sticky note on the front cover. In January of 1942 Heddon’s note stated. “We have limited production for sale and will be closing to support the War Effort”. This short time frame tells us the early 730 with line tie on the chin is worth more than the Punkinseed made after World War II.



#8 – 740 and 730 Models

After World War II, in 1946, Heddon went back into limited production with only the 730 Sinking Punkinseed in four colors. They were bluegill, crappie, sunfish and shad. The larger 740 was discontinued. In 1947 the line tie was moved from the chin to the mouth. That makes production after the war line tie in mouth for four years 1947 to 1950. The Punkinseed we call the “Transitional” came after WW II. When Heddon closed, they had inventory of 730 white cedar blanks with a hole on the chin. Heddon used these bodies, by putting a pin in the chin hole, 2pc hardware, and line tie in the mouth to make the “Transitional” 730 Sinking model.

In 1950, Heddon discontinued the wooden 730 Punkinseed and introduced their 9630 Punkinseed in Tenite Plastic. The mold had an indenture that was used to fit the diving lip. Seeing the lip in the indenture tells the collector that the lure was one of the first produced. The performance was not acceptable, so probably in 1951 Heddon moved the diving lip closer to the line tie. At that time the hardware was changed to S-Rig front and rear. They did not change the mold until later years. The Heddon “Plastic” Punkinseeds were four models 9630, 380, 382, and 980. They were made in Michigan, Canada, Rogers, Arkansas, and finally by PRADCO in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. The plastic Punkinseed story is for another collector at another time.

In the 1940 Catalog Heddon introduced the 980 Fly Rod Punkie in six colors. The little lures had a single hook and were made in bluegill, sunfish, crappie, early shad, rock bass, and white shore. The early shad with glitter was discontinued and replaced with the new shad. You will know if your piece is early, as it will have double line ties. It also may be shrunk due to the unstable Tenite plastic. If you are lucky, you may find a red head/white with glitter and a silver herring to complete the set. The single hook punkie was discontinued and replaced with a single treble hook model in 1953. The treble hook model was made in four colors - bluegill, sunfish, shad, and crappie. It was discontinued after only three (3) years of production. A very good collector friend of mine has the only known 980 Black Shore in the correct 980XBW box. I have never seen it, but I believe it is the real deal.

The 740 Goldfish Punkinseed color pattern is a most desirable center piece for many Punkinseed collections. The color is seen quite often with some brownish tones which were created by sunlight. From time to time, they are seen in brilliant red and command a higher premium value. I acquired my first one in 1995 from Tom Penniston and it continues to be displayed in my collection. Over time I was able to acquire the 740 XSK box in nice condition. (Picture #9). Until a few years ago, the Punkinseed collectors had not seen a 730 Goldfish. We now know of three examples. One was found in Illinois, went to Iowa and is now in Canada. The second was found on eBay. It was not described very well and was dirty. You should see it now, bright and shiny in a great Punkinseed collection. The third example sleeps with the 730 Rainbow in my collection. With the third example is a crisp 730 XSK box (Picture #10). I believe this is the rarest Punkinseed box known at this time.

Over time a lot of Punkinseed collectors have asked, "Did Heddon make a 740 in Rainbow". The answer is NO, only in 730s by special order. Rainbow was not a standard color in Punkinseeds. I have been told that if Heddon had a color in their production color line, they would paint it for a customer. The customer had to agree to pay 25 cents more per lure and buy a minimum of one dozen. So, this is how six lucky collectors have 730 Rainbow pieces in their collections. You read that correctly, there are six pieces known. They all have S-Rig front hardware, 2Pc tail hardware and line ties in the mouth. That would make them from 1947 to 1950 production.

In the early 1990s I visited Allan McCord in Kansas City. I picked out four 730 Punkinseeds, pulled out my check book, and Allan told me no way. I told him fine, "You keep your lures, take my check and when it clears, mail them". Mrs. McCord called him into the kitchen, and when he returned, he took my check and gave me four Punkinseeds. That was my first lesson in lure buying. Start carrying cash.

In the summer of 1993, I met Robert Farrar at a Holiday Inn in Montgomery, Alabama. Robert sold me his collection of 78 Punkinseeds for a fair amount of money. My wife later that day asked, "What are they worth". I told her I didn't know. She said, "to spend that much money not knowing what they are worth, you must have lost your mind". I would guess that some of you reading this story have experienced a buying trip that would be very similar to mine in Montgomery.

In the summer of 1994, I went to Dr. John Romero's home in Lake Charles, Louisiana. John had most all of the Heddon factory catalogs, and he allowed me to start in 1940 making a chart of all the sizes and colors of Punkinseeds that were made each year. As I remember this was the first opportunity we had to know when Punkinseeds started and when they stopped making each size and color. I have mailed that spread sheet to several collectors over the years. Now, the Punkinseed story. Floyd Hill was there for a visit with John. While



**#9 - 740XSK
Goldfish Pattern**



**#10 - 730XSK
Goldfish Pattern**



on this visit he sold me a 740 Silver Herring that was new in the correct 740SH box. (Picture #11) Most money I had ever spent for a lure and box. Hope springs eternal. When I saw the silver herring color, which I had never seen before, I remembered the lure we had been calling a Shad, but now we know the Shad doesn't have an orange and blue eye, but the Silver Herring does.

Back in the 1990s Little Rock hosted the NFLCC July Meeting. Don Noyer, from Ohio, brought a 740 Spotted Orange Punkinseed to the show for sale. As I remember, the lure had some rubs on each side and the price was very high. I compared the cost of my NIB Silver Herring and passed on the piece. As it turned out Riley Smith, from Michigan, took the piece home with him. Fast forward a few years and Riley sold the Spotted Orange to a Tennessee collector. Since that time the same Tennessee gentleman has found another one. He calls them Carnival Spot and that is his right. The reason, as far as we know, there are only two. He is caring and sharing and has allowed one to leave the country.

There are several outstanding Punkinseed Collections with mine being only one. We all have stories to tell about when we got a new piece, who we bought or traded with to obtain it, and what the new piece cost. I have not nearly covered all the events of my Punkinseed journey. I have also left out some names and trades of many trips. If you have questions, my email address and phone number are listed in the NFLCC membership book. I hope this article has been helpful.....

Announcing the 3rd Annual SAVANNAH SOUTHERN CLASSIC Antique Tackle Show



*A Combined Show in Historic Savannah, Georgia, Presented by the
Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors & Florida Antique Tackle Collectors*

November 7-9, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton, Savannah Airport
145 W. Mulberry Blvd, Savannah, Georgia 31407

Mark your calendars and watch for future updates!

Show flyer and registration forms are now available on club websites at:

www.fatc.net or www.carolinaantiquetacklecollectors.com

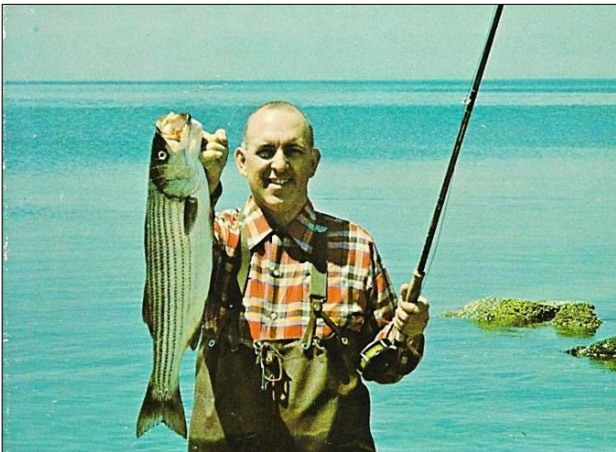
Kenneth E. Bay – Executive, Fly Tyer and Author

by Ralph Hecht

Many anglers and lure collectors know of Kenneth E. Bay through reading his fly tying books, or talking to him at FATC Daytona shows where he quietly sat tying salt water flies, or through reading about him in the first volume of the books on *Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures*. What most do not appreciate is how influential he was in helping grow salt water fly fishing in becoming one of the most popular forms of fly fishing done today in Florida. This article hopes to provide a better understanding of his fly tying abilities and the contribution he made to Florida's salt water angling history.

Kenneth E. Bay, or "Ken" as many called him, was born in Bristol, Connecticut in 1920. He attended high school in Simsbury and graduated from Morse College in Hartford in 1940. In 1941 he married Jeanne from West Virginia, and they had three children. At the beginning of World War II, he joined the Army Air Corp and flew twenty-six bombing missions over Europe, and later was called back into service and flew fifty-three bombing missions over Korea. He ended his flying career having been awarded four Distinguished Flying Crosses and numerous Bronze Stars.

After the Korean War he began working for the Acme Danneman Co., a New York distributor of tool and die manufacturing products, as controller and later as Vice President and Treasurer of the firm. In 1977 he became President and Chairman of the company, an executive position he held for eleven years. In 1988 he retired and moved from Nyack, New York to Holly Hills and later Ormond Beach, Florida.



Ken's interest in fly tying began as a boy. He became not only a skilled fly tyer, but also became an accomplished fly fishing angler, especially for catching striped bass. In the 1920s salt water fly fishing was only done by a very few anglers in the country. Tom Loving from eastern Maryland, and Red Greb and Homer Rhodes, Sr. from south Florida were a few that emerged who began to popularize the sport. There was a void of information, with no book ever published on the subject. Joe Brooks, who was taught salt water fly fishing by Tom Loving, filled that void when he published his book entitled *Salt Water Fly Fishing* in 1950. It was an instant success and remained the only book available on salt water fly fishing for many years.

What was not available was a book on tying salt water fly patterns that were being developed by various salt water anglers of the time. Ken Bay filled that void. His fly tying skills were becoming well recognized and he was even teaching classes on fly tying. Many, including Joe Brooks, encouraged Ken to write a book, and he did. His book on *Salt Water Flies* published in 1970 was the first book ever published on the subject. The book focused on "popular fly patterns and how to tie them" with fly patterns selected by some of the most noted anglers of the time: Joe Brooks, Lefty Kreh, Mark Sosin, Stu Apte and Cap Calvin. It was the cornerstone book for all the other books on salt water flies that followed. It was a key element contributing to increasing the popularity of salt water fly fishing in the country. His book on *Salt Water Flies* helped Ken receive the coveted Buz Buszek award as "Fly Tyer of the Year" by the Federation of Fly Fishermen in 1974. He followed his first book with his book on *How to Tie Fresh Water Flies* published in 1974 and then his book entitled *The American Fly Tyers Handbook* published in 1979.

After Ken moved to Florida, he joined the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors (FATC) club and became an integral part of the yearly Daytona Beach FATC show. Here Ken, now well into his 80s, would sit along the east window overlooking the ocean quietly tying his flies and would gladly take the time to explain to anyone interested on how to tie them... plus what he made was for sale. This was rare, since Ken never commercially sold flies and just made them for his use and for his friends. Ken specialized in tying patterns developed by others and making his own version of them, as well as making some of his own design. For some of us, the Daytona show provided an opportunity to purchase some of Ken's skillfully made flies.

One fly in particular he made and sold was a strikingly beautiful, delicate fly representing a pinfish (figure 2) commonly used to catch redfish and tarpon. Ken also tied and sold several variations of crabs (Figure 3) ideal for catching permit and tarpon and several variations shrimp (Figure 4) for catching bonefish and redfish. His beautifully designed and tied crayfish fly is a work of art (Figure 5).



Figure 2: Pinfish



Figure 3: Crabs



Figure 4: Shrimp



Figure 5: Crayfish

Sadly, on November 24, 2014, Ken passed away at the age of 94 after a long life as an executive, salt water angler, author and fly tyer. Beyond all this, he was a gentleman and part of "America's Greatest Generation". He was also a key player in helping to popularize salt water fly fishing and salt water fly tying, not only in Florida, but also in the whole country. The Florida fly tyers that followed, like Tom Lentz, Dennis Goddard, John Sweeney and others, built off Ken's work and teachings. We were very fortunate to have Ken Bay at our shows and to have the chance to talk to him and yes, even to purchase the flies he made... to fish with and/or to collect and admire.

Tom Wilkerson
Collector & Preserver
of Antique Fishing Tackle

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Wally's Day at the Market

Wally had always been fascinated by the artistry and history behind antique fishing lures, and today, he was on a mission. With his trusty bicycle at the ready, Wally set off for the flea market, his heart set on finding a rare treasure: old Porter Company fishing lures.

The sun was just beginning to rise as Wally pedaled down the familiar streets, the cool morning air refreshing against his skin. The flea market was a few miles away, but Wally didn't mind the journey. It gave him time to enjoy the sights and sounds of the countryside, the gentle hum of his bicycle wheels providing a soothing soundtrack to his thoughts.

As he approached the flea market, Wally's excitement grew. He could already picture himself scouring the stalls, searching for that elusive glimpse of a Porter Company lure among the sea of vintage goods.

Parking his bicycle among a row of other bikes, Wally made his way into the bustling market. The air was alive with the chatter of vendors and the rustle of eager shoppers, each one on the hunt for their own hidden gems.

Wally wasted no time diving into his search. He combed through tables piled high with old fishing tackle, his eyes scanning each lure in the hopes of spotting the distinctive markings of a Porter Company creation. But as the morning wore on, Wally's initial enthusiasm began to wane. The elusive lures seemed to be nowhere in sight, and Wally's spirits sank with each passing moment.



Just when he was starting to lose hope, Wally spotted a small booth tucked away in a quiet corner of the market. It was piled high with boxes and crates, each one overflowing with vintage fishing gear. With a glimmer of renewed hope, Wally made his way over to the booth, his heart pounding with anticipation.

As he sifted through the crates, his fingers brushed against something smooth and familiar. With a gasp of excitement, Wally pulled out a dusty old box, its lid barely clinging to the hinges. With trembling hands, he lifted the lid, revealing row upon row of meticulously crafted fishing lures.

And there, nestled among the tangled mess of hooks and lines, were the objects of Wally's desire: a collection of old Porter Company fishing lures, their vibrant colors and intricate designs standing out against the drab backdrop of the box.

With a triumphant grin, Wally carefully selected a few lures to add to his collection, marveling at their beauty and craftsmanship. As he made his way back to his bicycle, his heart light with joy, Wally knew that this was a day he would never forget. For in the end, he hadn't just found a few old fishing lures - he had found a piece of history, and a treasure that would stay with him for years to come.

Other than the title, everything that you just read about Wally and his day at the flea market was written by a computer. The artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT was asked to "write a story about Wally rides his bicycle to the flea market to search for old Porter Company fishing lures." It took less than thirty seconds to create this story. The photograph of Wally was computer generated by ImageFX. This is not the sort of thing that you will often see in the FATC News, but we figured that one story might both enlighten and entertain.



Orlando Fall Invitational Antique Tackle Show, September 19-22, 2024

Hosted by the Embassy Suites, Altamonte Springs
225 Shorecrest Drive, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701



We proudly announce our F.A.T.C. Fall Show in beautiful Altamonte Springs, close to many nearby attractions, great dining and ample shopping opportunities. The Embassy Suites offers a complimentary, cooked-to-order breakfast and evening Happy Hour, along with many other amenities. For hotel reservations, call 407-834-2400.

**Show registration is \$20. Tables are \$40 each (first come, first served).
To secure yours, use the attached form and make checks payable to F.A.T.C.
Mail to: Grace Chlastawa 133 Lake Susan Road, Hawthorne, FL 32640
Or pay online at www.FATC.net/Shows.htm**

Show Hours: Friday 8-6 (public 9-5). Saturday 8-5 (public 9-4). Sunday 8-noon

For additional information on the show or to join the FATC, go to www.FATC.net
Or contact show host Chuck Heddon at 321-439-4011 or cheddon@mpinet.net



(From the *Clermont Press*, October 7, 1927)

History of Artificial Lures is Interesting

William T. Heddon of Mineola Reviews History of Rod and Reel

"So far as we have been able to discover, the first artificial lure was made about twenty-seven years ago by Charlie Harris, a dining car conductor on the Michigan Central," said W. T. Heddon of Mineola to the Press this week.

Mr. Heddon and his brother, Charles, of Dowagiac, Michigan, and Hollywood, California, are the "sons" of the James Heddon Sons Company which is the original and largest manufacturer of fishing tackle in the world.

Harris' frog bait was made of cork. It was extremely buoyant and had a hook on each leg and a gang hook from the stomach. Harris used a crude rod about 6 feet in length and an equally crude reel and about a 10-pound test soft line.

Frank Peak of Chicago, who operated a dancing school, came to Dowagiac with one of these frog lures. My father who has now been dead sixteen years was a beekeeper, handled beekeeper's supplies, and wrote many articles for magazines about this industry. He was troubled with asthma and found that being on the water relieved him, so his friend, James Harley, who had been taught to cast by Peak, introduced him to fishing with artificial baits.

For some time, they used the frog bait, but one day my father whittled out a "stick" on which he put gang hooks and on the front of the bait a bottle top which caused a spray. Being more slender, it held the fish better and soon his friends were asking him to make "sticks" for bait casting was becoming popular although the same principle had been in use by fly fishermen for many years.

At that time, I was employed in the trouble department of the Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Company and my brother, Charlie, was publisher of the DAILY NEWS in Dowagiac. The fishing tackle business began to develop so swiftly that both of us went into the line.

Improvements were made over the original basswood plug that our father had made. First of these was fastening the hooks in a socket, which prevented them from catching on each other, in a collar on the front of the bait which assured that it would travel with the hooks hanging down, rather than with a sidewise tendency. The first "spinner" was perfected about twenty-five years ago.

I first came to Florida the winter after our firm was founded, going to Ft. Pierce first, but hearing of the many lakes in this section I came to Mohawk where I spent the winter at Charles Stokes's place with Harry Stokes who was then pretty much of a boy as guide. We fished in many lakes, tried out our pattern and color schemes, constantly adding to our line. The factory soon outgrew itself until today it gives employment to from 179 to 200 people, with an annual production of more than 1,000,000 baits. This is in addition to our complete line which includes rods, reels, lines, tackle boxes, stringers and the dozens of items required by fishermen. Our product is sold all over the world."

Asked what was the most popular bait ever marketed, Mr. Heddon said, "Styles in our business change as completely and just as quickly as women's clothing. I remember one bait that I perfected in a lake north of Mineola which had only small fish in it, knowing that this bait would sell well in the North where many fishermen are glad to catch any bass that escapes the legal length. This bait met with wonderful reception. We were unable to meet the demand, but by spurring production finally were able to catch up with orders for it. Suddenly the public fancy veered and we were caught with

50,000 of this one model on our shelves. We finally sold them, to a wholesaler for 10 cents each, taking a heavy loss on them that ate up our profits during the time they were in vogue.

We were constantly experimenting with new lures. Many of our friends developed lures which they think are successful and we always try them out thoroughly. Some of the models which we tried out and discarded as unpractical many years ago have been brought to life in later years and have proven our best items.

In our factory at Dowagiac, we have a large cabinet in which are hundreds of lures which we have produced during the past quarter century, and to fishermen who visit our factory in Dowagiac this proves as interesting as our mechanical processes.

Mr. Heddon has been a property owner in Minneola for 25 years. For the past decade or more he and Mrs. Heddon and their son, Jim, have made it their legal residence, going North in the summer to visit Wisconsin lakes. Charles Heddon, the other "son" of the company, will be their guest this winter.

The public has never known just how important a part Minneola has played in the fishing history, for many of Heddon's best patents have been perfected in waters of this section and improved by Mr. Heddon in the workshop near his home in that city.

- Courtesy of SOUTH LAKE PRESS,
Clermont, Florida

Thanks to all who helped with my collection!

~Chuck

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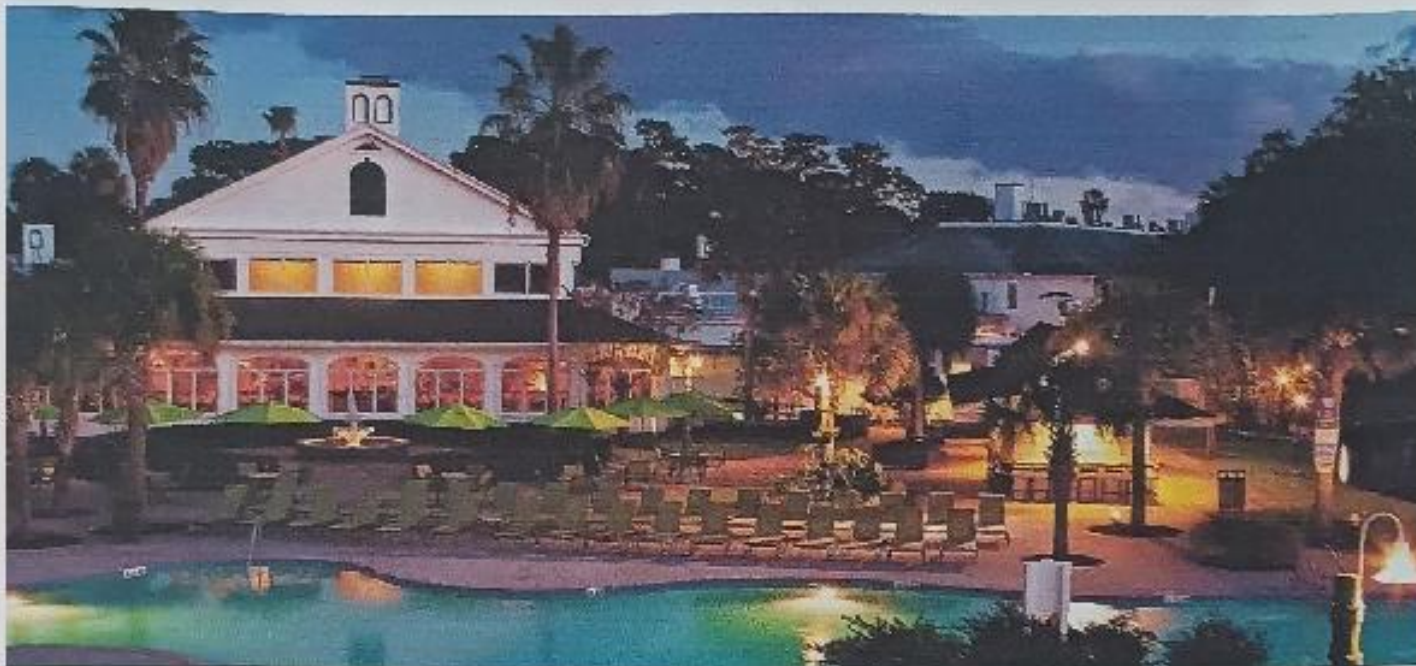
cheddon@mpinet.net

Crystal River, Florida

Plantation on Crystal River

9301 West Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429

May 31-June 1, 2024



Hotel: Phone 800-632-6262.

Refer to Booking Name:

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors 2024

Standard Room Rates \$129, Patio Water View Rooms, add \$30

Website: www.PlantationonCrystalRiver.com

You can register for the show online at this link

Contact show host, Tom Wilkerson for additional information.

Email: oldstufflures@gmail.com

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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 inquires or applications [with your dues] to the FATC Treasurer listed above. For membership applications, visit our website at: www.fatc.net

The Johnson Shrimp Bait by Joe Yates

I was reading through some old newspapers a few years ago and came upon an interesting story about a lure that I have never seen. The story referred to the lure as the Johnson Shrimp Bait and it was made in the 1920s by Ernest Johnson of Daytona Beach, Florida. Florida shrimp are always interesting to me and the story became even more exciting when I learned that everything took place within only a couple of blocks of the Plaza Hotel in Daytona Beach, where the FATC show was held for many years.

Ernest Locke Johnson, Sr. was born in Anniston, Alabama in 1892 and had moved with his family to Florida by 1899. His father, George Johnson, was a dealer in bicycles and fishing tackle at a shop on Seabreeze Avenue in what was Seabreeze, Florida at the time. The triple cities of Seabreeze, Daytona, and Daytona Beach were merged as Daytona Beach in 1926. George Johnson moved his shop only a few blocks away to 818 Main Street in Daytona Beach in the early 1920s.

Ernest Johnson went to work in his father's shop after he was discharged from the U.S. Army in April 1919. He had been promoted to the rank of Sargeant shortly before his discharge.

I am attaching an image of the newspaper story and will transcribe it, as the image is not perfectly legible. The story appeared in the July 3, 1924 edition of the *Daytona Beach News Journal* and reads as follows:

Johnson Invents Shrimp Fish Bait

"The Johnson Shrimp Bait," an artificial bait invented by Ernest Johnson of the Geo. P. Johnson store, Daytona Beach, is attracting interest of fishermen in the Halifax Country. Mr. Johnson is one of the successful anglers of the Triple Cities, and after studying the various kinds of bait now on the market, he came to the conclusion that a shrimp bait, if it could be made successfully, would be a great thing for fishing.

After making a thorough study as to the design and colors to be used he made one and used it himself with great success. A few others who saw the bait and took note of Mr. Johnson's catches with it, asked the he makes one for them, which he did and the new invention is now taking its place as one of the popular fishing baits.

Application has been made for a patent and a few will be made by hand by Mr. Johnson until the patent has been granted and the other is given to the manufacturing house.

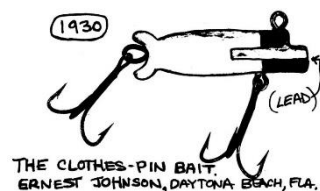
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No patent was ever granted and we are not sure what the Johnson Shrimp Bait might have looked like. Dick *Streater's Reference Catalog of Old Fishing Lures* attributed a 1930 clothes-pin bait to Ernest Johnson. It is pictured below:



Could this be the Johnson Shrimp Lure? We don't know. I have heard some of the Florida lure experts dismiss the notion that the clothes-pin lure seen here was even made by Mr. Johnson at all. Perhaps time will reveal additional information.

Ernest Johnson took over the Johnson Fishing Tackle Store around the time George Johnson was elected Mayor of Daytona Beach. "Ernie" Johnson was a highly respected fisherman and was also a champion caster. He won the surf casting distance contest at the 1929 Southern States Bait and Fly Casting Tournament and had high finishes in subsequent contests. He later became a co-host of the event. Ernest L. Johnson passed away in Daytona Beach, Florida in 1976.



Summer Antique Tackle Show



May 31—June 1, 2024

Best of Show

Crystal River, Florida

Calendar of Events

Crystal River Show

May 31-June 1, 2024

Plantation on Crystal River – Crystal River, Florida



Orlando Fall Invitational

September 19-22, 2024

Embassy Suites – Altamonte Springs, FL

Savannah Southern Classic

November 7-9, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton, Savannah Airport, GA

