

F.A.T.C. NEWS

Volume 20, Number 3



RARE FIND!

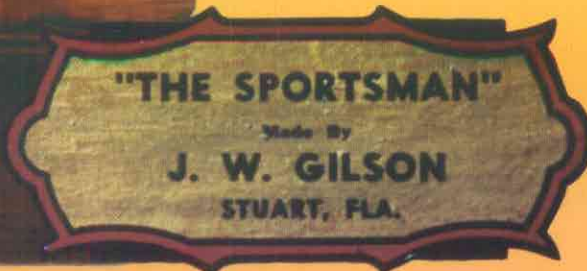


BENDER & FLYNN CONNECTION?



J. W. Gilson
FLORIDA'S PREMIER
TACKLE BOX MAKER

see page 6





Shows Hosts & Hostesses: Pat and Anita Fletcher and Bobby and Norm Pinardi



Auctioneer Dennis McNulty



Paul Snider and Carolyn Corwin assisting with the auction



Pat Fletcher, Classic Rods



Ron Gast, Florida Lures



Jan Cummings, Contemporary

PALMETTO/BRADENTON AWARD PICTURES



Bill Stuart, Well Deserved Distinguished Service Award



Lloyd Jett, Florida Lures and Correct Boxes



Mark Hostetler, Heddon



Steve Cox, Barracuda



Norm Pinardi, Otto Zwarg



Jim Duncan, Creek Chub



Dennis McNulty, Creek Chub "Tiny Tims"



Ed Bauries, Theo Pritchard "Rainbow Wigglers"

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Cover photo: *The beautiful Darters on the bottom should be familiar to most Florida collectors as Bender & Flynn's. But, have you ever seen the four spectacular examples shown above the Darters? It's obvious the same artist painted all of these, and while we are comparing, why not place these side by side with numerous versions of Barracuda's Florida Shiner! The four prototype lures were found in a tackle box at an Ohio flea market, of all places! Gary Robinson of Nacogdoches, TX is the proud owner of these great baits and is kind to permit us to enjoy them. Thanks, Gary!*



F.A.T.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

July 2006
 Volume 20, No. 3

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DELUDED (DILUTED?) DIGRESSIONS

By Steve Cox

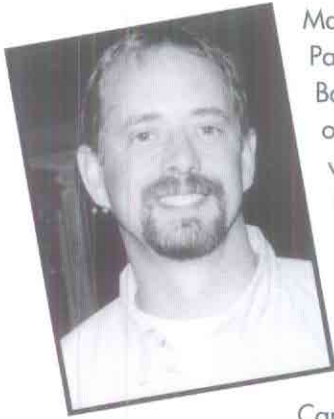
It's only been two weeks since the most enjoyable Spring show in Palmetto/Bradenton, and I'm already excited about the NFLCC National in Grand Rapids and our Summer show in St. Pete Beach. Every show is different, and it takes a few years of attending to realize this simple, but true concept. At some shows, you can sell a lot, while at others, you get to buy a lot. Then there are those which are great trading shows, and even if you don't buy, sell, or trade, you have the opportunity to learn or find that special item for your collection. Once we understand this principle, it's much easier to maintain a positive

attitude and feel good about each show we attend. After all, I can't think of many hobbies that offer this diversity and the opportunity for fellowship and camaraderie as well. We are a lucky and blessed bunch of collectors!

Thanks for all of your kind comments and well wishes regarding the newsletter. Watch us grow!

Steve 

President's Message June 3, 2006



Many thanks to Norm Pinardi and Pat Fletcher and their lovely spouses, Bobby and Anita, for putting on one of the most enjoyable little shows we have had in a long time. Their bulletproof planning and preparation made the show go off without a hitch. It was good to see Carolyn Corwin enjoying herself and helping out with the auction again. Welcome back

Carolyn; it was a blast! A special

thanks to Dennis McNulty for filling in as auctioneer and doing a wonderful job. Dennis has a totally different style than Don's, but is every bit as effective. Don, as I'm sure many of you already know, underwent heart surgery on Friday, May 19th, while we were trading tackle in Bradenton. Thankfully, our old pal's surgery was successful and he is on the mend. I just talked with Don on the phone and he sounds about as good as new. Get well soon, Don! The club would also like to thank team Zuhlke for the auction organization; nobody does it better! Also, thanks to Ed Weston and Chuck Heddon, our new awards co-chairs. If anyone who displayed did not get an award, please let me know and I will have Ed print more ribbons! Last but not least, thanks to those of you who brought in your wonderful displays; it's always a pleasure to see them.

You gotta love the "Small 3", our spring, summer and fall tackle shows. There is no doubt that Daytona is the highlight of the FATC's social calendar, but I look forward to each and every small show with equal hope and anticipation that something good will surface from the public and, more often than not, it usually does.

Before Daytona, before the FATC was formed, even when the shows were super small (like the ones held in Kissimmee at the Larson Lodge), I remember great tackle coming in off the street and brought in by members for sale or trade. I would be hard pressed to try and recall a show where no good items came into our auction. I remember being in St. Petersburg at the old dance hall. There was a line that wound around the lobby and then back out the door, as people came in all day long to have their tackle appraised and then left it for our auction. I felt sorry for the members who collected those items that came in off the street, but did not bother coming to that little show. They could not take part in the auction, and missed a wonderful opportunity. However, I soon got over that feeling as I raised my bidder card a dozen times and won several great reels at very nice prices.

It seems with the advent of the e-bay factor (the 'Tackle Show In Your Home Every Night'), the attendance at our "Small 3" shows has dropped off to some degree. Perhaps this is the natural progression of the hobby. However, for those members who are still attending the shows, the benefits are really starting to pick up. After 19 years of trial and error, our club has finally found the right formula for advertising the smaller shows to get the public to come in off the street with their tackle. For those members who attend the "Small 3", the rewards are getting bigger and bigger.

Smaller shows and more tackle (off the street) translate into a gold mine for those who attend. So, why are seemingly fewer people coming to the "Small 3"? I'm sure the answer is different for each individual member, but I believe members who do not attend these shows are missing out, not only on great tackle, but also on having more time to hang with old friends. They also forfeit the opportunity to meet some of the great new enthusiastic members who have joined our club in the past couple of years. I love the slower pace of our smaller shows and having time on Friday afternoon to just catch up and shoot the bull with "My Old Tackle Buddies", many I have known now for over twenty years. Going out for dinner with Paul Snider is always an experience not to be missed!

The next "Small 3" show will be held in St. Pete Beach and hopefully will be a repeat of the show I mentioned above. Our fall show is scheduled for The Villages of Lady Lake, Florida (perhaps the largest retirement community in the universe). They have their own newspaper, radio station and television station. We will get some great free press and we will place some effective advertisements. I believe the turnout will be tremendous! Let's face it, none of the residents will be out of town on business!

So, if you decide not to come to the next show and instead stay up all night all alone at the computer, with your mouse and the monitor screen, that's your choice. As for me, I'll make my auction sniper bids the night before I leave. Then I'll take a nice leisurely drive, look at, discuss and actually get to hold some nice tackle. Next, I'll watch as great tackle comes in off the street; buy a couple of items for my collection, and all this while I'll be hanging out with some of the best people it has ever been my pleasure to know, my old tackle buddies.

See you in St. Pete?

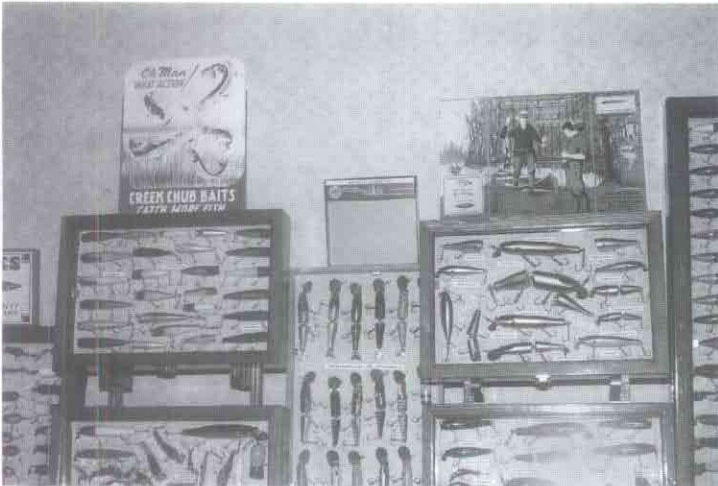
Zever,

Ed 

CAROLINA SHOW REPORT

The Columbia Show hosted by David Lindsey on May 12 and 13 was a great show and enjoyed by all. The Rev. Mr. Bob Dennis won the Best of Show Award for his wonderful forty-eight feet of Creek Chubs. Another great display was Bill

Holbein's Pequea Quilby Minnows. Bill is a new member of the CATC having recently migrated from New York to North Carolina. There were also nice exhibits of the Charlie O Living Lures and the Carino (still considered by many sportsman to be the bass fisherman's secret weapon!). In addition, there was a great display showing how Mike Estep builds his baits and the various Estep baits.



A tiny bit of Rev. Bob Dennis's 48 feet of Creek Chubs

Bill Stuart



Pequea Quilby Minnow display

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J. W. Gilson

FLORIDA'S PREMIER TACKLE BOX MAKER

By D. J. Brace



Editor's note: This article by Doug Brace originally appeared in the Summer 1991 issue of *Fishing Collectibles Magazine*. FATC News gratefully acknowledges FCM editor/publisher Brian J. McGrath's permission (along with Mr. Brace's approval) to reprint the article in its entirety, with additional photos added from Mr. Brace's collection.

In the early 1930's, John W. Gilson and his wife Alice decided

to leave the cold winters of Niles, Michigan and make Stuart, Florida their new home. Gilson's brother Clair was already established in Stuart, producing a metal slide rule he had patented years earlier. The Gilson Circular Slide Rule was used by universities, laboratories and engineers the world over. For a few years, the two brothers worked together at the factory site, which was located twelve miles from Stuart, up the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

Then, in 1937 at age 45, Gilson began work as a salesman for the Ricou Hardware Co., in Stuart. Talented as a cabinetmaker, Gilson designed and built many of the



store's racks and fixtures. While employed at the hardware store, a newspaper article refers to him spending his spare time wrapping rods, fixing fishing reels and making tackle boxes. "It's more a hobby with me than work", he was quoted as saying.

By the early 1940's, he was operating Gilson's Tackle Shop. The material shortage caused by WWII forced Gilson to halt production of tackle boxes. During this time, he secured a government contract to build pews for the Army's two churches at the highly secretive Camp Murphy (a radar training facility), located on nearby Hobe Sound.

Production of the Gilson tackle box resumed after WWII and business reached its peak. This was due in part to the efforts of George Briggs, owner of the Pondbrook Company, Fishing and Sportsman's Specialties, Providence, Rhode Island. Briggs was in a St. Augustine, Florida, tackle shop when he first saw one of Gilson's tackle boxes. Impressed with the design and

construction, he made inquiries about the maker and drove to Stuart to meet Gilson. Their meeting resulted in Briggs being a national distributor of Gilson's tackle boxes. A newspaper account of the Gilson-Briggs business agreement mentioned advertising in *Hunting and Fishing* magazine, in addition to 10,000 circulars being printed describing the "Seamaster" and "Sportsman" models. The firm of Abercrombie and Fitch also carried the Gilson product.

Gilson's boxes were of waterproof construction and finish. Laminated plywood and his unique "Edgelaid" rounded corners protected the contents from rust and condensation experienced with metal boxes. The "Sportsman" (20x9x8 inches), with over thirty-five compartments, was

for fresh and salt water use. The "Seamaster" (20x9x9 inches), was designed with fewer compartments to accommodate the large reels and tackle used in salt water fishing. Both models, complete with leather handle and brass hardware, retailed for \$25.50. Later, Gilson introduced the smaller "Sportsman Jr."

The smartly designed tops of Gilson's boxes doubled as additional storage area, with an inside locking lid that held the items in place when the box was opened. His





tackle boxes are sometimes found with a paper label affixed to this lid, furnishing the maker's name and model.

In the early 1950's, Gilson employee Charles Smith acquired Gilson's inventory, materials and related woodworking equipment necessary to make tackle boxes. Charles and his brother William, both in their twenties, continued making boxes in Gilson's style. Meanwhile, Gilson began to make novelty items.

He produced miniature "orange crates", which were used as containers for gift candy, and sold to tourists as souvenirs. At the same time, he also made two other wooden novelty items; a bank and a cigarette holder. These were fashioned in the shape of a "Baby Grand" piano almost six inches high.

Gilson's last endeavor was the "Magnetic Hurricane Chart". Offered in two sizes (16x24 and 24x36 inches), this wood framed, metal tracking chart came with small magnets that could be manually positioned to indicate the coordinates of reported hurricanes. John W. Gilson died May 2, 1970, at the age of seventy-seven.

For nearly five years, after acquiring Gilson's equipment, the Smith brothers worked at their tackle box business. The business name had changed to the Driftwood Co., and while construction of the boxes remained the same, there were some minor changes. Original "Gilson" boxes are found with a slotted inside compartment lid, where the Smith version has a hole to accommodate the locking screw eye. Also, the last boxes made by the Smiths had a wood and brass carrying handle. Gradually, tackle boxes selling for less that were made of stronger, lighter, materials brought an end to the Smith's business.

Unwilling to part with the wood-working equipment and remaining stock, the brothers stored everything for years. Found in his work shed is some of the original equipment used by Gilson.

GILSON'S

LAMINATED PLYWOOD FISHING TACKLE BOXES

The Seamaster

"THE SEAMASTER" is 20x9x8 inches and was tested in actual fishing in the model stage so as to give the surf and deep-sea fisherman a box exactly suited to his needs.


Compartments have been carefully designed to accommodate plugs and other items he uses. The cover forms a tray holding 5 plugs and a coil of leader wire which are protected by a lid with a locking catch that holds contents in place when you open box.

In the body of box is a single tray 8x12 inches, divided into 7 compartments for knife, pliers, hooks, sinkers and swivels. Tray slides from side to side.

The body of box has all removable partitions which can be adjusted to give 5 or 3 or 2 compartments or a single full-length space 19 inches long. This space will accommodate several large reels and other tackle.

Due to the waterproof construction and finish, articles are not prone to rust from condensation as in metal boxes; in fact this is the best salt water box you have ever seen.

Sent for examination upon receipt of check or money order for \$25.50 postpaid, which will be cheerfully refunded if you wish to return the box within 30 days.



The Sportsman
The Seamaster


Manufactured by
J. W. GILSON
Box 473 STUART, FLORIDA

The Sportsman

"THE SPORTSMAN" is 20x9x8 inches and has 35 compartments which are designed to accommodate plugs, pliers, knife, hooks, sinkers, swivels, etc. The cover forms a tray holding 20 plugs which are protected by a locking lid which holds contents in place when you open the box. Body has 2 trays, one 8x12 inches divided into 7 compartments which is used for plugs, knife and pliers. The other tray is 6x8 inches and is divided into 8 compartments which are used for hooks, swivels and sinkers.

This is far the best tackle box we have ever seen. The light clear wood in the trays is especially appealing because it is so neat, rust-proof and free from condensation.

Sent for examination upon receipt of check or money order for \$25.50 postpaid which will be cheerfully refunded if you wish to return the box within 30 days.



"The Sportsman"

will be a joy forever. The price for the many years of service it will give you is a truly fine investment.

It is made in two sizes: the "SPORTSMAN" for the fresh and salt water fisherman and the "SEAMASTER" for the salt water fisherman.

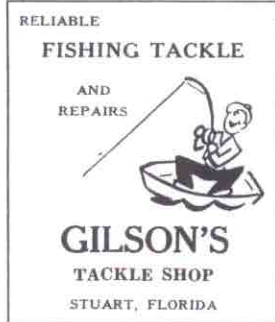


Original "Gilson" Advertising Photos



The shelves contain tackle boxes in various stages of completion. Also found are stacks of old plywood strips that Gilson would join together to form individual layers.

Today, while still residing in Stuart, Charles Smith continues to make "Gilson Tackle Boxes", but only in his spare time as a hobby. Smith now uses a single piece of plywood for each layer. Smith has been called upon to do restoration work on some of Gilson's originals. Realizing there is still a demand for quality wood tackle boxes, he's looking forward to retirement when he can devote more time to his hobby.



(See the back cover for more pictures!)



Exhibit Winners

- Topical** Norm Pinardi, Otto Zwarg
- Educational** Mark Hostetler, Heddon
- Florida Lure Maker** Steve Cox, Barracuda

Special Recognition

- Ed Bauries Theo Pritchard "Rainbow Wigglers"
- Jim Duncan Creek Chub
- Dennis McNulty Creek Chub "Tiny Tims"
- Jan Cummings Contemporary
- Ron Gast Florida Lures
- Lloyd Jett Florida Lures and Correct Boxes
- Pat Fletcher Classic Rods

Honorable Mention

- John Mack Best Display of Display Cases!

Distinguished Service Award

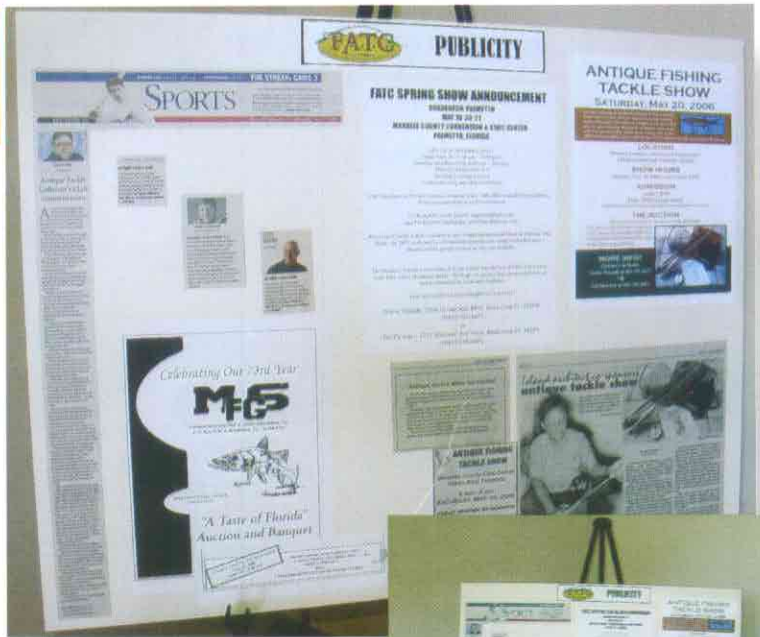
- Bill Stuart Past President & Editor for many years



PALMETTO/BRADENTON SHOW PICTURES



Lloyd Jeff's rare Florida lure and box combinations exhibit



Doc Gamble's Fly Rod display



Mark Hostetler's Heddon Red Side display



Jerry Schunk's display, great to see him back at a show after too, too long!



Mark Hostetler's Heddon Frog Scale display



Steve Cox's Barracudas Galore



Norm Pinardi's Otto Zwarg display



Ron Gas's Florida Lures from the Tampa Bay Area

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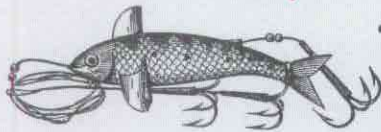
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FALL AUCTION • NOVEMBER 3RD AND 4TH 2006

The Holiday Inn, Boxborough, Massachusetts



JAN CUMMINGS FISHING LURES

A FLORIDA CONTEMPORARY CARVER By: Bill Stuart

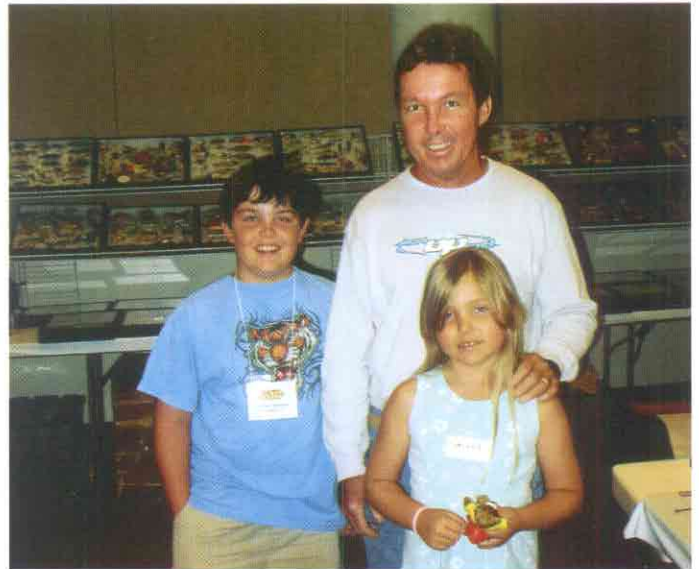
Jan's interest in lure making actually began shortly after his addiction to antique tackle appeared in the early nineties. As he poured over the books every night, he was captivated not so much by the value of these early lures but by their design and the brilliant colors and patterns produced.

Born in Laurel, Mississippi, he lived somewhere on the Mississippi River until he was 10 years old, first at Natchez in Mississippi, and then in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His family moved to Iowa, and after he graduated from high school, he attended Northwest Missouri State for two years. In 1973, he moved to Sarasota, Florida, to attend the Ringling School of Art.

Jan married Mary Kinane, a Syracuse, New York, native. They have a son, Nathan, and a daughter, Lydia, both of whom you might have met if you attended the Bradenton Show. He has been a boat carpenter since the late 1970s and specializes in wooden boat construction and repair.

The lure box in the center of the display is for the American Minnows just above it. Jan sold about 55 of the middle or standard size #2. Only about 10 of the smaller sized ones were made, and about 4 or 5 in the larger size.

His original lure was the Fairform Frog #1 diving / spinning and #2 floating shown at the bottom right and left of the



display. Jan made 20 of the diving and 10 of the floating variety.

The top left and 2nd from top on the right are Metalized American Spinners. He made about 10 of this lure. These 3 lure models were retired in 2005. The 2nd down from the top left is the Yankee Clipper. Only 6 of these have been made so far, and it is still in production. The Copperhead Trolling Bait, shown top center, has yet to go into production; however, he hopes to have it available in the fall.

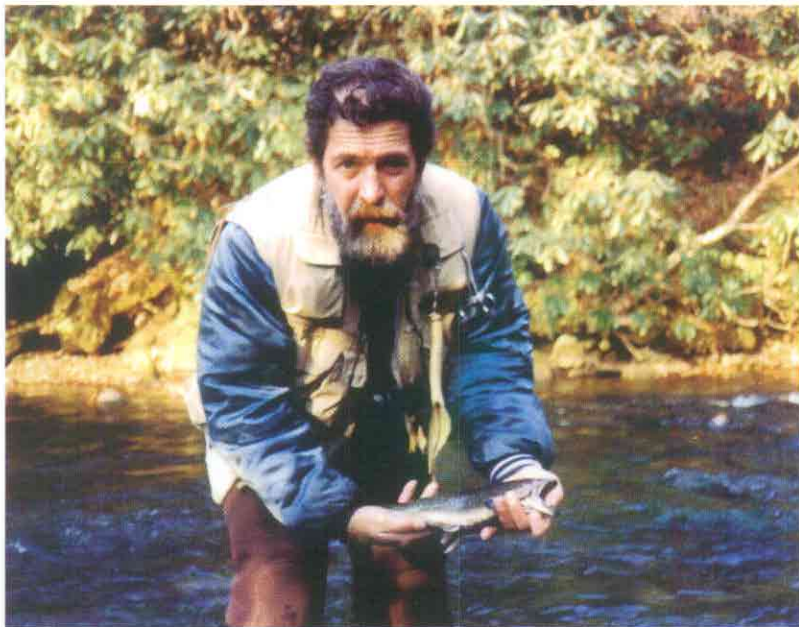
The prices for these lures start at \$160 and are worth every cent. The materials he uses are similar to those used at the turn of the 20th century. The bodies are aromatic cedar, and the metal is German silver. His metalized lures are electroplated over wood just like the earlier lures, although he uses more modern paint materials for his airbrushing. Jan tests every one of the lures in the lake behind his house, and he makes the cardboard boxes he uses for packaging.

Jan's earliest memories of fishing are with his grandfather on Lake Boga Homa outside of Laurel. His work has been published in the December 2003 issue of *NFLCC Magazine* and in *Fishing Lure Collectibles* by Dudley Murphy. We can't wait to see what Jan makes next!





(Above) Fine Indian head scrimshaw on a belt buckle.



(Above) Jerry with a nice trout.

(Below) Neal pan fish popper.



(Left) Neal custom knife with scrimshaw handle.

(Below) Neal Lady Bug signed by Jerry Neal on the belly

(Below) "The Fly Werx" Punk'n Seed 3/4" long 1/32 oz.

(Below) "TFW" Baby Bass (sinking) 1 3/4" long, made of polystyrene wrapped with car foil and painted



(Above) "TFW" Signature Wobbler 1 1/8" long



(Above) "TFW" Popper 1" long

JERRY NEAL, A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

By Ralph Hecht and Bill Stuart

Jerry Neal was born March 9, 1941, in West Virginia, where he and his parents lived with his grandmother and his step-grandfather, Jake. Jerry always spoke highly of Jake, and he was the one who introduced Jerry to the woods – to hunting, trapping and fishing.

He has been called a “Free Spirit,” a “Mountain Man,” a “Mysterious Man,” and a storyteller who could spin a tale with the very best. Although his full beard, piercing eyes, and artistic skills gave him an imposing persona, he was only 5’3” tall and weighed 130 pounds wet. Nevertheless, he was an outdoorsman. Living off the land by his wits was as natural as breathing to Jerry.

Sometime after 1960, Jerry moved to North Carolina. He took some college classes and worked for R.J. Reynolds in Raleigh. He later moved to Ohio, where he worked for General Motors. Jerry was fond of telling people he had attended Cadillac University, which was the name for a school operated by GM for automotive mechanics.

When he returned to North Carolina, Jerry married; and fathered two children who are now grown. His return also marked a return to the great outdoors! Jerry opened a fly-fishing and fly-tying shop in Banner Elk, around 1983, which he operated for a number of years. His shop was known as the “Yellow Neal”, named for Jerry’s favorite trout fly.

From 1960 until his death in 2003, Jerry made a large number of fly rod flies and lures of all types. One of the main purposes of this story is to acquaint you with the scope of his fly making. He taught fly-tying and fly-fishing everywhere he went. Jerry also made high quality custom knives at the shop. According to his friends, his knives are listed in several knife reference books.

In the mid to late 1980s, Jerry closed the “Yellow Neal” in Banner Elk and started visiting South Carolina frequently. Soon after he arrived, he met and married Carol Ann Moore. Carol Ann was a native of Greenville and had lived there all her life. Jerry and Carol Ann had a daughter, Larami, and his family continues to live in Greenville. He came for a visit, not to stay. Interestingly enough, he stayed in the state, even though he did not like South Carolina. He was especially critical of their wildlife laws and the way they protected, or rather, the way they did not protect their streams and rivers. Something hooked him, but no one seems to know for sure what it was. We believe it was Carol Ann!

When Jerry arrived in South Carolina, some of the first people he met were Bob Shelf and his son, Chip. Chip and his friends

were in the process of starting a new club and Jerry became a founding member with the roll number of “2”. Bob’s number was “9” and Chip’s was “10”. The new organization was the WCCCMBC, or the “Warrior Creek Conservation Club Master Baiters Club”. They were big into bass fishing and had a lease on some ponds in the Laurens area.

Jerry opened a new fly shop on Old Buncombe Road, which he referred to as “The Fly Werx”. He soon tried to convert his fellow club members from bass fishing to trout fishing. One of his mantras was “get off the lake and on the river!” His favorite fish was the brown trout. Jerry not only thought the brown to be the best fighter; he was also confident in his belief that the brown was the smartest fish of all.

Jerry wrote a bi-monthly publication on fly-fishing for several years. In one of these issues, he wrote about how to make his favorite fly, the “Yellow Neal”. Although we are not going to repeat the entire story, there are a couple of things we think might be instructive for fly tyers and fly fishermen, so these will be condensed for the edification of all. Jerry tells us that the “Saga of the Yellow Neal” began in 1960, in West Virginia, when he was in personal need of a fly that would float better and have good visibility in bad or low light conditions.

Jerry’s idea was to overhaul a fly known as the “Grizzly Wulff” rather than develop a completely new fly. He wrote, “I dubbed the fly ‘Ultra-Yellow’ because it was the ‘Ultimate Start’.” The fly accomplished much of what he needed, with the exception that all of the flies out of a batch did not catch fish with the same consistency. Frustrated by this ongoing problem, in July of 1983, he decided to develop a completely new fly from the parts of the “Ultra-Yellow”. He called this new fly the “Ultra-Yellow II”. According to Jerry, “this fly produced more often and under more varied conditions than anything I’d ever used.” However, “Ultra-Yellow II” had experienced the same problem as the first generation.

Jerry noted that he learned when he tied flies from the same calf tail, the same cock neck and the same spool of thread, the flies were either all good or all bad. He wrote, “Why? It finally soaked into this thick head that I had forgotten about what I had been working on in the beginning. Trout don’t see in the same light spectrum that we do.” There was obviously research to be done.

He talked with chemists and other scientists and read every book he could get his hands on. Jerry said one thing he had



Santa Claus scrimshaw
on a deer antler.

learned early on, which he thought of little value in the beginning, now took on a significant role. That information came from a chemist friend of his who worked with dyes and whiteners in the textile industry. He first learned that some material strong in whiteners did not produce consistently. Jerry wrote, "material washed or cleaned with solvents that had whiteners present left residue on the material to be used, and this whitener is not natural to the trout's light spectrum."

He also learned that the amber colored head cement, which dries clear to our eye, changes the color's effect in the trout's light spectrum. He notes that he now uses only clear model airplane dope. Taking steps to be sure that his materials for tying the fly had not been washed or cleaned with whiteners and that he only used the clear model airplane dope, he was able to produce a new fly, the "Yellow Neal". This fly not only met his expectations, but could be consistently reproduced when he carefully observed these precautions, time after time again. Jerry concluded by saying, "I believe the secret to the productivity success of this fly is simple. The color of the materials, in the trout's light spectrum, matches the color of 90% to 95% of the natural insects."

In a special note to fly fishermen, Jerry commented that a bonus of this research is that you should never wear anything white or anything washed with detergents containing whiteners. He challenged his readers who doubted his finding to try them and decide for themselves!

Jerry was an exceptional carver and scrimshander. One of his carvings is of Santa Claus on a deer's antler tip. The tip is fitted with a brass cap and engraved "Jerry Neal '92." A number of his scrimshaw items have been seen and each is artistically designed and professionally carved. A bolo tie clasp is very attractive, as is the belt buckle shown here.

He loved to collect all sorts of things, including cars. He loved to restore the bodies and rebuild the engines. One of them is still sitting in his father-in-law's front yard. Jerry also collected baseball cards, coins, stamps, and other types of artifacts. One of his great attributes was that he kept meticulous records of his collections and the things that he made. Unfortunately, as of this writing, none of those records have been found.

Not all of his projects were successful. At some point after Jerry arrived in South Carolina, he decided to make a life-size fly fisherman in the act of casting. Jerry also decided he would make it out of papier-mâché. After he had made the reinforced chicken wire form, he started mixing the papier-mâché. No one seems to know if he was working from a known recipe or flying by the seat of his pants as he put the concoction together.

However, we did learn two things. The first is that one of Jerry's papier-mâché ingredients attracted gnats by the thousands. When they landed on the wet papier-mâché, they became an integral part of the fly fisherman. The other thing we learned is that Jerry abandoned the project without comment.

When Jerry finally closed his shop on Old Buncombe Road, he had to put a lot of items into storage because there was not enough storage room at the house. Sadly, sometime in 1999 or 2000 Jerry lost the storage unit and contents for the rent. A great deal of his work and other items were sold at auction. An ad in his bi-monthly publication gave notice of his new book, *The Fishing Flies of Jerry Neal*. We believe the book he was writing (or had written), as well as all of his records, were lost in that sale.

Jerry kept his emotions in check and displayed no bitterness about his losses. Without complaint, he turned his attention to other types of artwork. As can be seen in almost everything he did, Jerry was a very talented artist. Over the next several years he tried many different types of art from pencil and charcoal sketches to formal oil painting. Someone commented to me that they thought he had done some artwork for *Trout Unlimited*.

We can appreciate Jerry's talents and can champion him as one of the more innovative minds in fly rod lure making over the past half century. Jerry's brand of experimentation with various materials, sizes, designs, colors, etc. across the entire spectrum of fly rod lures and flies is incredible.

Jerry died of a heart attack in Greenville, South Carolina, on August 6, 2003. He was cremated, and his ashes were spread on the waters of Wilson Creek outside of Boone, North Carolina.

Our sincere thanks to Jack Alexander of Clarkesville, Georgia; Jay Chumley of Belton, South Carolina; Joe Yates of Charlotte, North Carolina; Bob and Bobby "Chip" Shelf of Simpsonville, South Carolina; Carol Ann Neal of Greenville, South Carolina; and Tom Rogers of Edgefield, South Carolina.

Other versions of this story with different arrays of lures are being sent to the Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors Newsletter and the NFLCC Gazette.



SPECIAL INTEREST

Antique Lures in Field & Stream Magazine

It's always heartening when the mainstream media takes an interest in the antique tackle hobby - and downright flattering when a major outdoor publication like Field & Stream gets interested, too. The New York-based fishing and hunting giant featured the first of an ongoing series of online antique lure photo galleries on its website on May 16, with early boxed lures from the Georgia-based collection of Robbie Pavey. According to Nate Matthews, F&S's associate editor in charge of online programming, the gallery was among the most-viewed features for almost two weeks, with the vast majority of visitors clicking through the entire series of 20 photos. To visit the gallery, go to:

<http://www.fieldandstream.com/fieldstream/photogallery/archive>



Well shiver me timbers, if it ain't a young swab named Jim Duncan with his first sailfish! Can you believe 13 was his lucky number? The year was 1960, the place was the Lake Worth Pier and the sailfish was the 13th ever taken off the pier. In time that number would exceed 200. Capt. Jim was using a custom Ed Baker rod, and a Penn 3/0 reel with 20 lb. test line. Jim still has the rod. What a picture, what a guy! By the way, who's the mate on the right with the earring? ARRRGH!

To my dear friends,

Thank you for your love, and for including me in all of the extra fun at the show. The show was small, but super nice, and I did manage to sell enough to have a smile. You all know how I loved the seafood and could not stop eating!!! And to my dear special boyfriends.... and you know which ones you are.....

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!!!!

It is so good to be back! And, it is good to be able to laugh again. It means the world to me. Please don't stop!

Love,

Carolyn Corwin —————*<:}{}{}{}{}{}{}{}{}{}{}><

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NFLCC National Show; Grand Rapids, Michigan

July 13 - 15; Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

For rooms call: 800-253-3598

Show Hosts: Tony Smith & Mike Kechkaylo

616-399-3420 or 269-429-2927

FATC Summer Exhibition

Aug 11, 12, 13, 2006, Dolphin Beach Resort,

4900 Gulf Blvd., St Pete Beach

For Rooms Call: 800-257-8916

Show Host: Ron Gast, 407-496-7940, rkgast@cfl.rr.com

FATC Fall Show

Oct 6, 7, 8, 2006, The Villages of Lady Lake, FL

Holiday Inn Express, 1205 Avenida Central

For Rooms Call: 352-750-3888

Show Host: Don Carlstrom, 155 NW 82nd Court, Ocala, FL 34482

LANG's TACKLE AUCTIONS - Fall Auction

November 3 - 4, 2006, Boxborough, Massachusetts

c/o John and Debbie Ganung

315-841-4623, LangsAuction@aol.com

FATC Florida International Show

February 23 - 25, 2007

Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach, FL 800-874-7420

Show Host: Larry Lucas, Larry@flowerscentral.com

386-254-5179, 386-295-7281

NFLCC Regional Meet Calendar

September 29 - 30, 2006, Decatur, AL...256-355-6726

October 21 - 22, 2006, Allentown, PA... 610-759-7240

January 6 - 7, 2007, Pigeon Forge, TN... 615-499-5431

January 20 - 21, 2007, Milwaukee, WI... 262-632-4735

Contributed by Bill Stuart



Woman and prize fish
(Woman on right)