

# F.A.T.C. NEWS

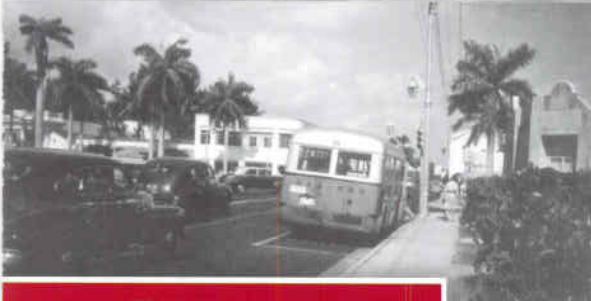
Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Quarterly Newsletter



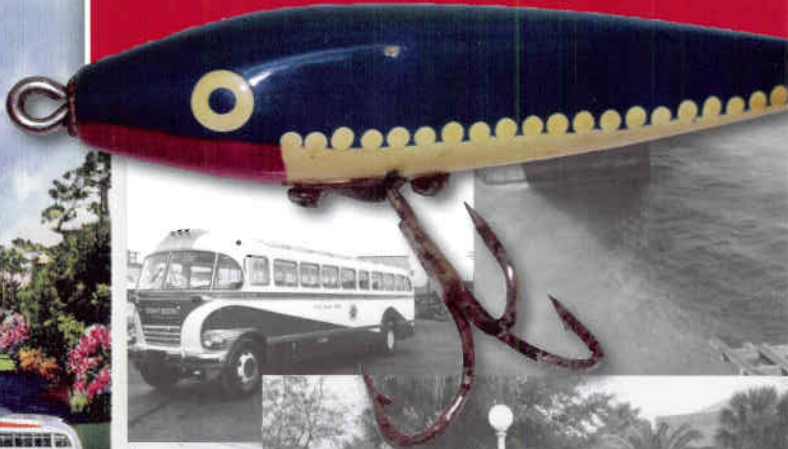
BOX SINGING TOWER, LAKE WALES, FLORIDA



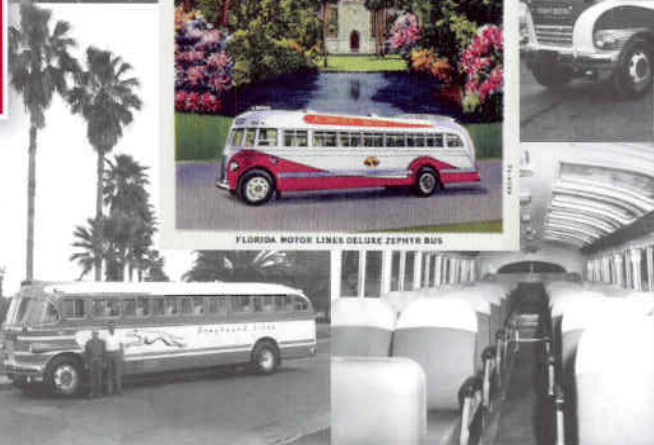
On CAZAZAs, Bus Drivers, and Other Miscellaneous Neighbors (that may be out there...)



FLORIDA MOTOR LINES DELUXE ZEPHYR BUS



**"THE QUICKIE"**



HOW BAGLEY'S "Mama Cat" LOST HER CHARMS



Ralph Hecht's meticulous attention to detail pays dividends with these beautifully mounted fly rod bug displays.

Ralph Acker and his award winning Al Foss collection.

Egers and Barracudas on parade in Jack Fenwick's Best Florida winner.

These avid club members brought great collections to Daytona and were awarded National Champ Florida Gators' orange and blue Outstanding Display ribbons for their effort.





**EXHIBIT WINNERS:**

**Best Educational Lures**

Ralph Hecht (*Fly Rod Lures*)

**Best Topical Lures**

Ralph Acker (*Al Foss*)

**Best Florida Lures**

Jack Fenwick (*Florida*)



Bob Dennis, the 2009 recipient of the President's Award.

This year's Daytona International Youth Winners; Nicholas Comjean, Frankie Hutchinson, Megan Hardy, and Ariana Lucas



F.A.T.C. NEWS

**The Newsletter of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.**

April 2009 Volume 23, No. 2

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Cover Art: A collage of early Florida bus photos and postcards accents this issue's cover to emphasize our lead story. The commercial bus lines contributed to Florida's fishing past by providing transportation to and from piers, lakes, rivers, marinas, and other fishing destinations throughout the state. One family's story, which included "Bus Driver" pier baits and the Florida classic "CAZAZA" lure, relates to these tried and true modes of transportation as the Hiltons fished their way up and down the East Coast.

- President...** Larry Lucas, Holly Hill, FL  
**Vice President...** Mike Mais, Ocala, FL  
**Secretary...** Ed Bauries, Jupiter, FL  
**Treasurer...** Lloyd and Sally Jett, Quincy, FL  
**Directors...**

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mike Sims, Ft. Lauderdale, FL     | John Mack, Birmingham, AL      |
| Norm Pinardi, Bradenton, FL       | Paul Snider, Pensacola, FL     |
| Ed Weston, Palm Beach Gardens, FL | Ron Gast, Kissimmee, FL        |
| Don Morrow, New Port Richey, FL   | Ed Pritchard, Jupiter, FL      |
| Chuck Heddon, Longwood, FL        | Dennis McNulty, Chesapeake, VA |
| Mike Hall, Jacksonville, FL       |                                |

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## DELUDED (DILUTED?) DIGRESSIONS

By Steve Cox

Meditation is a healthy and necessary exercise for the soul, and I've been doing more than my fair share of it lately. Roy Edward Groat, Sr., my stepfather since I was 5 1/2 years old, just lost (and ultimately won) his battle with a long term illness. Roy was a complex man with a disproportionate ratio of tragedies to triumphs, of situations presented and opportunities lost, of glimmers of brilliance often overshadowed by harsh realities. However, in the end, he was just a man that I loved very much... A man who first taught me boating and seamanship, salt water fishing, mechanics, carpentry, camping and woodworking. He taught me how to drive a car and all manner of things a young boy needs to know. His passing leaves another mark on me, and increases my sense of urgency to build good memories for my daughters, Nicki and Haley.

Now, its early morning and I am "reflecting" once again, but this time from one of my favorite vantage points; a fresh cup of coffee, a wonderful perch with 62, count 'em 62, porch rockers to choose from. A placid lake stares back at me invitingly, with its pre-dawn foggy mist lifting just enough to expose a shimmering surface; still, except for the striking fish. Birds are everywhere singing, and my favorite prolific caller, the barred owl, is amply represented, with hoots, caws, and cackles coming from multiple directions.

Spring flowers planted strategically throughout the grounds add marvelous splashes of color to the experience, and the sweet smell of the lawn, just mown yesterday, still lingers in the fresh air. Then, to top it off, a group of five egrets floats by overhead, while a great blue heron lands on the lake's shoreline, not sixty yards in front of me. With deliberate ease, he proceeds to display the skills of a REAL angling expert, instead of so many hacks like me who call themselves fishermen.

Haley and I are winding up a spring break weekend visit to a certain hunting and fishing lodge we've enjoyed numerous times in the past. On this trip, we've had some great bluegill, shellcracker, and bass fishing, read books and played Scrabble, too. The golf carts have always been a fun time for Nicki and Haley, and on this trip Haley has been learning to drive one! We've enjoyed wonderful meals and evening serenades by the barred owls and the whipporwills.

Imagine Haley's disappointment when I tearfully broke the news to her that this would be our final trip to the lodge. The look on her face said it all as she stared back at me in disbelief. I explained the lodge was for sale and a prospect was considering the deal. If it goes through, the buyer would probably close within 90 days, and would then be in charge. With a newfound appreciation for the treasure we have enjoyed, Haley said, "Lets go catch a few more fish, Dad!" And we did.

Back to the porch rockers; it stormed, with lightning, thunder, and rapidly dropping temperatures forcing our retreat to the warm leather easy chairs inside the trophy room of the lodge. Over hot coffee and tea, in the darkness of the overcast, torrential rain cascaded off the

tin roof. As Haley and I listened to the tempest, we talked quietly on a number of topics. She curled up in the chair and went to sleep and I thought to myself, "Life is good."

Fifteen minutes later, world renowned turkey guide Joe Smith came in from the flood, and I mentioned hearing a shot, just before the rain began. He proudly said the young boy Jack Johnson, age 9, of Atlanta, GA, had just shot his first turkey! Then Jack and his father Jeff came in and both were beaming from ear to ear. The big gobbler with 1 1/4 inch spurs and a 9 inch beard, was hanging from the front porch rafters, and we all rushed out to inspect Jack's trophy. The 20 gauge had done it's job, as had Joe, with another youngster and his dad creating special memories which are now indelibly etched in their lives. That's what this lodge and it's owners have always been about... family.

February's Daytona International was a huge success! Club President and show host Larry Lucas, and his cadre of hard working volunteers, pulled off a masterful accomplishment, with another record setting turnout, especially considering the somber economic landscape. Before the ink has even dried on the Daytona show, however, FATC and CATC have geared up for the first ever joint club show in Savannah, GA, May 15th and 16th, 2009. Every member who can should make this show, even if you don't have a display. Savannah is a great town that has never had an FATC or CATC show before, so expectations of the public bringing in some great tackle are high. Contact FATC host Mike Mais for details.

If these shows aren't enough to perk you up, the NFLCC National is in Louisville, KY, July 9-11, and our club follows with the Summer 2009 Show in Altamonte Springs, August 21-23, hosted by Chuck Heddon. The Fall 2009 Show is already scheduled for Palm Beach Gardens, FL, over Halloween weekend, with Ed Bauries and Ed Pritchard co-hosting the event. As you can see, there's no shortage of activity in FATC!

This issue offers a nice photo collage of the Daytona Show, courtesy of FATC members Mike Mais and Craig

Comjean. Bill Stuart once again thrills us with a "true tale from the halls of Bagley" on the "Mama Cat" losing her charms, with additional fluff provided by the editor. Newcomer to FATC News (but not FATC), Scott Watkins, makes us all drool about his "dream come true" tackle find entitled "The Quickie". I wrap it up with a not-so-little piece on Florida tackle I found four blocks from my house, "On Cazazas, Bus Drivers, and Other Miscellaneous Neighbors". All in all, a fairly attractive slate of fodder to accompany the 2009 FATC Directory, which should also be in the mail about the same time.

Have fun with your kids! Take time to smell the coffee while its still brewing, and don't forget to quit wishin', go fishin'!



26 keeper bream and shellcrackers, and 1 bass, a stringer weighing over 30 lbs!

A big Alabama gobbler for young hunter Jack Johnson!



Steve  
EDITOR

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, "Tackle Warriors",

I'd like to start out this quarter's President's message by thanking all of you that helped make our Daytona International such a success in February. In this economy, the fact that our show sold out again was a confirming indication that people will spend money where they receive good value. It seemed as though every one I spoke with had a great time.

The show always appeared to be busy. The aisles were full and it was noisy, two things you expect to see at a good meet. Of course, like anything else in life, you get out of it what you put into it.

We had a lot of wonderful folks helping to make it all possible. Here are just a few; Don and Betty Morrow, Sheila Rapavi, Elizabeth Schultz, and Dennis McNulty. Our table set-up crew on Thursday consisted of Ed Pritchard, Ed Bauries, Worley Pruitt, and Graham and Megan Hardy. If I missed anyone, it is not because I don't appreciate you; it's just that the show week is pretty much a blur to me at this point.

Please join me in welcoming Mike Hall onto our Board of Directors. Thanks, Mike, for being willing to volunteer your time to the betterment of our organization. If anyone is interested in serving as an officer, director, or other position within our little group, please contact me. It isn't a difficult job and allows you to make a difference.

FATC has started a new program for kids and grand kids of our members. It is called the "FATC Minnow Program". There is a brief article by Sheila Rapavi in this issue explaining it. I would love to have someone step up and run this program for us. It is too important not to give it the attention it deserves. All it takes is to see those kids' faces and you are hooked!

Speaking of making a difference, I had a great experience during the Daytona Show. Back before the end of the year, I got a call from a lady who told me she and her sister used to work at the Porter Bait Company, here in Daytona Beach. She said their father was Maxwell Boales, the Secretary/Treasurer of the company from the early 1950s through the early 1960s. She was putting together a display of lures that belonged to her father as a gift to her brother, Max Boales Jr. Max lives in this area, but never really took an interest in the history or products of the lure company.

To make a long story a little shorter, Bit, and Bev, the two sisters, Bit's husband and Bev's friend all came to my office one afternoon. They brought in their lures (some of which were one of a kind), and we had a great time talking about their work experiences at Porter and hearing stories about their father. That afternoon, they went up to meet Max and present to him the gift they prepared. Apparently, he was very pleased with the effort they made, and it sparked an interest in his father's lure making past.

Max contacted me and I made arrangements to get him into the Daytona Show on Friday. My display of Porters was directly

behind the registration desk, and he looked them over while I was checking people into the show. We spoke whenever there was a break in the crowd, and I told him what I knew about Porter and the lures the company made. At one point, he asked me which of the lures in my cases was the most valuable. I pointed out the "Gator Bait", of which only six are known to exist, and told him I have been offered more for that lure than any other in my collection.

Later, I took him around the show and introduced him to some other Porter collectors. He bought a case from John Mack, joined the club, and left Friday afternoon a happy man. That night, he went into his garage on a mission to find any tackle that his father had left him. After much effort, he dug down to a layer of boxes from the 1950s. The first one he opened contained a tackle box. Inside the tackle box, right there on the top tray, he encountered a "Gator Bait"!

Searching further, he found more Porter lures and boxes. There were shipping boxes, scarce "Sea Hawk" Jigs, and lures painted in colors that were rare, to say the least. He brought them inside and called me on my cell to tell me the news. To say I was happy for him was an understatement; I was thrilled!

What a great turn of events. We had a guy with a family history in tackle that came to our show, decided to get involved and went home to find the most valuable lure the company ever made. Max now has the bug! He is using his local resources to find out more information on the history of the company and the part his family played in it. We have a new member and I've made a new friend. What a great club we have...

If you don't get out to shows as much as you'd like and are content to get your "tackle fixes" on the computer, you are truly missing the point of being a member of a club. It is all about the people and the experiences you have when you get out to a show. For example, our next one is a groundbreaking event in conjunction with the Carolina Club in beautiful Savannah, Georgia, May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mike Mais for more information. Then, our summer show is being hosted by Chuck Heddon on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Clarion Inn and Conference Center in Altamonte Springs.

The two Ed's, Pritchard and Bauries, are preparing for a stellar show in Palm Beach Gardens October 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. This show will be held at the Embassy Suites on PGA Blvd. We are already working on shows for 2010, with some surprises in store. If you have any ideas for a show or want to help organize one, please let me know.

I am making an attempt to update all my member e-mails to improve communication. If convenient, please go to your computer and send me an e-mail, so I can make sure your address is in my book. I sure would appreciate it, and I can be reached at porterman@cfl.rr.com. I'll end this by reminding you to cherish each day, forgive and forget, and never miss an opportunity to tell those you care about just how much you do. Have fun with your hobby, but remember we have a larger purpose here on Earth.

Until next time,

*Larry*   
PRESIDENT

## FATC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The FATC Board of Directors (BOD) met last in Daytona Beach, FL, on February 20, 2009. Those present were: Dennis McNulty, John Mack, Mike Mais, Larry Lucas, Norm Pinardi, Ed Pritchard, Sally Jett, Lloyd Jett, Ed Weston, Mike Sims, Don Morrow, Paul Snider, Chuck Heddon, Mike Hall and Ed Bauries. The topics discussed were as follows:

- Motion made to approve the Secretary's report from 10/31/08. Motion approved by the board.
- Motion made to approve Treasurers report which was reviewed and approved by the board.
- Old business discussed, topics are as follows: No old business.
- New business discussed, topics are as follows:  
Discussion on the FATC Annual Patches.
- Daytona Beach Plaza Hotel contracts have been negotiated until the year 2015. Motion to approve the Daytona contracts passed.
- Discussion on conserving FATC members badges; it seems that we could keep a badge and shield for more than just one show. The badges are very expensive to print and time consuming as well. The possibility of a permanent badge was discussed; it would be the responsibility of each member to bring their badges to each show they attend or they would be charged for a duplicate.
- It was suggested that it would be nice for a new member to receive a personal phone call from someone in the club to welcome them into our organization.
- We are looking for new show venues. At the time of this meeting we were looking for a fall show in the Palm Beach area. We are also considering Crystal River for 2010. Looking for further venues, if it has been a while since we have had a show in your area or if you would like to host a show in your area please let the board know.
- Mike Hall was elected as a new board member. Thanks for stepping up, Mike.

Meeting closed.

## FATC/CATC Savannah Show Discussion

Those present were: Dennis McNulty, John Mack, Mike Mais, Larry Lucas, Norm Pinardi, Ed Pritchard, Sally Jett, Lloyd Jett, Ed Weston, Mike Sims, Don Morrow, Paul Snider, Chuck Heddon, Mike Hall, Ed Bauries, David Lindsay, Arthur and Karen Edwards, and Ralph Acker. The topics discussed are as follows:

- Security for the Savannah show: Security is mandatory at the Armory.
- Awards: Members vote on displays via ballots.
- Savannah show advertising:  
Not for profit advertising? Advertise under the antiques column / fishing column?  
Place flyers in barber shops, antique shops. John Mack to donate a display case to person distributing these flyers. Thanks, John.  
Place an ad on Craig's List?  
Radio Advertising?  
Advertise the show in the NFLCC Gazette?
- Savannah Show schedule: Members: 8-5 Friday and Saturday. Public: 9-5 Saturday only.
- Admittance will be \$5.00, with children 12 and under free.
- Admittance will be free should the visitor bring fishing tackle for an appraisal.
- On the spot auctions to be held on Saturday with auctioneer; Don Morrow.
- Auction fees are 10% from the seller; no fees to the buyer. (Savannah show only)
- Other revenue opportunities; 50/50 raffle?

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### New Members

#### Beverly Hiatt

85 Laurel Hill Dr.  
Woodstock Valley, CT 06281  
860-974-3651  
860-478-3651

#### Greg & Delaine Hildreth

477 Midway Cir.  
Brunswick, GA 31523  
912-261-1763  
hildrethcharters@bellsouth.net

#### David & Lavonne Horejsi

2141 60th St.  
Luck, WI 54853  
715-857-6056  
651-247-7201  
concretecop@hotmail.com

**Allison Horejsi** (Minnow)  
alleycat0317@hotmail.com

#### Bit Rairigh

13518 Norman Circle  
Hudson, FL 34669  
727-857-1458  
bitdon2@msn.com

#### Colby Sorrells

PO Box 509  
Mansfield, TX 76063  
817-473-6748  
texasbassbugger@yahoo.com

### Member Contact Changes

#### Bob Baugher

(through October 20th)  
43400 46th Street  
Lawrence, MI 49064

#### Carolyn Corwin

418 Nervia Ct.  
St. Augustine, FL 32806  
904-797-6688 home  
reellures@comcast.net

#### Gary Eason

625 Crestwood Dr.  
Marion, IL 62959  
618-995-1404  
freespool@4siwi.com

#### Dan King

(October-May)  
2364 Granadeer Street  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
941-624-6317  
(May-October)  
3693 County Road 12  
Waterloo, IN 46793  
260-837-3661  
dsking@earthlink.net

#### Paul Legros

9739 West Smokey Lane  
Crystal River, FL 34429  
920-296-1495

#### Ed Pritchard

PO Box 6  
Jupiter, FL 33468  
561-748-7508 (Home)  
561-818-1081 (Cell)  
reeltackle@aol.com

# FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS

FALL SHOW - OCTOBER 30, 31 & NOVEMBER 1, 2009

TO BE HELD AT THE EMBASSY SUITES, PALM BEACH GARDENS

**SHOW LOCATION & HOTEL INFORMATION:** The FATC Fall Show will be held at:

**The Embassy Suites – 4350 PGA Boulevard – Palm Beach Gardens, Florida**

For Reservations call Toll Free: 1-800-362-2779 or Call On Site: 561-622-1000

You can also book your Embassy Suites reservations on-line; visit the FATC web site for the link.

The Embassy Suites (our host hotel) offers a very nice selection of rooms, including suites, with 42 inch flat screen TVs and marble wet bars much like the Plaza in Daytona Beach. The rate is \$99.00 per night when you tell them you are with the FATC. Your per night charge includes a full breakfast buffet with omelets, waffles and a large variety of hot breakfast foods. Your per night charge also includes the manager's happy hour, with an all-you-can-drink bar open from 5:30 to 7:00pm. Rooms must be booked by August 28 to guarantee the special room rates; after August 28 the room prices might increase or rooms might not be available. Reservations can be canceled 48 hours prior to your stay.

## MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

**There are two secondary hotels nearby. Call for rates:**

Doubletree Hotel directly across the street – Toll Free – 800-222-8733 ~ Or Call On Site - 561 622-2260

Hampton Inn – 1 mile away – Toll Free – 800-426-7866 ~ Or Call On Site - 561-625-8880

**TABLES & REGISTRATION:** Registration is \$15.00 per member. Six (6) foot tables are \$30.00 each.

### **REGISTRATION & SHOW HOST INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # & E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$15.00 each for a total of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tables at \$30.00 each for a total of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### **Please make checks payable to FATC and send to show host:**

Ed Bauries

Home: 561-630-6357

178 Poinciana Drive

Cell: 561-358-1132

Jupiter, Florida 33458

E-mail: tara\_ed@bellsouth.net

Or Contact Ed Pritchard: Home - 561-748-7508 ~ Cell – 561-818-1081 ~ E-mail – reeltackle@aol.com

**DIRECTIONS FROM I-95 GOING SOUTH:** South on I-95 to Exit # 79C Military Trail South. Go South about ½ mile and turn left on PGA Blvd. The Embassy Suites will be immediately on your right.

**DIRECTIONS FROM THE FLORIDA TURNPIKE:** Get off on Exit # 109, Palm Beach Gardens (PGA Boulevard) and go east about 4 miles to the Military Trail stop light. Go through the light and the Embassy Suites will be on your right hand side.

Payment must accompany registration – Refunds for cancellation must be requested 30 days in advance.  
You must be an FATC member to exhibit, trade or buy at the auction.

## FLORIDA LURE WANT LIST

Eger Pork Rind Bottle, Reel, Rod, &  
Spool of Line

Eger Special Muskie, Kingfish & Tarpon  
Lure

Eger Bass Hawg Box

Eger small Silver Box with Eger printed  
on top

Jim Pfeffer Sunfish, Pigfish & Mullet

Porter Gator Bait

Early Period Robinson lures & Fly Rod  
Lures

Dazzy Vance Wooden Box & Lure

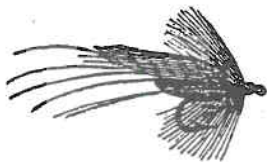
Frenchy Chevalier Wooden Box & Lure

## FLY ROD LURE WANT LIST

Francis Fly Co. Catalogs and Fly Rod  
Lures

E. H. Peckinpaugh Catalogs & Fly Rod  
Lures

Peckinpaugh Fish Getter Hopper Fly



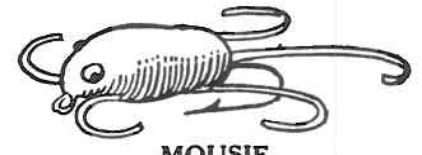
**Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures**  
Price for US delivery Vol. I – V, \$42;  
Vol. VI, \$49. Both prices include ph&i

## Fly Rod Lure Want List (Con't.)

Peckinpaugh Rubber Froggie or Mousie

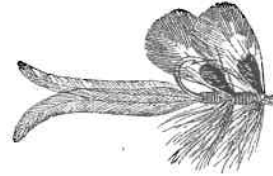


FROGGIE

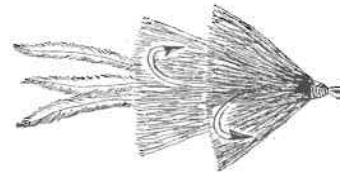


MOUSIE

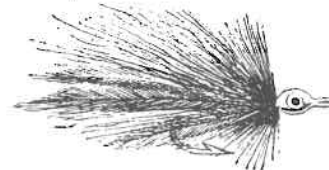
Peckinpaugh Double-Body Bass Fly



Peck's Hickman Fly – note 2 hooks



Peck's Dick Splaine Salt Water Fly NOC  
or Dick Splaine Bone Fish Fly NOC



Peckinpaugh Look – Alive Minnow



Peck's Doodle Bug a.k.a. Lucky Bug



Contact Bill Stuart, The Museum of  
Fishing, PO Box 1378, Bartow, FL  
33831; tel: 863-533-7358; email  
[Bstuartmof@aol.com](mailto:Bstuartmof@aol.com)





# “HOW BAGLEY’S Mama Cat” LOST HER CHARMS

BY BILL STUART

After the Intent to Purchase was signed and I took over the management of the Bagley Bait Company in August of 1988, we held our first staff meeting on the following Monday. To facilitate a feeling of goodwill, we met over lunch; as soon as it was cleared away, we got down to business.

We began the meeting with an “around the table” opportunity for each one to say whatever was on his or her mind. The majority of the comments were polite niceties and good wishes for the new venture. However, one comment caught me by surprise, and I can remember even today that it embarrassed me to some extent. I don’t think I was raised in a sheltered environment, but one thing my family did not do was discuss body parts, especially those of the fairer sex.

As I said, the question took me by surprise when one of our ladies asked very bluntly, although politely, “Can we take the breasts off the ‘Mama Cat’?” She went on to say that it offended a number of the women who worked there. My answer, without thought or prayer, was, “Yes”. Now, you have to recognize that this was really a “no brainer”, in that the breast pattern certainly had nothing to do with the lure’s fish catching ability, and it was the right thing to do.

Why were the charms painted on the “Mama Cat” in the first place? Well, Mr. Bagley was very fond of the ladies. I certainly don’t think he did it to offend anyone. As Jim’s widow, Vera Bagley, points out in her yet unpublished manuscript, “He (Jim) called me, ‘the best catch of his life.’ I was

the 5<sup>th</sup> and final wife before his passing on Valentine’s Day in 2004.”

Back to why I did what I did... I could tell you that I had been gallant and said, “Of course we can banish this great offense to your eyes and other sensitivities!” I think I must also throw in that I could have done it out of cowardice. There were probably eight men in the plant and over a hundred women. How long do you think we would have lasted? My guess is they could have routed the lot of us and raised their victory banner within the hour!

In retrospect, I wish all of my decisions could have been so obvious and could have been made that quickly. Had they, life would have really been a whole lot easier!



Both “charmed” and “charmless” versions of the Mama Cat from Bill Stuart’s collection.

## Further Observations on the Virtues of “Charms”

by Steve Cox

After reading Bill’s article, it occurred to me that his decision to remove “Mama Cat’s charms” (which I thought were meant to be gill markings), had the effect of creating a new variation for the lure. As collectors, most of us seek these variations in color, shape, hardware, etc., and Bagley collectors should be no different. Bill corrected me about my premise regarding the “gill markings” and maintained that Jim Bagley intended for them to be breasts all along. I asked Bill if the baits with charms were worth more or less than those without. He feigned any knowledge of the answer, then pretended he didn’t hear the question. Ultimately, he said, “Ask a Bagley collector”, and granted permission to expand upon his original topic.

I contacted FATC member and Bagley collector, Craig Comjean, and in his opinion, the value of the “Mama Cat”

remains relatively stable in either version. He acknowledged that they were not among the more collectible Bagleys. Searching further, I called FATC member, Bagley collector and author of the definitive Bagley resource, *Collectors Guide for the Bagley Fanatic*, Johnny Garland, for his thoughts.

Johnny said the new “Mama Cat” was introduced in the fall of 1987 for the 1988 Bagley catalog. The lure was a Jim Bagley creation, a longer version of the company’s popular “Fat Cat”, designed by Mr. Hiro Naito, Bagley’s liaison in Japan (Mr. Naito now lives in the Winter Haven/Bartow area). According to Johnny, Bill Stuart took over the leadership of the company in August, 1988, and the company was officially sold in November, 1988. Therefore, the original “Mama Cats” **with** charms were Jim Bagley baits, and those **without** charms were Bill Stuart’s or his

successors. It is thought that the company only produced the baits in the more common colors, and Johnny believes no more than approximately 25 different colors were ever sold.

Johnny said that while neither is an expensive bait, the Jim Bagley version would bring twice as much as the later version, and he would not accept any less for it. The earlier "charmed" lure was made for a much shorter production run, which should add to its rarity, but the lure **did not** sell well. As a result, many early "charmed" baits continue to surface in excellent condition. Johnny maintains that the lure's lack of sales was likely due to its inability to attract and catch fish.



Side view of the two "Mama Cats".

As evidence of this theory, Johnny recounted his grand opening promotion, when he "hung his shingle" on his Fisherman's Choice tackle shop in Blountville, TN, in September, 1994.

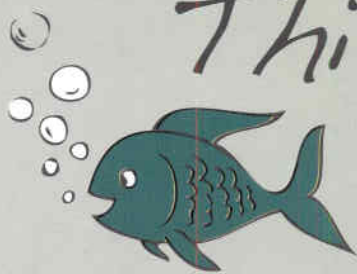
By then, all the production "Mama Cats" had been "charmless" for six years. The store gave away 72 "Mama Cats" (one to each of the first 72 shoppers to walk through the door). For every fisherman returning with their lure and a photograph of the fish they caught on it, the store would award an additional tackle prize... **Not even one of the 72 ever returned to collect their prize!**

*Perhaps, we must conclude that "charm" is in the eye of the beholder...*

## This One's A Keeper

### THE FATC MINNOW CLUB

By: Sheila Rhea Rapavi



Being raised on a country lake brought with it many wonderful childhood

memories. Lazy afternoons, watermelon seed fights, eating scores of oranges, swimming for hours on end, fishing and playing lots of healthy, outdoor games in the Florida sunshine... It was a great life for a kid!

Things are very different today. Kids are plagued with a barrage of electronics (cable TV to iPods). Instead of casting a line into a real lake, they're more likely to 'play' fishing on a hand-held gizmo. Electronics do little to promote face-to-face social, verbal, physical and interpersonal skills. *Who are kid's mentors today?* Rappers, reality show actors, video game characters...?

Fishing with my grandfather wasn't just about fishing – it was all about learning patience, building confidence, hearing life lesson stories, mentorship, bonding, love and so much more. Fortunately, fishing is still a link to a more innocent time, and there are still parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents who want to make a positive difference in the lives of today's kids, too. This is why I created the FATC Minnow Club for kids to age 12. It is the perfect platform for us to mentor great kids, in a safe place, as they build life-long friendships in a club of their peers. Introduced in Daytona, the organization already has 13 charter members!

Our kids are keepers, so please reach out and welcome the FATC Minnow Club Charter Members: Nicholas Comjean

(1st member), Brian Morgan, Ariana Lucas (1<sup>st</sup> girl), Frankie Hutchinson, Melanie Mallard, Brianna Olatin, Tyler Olatin, Jed Richens, Gregory Posch, Michael Gans, Ayden Tess, Abbey Tess, Hannah Zuhlke.

You can sponsor a Minnow, by sending your name along with the Minnow's name, address, phone and email addresses to Larry Lucas at [Larry@flowerscentral.com](mailto:Larry@flowerscentral.com). The first sponsorship is free, with each additional sponsorship only \$10 each thereafter. Minnows receive a Membership Certificate, President's message and attend all FATC exhibits for free!



The FATC minnows, recognized at the Daytona International awards presentation.



Ed, Edd, & Eddie; specifically Pritchard, Bear, and Bauries, posing while displaying their antique tackle at a Gander Mountain store in Palm Beach Gardens on April 25th.

# Past AND CURRENT NOTES OF INTEREST



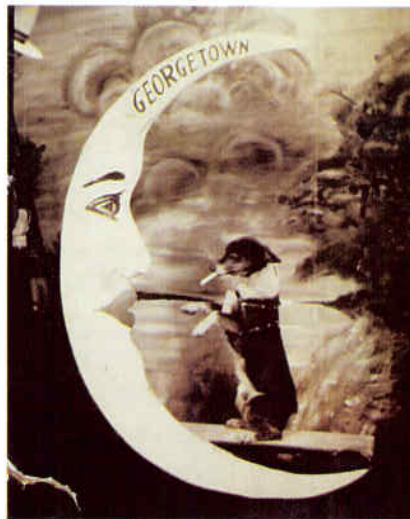
**"BARRACUDA BOOTY" BRADFORD**  
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Covers: Alabama, Florida, Georgia,  
North Carolina, South Carolina

The editor received this email from Kristin Powell on March 24th, and responded on March 25th. If any of the membership knows more details on Mr. Bradford, please contact Steve Cox at econfinatackle@knology.net or swcoxclu@knology.net.



From the "CAZAZA" and "Bus Driver" story: Spoffard Hilton's beloved rat terrier, Brownie. According to Roddy Hilton, the dog smoked a pack of cigarettes a day (brand unknown), and if you look closely, cigarette smoke is wafting from Brownie's nostrils. The vintage photo, from Georgetown, SC, was obviously taken well before the current excise tax on a pack of smokes!

Dear Mr. Cox,

My name is Kristin Powell and I live in Raleigh, NC. I was talking to my mother the other day and somehow we started talking about relatives and long lost family members. She told me that her only cousin was Ewing "Boots" Bradford and she said she thought he owned Barracuda fishing lures....and even wrote a book about fishing. He had lived in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Well after 8 hrs. of surfing the web, I came across an article about the Barracuda fishing lures in a newsletter that apparently you wrote on their advertising. I looked around and read some, and it was amazing, but the graphics/pictures are fuzzy and it was hard to see. Anyway, I did see in one newsletter (FATC NEWS....Volume 22 No 1) on page 11, on the top left hand side, there is a copy of a page out of Rebe Allen's 1948 Dictionary of Fishes with the original sales lineup, including Staake and Bradford....Could that be Ewing "Boots" Bradford? My mom refers to him as Boots. She said that was his nickname. I couldn't enlarge the picture in order to read the names but the caption that was written under the page said Bradford.

I am looking for any information on "Boots". Was he an owner of the company? or was he a sales man? I really could not find any information about the company itself, only the lures. Is there any information that you could tell me? Could you scan that picture larger for me so I could see it? I would love to know more if this is the right person.

I hope his note finds you well and I hope you can help me in my search for my mother.

Thank you very much,  
Kristin Powell

Dear Kristin,

It was great to receive your email regarding Mr. Bradford. Mr. Bradford was known as "Boots" Bradford and also "Barracuda Booty" Bradford. He was one of the leading sales reps for Florida Fishing Tackle Manufacturing Company from at least the late 1940s through the late 1960s. FATC has all of the known catalogs on a disk that is available for \$40 plus shipping, which includes a number of catalogs through the years where Boots is frequently shown. Additionally, the actual Barracuda Advertising History articles, which I wrote for the magazine, are available, and mention Mr. Bradford as well. There are several other FATC members who may have additional research and information on Mr. Bradford, and I will contact them to gather as much as I can for you. FFTMC was always owned by the Reynolds brothers and I do not believe Mr. Bradford had an ownership interest in the company. If I can find out otherwise, or if you are able to provide additional information regarding this, I'll be happy to compile it and share it with your family and the club.

This communication is coming from the email of our magazine's printer, since I forwarded it to them as soon as we received your correspondence. With your permission, I would like to print your communication in our next issue, along with any new information that surfaces. Please advise if this is acceptable to you and thank you again for your inquiry.

Best Regards,  
Steve Cox  
FATC News Editor

# Past AND CURRENT NOTES OF INTEREST

CONTINUED

## OUT FISHIN'

by Edgar A. Guest

A feller isn't thinkin' mean,  
Out fishin';  
His thoughts are mostly good an' clean,  
Out fishin'.  
He doesn't knock his fellow men,  
Or harbor any grudges then;  
A feller's at his finest when  
Out fishin'.

The rich are comrades to the poor,  
Out fishin';  
All brothers of a common lure,  
Out fishin'.  
The urchin with the pin and string  
Can chum with millionaire an' king;  
Vain pride is a forgotten thing,  
Out fishin'.

A feller gits a chance to dream  
Out fishin';  
He learns the beauties of a stream,  
Out fishin'.  
An' he can wash his soul in air  
That isn't foul with selfish care,  
An' relish plain and simple fare,  
Out fishin'.

A feller has no time fer hate,  
Out fishin';  
He isn't eager to be great,  
Out fishin';  
He isn't thinkin' thoughts of pelf  
Or goods stacked high upon a shelf,  
But he is always just himself,  
Out fishin'.


A feller's glad to be a friend,  
Out fishin';  
A helpin' hand he'll always lend,  
Out fishin'.  
The brotherhood of rod an' line  
An' sky and stream is always fine;  
Men come real close to God's design,  
Out fishin'.

A feller isn't plotting schemes,  
Out fishin';  
He's only busy with his dreams,  
Out fishin'.  
His livery is a coat of tan,  
His creed—to do the best he can;  
A feller's always mostly man,  
Out fishin'.

This poem is from the book "The Path to Home" by Edgar A. Guest, Copyright, 1919, by The Reilly & Lee Co., Chicago.

Bill Stuart contributed this copy of Edgar Guest's famous poem, as it was printed in Eger's 1946 catalog.

**Florida Antique Tackle Collectors**



**FATC**  
FLORIDA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS  
1908

Invites the Public to our  
**Antique Tackle Show**  
**Saturday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> • 9AM- 5PM**

The Plaza Resort and Spa Conference Center  
600 North Atlantic Ave. • Daytona Beach  
**\$5.00 Admission Free Parking!**  
**Bring your old tackle for FREE appraisal or to Sell**

*Plus*  
**Buy Antique Lures and Reels**

For more information  
call **386-527-4338**

This ad ran in the Daytona paper, promoting FATC's recently concluded (and very successful) International Show this past February.

## CAN YOU ID?

Frank Carter's sense of intrigue is never-ending, and he submits this issue's entry in the "Do You Really Care?" category. He says, "The lure is 3 1/2 inches long and weighs about a 1/2 ounce. The hook hanger and line tie appear to be made from one hand-twisted wire running through the lure. Universal Supply Company, from Belleview, FL (south of Ocala) is not a lure making company that I am aware of. It is pre-zip code. Don't you just love a mystery?" We sure do, Frank; especially a rubberized black molly from your ten gallon aquarium!



Frank Carter's black molly, above.  
Everyone else's PET STORE black molly, below.

