



C.A.T.C. NEWS

October 2011

THE CAROLINA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

VOL XIV NUMBER 4

President's Message

by Walt Maynard

National Show, Louisville KY July 21/23: For the first time in many years I was able to attend the NFLCC National in Louisville. Louisville, I feel, is a great place for the show, as it is in a great location, reasonably priced and there's a number of things to see and do in the area including the Bluegrass country, Churchill Downs, Keenland (Thoroughbred Race Horsing) and numerous horse farms, Louisville Slugger Bat factory and the Bourbon Trail to just mention a few.

According to official sources the show was off about 10% but the room trading was active, with some members starting as early as Saturday. Your club was well represented with many members having tables and displays. Flyers were handed out for our Myrtle Beach show and we may see some new faces in November. Bob Dennis was awarded a special service award for his many years with the NFLCC as well as winning the Best Tackle display. Phil Dawson won an honorable mention for his line dryer display.

We are returning to Greenville SC for our Spring show in 2012 at the Crown Plaza. Hack And Sharon Hensley along with T.D. Norman will be the hosts and they did a great job in Greenville at the last show there.

Our Fall show in Myrtle Beach is shaping up nicely with Gene McIntyre and Mike Squires organizing the details. 100 tables sold to date so get your reservation in. For any who have not been able to attend a show in Myrtle Beach I highly recommend trying to include this in your schedule. Myrtle Beach is great in the Fall as the crowds of the summer have disappeared. Restaurants are not crowded, beaches are clear, and prices are greatly reduced. All rooms in the hotel have an Ocean view, they'll be great room trading and a fishing tournament on the hotel pier.

For those who haven't attended the fishing tournament in the past you may want to join in

this year. It's a great day of socializing with other members and who knows, you may catch a fish.

Besides the show Myrtle Beach offers 100s of attractions, great seafood, 100s of golf courses, great shopping including a Bass Pro Shop, Orvis shop, Tanger Discount outlets and numerous others. Some of the better known attractions include; Broadway at the Beach, Ripley's Aquarium, The Palace theater, The Carolina Opry, Alabama Theater, Dolly's Dixie Stampede, Barefoot Landing, with most at reduced pricing and smaller crowds.

Hope to see ya there....

Walt Maynard, President CATC

Hack Hensley sent this report of a recent field find:

I was looking at some fishing tackle this guy had and I noticed this tag he had - a 1917 Greenville S.C. porcelain license plate.



I ask how much? He gave me a price of \$100.00 I'm thinking it's worth \$200.00 - \$300.00. This is a chance to make a couple of hundred. So I bought it. Two friends of mine showed it to some people. Immediately I had three offers of \$500.00. So I decided to put it on eBay. It brought \$2247.99

It pays to look for fishing Tackle

Message from the Secretary/Treasurer By Steve Barrow

2012 Spring Show - Next year's Spring Show will be held on April 13, 14, and 15 at the Crowne Plaza, 851 Congaree Road, in beautiful Greenville, SC. Show hosts will be Hack & Sharon Hensley and T.D. Norman. The Crowne Plaza has excellent facilities, and CATC registered members will be able to set up their tables Friday evening, with the show room not closing that night until 9 p.m. The show will last all day on Saturday and close on Sunday afternoon. Hack will have show flyers available at the 2011 Fall Show in Myrtle Beach showing exact times, and hotel contact information. A flyer can also be found on the CATC website, and one will be distributed with the January 2012 newsletter. All tables are six feet in length; cost will be \$15 for aisle and \$20 for wall, along with show registration of \$10. Residence room rates will be \$75, and those of you who attended in 2010 know this is an outstanding hotel. Hack will be taking show reservations in Myrtle Beach in November, and you can also call him at home (864-214-1226) to make your reservations early.

The CATC Newsletter Needs Your Help!! – CATC publishes an eight page newsletter quarterly, and **the club needs your input for articles and other items of interest**. Our club has about 150 members, all of whom have collections, knowledge, stories, and pictures that would be entertaining and informative to the other members. Please consider sharing these by submitting information to Joe Yates, Newsletter Editor. It could be of a historical nature, favorite or recent field finds, experiences using old tackle, or any other subject relating to CATC's Mission: "Enhance and promote the collection and preservation of antique fishing tackle and memorabilia." All submissions will be considered!

Elections for CATC President and Secretary/Treasurer - Elections for these two offices are held at the Fall Show on odd numbered years, so they will be taking place in November in Myrtle Beach. If you would like to serve in one of these functions, or nominate another member, please contact one of the club officers. They are listed on the first page of the CATC Directory you received in August. The CATC board believes the club would benefit from a greater level of participation in club affairs by members, including holding office, volunteering to host and co-host shows, providing content for the newsletter, and so forth. Please consider helping your club by volunteering your services!

CATC Strives to Provide Value for Your Investment – As we all know, these are tough financial times. That is one reason CATC tries to operate as efficiently as possible to hold down the costs of your membership. The club has been successful in doing this, which I believe this is one reason our membership levels have remained strong and even increased in recent years. Our dues and show fees compare very favorably with those charged by other collector organizations and privately conducted events. There are no planned increases to any of our dues or fees, and the CATC board is seeking ways to increase the value of being a member.

September 1, 2011 CATC Financial Statement	
Beginning Balance January 1, 2011...	\$6,337.24
Receipts	
2011 Spring Show (See Notes 1 & 2)	\$3,340.20
2011 Fall Show (See Note 1)	\$1,075.00
Dues	\$1,360.00
Myrtle Beach Show Patches (See Note 3)	\$40.00
20 Year Patches (See Note 3)	\$10.00
Total Receipts	\$5,825.20
Expenses	
Newsletters	\$667.60
Directory	\$295.17
Website Fees	\$119.40
Materials & Supplies	\$200.24
2011 Spring Show (See Note 2)	\$2,383.66
2011 Fall Show	\$1,323.48
Bank Fees	\$63.75
Postage	\$339.84
Total Expenses	\$5,393.14
Net 2011 Receipts and Expenses	\$432.06
Ending Balance September 1, 2011...	\$6,769.30
<p>Note 1: Show receipts include dues paid with registration. Note 2: Some Spring Show receipts and expenses were booked in 2010. Note 3: Patch sales at Shows are included in show receipts.</p>	

Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors Officers

Walt Maynard
President
Email: wallypm@aol.com

Elizabeth Yates
Vice-President
Email: ebyates@earthlink.net

Steve Barrow
Secretary / Treasurer
Email: stb647@embarqmail.com

The C.A.T.C. News is published 4 times a year and is the official publication of the Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors. Articles and stories for the newsletter are welcome and should be sent to:
 Newsletter Editor
 Joe Yates Email: jyates@ix.netcom.com

How Old Is That Devils Horse?

Or is it a Devel Horse, a Devels Horse, a Devils Horse, or a Devil Horse?

By Steve Barrow

Several years ago I started looking at old tackle boxes from an additional perspective, paying closer attention to the lures I found in them that were not considered highly collectable by most people in our hobby. I still wanted to strike the mother lode of course, but also wondered what a previous generation of fishermen believed worked well, and was worth spending their money on. One of the things that quickly became obvious was that most of the tackle boxes I stumbled upon contained a Smithwick Devils Horse. They were apparently highly regarded by top water fishermen of yesteryear, but have not been appreciated to the same degree by us lure collectors.

I believe that is partially due to a formula that connects fishermen of the past with collectors of today. It could take several forms, but one version would be: *Success On The Water = Higher Demand For That Lure = Greater Numbers Manufactured = Lure Is Common & Easy To Find = Collector Lack Of Interest*. The Devils Horse seems to fit that profile, along with the Johnson's Silver Minnow, and the many flatfish variations that also occupy the majority of old tackle boxes. This may be starting to change to some degree, as I have recently noticed an increase in internet activity concerning the earlier Smithwick baits.

The first Devels Horse commercially produced by Smithwick was the "F-100 Floater", a slender four inch model with props at both ends, which is still in production by Pradco today. Other Devils Horse models followed, but the F-100 version is the one I find most often. With the Devils Horse being marketed over a 50 year span, how can you tell if the one you just found is older or newer? I learned the answer to that question at a CATC show in Columbia, SC many years ago.

The quick and easy answer is in the location of the eyes: the closer the eyes are to the front hook hanger, the older the bait. This 'rule' applies to the standard three hook Devils Horse, but it cannot always be used with the less common two hook Smithwick prop baits, like the King Snipe, Dancer, Prancer, and others. At that CATC show I was touring the tables and stopped to talk with a member who had several Smithwick baits for sale. He was more knowledgeable on this subject than I, and in our discussions explained the eye location 'rule' to me. I have since learned there are some other methods of aging a Devils Horse, but they are not always as reliable as the eyes. Below are some pictures and descriptions that explain the eye placement, and some other methods of determining how old that Devils Horse is.

The eyes have it...

In the picture below are two older Devils Horse lures from the same field find that appear similar in many ways. Both are F-100's in color #5 Yellow and Black Striper, but the earlier of the two plugs is on the bottom. Notice the difference in eye placement between the two. On the earlier lure the eyes seem to straddle the hook hanger, while on the top lure they are placed slightly forward. That difference may seem difficult to distinguish until you focus on the placement in regard to the *front screw* of the hook hanger and the *pupil of the eye*. The more forward placement of the eyes on the top lure indicates it is the more recent of the two, and dates it to the 1960's. The Devels Horse on the bottom is from the 1950's. The older lure is stamped Devels, but the stamp

on the other lure is placed on top near the black back, and it cannot be read. Further down the page is more information about using name stamps and eye placement to help determine the age of the F-100's.



Aluminum or stainless props...?...

Another factor that can sometimes be used in dating these lures is the composition of the props, but that is not always easy to determine. For a few years in the late 1950's the Devils Horse was equipped with aluminum props, but were changed to stainless steel in the early 1960's. The aluminum usually appears duller when compared to the stainless, and on well used baits they are sometimes bent from use or intentionally by the fisherman. If you had the aluminum and stainless props side by side to compare, it may be relatively easy to tell which was which, and that would help in dating the lure. Referring again to the picture above, the older lure on the bottom has aluminum props, but you may not always be able to tell that from just looking at a picture. If unable to determine the prop composition, you can always fall back to the eye placement 'rule'.

Names stamped on lures...

In many cases a Devils Horse can be dated by the name stamped on the lure, but often times it cannot. The first name used for these lures was Devels (or sometimes Devel) Horse, which Adrien Delbasty states in his book [A Collector Guide To Louisiana's Lure Companies](#) lasted until about 1960, at which time it was changed to Devils Horse. That spelling lasted for about ten years, and in 1970 became Devil Horse, which it remained until the Pradco takeover of Smithwick in 1992. Although those dates are fairly definitive, they are not always helpful because not every lure has a legible stamp.

Sometimes the lures appear to have never been stamped at all. Sometimes there is a stamp present, but it is smeared or otherwise illegible. It is not uncommon to see a partial stamp in black ink placed on the darkest portion of the lure's paint, making it unreadable. That is the case with the top lure in the picture above. In those cases when the name stamps are absent or of no value in dating the lure, we can always fall back on the eye placement.

Devils Horse boxes...

The progression of box styles used by Smithwick paralleled that of many other lure manufacturers. First there was the two piece cardboard box, then a cardboard bottom with a hard plastic top, then a cardboard bottom with various soft plastic covers, until the hanging cards came into use. The problem I have with dating a Devils Horse this way is that relatively few are found with the boxes, which requires a fallback to the eye position or other methods described here. If you are lucky enough to find one in a two piece cardboard box, it will most likely be from the "Devels" or very early "Devils" period, which ended shortly after 1960.

Eye location comparisons for Devels, Devils, Devil, and Pradco...



The picture above shows the forward progression of eye placement on the F-100 Devils Horse through four eras. Note also how the size of the eye seems to get smaller through the years, which also increases the distance from the front hook hanger. The lure on the left is oldest, and marked "Devels Horse", and dates to the 1950's. Next is a lure faintly marked on top as "Devils Horse", visible only with magnification. It dates to the 1960's. The third lure from the left is stamped "Devil Horse", which places it in the period of 1970 to 1992, according to Adrien Delbasty's book. The last lure is an example of those currently being manufactured, which are unmarked. However, there is no danger of confusing the one on the far right with an older model, due to the forward placement of the eyes.

In a future issue of the CATC newsletter we'll take a look at some other variations of the Devils Horse, including a few versions that don't show up very often in old tackle boxes.

3rd ANNUAL

Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors **MYRTLE BEACH** Antique Fishing Tackle Show November 18-20, 2011



SPRINGMAID RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
3200 S. Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
www.springmaidbeach.com

866-764-8501 (\$49.00 + tax)

Mention CATC for group rate
Includes: Refrigerator, Microwave, Internet

SHOW HOST

Gene McIntyre
910-395-4424

WilmEyeSpy@aol.com

Mike Squires
843-834-5448

SpottailSC@aol.com

Auctions
Raffle Drawings
Show Awards

SHOW TIMES & EVENTS

Friday, Nov. 18
11-4 pm Fishing Pier Tournament

Saturday, Nov. 19
7-9 am Set-up
10-5 pm Open/Public
6 pm Show Closes

Sunday, Nov. 20
8-12 Noon Open/Members Only

CATC 2011 Myrtle Beach Show Registration Form

Name _____ "Nick Name" _____
(Name Badge Info)

(Spouse/Additional Family Member Attending)

Address _____

City/ State/ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Collector's Interest _____
(Info used for show roster)

Total tables:

_____ 6' Aisle Tables @ \$15.00 each \$ _____

_____ 6' Wall Tables @ \$20.00 each \$ _____

Show Registration Fee \$ 10.00

CATC Membership (\$20 if due)* \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to:

Gene McIntyre
320 Wimbledon Court
Wilmington, NC 28412

Make check payable to "CATC"

*CATC Membership required (\$20 annually) to reserve a table or register for show.

Hunting in Far Away Places

By Joe Yates

The things I appreciate most about my lure hobby are the hunt itself and the people whose company I get to enjoy along the way. It is particularly good when I am able to combine both in a special place that's a little bit off the beaten path.

It is hard to find a place in the Carolinas that is much further from the beaten path than Ocracoke Island. The tiny Outer Banks village of Ocracoke is accessible only by a 2 ½ hour ferry ride from the south or the shorter 40 minute Hatteras ferry from the north. As I write this story, the northern access is not available, as the road leading to the ferry landing is still cut off by several breaches caused by hurricane Irene a month ago.

Elizabeth and I have enjoyed trips to Ocracoke for thirty years. It is quite a special place for us both. We were joined on one of our last trips to the Outer Banks by friends Judy and Dennis McNulty. One day we took the Hatteras ferry for a day trip to Ocracoke Island.

Virtually all of the narrow fifteen mile long barrier island is part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Surf fishing opportunities are only feet away from the road that stretches from one end of the island to the other. The quaint little village of Ocracoke lies at the southern end of the island. It is easy to explore all its nooks and crannies by foot or bicycle.

One of the small shops in the village is Downpoint Decoys. In addition to the many beautiful duck decoys, the shop usually has a few fishing lures tucked away in a display case. Liz and I often find the shop to be closed, as the local owner keeps pretty loose hours during the Fall. Sure enough, the sign on the door said "closed" on the day that we visited with Judy and Dennis. It also gave a phone number to call if we really wanted to go inside. I told Dennis that the few lures were probably not worth worrying about, but that did not stop him from calling on his cell phone. Within just a few minutes the owner walked up and welcomed us in.

We all marveled at the gorgeous decoys. Most were old and many of them were made in the Carolinas. Liz started a new collection that day. She acquired her first root coot, made by a North Carolina artisan.



Root Coot made by Ronnie Wade

Dennis and I were drawn to the case of fishing lures. There weren't that many, and I was very surprised to see an obscure Florida bait on one of the shelves. When Dennis asked if I knew what the bait was I told him "yes, that is the next lure in my Florida collection!" The lure was made by Paul Takeshita of the Do-All Bait Company of Miami, Florida and is called the Seven. Do-All made a variety of lures in the early 1950's and all are rather uncommon.



Adding another lure to my collection was really only a footnote to an all around good day. Walking the village, dining at Howard's Pub, and fishing the Ocracoke surf with friends – it doesn't get much better than that!



*Judy & Dennis McNulty and Elizabeth Yates
at the Ocracoke Island Lighthouse*

Upcoming Shows of Regional Interest

October 7-9, 2011
FATC Fall Show
Tampa, Florida

November 18-20, 2011
CATC Fall Show
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

January 6-7, 2012
2012 NFLCC Region 3 Winterfest
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

March 2-4, 2012
FATC Daytona Tackle Show
Daytona Beach, Florida

April 13-15, 2012
CATC Spring Show
Greenville, South Carolina



1938 photo of Peter's Bait Box in Key West, Florida
Florida Photographic Collection - State Library and Archives of Florida



The CATC News Editor
6807 Castlegate Drive
Charlotte, NC 28226

