



C.A.T.C. NEWS

July 2011

THE CAROLINA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

VOL XIV NUMBER 3

President's Message

by Walt Maynard

The spring show was again a great success thanks to Ralph Acker and Hoyt Royal and the many others that pitched in to make the show a success. With over a hundred tables there was plenty of action for the members including the raffle of a very rare *Paulson Combination Minnow*, won by Bill Stuart.

Awards at Southern Pines:

Best of show - Bill Holbein

Best Rod & Reel - John Walker

Best Historical/educational - Phil Dawson

Best youth display - Grant Jacobs

These can all be viewed on the pictures section on the club website:

<http://www.carolinaantiquetacklecollectors.com>

As you know we will be returning to Myrtle Beach in November for our 3rd annual show. Springmaid Beach Resort has held their prices the same for rooms so this is a great value for the whole family. They also have promised to take care of the public address / speaker problem. Take a couple of extra days and visit the many attractions in the Myrtle Beach area. Gene McIntyre and Mike Squires were signing up tables at Southern Pines for Myrtle Beach so call Mike or Gene while there is still a good selection available.

I ran across an interesting fact from the NC Wildlife Commission for those of us 65 or older. You can get a Resident lifetime fishing license for \$15. So when you go to renew your license tell them you want a lifetime license. Not familiar with our neighboring states but they may have a similar program.

Hope to get to Louisville this year so I'll look forward to seeing some of you there. For the rest: **See ya in Myrtle Beach.**

3rd Annual CATC Myrtle Beach Antique Fishing Tackle Show

The CATC Fall 2011 Show is scheduled for Myrtle Beach, SC on the weekend of November 18-20. Look for a flyer in this newsletter. There is always something new going on in Myrtle Beach and changes since last year help to make this show an even better opportunity for the entire family to enjoy.

A new 1.2 mile-long Boardwalk and Promenade traverses through the sand from the 14th Avenue to 2nd Avenue Piers in Myrtle Beach. The boardwalk provides

oceanfront views of the pristine beachline, with numerous shops and restaurants along its path. Alongside the boardwalk is the new SkyWheel Myrtle Beach. It is 18 stories high (196 feet) and includes 42 glass enclosed, temperature controlled gondolas that can hold up to six people. It also includes a full service Jimmy Buffet's Land-shark Bar and Grill, observation deck overlooking the ocean, gift shop and evening light shows. Look for the live SkyWheel webcam on the internet.



Closer to home, Springmaid Resort has upgraded their arcade with new games and a new look. Bring the kids!

Some things have not changed. Springmaid Resort is still giving us low prices and great value for a family beach vacation. The pier is still 1,060' long and 36' wide and will be once again be the site of a Friday fishing tournament at the show. Gene and Mike shook a lot of local tackle loose last year and things walked in off the street non-stop. This Florida Pfeffer Mullet lure was my personal favorite, and you never know what might turn up next time.



Myrtle Beach is more than just a 150+ table fishing tackle show - it is a fun time for the whole family. Bring the kids, bring a fishing pole, and plan on enjoying yourself. We'll see you there!

Message from the Secretary/Treasurer

By Steve Barrow

CATC Directory and Dues: The CATC directory is typically published early in the 3rd quarter of each year, and covers all members whose dues have been paid for that year. The directory includes an alphabetical listing of members showing their contact information and collecting interests, an additional listing of members by state and city, contact information for club officers and directors, along with copies of the CATC mission statement, bylaws, and exhibit policies. If you have not yet paid your 2011 dues and would like for your information to appear in this year's directory, please send a check for \$20 (made out to CATC) to me at P.O. Box 487, Kittrell, NC, 27544. Please send dues to this address, not to the newsletter editor.

You can tell if your dues are paid for 2011 by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter. If your dues have not been paid, there will be a "\$20 DUE" stamp in red near your name and address.

Elections at 2011 Fall Show: Our Fall Show in Myrtle Beach will take place November 18-20, and the business meeting will include elections for the positions of President and Secretary/Treasurer. Walt Maynard has agreed to be considered again by the membership for President, and I am willing to be considered again for Secretary/Treasurer. However, Walt and I have discussed the CATC election process, and we believe that the club would be well served by an expanded field of potential officers at all future elections. Although we are both willing to serve again if asked to do so by the membership, we are also willing to turn the responsibilities over to other members who have the desire and time to perform these duties. Nominations can be made to any board member. If you would like to discuss the specific responsibilities of the President or Secretary/Treasurer, notify Walt or me. Our contact information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

2011 Spring Show: Our Spring Show in Southern Pines was a success by many standards, and the club would like to again thank *Ralph and Chris Acker, Hoyt Royal*, and all the other volunteers. Club member *Tim Schoen* did a great job as auctioneer, and there were many items for members to bid on. Also, a special thanks to *Charlie Kornsey and Fred Stine*, who sold items in the member's auction and donated the proceeds to the club.

Damage to Newsletters by USPS: This is another request that members notify me whenever there is damage to their newsletters. Steps are being taken to address the problem, and we need members to keep us informed when the materials arrive damaged, incomplete, or do not arrive at all. There should be a Myrtle Beach show flyer included with this newsletter.

You can expect your newsletters to arrive in or around the first weeks of January, April, July, and October. They may be distributed earlier if necessary to precede show dates. The October newsletter will only be sent to members whose dues have been paid for that calendar year. If you receive a newsletter that is significantly damaged, appears to have missing pages, or if you do not receive one at all, please contact me at stb647@embarqmail.com, or call 252-492-7356 or 919-612-9750.

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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:
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CAROLINA ANTIQUE TACKLE COLLECTORS

20th Anniversary -1991-2011

by Joe Yates



Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors was formally organized as a Club in June 1991. As we celebrate our 20th anniversary it is appropriate to look back at the early days of the CATC.

As we read in the last issue of the CATC News, fishing tackle collecting was taking place in the Carolinas long before a Club was established. Organized swap meets were being held in North Carolina as early as 1984 and continued biannually for several years. Collectors from the Carolinas and Virginia attended some of these meets and some people came from as far away as Florida.

A small group of five Florida tackle collectors got together in 1987 and organized the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Club. FATC was able to draw upon hundreds of collectors in the State of Florida, and the Southeast, to hold antique fishing tackle shows in Florida.

A couple of lure collectors from South Carolina attended the FATC Spring show in 1991. During the long drive home, Carl Sexton and Joe Littell had hours to reflect upon about how much fun they had at the show. Talk soon turned to the idea of going home and starting an antique fishing tackle club in the Carolinas. The September 1991 Newsletter of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors described it this way: "it was on the ride home from the FATC Spring Show that the idea for CATC began to germinate. When Carl Sexton of 'Sparkle City' and Joe Littell of Tigerville reached home they canvassed other collectors and the organizational meeting was held in early June".

A small group of collectors in the Greenville/Spartanburg area of South Carolina were known to each other and started getting together to talk about old tackle. They met at a local restaurant and the conversation quickly turned to starting a club. One of these collectors, Rhett Brown, recalls "because the NFLCC and FATC shows were held so far away, the idea of forming our own Club was formally discussed at the very first Steak House meeting. Over the next couple of weeks, the name of the Club was discussed and decided on, the by-laws were drawn up, submitted and approved, the dues were collected, and officers elected. The CATC was now an official Club with a total membership of seven".

The official bylaws of the newly organized CATC described two types of membership: Charter Members and Active Members. Charter members were defined as "all members attending the organizational meetings and paying their dues by June 6, 1991". The seven members who met those criteria included Carl Sexton, Rhett Brown, Kae Fleming, Dennis Fleming, Joe Littell, Jack Rhymer, and Grover Barnes. Charter membership in CATC conferred no special rights or privileges beyond the recognition of being one of the founding members of the Club.

The first CATC Officers elected at the organizational meeting were:

Carl Sexton	President
Rhett Brown	Vice President
Kae Fleming	Secretary / Treasurer

Among the first orders of business for the little Club of seven people was to plan the first CATC

tackle show. Since the Club Bylaws specified that annual dues were only \$5, there was very little money to work with. A Spartanburg, SC hotel was chosen for the site after they offered a contract that provided free use of their conference room if CATC would guarantee twenty room rentals. On a hope and a prayer the Club agreed and the inaugural show was scheduled for September 27-29, 1991. The \$35 in the CATC coffers was used to mail invitations to all NFLCC members in Florida, Georgia, SC, NC, Virginia, and Tennessee. As Rhett Brown put it “we barely had enough money to cover the postage”.

The FATC graciously wrote about the upcoming show in their newsletter and encouraged their members to support the fledgling Club. They wrote “lots of CATC members have given strong support to our FATC shows and sales from early on, and we need to rally and show them our support in return”.

Hosts for the first CATC show were Carl Sexton and Kae Fleming. The event was widely regarded as being very successful. Bill Stuart summarized the show in the December 1991 issue of the FATC Newsletter saying “...hats off to Carl and Kae - Hosts - and all the other members for a good show! Eighty five tables were used by collectors from eight states and we had a good Florida contingent with seven collector families attending. The Rev. Bob Dennis of North Carolina and Fred Kerr had the outstanding exhibits....it was a great first effort and CATC is to be congratulated”.

CATC borrowed an idea from the Florida Club and introduced the first of several subsequent patches for sale at the Spartanburg show. The Charter Members chose the Scooterpooper lure made in Columbia, SC for the design of the first patch.

The events over the first several months of the Club’s founding made a good foundation for CATC to build upon. The Club scheduled shows twice a year. By 1993 five shows had been hosted and membership had grown to 154 people from eight states.

In the twenty years since CATC was started membership has fluctuated between 150-200 people. The Club has hosted shows in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. On one occasion CATC co-hosted a show in Savannah, Georgia with the FATC. This was the first time that multiple tackle clubs joined forces to hold an event. People now travel from many different parts of the country to attend CATC shows

As we look back on twenty years of CATC we give special thanks to both the Charter Members and all the Active Members who got the whole thing started. We also give special thanks to the FATC for their early and continued support. We think of the many friendships made along the way that would not have happened if not for the Club. That is the enduring legacy of the Carolina Antique Tackle Collectors.





A Summertime Six Pack

by Joe Yates

A friend stopped by the house a few weeks ago and we did a little ol' fashioned lure trading. One of the things I ended up with when the all the dust had settled was a six pack. Now I enjoy a cold beverage during the summertime as much as anyone, but this was not my usual Miller Lite fare. Rather, this six pack was crafted by famous Florida woodworker Earl Gresh.

Long before he began making fishing lures Earl Parker Gresh was well known as a musician. He took up the violin when he attended Borden Military Academy prep school in New Jersey and soon became leader of the school dance band. According to a 1944 story in the St. Petersburg Times "he graduated from the military institution with no thoughts of ever turning to music for a livelihood, but fate had different plans. Hard times knocked on the door of Gresh's parents and plans for further education were forgotten".

The "hard times" referred to in the story was the failure of father Edwin Gresh's New Jersey cigar business following World War I. Earl had worked for a while learning the business in his father's El Cremo Cigar Factory. It was here working with the aromatic cedar used to make cigar boxes that he developed his lifelong love for wood. Shortly after the cigar business went under Earl moved with his parents to St. Petersburg, FL in 1921.

Earl Gresh's professional music career began in 1923 when he met a band of musicians called the Kentucky Kernels. The six boys from Kentucky University were playing a local dance hall known as the Gold Dragon. They were looking for a fiddle player and were impressed by Gresh's playing. He joined the band and they continued a tour that ended in Philadelphia a few months later. The band dissolved when all of the boys decided to return to Kentucky to continue their education.

Gresh chose to stay in Philadelphia and he started his own orchestra. Earl Gresh and His Gangplank Orchestra signed a recording contract with Columbia Records. Over the next several years they toured some of the most famous night spots in North America. Interestingly, one of the places they performed was at The Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC.

One interesting footnote in Gresh's musical career is that Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey once approached him for a job and Gresh had to turn them

down. According to the St. Petersburg Times "the Dorsey incident that Gresh recalls occurred in 1924 while his band was in Philadelphia. The outfit that Tommy and Jimmy had been playing with dissolved, leaving the pair jobless. They asked Gresh for spots but at the time none were available."

Earl Gresh and His Gangplank Orchestra recorded more than 200 sides for Columbia Records before calling it quits in 1926. The St. Petersburg Times wrote "fate didn't have a hand in Earl's exit from the world of music. It was just common sense, Gresh tells us. 'I didn't think I could ever make a real home for my family traveling with dance orchestras. I turned my wooden instrument in for a wooden business.' Were it not for an act of 'good judgment', Earl Gresh might today be one of the nation's most famous band leaders".

So what about that darn six pack anyway? After all, this was supposed to be a story about lure trading, not a history lesson. Yeah, yeah, so we'll just leave out all the good stuff about boat building and speedboat racing along with



all the other neat things that Gresh did for a few years before he started his woodworking career.

This picture appeared in a 1939 issue of Popular Science and shows Earl Gresh working on one of his famous wooden purses.

The story that accompanied the photo reported "undismayed when the depression hit the entertainment field

(Continued on page 6)

a few years ago, Earl Gresh, former orchestra leader, proved his resourcefulness by turning for a new career to his hobby of creating artistic novelties from wood. He tried making women's purses from polished woods, and found the idea caught on. Now he has the fastest-growing payroll in St. Petersburg, Fla., and his factory turns out a variety of products that include wooden animals, dress trimmings, bracelets, lamp tables, serving trays, and dinner favors."

Gresh operated a woodworking "novelty shop" for several years before he came up with a better idea. According to the St. Petersburg Times in a 1939 story "one day last winter a dreaming wood-carver - fast becoming known as the 'wood wizard' of St. Petersburg - dropped his tools in amazement. Browsing around in his workshop were tourists and visitors seemingly eager to learn about wood and its handicraft. If they're so interested in wood, he thought...like a flash, came an idea. Why not create a museum for them?"



Construction soon began on the "museum" which came to be known as the Earl Gresh Wood Parade. The centerpiece of the museum was a cypress stump from Shamrock, FL that growth ring experts had determined to be nearly 3,000 years old.

It was at the Wood Parade that Earl Gresh added fishing lures to his product line sometime in the early 1950's. That brings us back around to the six pack.



The bottom of the Gresh six pack I traded for is shown above. It makes a nice companion to some other Gresh items that we have, including some lures, marquetry panels, and a wood purse. Trading is fun!

If you want to learn more about Earl Gresh, and there is a lot more to learn, I suggest you read an excellent story in Vol III of *Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures* by Brace, Riddle, and Stuart.



Pictures from the CATC Spring 2011 show held in Southern Pines, NC



Upcoming Shows of Regional Interest

July 21-23, 2011
NFLCC National Show
Louisville, Kentucky

September 23-24, 2011
NFLCC Region 3
16th Annual River City Antique Tackle Show
Decatur, Alabama

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

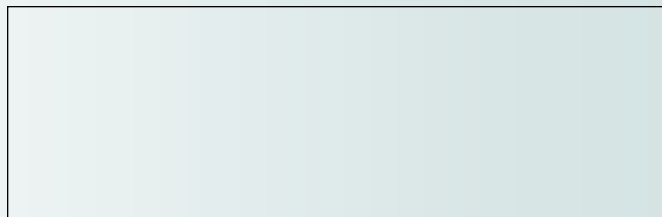
January 6-7, 2012
2012 NFLCC Region 3 Winterfest
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee



A young woman excitedly holds up her catch of fish on a Shakespeare Fishing Tackle Company sponsored trip near Panama City, Florida in 1968
Florida Photographic Collection - State Library and Archives of Florida



The CATC News Editor
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Charlotte, NC 28226



3rd ANNUAL

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



SPRINGMAID RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
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Mention CATC for group rate

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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.