



# SCOTT JEDD

## *Lure Sleuth*



*by Alex Zidock Jr. photos by the author*

**H**e's a sleuth among collectors. Coming from the Old Norse word sloth, meaning "trail," sleuthing then is following a trail, and that's precisely what keeps Scott Jedd interested in collecting fishing lures. After buying and selling fishing lures since the early 1990s, he changed his focus and shifted from a hobby collection to a full-time passion.

"What really attracts me are things that nobody knows what the heck they are. So, I now look for unidentifiable lures and research them," said Jedd. "I'll be checking old patents, and I'm like, well, this matches this, and that matches that," said Jedd. "And, you know, there's no better feeling to take one of these lures that I bought and didn't know what it was, and then, I match it to an obscure patent, and suddenly, you've got a name and a history. Then, you can add that history to something else I researched or may have in my collection and share that information with other collectors. This has now become my

passion. So, I mostly look for the lures with no identifying marks at every show I go to."

Jedd, who lives near Downingtown, began collecting fishing lures when he inherited a tackle box. "My grandfather, who lived in Ohio and fished there and in Pennsylvania, decided one day to drive as far north as he could to fish and ended up 3 hours north of Toronto, Canada. He liked it there so much he bought a little fishing cabin. He eventually left me a tackle box full of an assortment of lures he gathered from many locations."

"There were three or four in my grandfather's tackle box that were about \$100 lures. That's remarkable, I thought, and if that's the case, I can find other ones to sell. So, I started collecting and doing research. Pretty soon, you know, a \$3 profit turned into a \$10 profit. And then, suddenly, I was buying tackle boxes for \$300, \$400 and even \$500 and doubling my money," said Jedd.

Two years ago, the company where Jedd worked for 30 years decided to restructure, and he was offered a way out. "That's when I decided to do this lure collecting and selling





*You never know what you may find in an old tackle box. These are excellent examples of some homemade and folk art lures Scott Jedd is researching. The nameplate on the complete tackle box he recently purchased is Martin Skinner; whether Skinner made them is still unknown.*

full time, and I made the transition,” said Jedd. “And, so far, I’m happy and making a living.”

“I went to a flea market this past weekend,” said Jedd. “And, while I didn’t expect much, occasionally, you find a diamond in the rough. Walking down one aisle, sitting on the corner of a table, were two lures for sale for \$3 each. They turned out to be Malcolm Shipley Pocono Minnows from the 1895 era made right here in Pennsylvania,” said Jedd.

Three lures in Jedd’s collection are among his favorites. “They’re unknown, obviously, but there’s a partial story here. We call this the Pringle Minnow, and if you look at the props, there’s a small grommet on the back side of both sides of the props. On that grommet, there’s a patent date, and that patent date is findable. The patent corresponds to Eugene Pringle, who made gloves and filed a patent for the grommet in 1902. There is no known crossover with the lures other than probably what was left of the glove stud inventory that ended up for sale somewhere, and someone used the grommet to make these lures,” said Jedd.

According to Jedd, there are only eight of these lures known to exist. “I was able to acquire the third one in July or August. So, I’ve got three of the eight, and I know where the others are,” said Jedd. “I would very much love to know the story behind these, because they’re very uniform. All eight are the same size, have the same hole configuration, have the same eyes and have the same grommets on the props. And, it’s a popular story now, so other collectors also want to know.” Jedd suggests anyone interested in collecting fishing lures join the National

Fishing Lure Collectors Club. If you have old fishing lures and would like more information about them, Jedd is the administrator of a forum on YouTube at [Identify Your Pre-1980 Fishing Lures](#). ☐



*Only eight Pringle Minnows exist, and Scott Jedd has three of them. Unique to the lure is a grommet patented by a hand glove maker. But, at this time, the Pringle company has no connection to lure making. Jedd is currently trying to track down the maker of the lures.*

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