



George "Boots" Anderson

Our 46th honorary member is George "Boots" Anderson of Alcoa, Tennessee. He was nominated by Dr. Robert Ingle of Maryville, Tennessee.

Boots was born in Blount County, in East Tennessee in 1931. He was married to Emma Grace in 1951. His hobbies included fishing and hunting, as well as collecting Native American artifacts. He is a Korean war veteran and a retired, self-employed plumber.

It is common knowledge in Eastern Tennessee that Boots Anderson made the very first square lipped, balsa wood crankbait in the early 1960's. Later, his instructions and guidance helped many new balsa wood lure manufacturers get their start. They learned the importance regarding proper balancing, shaping and finishing of their baits. Most lure manufacturers today still have a "Tennessee Shad" color in their lineup.



Tennessee Shad Lure
(Picture courtesy of Glen Brewton)

His development of the Tennessee Shad lure influenced many other manufacturers to develop a similar type of bait that would come to be

known as an alphabet crankbait. Along with Fred Young's Big O, this lure spawned many imitators like Bagley's Balsa B, Bill Norman's Big N and countless others. This square-billed, shallow running bait has enjoyed a recent renaissance with bass fisherman over the last few years.



Doll Top Secret Lure
(Picture courtesy of Glen Brewton)

Boots registered his lure in the mid 1960's, and eventually in 1969, sold the rights to manufacture and market these lures to Doll Thompson. This was the beginning of the plastic Doll "Top Secret" bait, a lure that is now becoming quite collectible. Doll Thompson sent most of these baits to Heddon for painting and thousands of these lures were sold across the U.S. and overseas.



George "Boots" Anderson (left) and Vince Ingle
January, 2001 - NFLCC Regional - Pigeon Forge, Tennessee



In 1995, at an NFLCC regional meet in Tennessee, Boots was honored with a commemorative patch. He also made an appearance at the 2001 NFLCC regional meet in Pigeon Forge, and was a huge hit. He sold dozens of his Tennessee Shad lures and was completely out by the end of the first hour of the show. Boots remarked to a friend later that day on the drive home, that this was one of the best days of his life.

Honorary Member - 2001