



Karen Eppinger

By Frank Baron

At the age of 51 years Karen Eppinger is the 3rd generation sole owner of the Eppinger Tackle Manufacturing Company of Dearborn, Michigan. The company was founded by her great uncle Lou Eppinger, a Detroit, Michigan taxidermist, in 1906 with the invention of the world famous "Daredevle" metal spoon. The Daredevle spoon has the distinction of being the most copied fishing lure in the world. Karen's father Edward joined the company in 1918, and helped build a thriving and stable business. When Lou died in 1958 Ed took over and re-shaped the company.

Karen started working for her Dad and Great Uncle in the mid-50s under the tutelage of her father. She became an excellent fly tyer and was a force in the decision to purchase the legendary Buel, Tuttle, and Northern Specialty firms. Karen took over reigns of the company fully in 1978 with the death of her father. She has successfully run the company with the following accomplishments:

- Enlargement of the Daredevle Line, including ultra-lite fishing lures
- Renewal of Buel Spinners, & Tuttle Baits.
- Introduction of Buzz Baits.
- Revision & Renewal of No Tangle Baits.
- Introduction of Wing Baits.
- Introduction of Flash Flies.

She refused many multimillion dollar offers by both foreign and domestic buyers to purchase her company, but chose to keep the company a family tradition and continue to keep America number one in the development & manufacturing of fresh & salt water sport fishing tackle. In addition, she has contributed many catalogs to NFLCC library for the perpetuation of the history of sport fishing in the world.

I believe this energetic business person, inventor, fisherperson, has at her young age already left her mark on the American, & World sport fishing scene, and the N.F.L.C.C. membership should be proud to give this unique lady the honorary award for 1993.



Karen Eppinger

Honorary Member - 1993