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The National Fishing Lure Collectors Club MAGAZINE

Tilden Robb, Fishing Enthusiast, Tournament Competitor
Collecting *Field & Stream* Pins / Feature Lure #59
South Bend Fly Rod Lures, Part 1 / Sparky Fishing Lures
The Devil's Horse and the Setting Sun



Volume 58, No 1
Summer 2020



Collecting Field & Stream Pins

Ron Gast



How does anyone start collecting? The reasons vary as wide as the items there are to collect and enjoy. With fishing tackle, the reasons are somewhat narrower based on a large number of discussions with collectors over the years. The three biggies are number 1: Got the items from a parent, relative or neighbor, 2: Happened onto an item(s) and became completely enthralled and amazed with it and couldn't get enough, 3: You love to fish and became interested in the history and evolution of the tools of fishing. The natural progression in tackle collecting is to first buy everything you can find that looks older than what you can buy today. Over time you realize this isn't going anywhere and you start to narrow the collecting focus. For some this happens right away and for others over a longer period of time. You will also realize that after you have specialized in a fishing item, it gets harder and harder to fill in the more difficult pieces to find. It could be lures, reels, rods, tackle boxes, fish decoys, creels, minnow buckets, casting weights, tournament casting awards and medals, fishing tackle catalogs, or *Field & Stream* pins. Once your primary collection gets saturated, you branch out looking for items that interest you and that you can still find. For me, my latest branch-out was the *Field & Stream* pins.

My primary interest has always been vintage fishing reels. Bait casters, fly reels and big game reels were my focus. Unfortunately when the reels I collected got harder to find and becoming pricier than I can afford, I branched-out. My first branch-out was with Florida Lure Companies. Living in central Florida, I could still find them at a reasonable price. Well, the reasonable price part didn't last very long as the interest in Florida lures became popular. Here again once the collection starts to get saturated, the lures get harder to find and are pricier. My third branch-out was *Field and Stream* pins. They met my criteria of being interesting and reasonable to collect.

So how did I get interested in *Field & Stream* pins you might ask? First of all, my father, Carl Gast, enjoyed fishing and took part on most weekends. He really was the one that got me interested reels. He told me that fishing with a Meek No. 3 reel is a dream come true for a working class man. Fishing for bass in Lake Purdy near Birmingham, AL was his favorite. His tackle box in the early years had Heddon, Creek Chub, Shakespeare and Pflueger lures and these are what he fished with. Later, when he moved to Florida, Zara Spooks, MirrorLures and Dalton Specials were his favorites. One

thing that always caught my attention when he would go fishing was his favorite fishing jacket. The front of it was filled with *Field & Stream* pins. To him it was a show of pride to wear these Badges of Honor. I had these badges around me when I was growing up and it became something I'm interested in today.



Carl Gast's fishing jacket with his *Field & Stream* Award pins.



What was the Genesis of the concept for a *Field & Stream* nationwide fishing contest with awards? It happened in January, 1911. This was 6 months after the well publicized acceptance of Mr. Anse B. Decker's to Mr. W.J. Jamison's fishing contest challenge. After three days of fishing the weekend of June 16, 1910 at Congress Lake, OH, Jamison's Coaxer was designated the winner. *Field & Stream* recognized the excitement generated by the fishing public around the country.

They also realized that this was an opportunity as result of the interest and excitement that was generated. They obviously thought that the more interest they could generate in a fishing contest would result in the sale of more magazines. They announced the first fishing contest in the January, 1911 magazine. The four largest fish caught in each fish species were awarded prizes. Sixteen different fish species were included. The largest fish in each of the 16 fish species was also awarded a solid silver cup.

Right: *Field & Stream* announces their new fishing contest in January 1911.

\$2000.00 Prize Fishing Contest



GET POSTED BEFORE YOU TAKE THAT FISHING TRIP

FIELD AND STREAM is promoting this contest primarily as an incentive for every sportsman to take an interest in game fishing as never before. We believe that every man, woman or boy, whether novice or expert, will take an added interest in fishing his favorite lake or stream because here is a prize to be won, an honor to be gained in trying for the big fellow and leaving the small fry to the non-sportsman who only wants to yank in as many as possible and not to try his skill against the wise and the wary ones. We believe that all will be interested in reading **HOW, WHEN AND WHERE** the big fish were caught, what kind of water they were taken in, the kind of tackle used, how long it took to land them and the story of the killing. These stories will be published in **FIELD AND STREAM** immediately at the close of each month's Contest and the stories of the Grand Prize winners at the end of the season.

We are therefore offering \$2,000 worth of prizes as an award of merit of skill to those of our readers who catch the biggest fish during the coming season and send us a brief account of how it was done.

There are no strings to this contest. Any one may compete, whether a subscriber to **FIELD AND STREAM** or not.

This contest requires no extra time or expense—simply take along a pair of scales and a tape measure when you go fishing, and if he looks like a prize winner be sure you have two witnesses as to his weight, etc.

We have tried to make the conditions fair to all and to give prizes enough to interest every man, woman or boy who uses a rod or reel.

This will be one of the most interesting and educational editorial features that has ever been published in a sportsman's magazine and we believe that in holding this Contest we are giving the readers of **FIELD AND STREAM** a unique opportunity to learn the methods of fishermen throughout the whole country.

CONDITIONS.

First—The fish must be caught with rod and reel in its legal season.

Second—The fish must be weighed on tested scales and measured with a tape measure.

Third—The affidavit printed on the last page of this announcement, or an exact copy, must be used in applying for a prize and signed by the man who caught the fish, together with two witnesses and sworn to before a Notary Public and his seal affixed. In case any contestant catches a fish when accompanied by a single guide, the affidavit as signed upon coming out of the woods by himself and guide before Notary Public stating the circumstances will be duly considered.

Fourth—The date, place, rod, reel, line and lure (or bait) used in taking the fish must be stated. Also weight, length and girth.

Fifth—The winners of the first and second prizes, also the Grand Prize winners in each class, must send us a short account of **HOW, WHEN AND WHERE** the fish was taken and what tackle was used in catching the fish, these accounts to be published in **FIELD AND STREAM**.

Sixth—All affidavits must be sent to Editor of Prize Fishing Contest within five days after dates as specified in each class.

Seventh—No fish caught from State or private hatchery will be allowed in this contest.

Note—In event of two fish weighing exactly the same number of pounds, ounces and fractions, duplicate prizes will be awarded in each case.

N. B.—We will announce a similar hunting contest in a later issue.

The Judges of this contest will be:

Mr. ROBERT H. DAVIS, Editor, *Munsey's Magazine*.

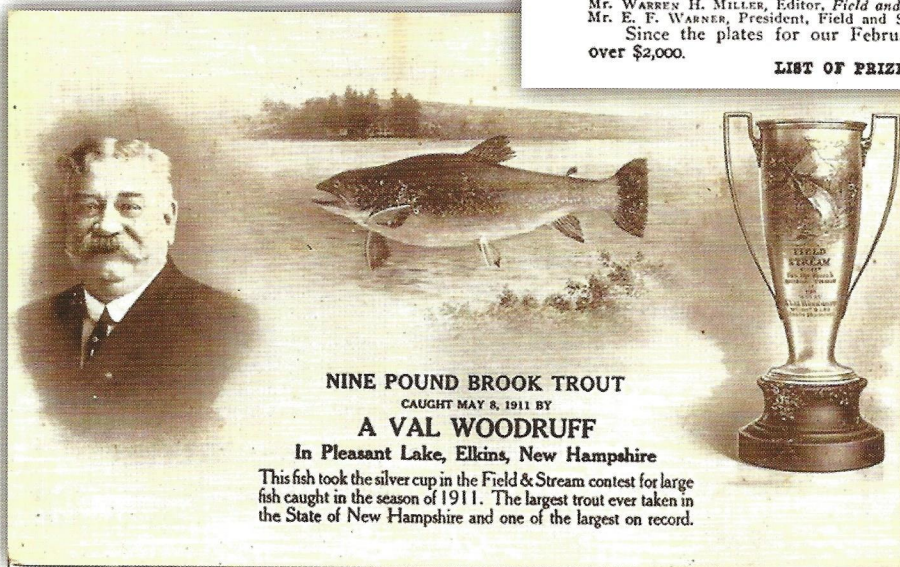
Mr. WILL H. DING, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. WARREN H. MILLER, Editor, *Field and Stream*.

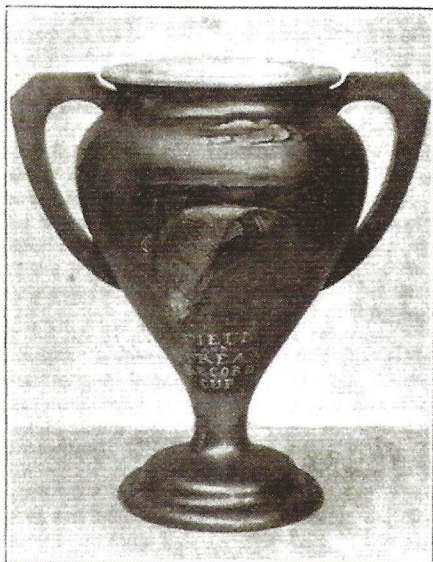
Mr. E. F. WARNER, President, *Field and Stream* Publishing Co.

Since the plates for our February cover were made we have increased the prizes to over \$2,000.

LIST OF PRIZES ON SECOND PAGE FOLLOWING

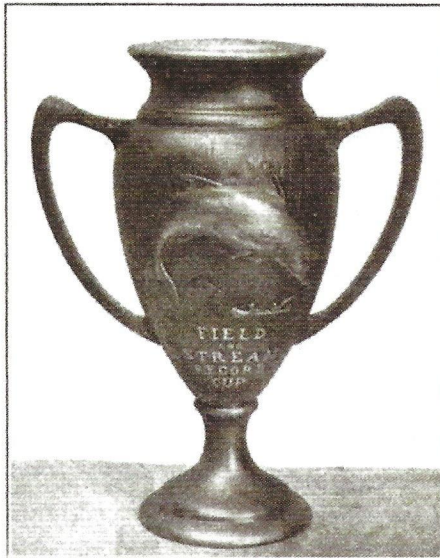


Left: This 1911 postcard shows the *Field & Stream* award winner for Brook Trout.



SMALL MOUTH BLACK BASS CUP

Presented by Robert H. Davis for the Record Small Mouth Bass caught season 1912.



THE ATLANTIC TUNA CUP

Presented by Fred B. Alexander for the Record Atlantic Coast Tuna caught season 1912.



BROOK TROUT CUP

Presented by Warren H. Miller, Editor of *Field AND STREAM*, for Record Brook Trout caught season 1912.

The 1912 Award Cups in the October 1912 *Field & Stream* Magazine.

These cups are made of bronze with the designs in hammered silver in relief. They stand from 12 to 14 inches high and were designed for this Contest by the Art Work Shop, of Buffalo, N.Y.

After a couple of years, the prizes changed to more conventional fishing tackle related items. Reels, rods and lures were awarded as prizes. It was not until September 1937 that *Field & Stream* announced that award pins were to be given as prizes the following year. The award was called a "Badge of Honor." What a great way to allow fishermen to display their fishing success. These first badges were marked with the "Field and Stream" name on the front. On the back was stamped the weight of the fish that earned the fisherman the badge. Twenty-five different fish were available to be entered in the contest. The badges were shown for the first time in the December 1937 *Field & Stream* Magazine Issue. To enter, the successful fisherman would submit a notarized form to receive the pin. Each year, the winners of the contest for each fish were published in the following year's magazine. Where, when, the rod, the reel, the line and the lure used for each winner was also included. Receiving a nice award pin and having your name published in the *Field & Stream* magazine surely contributed to the success of this program.



LARGE MOUTH BASS CUP—NORTHERN

Presented by E. F. Warner, Publisher of *Field AND STREAM*, for the Record Large Mouth Bass caught season 1912.

Win a Field & Stream Angler's BADGE OF HONOR



FIELD & STREAM starts something new in the fishing world—a tangible recognition of notable fishing skill—a Badge of Honor to every man who catches unusually large fish.

How to Qualify for the Awards

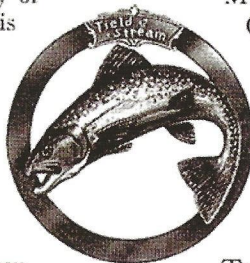
TO every sportsman who lands a fish as large or larger than those listed on the right will be presented a Field & Stream Badge of Honor, emblematic of this unusual achievement. It will be a splendid memento of a notable feat.

The entries must conform to all the requirements of the Field & Stream Prize Fishing Contest and are eligible, in addition, to win a prize in that event, if they are among the sixteen species of fish included in the contest.

Go to it, fishermen. Whether or not your weakness is for trout, tarpon, bass or any of the others listed, all you have to do is catch 'em big enough!

The Badge, with the weight of your fish engraved on the back, will be sent to you with Field & Stream's compliments and you will automatically become a life member in good standing of the Distinguished Fishermen's Club.

Because the Badge will testify that you have caught a fish of the necessary size, and are a member of the Club, additional badges for other fish of the same kind will not be sent to you unless you request it. But be sure to enter each fish in the contest for the sake of the prizes offered.



Species	Weight
EASTERN BROOK TROUT	4 pounds
BROWN TROUT	5 "
RAINBOW TROUT—EASTERN	5 "
RAINBOW TROUT—WESTERN	10 "
LAKE TROUT	25 "
SMALL-MOUTH BASS	5 "
LARGE-MOUTH BASS—NORTHERN	6 "
LARGE-MOUTH BASS—SOUTHERN	7 "
LARGE-MOUTH BASS—FLORIDA	10 "
MUSKALONGE	30 "
GREAT NORTHERN	
PIKE	15 "
WALL-EYED PIKE	8 "
STRIPED BASS	25 "
CHANNEL BASS	40 "
WEAKFISH	8 "
BLUEFISH	8 "
TUNA—SCHOOL	75 "
TUNA—GIANT	400 "
MARLIN (WHITE)	75 "
SAILFISH	60 "
TARPON	100 "
BONEFISH	8 "
WAHOO	40 "

Secure a prize fishing affidavit from your local sporting goods dealer, from a current copy of Field & Stream or from the Distinguished Fishermen's Club,

FIELD & STREAM, 515 Madison Ave., New York



Tuna



Bluefish



Wahoo



Marlin



Bass



Tarpon



Lake Trout



Trout

The Field & Stream Angler's Badge of Honor

TO EVERY sportsman who, between April 1, 1937, and March 30, 1938, lands a fish of one of the kinds listed below, and of the weight stated or larger, Field & Stream will award a Badge of Honor, emblematic of his notable feat and of his membership in the Distinguished Fishermen's Club. Entries must conform to all requirements of Field & Stream's Prize Fishing Contest. If you do not know these, send 10c for back issue containing them. Your Badge will bear finely executed model of the fish in question, and will have the weight engraved on back. Only one Badge will be given for each kind of fish, so just name the biggest one you have caught of that species since April 1st. Fill in and mail the affidavit below, or an exact copy, if you are eligible. (Incompleted affidavits not accepted.) A duplicate Badge in form of tie clasp or bill clip will be supplied for \$1.00, if desired.

Eastern Brook Trout . . .	4 pounds	Well-Eyed Pike	8 pounds
Brown Trout	5 "	Striped Bass	25 "
Rainbow Trout—Eastern . .	5 "	Channel Bass	40 "
Rainbow Trout—Western . .	10 "	Weakfish	7 "
Lake Trout	25 "	Bluefish	7 "
Small-Mouth Bass	5 "	Tuna—School*	75 "
Large-Mouth Bass—		Tuna—Giant	400 "
Northern	6 "	Marlin (White)	75 "
Large-Mouth Bass—		Marlin (Blue)	250 "
Southern	7 "	Sailfish	60 "
Large-Mouth Bass—		Tarpon	100 "
Florida	10 "	Bonefish	8 "
Muskalonge	30 "	Wahoo	40 "
Great Northern Pike . . .	15 "	Broadbill	any weight

*Except Nova Scotia.

Have you caught one of these, as big or bigger? Then join the Distinguished Fishermen's Club and get your Badge right away, and note the tinge of green that appears around the gills of your angling pals.

AFFIDAVIT

EDITOR OF PRIZE FISHING CONTEST
FIELD & STREAM, 515 Madison Ave., N. Y. City

I hereby swear that the following statements are the truth:

Kind of Fish Weight

Length Girth When caught

Where caught

Give manufacturers' names of tackle and full specifications.

Rod used Reel

Line Lure or Bait

Caught by (Signed)

Street City State

Sworn to before me this day of

Notary's Signature (SEAL)

Fish witnessed and weight and measurements verified by: (Signatures and addresses)

1

2



Channel Bass



Sailfish



Muskalonge



Weakfish



Bonefish



Wall-Eyed Pike



Striped Bass



ATTENTION: HONOR BADGE WINNERS

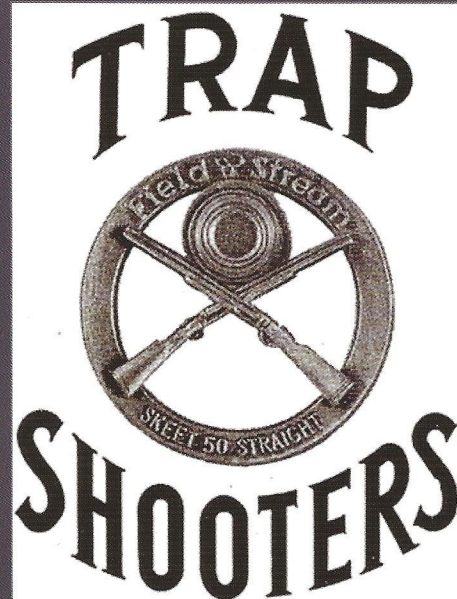
Anglers whose catches have made them eligible for a Field & Stream Angler's Badge of Honor can obtain a *duplicate* badge in form of a tie clasp, like cut above, for..... **ONLY \$1**

No tie clasp bought in any store at any price could be as attractive as this one to any holder of a Badge of Honor. Especially appropriate and serviceable for the coatless, vestless days ahead. Send \$1. to

FIELD & STREAM
515 Madison Ave. New York, N. Y.

An Honor Badge Tie Clasp Also Available in 1937.

In addition to the fishing badges, *Field and Stream* also introduced another "Badge of Honor" in 1937. These badges were to recognize sportsmen that have shown success in Trap and Skeet shooting. Badges were awarded for shooters breaking 50, 75 or 100 straight hits. Here again, the person who met the required minimum of target shots would submit their notarized form to *Field & Stream* to receive the pin.



Get a
Field & Stream
Badge of Honor
for
Amateur Skeet &
Trap Shooters

TO EVERY amateur shotgun artist who, since June 1st, 1937, has actually broken 50 or more clay targets straight without carry-over (handicap, practice targets and shoot-off targets not included), in any registered or other State or Regional shoot, whether Trap or Skeet, Field & Stream will award one of these handsome badges. Badges for skeet will be gold-bronze finish; those for regular traps silver finish. In each class there will be three badges, one bearing the words 50 STRAIGHT for those breaking 50 to 74; another bearing the words 75 STRAIGHT for those breaking 75 to 99; another for those breaking 100 or more. These last will have the score engraved on the back.

The 1937 *Field & Stream* announcement of Skeet and Trap "Badge of Honor."



Examples of the first "Badges of Honor" marked with only the *Field & Stream* name.



Skeet and Trap Shooters "Badge of Honor" Award Pin Examples.

In 1943, *Field & Stream* announced that the offshore Big Game Fish class had been suspended. This was during World War II and the Coast Guard had prohibited offshore fishing. Also, the first prize awards for other fish were changed from cash and merchandise to US Saving Bonds. *Field & Stream* modified the award program to once again include the offshore big game fish in 1945.

Another change to the award program was made in 1945. This was the introduction of new badge designs. The person that caught the largest fish in each category received a pin that, in addition to "Field & Stream," was also "Award." Anyone that submitted a fish to the contest that met the minimum weight requirements received a pin marked "Honor Badge" and a certificate. This new change allowed a larger number of fishermen to receive pins. Some of the pin variations are shown below with and without the Award or Honor Badge markings.



Large Mouth Bass Pin Variations.

Northern Stream and Lake Fish Pin Variations.



Intercostals and Bay Fish Pin Variations.



Offshore Game Fish Pin Variations.



Field Stream was always looking for new ways to promote the award programs for sportsmen. Anything to increase magazine subscriptions was a candidate. To this end, in 1948 a new spinning division was added. The interest in fishing with spinning reels and spincast reels was increasing at this time. The fish species bass, northern pike, salmon, bonefish and trout were included in this new category.

In recognition that a large portion of the *Field & Stream* magazine subscribers were also hunters, they

added Honor Badges for big game animals. This was in 1950. The first announcement included 10 big game animals in the award program. Later 3 additional ones were added. Minimum size requirements included the number of points on antlers or the measurement of a particular dimension on the animal. An "Award" badge was given to the largest animal in each class. If the animal met the minimum count or dimension requirement, an "Honor Badge" was awarded.

FIELD & STREAM Presents:

BIG GAME HONOR BADGES

A handsome award for successful big game hunters

Whether or not you are a regular subscriber to FIELD & STREAM, you are eligible to apply for a FIELD & STREAM BIG GAME HONOR BADGE, as a mark of distinction among trophy hunters. We feel that the sportsman who takes a worthwhile trophy, yet may not be able to preserve head or horns by the taxidermist's art, should have some sort of memento he can wear on hunting cap or jacket, one recognized as honorable by his fellow sportsmen.

If during 1950's hunting season, or in any earlier year, you have taken a fine specimen of any or several of the ten big game species listed below, simply clip, fill out, and forward to us the affidavit below. Send with it one dollar in cash, check, or money order to cover the cost of manufacture and mailing of your Honor Badge; or send \$2.50 for a one-year subscription to Field & Stream, which will include your Honor Badge. This is not a contest, but a means of recognition of skill in big game hunting. Address all correspondence regarding these awards to FIELD & STREAM Big Game Honor Badges, 515 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

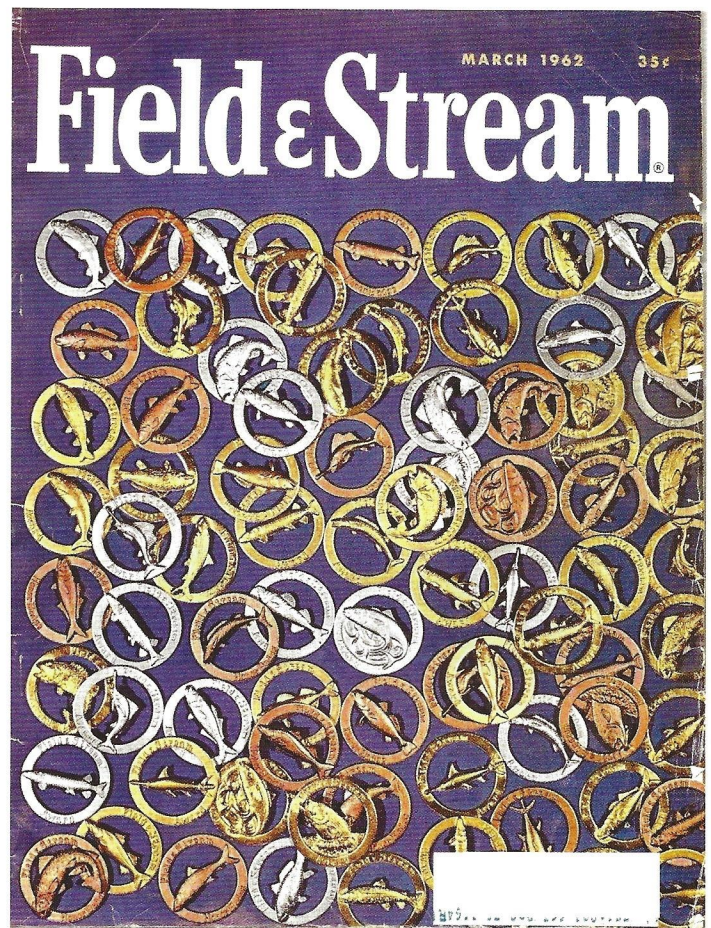
The *Field & Stream* Honor Badges for Big Game animals in the September 1950 issue.



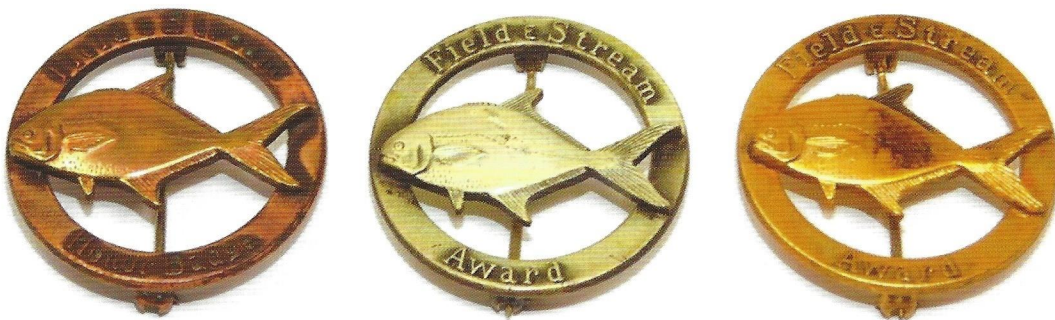
Big Game Animal Honor Badge Award Pin Examples.

In 1962, the design of the award pins was once again changed. This time it was the addition of different pins to allow someone to clearly distinguish the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize winners. The largest fish was now awarded a gold plated "Award" pin. Second and third place were awarded silver-plated and bronze Award pins, respectively. Anyone who supplied a notarized application showing they had caught a minimum weight fish to enter the contest was awarded an Honor Badge and a certificate. These new different-colored pins were featured on the cover of the March 1962 *Field & Stream* magazine (pictured right).

In addition to the design change to the pins in 1962, the program was expanded. There was now a total of 579 prizes, 19 classes, including a special junior division. The species of fish was increased to 78 and would be eligible if caught in the United States and its Territories, Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas and Mexico. Also added were line class awards. The largest fish caught in each line weight class was awarded a gold Award pin. Freshwater Division had five line-test classes of 4, 6, 8, 12 pound test and unrestricted. Saltwater Big Game Division had six line test classes of 12, 20, 30, 50, 80 and 130 pound test. These award eligibilities lasted 8 years when in 1970 *Field & Stream* once again increased the fishing contest details. A total of 825 prizes, 80 species of fish and a Central and South America Division were included.



The March 1962 *Field & Stream* Magazine Cover Showing Honor Badge and Award Pins.



Examples of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Pins.

The success of the Award and Honor Badge program prompted *Field and Stream* to add yet another pin series. This award program was for beginning bird shooters that had bagged their "First Bird" or "Wild Turkey." In 1972, the first eligible game birds for a First Bird pin were Dove, Grouse, Pheasant and Quail. Later in 1977, Duck and Goose were added.



Examples of "First Bird" Badge Award Pins.

Probably the most interesting item coming out of the *Field & Stream* fishing contest awards program in 1972 was their introduction of a display case showing all the award badges that were available. The case included 51 fish pins, 5 bird pins, 10 animal pins and 3 pins showing examples of the gold, silver and bronze award pins. Later 3 more bird pins and 2 more animal pins were added to the case. There was only one of these cases with the badges made. However, *Field & Stream* would provide a photo in easel form for public display in businesses if requested.



The pin display case used in 1972 *Field & Stream* Magazine.



weight limit must have been astonishing. There were also the results for the "Honorable Mention for Best Entries by State or Province" reported in the June, 1978 magazine that included 450 individuals with their reported fish details. *Field & Stream* must have been feeling the financial pain from the program because in their advertisements for the 1976 contest there was now a \$1.00 application fee required and hunting badges would cost \$1.00.

Field & Stream recognized that collecting the fishing contest data in which the largest fish's weight, where it was caught, and the fishing equipment was somewhat redundant to that being performed by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). IGFA had been recording salt water catches since 1939. This redundancy and the record keeping burden *Field & Stream* had been experiencing in recent years prompted a change. So, on March 23, 1978, all the *Field & Stream* records were turned over to IGFA and their fishing contest ended.

Field & Stream
PRESENTS

A number of attractive awards for big game, fishing and bird shooting are available from Field & Stream. Each award pictured at right is presented on a complimentary basis for trophies meeting certain requirements.

The Honor Badge program introduced forty years ago appeals to sportsmen of all ages. Mounted in game room or on a sportsman's hat, it's a distinctive touch and welcome recognition of achievement.

The emblems are made in a bronze finish, except for three special Award Pins finished in gold, silver, and green bronze for Field & Stream Annual Fishing Contest winners.

(Photo available in easel form for public display only. Request must be on business letterhead, addressed to Agents for Sportsmen, Field & Stream, 383 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017)

62nd Annual Fishing Contest

613 awards
25 classes
80 species of fish

WORLD WIDE

SPECIAL JUNIOR DIVISION

FIRST BIRD BADGES
for
beginning
birdshooters

**DOVE
GROUSE
PHEASANT
QUAIL**

Wild Turkey
Honor Badge
for
Successful
Turkey Hunters
(10-pound minimum weight)

The mark of distinction for successful Big-Game hunters.

Open to all sportsmen for North American big game meeting certain minimum requirements.

**WHITETAIL DEER
MULE DEER
ELK—WAPITI
PRONGHORN ANTELOPE
GRIZZLY BEAR
ALASKA BROWN BEAR
BLACK BEAR
MOOSE
MOUNTAIN SHEEP
MOUNTAIN GOAT
CARIBOU
MOUNTAIN LION**

Open to All Anglers
January-December 1972

Field & Stream
62nd Annual Fishing Contest

613 awards
25 classes
80 species of fish

WORLD WIDE

SPECIAL JUNIOR DIVISION

Send postcard today for free application forms. Indicate which forms should be sent:
First Bird Badges Wild Turkey Honor Badges Big-Game Honor Badges Annual Fishing Contest
Awards for Sportsmen, FIELD & STREAM, 383 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017

The June 1972 *Field & Stream* announcing the contest and showing the Badges of Honor in a display case.

To the right are photos of the display case showing the Badges of Honor. There are 51 fish pins, 7 bird pins 12 animal pins and 3 pins showing the gold, silver and bronze award pin examples.

The final *Field & Stream* fishing contest was held in 1977. This was the culmination of 68 years of promoting a yearly fishing contest. The program had evolved into a colossal event that taxed the bookkeeping capability of the magazine. The results of the final contest were reported in the April and May 1978 *Field & Stream* magazines. This was a grand event with 344 gold "Award" badges awarded and the same number of silver and bronze badges. The number of Honor Badges given out for registered fish exceeding the minimum

Field & Stream
presents

A number of attractive awards for big game, fishing and bird shooting are available from Field & Stream. The Honor Badge program introduced over forty years ago appeals to sportsmen of all ages. Mounted in game room or on a sportsman's hat, the badge is a distinctive touch and welcome recognition of achievement.

Each emblem comes in a bronze finish, except for three special Award Pins finished in gold, silver, and green bronze for Field & Stream Annual Fishing Contest winners.

(Duplicates of awards available in gold finish jewelry of various types. Write for details.)

COST OF HUNTING BADGES: \$1.00 each, payable with eligible application.

Field & Stream
67th
Annual Fishing
Contest

(85 species) (556 awards)

WORLD WIDE and STATE WIDE
SPECIAL JUNIOR DIVISION

January-December 1977 Open to all Anglers

Write today for free details. Indicate which information should be sent: Fishing Contest/Wild Turkey/Big-Game/First Bird Badges. FIELD & STREAM, 383 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017

\$1.00 REGISTRATION FEE
(payable with completed application)

PICTURE AND LINE/TIPPET SAMPLE

FIELD & STREAM NOVEMBER 1977

So, this is the history of the *Field & Stream* badges and awards. It lasted quite awhile and there must be a lot of badges out there that were awarded. The table below summarizes the time spans to help recognize when a badge was made.

Documenting this history has been a fun endeavor. As you can see in the photo to the right, there are a lot of different badges out there to collect. My main interest is early reels and lures. But, collecting these pins over the years has been a fun hobby in addition to reels and lures. You can see more details about these and other badges and about reels and lures on my website <https://luresnreels.com>.

1937 to 1977 40 years for all pins	1946 to 1977 32 years of pins marked either "Award" or "Honor Badge"
1937 to 1945 8 years of pins blank and not marked "Award" or "Honor Badge"	1962 to 1977 15 years of gold and silver pins awarded

The 1977 contest announcement in the November 1977 Magazine.

FIELD & STREAM FRESHWATER RECORDS TO IGFA



Publisher Michael J. O'Neill, right, with Elwood K. Harry, IGFA President

On March 23, 1978, FIELD & STREAM turned over its sixty-eight years' worth of freshwater gamefish recordkeeping to the International Game Fish Association.

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and has been the official recordkeeping organization for all saltwater gamefish records since 1939, when it was then affiliated with the American Museum of Natural History. FIELD & STREAM had been the official recordkeeper of both freshwater and salt-

water records. This changed when the task became too great for the magazine to handle alone. The announcement that FIELD & STREAM would turn over both its files on freshwater records and all future recordkeeping was made by Publisher Michael J. O'Neill.

"We have been the repository of these records for a very long time and it has been part of the great outdoor tradition of our magazine. In recent years it has become apparent that the keeping of both the freshwater gamefish records and the saltwater records is an international

heritage which must be passed on carefully to future generations of fishermen. IGFA is a highly dedicated organization which will devote the time and funds necessary to preserve these priceless records. Ours has been a close association since turning over the saltwater records to them in 1939," O'Neill said.

O'Neill turned over custodianship of the records to Elwood K. Harry, the IGFA President, at formal ceremonies on March 23, 1978, at a luncheon held at the 21 Club in New York.

"We are deeply appreciative of this opportunity to add FIELD & STREAM's voluminous freshwater records to the many years of saltwater records," Harry said. "IGFA has recently expanded its Fort Lauderdale facilities and in a short time we expect to have the finest library of fishing literature in this country, perhaps in the world."

IGFA is planning a museum to house every species of gamefish in existence, and will also work closely with the fifty states to achieve a national and international system of recordkeeping on freshwater species as well as saltwater. A major goal is to standardize rules and regulations for weighing, measuring, and identifying gamefish species to be entered as official records.

FIELD & STREAM will continue to report the world records each year—both in freshwater and saltwater classes—from information which will be supplied by the International Game Fish Association.

The *Field & Stream* June 1978 article showing the records being turned over to IGFA.

Field & Stream Pin Collection

