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IN THIS ISSUE:

Is Restocking Overrated? Prehistoric Hangover
An age-old mistake of believing whole-heartedly in a beneficial program and then doing absolutely nothing about it is as great a sin with rod and gun as it is in any other activity of life.

The low ebb of our game and food-fish and the necessity for conserving these resources have been broadcast through every medium of public opinion. Citizens from all parts of Florida plus many of our out-of-state visitors and sportsmen have agreed that something must be done about it.

The ancient policy of "let George do it" cannot solve one of the toughest and hardest jobs on our recreation front. It will take the active cooperation of everyone who is directly or indirectly interested in the sport of field and stream.

Every hunter and fisherman wants to hunt and fish not only this year, but also next year and on into far-off years to come. He wants this form of healthy recreation to be handed down to his children. He knows that life's greatest thrills come to a boy when he gets his first rifle and catches his first big fish.

If, as hunters and fishermen, we can remember this and leave something for the kids of tomorrow, it will be a true step towards conservation. If we put this important theory into practice, we can depend on the game and fish to do their share toward something for the kids of tomorrow; it will be a true step towards conservation.

However, the game animals and the game birds and the food fish need action instead of indifference; they need thinking instead of thoughtlessness. They cannot continue to batch their young without some consideration from us.

We must do more than just talking. By all of us practice what we preach and put into deeds what we believe, it won't be long before good hunting and good fishing will be in abundance again.

Conserving Florida's wildlife is a big undertaking, don't let George do it all.

"LET GEORGE DO IT"
transport them for sale just for the privilege of catching them again. So the project was abandoned, and mental wheels began turning again.

Finally someone remembered that fish, like chickens, were hatched from eggs. If the comparison went that far, they decided, why couldn’t it be carried even further. Everyone knew when a poultryman’s flock dwindled he simply collected more eggs and hatched them. So they began collecting more eggs and hatched them. Why, they concluded, couldn’t the same principle be applied to fish?

A few experiments showed that it could.

The problem was solved. A few crude fish hatcheries were established, and soon the newly enlightened conservationists were dumping hatchery fry into lakes and streams with happy abandon.

And then restocking was born.

The idea caught on and grew. Fish commissions were established, largely to administer this amazing new panacea for conservation ills. The commissions in turn set up fish culture stations all over the United States. For years much progress was made; propagation techniques were perfected, and definite restocking programs were instituted. The theory was so logical, sportmen were convinced it was a conservation “cure-all.” Early in the twenties, however, some doubt began to creep into the minds of fisheries biologists and some of the more discerning anglers.

There had been numerous cases where lakes, under the jurisdiction of public and private sportmen’s clubs, had been continuously stocked with fry, fingerlings and even adult bass and sunfishes, and there was no evidence of better fishing in these waters. It was then that the so-called lake and stream surveys were instituted with the idea of finding whether the waters in question were suitable for the fish which were to be put in them. These surveys proved very valuable in eliminating stocking of waters with species which were definitely not suited to those waters. But they also turned up a great number of instances where the waters were suitable, providing the best possible habitat for spawning, feeding, and protection, yet where repeated stocking of warm water fishes did not increase the catch one bit. These studies were not concentrated in any one state or section of the country, and some fisheries technicians were finding that other workers were also beginning to doubt the effectiveness of stocking waters that were already sustaining a fair population of warm water game fishes. Through the successes and failures of many experimental projects a few facts have come forth.

First and probably most important, is the fact that a body of water can support only so many pounds of fish, in much the same manner that a pasture will support a certain weight of beef cattle. In other words, we must stop thinking of fish in terms of numbers and think of them in terms of weight. For example, a pond that would support 1,000 two-pound bass at its carrying capacity, would not be made to support or produce better fishing by the addition of another 1,000 fish. Instead, the pond would become overcrowded and the food supply, which formerly supported 2,000 fish, would have to carry 3,000 fish. Imagine what would happen to the cattle on a large ranch, supporting 2,000 cattle in good shape if another 1,000 were added with no steps taken to improve the range or the feeding conditions. The original 2,000 would lose weight, the additional 1,000 could not gain, and sickness, disease and starvation would deplete the excess cattle until there would be less value in those remaining than there had been in the original herd.

It is also fairly well established that our fresh water fishes being a renewable resource, have the amazing capacity to rebuild their populations up to the carrying capacity of the water they inhabit. Nature has taken care of our wild fishes by giving them an enormous reproductive potentiality. For instance, the average successful bass nest produces enough young bass to stock from 50 to 100 acres of water to their carrying capacity, provided no controls were present. Bass will produce similar numbers. Of course, those numbers never reach maturity because if they did, there would simply not be enough water to carry them, nor food to support them.

When a number of fish are taken out of a lake, the remaining population soon gains the weight lost, because the available food supply becomes more plentiful for each individual that remains.

Under present legal fish restrictions our method of taking fish is so inefficient that the sport fisherman can rarely remove over 50% of the fish population from even the smallest lake. The remaining 50% will stop feeding on artificial or live bait to such an extent that the fishing will become poor, and until those remaining fish approach the carrying capacity of that water (in pounds) the fishing will continue to be poor because of the excess food supply which is available while they are rebuilding their weight. This is usually a seasonal matter and, especially here in the southeast, fish populations that have been cut down by angling usually build themselves back to carrying capacity with-in a year or two.

Quite often underfishing creates a serious problem in our fish populations. This happens when the more prolific of our warm water fishes, such as bass, get a head start on the larger predatory fishes and so increase their own population that few of them reach a market size, and fishing becomes poor. This is a much harder situation to correct than overfishing for while in some cases heavy stocking of the predatory fishes will in time correct this situation, it is usually necessary to devise some method of cutting down on the excess population by removing great numbers of them. In the same manner, the predatory species, such as the bass, often get a head start on the non-predatory species, such as the bream, and as a result keep the population of the latter breed so low that the few that are left reach a good size because of the enormous food supply available to them. Paradoxically the great numbers of bass fail to grow because of the limited food supply available to the individual fish.

Let me give you a specific example of the failure of heavy stocking to produce any worthwhile results. A fair sized stream in one of our southeastern states has been and still is noted for its excellent fishing. This stream had been stocked annually with both large-mouth and small-mouth black bass, tens of thousands of these fish from fry up to 8 and 10 inches long had been liberated, and the work of the Conservation Department for its efforts in this line was lauded. Because of the popularity of this stream, it was decided that we should study it to determine what factors or conditions were responsible for the excellent fishing so that we might try to duplicate them in other streams.

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By CARL LIDDLE

The lovely gar has defied the enmity of the ages to live three hundred million years

Two four-foot gars taken from Florida waters.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

A GARFISH was asked: "How would you like to live here?" it would reply. "Give me a cool, quiet spot to lie down under a bush, or a lake where schools of small fish come in to feed on big worms.

The reason garfish don't like big bass for company in their natural haunt is very simple. "Give me a cool, quiet spot to lie down under a bush, or a lake where schools of small fish come in to feed on big worms." All gars and garfish are extremely shy and timid. They love to lie down in the shoals of small fish and feed on the bottom. They are very voracious feeders and will eat anything that will go into their mouths.

The garfish is a species of fish that lives in fresh and brackish water. It is a bottom-dwelling species that is known for its sharp teeth and aggressive behavior. Garfish are classified in the family Lepisosteidae, which is a group of fish that includes the alligator gar, the most primitive living ray-finned fish. Garfish are found in the United States and Mexico, primarily in the Gulf Coast and Mississippi River systems.

Garfish are large, snap-like fish with strong jaws and a cylindrical body, which is why they are sometimes called alligator fish. They have small eyes and a short snout, with a pronounced gap between the front and rear lips. Garfish are typically olive-green to brownish in color, with a white underside.

Garfish are known to feed on a variety of aquatic animals, including small fish, crustaceans, and even small birds. They are also known to feed on the eggs and larvae of other fish. Garfish are solitary feeders and are known to be quick and aggressive when they strike their prey.

Garfish are anadromous, meaning they migrate from freshwater to the ocean and back again. They are known to travel great distances, often swimming up rivers to spawn in freshwater areas.

Garfish are an important species in the food web of many ecosystems. They are a popular target for anglers due to their size and fighting ability. However, their populations are declining due to habitat loss, pollution, and overfishing, making them a species of concern.

The garfish is a fascinating species that has survived for millions of years. Their unique physical characteristics and feeding habits make them an interesting subject for both scientists and fishermen alike.
NOVEMBER DATE SET FOR FEDERATION'S ANNUAL MEETING

The time is now. It's the place, St. Petersburg. The selection of the convention city was made at the last meeting held in Orlando. The Sunshine City, Chamber of Commerce and Junior Chamber of Commerce are already planning for the welcome feast and layout plans for two full days of convention, as convention leaders look forward to a gala convention.

Federation officials are planning for one of the convention's outstanding features to be on hand to the delegates. There's no word on the plan, but we're sure the convention has several surprises up its sleeves. Check out the agenda for more information.

- Building: 1,000,000
- Financial support: $50,000
- Logistic support: $100,000

Conservation through education. Under the sponsorship of the Junior Conservation Club, a film series, film shows, lectures and other community efforts are planned.

Development through cooperation with Chambers of Commerce, civic, women's and other clubs.

- Protecting, extending and developing game, fish, wild-life, for preservation.
- Promoting endowment through trained wildlife police, and close cooperation with judges, schools, and the legal system.
- New and better laws, looking to the future.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

In the Interest of the Men and Women of the Outdoors

OFFICERS

President: Ralph Dockery, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Vice-President: Andrew D. Bragg, Gainesville, Fla.
Secretary-Treasurer: George A. Spence, Executive Secretary: E. C. Wilcox, President, Orlando, Fla.

DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS

1. W. T. H. Fleming, Panama City, Fla.
2. J. W. L. Morris, Jacksonville, Fla.
3. S. C. W. Jenkins, St. Petersburg, Fla.
4. W. C. W. Young, Tallahassee, Fla.

Outdoor Writer Group Fed By Federation

A special session was held at the Florida Federation's convention on American Association, convening in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The group, made up of nationally known outdoor writers from coast to coast, was formed at an all-day "pit session," especially for the occasion by President Ralph C. Dockery. The outdoor extremists, one of the highlights of the week-long convention, featured such outdoor attractions as "see, hear and partake" of local specialties, plus several hundred pounds of prime Florida beef, all cooked to perfection over an open pit.

Before and after the sumptuous feed, held at the Havana Beach Club, the visiting writers entertained with water-skis, ocean boats, fishing gear being shipped out of Fort Myers.

For the Calahusthah Conservancy Club and its officers, the writer was Tales, and the writer was Tales, too. The conservationists have their eyes on the future, and they have a chance to look back with satisfaction on the work that has been done. With the creation of the Conservancy, they have joined hands with the land owners and the conservationists, and they have a chance to do something for the benefit of the commercial fishermen and as well as for the sport fishermen. It is the policy of the county and the state to do their best for the protection of the natural resources. "Sorry, Bud, but you've had it!"
HOLMAD CREEK

Bass are biting early in the morning and late in the evening from Cotton Landing, north of Vernon, to the mouth of Holmes Creek which has been a fishing stream for anglers in Holmes and Washington counties and adjacent areas. Both top and underwater plugs are being used. Earthworms and Catowba worms are not being wasted on bream, sheelcracker, stumpknocker and warmouth.

LAKE APOPKA

Lake Apopka is a haven for the big bass this beautiful lake in central Florida is still doing its share towards giving up the prize catches. One Floridan fisherman caught a 20-pounder, one of which weighed six pounds. A 14-pounder and a 15-pounder were reported last week when the limit catches were 15 pounds. The top most recent prize was a 10-pounder, measuring 28 1/2 inches with a girth of 18 inches. Feather-tipped spoons, top water plugs and the live shiners are bringing good luck.

APALACHICOLA RIVER

This historically famous river in northwest Florida is a favorite for Georgia anglers and northwest Floridians. Good numbers of bream, Catowba worms and sheelcrackers are being taken with earthworms and Catowba worms in any of the numerous lakes and sloughs from Blountstown to Apalachicola. Birds are stricking at river rats, frog-skin plugs are also being used with fair success. Best spots right now are Inactive Lake and Old Florida River. Any unexpected heavy rains would upset the good fishing.

MYAKKA STATE PARK

Fairly good fishing this week. All the streams have been doing well in the Myakka State Park. Bass are biting in the St. Lucie River, Lake Okeechobee and Lake Apopka. Bass are biting in the Suwannee River.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
RESTOCKING
(Continued from Page 5)

The first step was the instauration of a census of the fish stocks. Accurate worker spent months checking fisherman’s bags and sampling...)

Now wait a minute, boys, what’s all this sudden interest in hatcheries? We’ve had them ever since the days of powdered fish.

What hatcheries? Do you mean with all that artificial propagation?

Not at all, Fish hatchery, and will continue to play a large part in our fish management work. There are always new bodies of water being impounded and stocked with fish, which will need a supply of fish of the desired species. Thus...

This elegantly published and attractively bound anthology contains an extraordinary collection of fascinating and delightful stories on all good things in the chosen sections of choice stories on fishing, hunting, and wilderness experiences selected by the editorial staff. The country's leading outdoor magazines. The volume contains 47 contributions by 37 famous writers and each story is captured with an appropriate drawing. The list of authors and artists is a galaxy of acknowledged leaders in the field of outdoor writing and illustration.

Few sportmen are able to get their fill of outdoor recreation and this volume is the next best thing to a trip abroad. The book is packed with hours of real enjoyment. Hunting and fishing predominates but every phase of participating field sport is featured. Every story in Outdoors Unlimited and each illustration, is by a member of the Wisconsin Writers Association.

 HOW TO STAGI WATII CAIMI. YALS AND BOAT REGATTAS — A brochure on the joy and outs of staging a water carnival. Published by the Outboard Boating Club of America, 307 North Michigan Ave., Chicago 1, Ill. A 35-page magazine-size book, attractively bound. Mailed free to boat club officials and committee members interested in promoting colorful aquatic entertainment.

For a book which can be obtained without cost, the how-to-do-volume-on-regattas is a wonder of this year. The entire field of water carnivals and regattas is covered from starting preparations, financing, handling contestants, selecting trophies, safety and insurance. The book even explains how to build a racing device of one is not obtainable.

There are 24 chapters, covering the subject completely. No yacht club or boat club should be without this book.


This book explains in detail, how by knowing the surface water temperature, one can be certain where the fish are spending their time. This knowledge at least enables the fisherman to put the bait in front of the fish, if not on top. Casting techniques are well described and diagrammed.

To Stage Water Carnivals

BOOKS

COMMISSION APPOINTEES

Commission Appoints Additional Biologists

Two new biologists have been added to the staff of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Robert W. Murray, former Missouri wildlife biologist, has been named to make a quail-management survey throughout the state. His project calls for a survey of quail in the state and research on habits and habitat of the bird white. His headquarters is in St. Louis.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Murray has had a varied and wide experience as wildlife biologist for conservation commissions in Missouri and Georgia.

Lynn H. Huchens, a fisheries biologist formerly connected with the Illinois Natural History Survey, has been appointed to make a survey of fishing conditions on the St. Johns River.

Prior to coming to Florida, Hutchens was in charge of river surveys for the Illinois agency. Before the war, he was employed by the Cook County Forest Preserve District, near Chicago, as biologist and field naturalist. He will make headquarters at Welaka.

A Perfect Picture

OF A PERFECT DAY FOR ANY FELLER AND HIS DOG

Just a cane pole, a bent pin, a warm cloak of sunshine and a few hungry fish—that's all he needs to catch the thrill of the outdoors. It is a perfect scene of young America drawn through the years—a nostalgic portrait that brings back the memory of a thrill never quite lost.

Unfortunately though, there is another picture that goes with the story. It is an ugly, distorted picture of waste, greed and exploitation; it is a picture of inefficient game and trapped waters; it is a picture that can only be erased by the hand of conservation.

THE OUTDOOR FUTURE OF OUR YOUTH DEPENDS UPON CONSERVATION!

DO YOUR PART TO HELP THE GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION CONSERVE * PROTECT * RESTORE FLORIDA'S GAME AND FISH
Why not put everything we don't want in the river.