This Florida Wildlife Magazine Digital Preservation Project is developed with financial assistance provided by the William H. Flowers, Jr. Foundation and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. through the Conserve Wildlife Tag grant program.

1947
Vol. 1 Issue 5
October

Scanned by:
The Research Information Center
of the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
CONSERVATION GROWS UP

Progress and success are measured in terms of the forward steps registered by organized effort whether it concerns the garage business, managing a big municipality or conserving a state's wildlife.

Any organization that is satisfied to sit still, pull out its chest and be pleased with past success is definitely headed toward the bone-yard. Although we might not sense it at the time, the act of stringing still marks a definite backward movement—and ultimate failure.

The State of Florida, faced with undisputable facts and figures that, unchanged, forecast the ultimate disappearance of our wildlife heritage, is driving long pants and has accepted the dismal challenge with action.

This generation has graduated from the horse-and-buggy class. We fully realize that our's is a machine age—an atomic age. Our current problems will be with machine age tactics if they are to be shipped into success.

In this modern age our state wildlife officers, attending schools at regular intervals, are being taught the proper methods of approach designed to win the respect, approval, and what's most important, cooperation of the sportmen themselves.

Now, these same 'educated' officers are being offered the facilities of airplanes, airboats, swamp buggies and jeeps in their relentless fight with the poacher and the law-breaker. There's even talk about the future use of two-way radio as a means of further modernizing our fight with game law offenders.

This progress of modernization is being heartily cheered by Florida's army of sportmen. They're glad that conservation has put on long pants.—R. S.

MONKEY TYCOON

By

BILL SNYDER

ON dark night last spring two gentlemen from Miami, in a sudden burst of boisterous exuberance drove their car off the road into a bullfrog pond five miles east of Ocala. Somewhat overtaxed from three strenuous days of elbow-bending, they promptly went to sleep. The next morning the well-hungover driver awoke opened the car door and grudgingly prepared to survey the situation. Suddenly he gave an alarmed hoicrcro and hastily scrambled back inside. There on the fender sat a huge, dog-faced baboon. The driver peered outside again then gulped. The vine-tangled trees and ground around the car were alive with monkeys. There were dozens of them—some big, some little and some medium-sized. The driver solemnly studied the spectacle for a few moments, then nudged his companion awake.

"I don't know how we did it, Charley," he informed him in an awe-stricken tone, "but we've ended up in Africa sure as hell!"

The two dismayed Miamians, of course, were not in Africa. They had merely reached Ocala the fabulous estate where loose monkeys cavort in every tree, and alligator guards the pompano and baboons do their order drill through the shoulders.

Irmal is the abode and part time business office of the one and only Prof. Al Zashek, author, lecturer, big game hunter and monkey impresario extraordinary. In his own words Zashek is the man who "stole" Livingstone, out-wound Stanley and out-backed Frank.

He is also the man who made a record catch of 600 jungle monkeys by getting the whole long-tailed tribe inebriated on seven-dollar-a-bottle Scotch, then keeping it spectacularly shipped them home by air.

Al has just returned from his tenth successful jungle trip but says there's still plenty of room for improvement—and he doesn't believe in hiding his candle beneath a bushel basket.

"I have penetrated Africa as deeply as anyone else and even including Stanley, Livingston or Frank Bock and still we have only invaded the shore line," he'll tell you, "but next year, I'm going back and travel so far into the jungle that the native night drum won't be able to reach me."

Al was all alone when he left on his most recent African jaunt. When he landed back at Norfolk, Va.,
Monkeys seem to take to all. The dog-fed baboon had been in captivity less than a week when the picture was taken.

aboard a British freighter, he was wet nursing some chattering monkeys, disdained chimpanzees and more than a hundred deadly snakes. Down in the ship's hold were scores of strange animal hides and skin after a case of rare African hardwood that he'd borrowed, beggar or barter for.

Al is a self-admitted schemer when it comes to hunting. Ten years ago he shot his first deer, a bear and several turkeys in Florida. That experience was a shot in the arm that gave him the yen to warm up in big league hunting and racing up by sending him through twisted African jungles along with opening a modest fortune on his favorite sport.

Battle his way through African jungles has equipped Al with some unique plants on life in general. Peculiar new of his ideas would horrify many a seasoned traveler but that doesn't worry Al one bit.

This country uses too many words, but here's the story.

Florida Wildlife

Floridians are not often fond of seeing hundreds of mallard ducks land up and down on the waters of a secluded western cove. Cross-country hunting grounds that had inhabited all manner of wildlife.

"My mind is made up—I'm not going back to Florida this winter," one of the southwestern sportsmen quipped to a crowd of listeners. "Nope, I'm going to spend the winter in Arkansas instead. I'm sick and tired of Florida—the food was unsatisfactory and the weather was bad. At the every time I tried to fly, and to make matters worse, I started thinking—enough that has been my home for three seasons. I understand they run plenty of waterfowl into a cove course."

The author, of course, is a sportsman—a true sportsman. Has the author, of course, has a collection of ledgers filled with the names of the sportsmen who have been his friends and who have given him years of hunting and fishing. He has been a sportsman and a sportsman's club, his name appearing in the yearbook, which is the official publication of the sportsmen's club, which is the official publication of the sportsmen's club in Florida. He has been a sportsman and a sportsman's club, his name appearing in the yearbook, which is the official publication of the sportsmen's club in Florida.

"If we provide added and adequate supplies of suitable duck food, add a fresh refuge and give them a minimum of shooting for a season of three to four years, we will have something of value to our winter duck and snow population;" the Sportsmen of Florida 

FOWLER

VICTUALS for THE QUACKER

by NICHOLAS CURTIS

Florida of course, is reached by the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways. A brief study of the route is extremely interesting. Based on more than hundred million birds thousands of miles in each amazing order. How do they know their route? To find the answers to these questions will wait repay the statesmen for any effort they have done for this ducks duck feeding program.

Banding methods now in use reveal that migratory birds are a strong attraction for their meeting places. Within three or four years limited duck hunting in your area will pay off excellent dividends for the effort it required to establish the duck point and, if handled sensibly, will result in constant and gratifying gains in the quacking population each succeeding year.

Even considering that not a single member of your banding club should be a duck for four years—on the pond project, there's not a member of the club who won't be amazed when he attempts to search out the secret surrounding yearly migration. Why do ducks

Throughout the state there are limited amphibians of the common frog (duck potato) that never fail to tinkle the palate of the most fastidious duck or goose. But, when it comes to a real delicacy there is some that can top the banana water lily. It doesn't come with the quacking white water lily which is worthless as duck food and crowds out other growing water plants. The banana lily, a Floridian native, with its wide water growth of banana-like leaves, is meat and dessert alike for the duck clan. It is most successfully grown in shallow water and requires not a minimum amount of attention.

All of the duck foods described are easily planted and can be successfully grown with comparatively little work and, this is where active sportsmen's groups come in.

Even not shoulder a project this year of acquiring a suitable pond or slough in the proper environment and start a wild duck feeding program? Charges are that by next fall you will attract your first feathered visitors. Offer them security and peace along with regular, satisfying meals and the following fall they doubtlessly will return with their children. The following year the grandchildren will also be your guests. Within three or four years limited duck hunting in your area will pay off excellent dividends for the effort it required to establish the duck point and, if handled sensibly, will result in constant and gratifying gains in the quacking population each succeeding year.

Pair of satisfied mallards feeding in St. Marks Wildlife Refuge marshes. (Continued from Page 17)
VANISHING LAKE

In Leon county Mother Nature periodically stages one of her most amazing magical shows in the disapperance of one of the area’s choicest fishing grounds.

Lake Lamonia, once 22 feet deep, after its waters disappeared.

TODAY, historic Lake Lamonia, once a popular local fishing spot, is for all intents and purposes completely dry. A thick mat of brown mud and weeds covers what is left of the shallow water. In the center of this barren stretch is a flat mass of ooze, which is a favorite feeding ground for a variety of birds, including the great cormorant.

Lake Lamonia is just one of many lakes in the area that have disappeared in recent years. The causes of these disappearances vary, but they are all related to human activities.

One of the main factors is over-pumping of water for irrigation and other uses. This causes the water level to drop, and eventually the lake dries up completely. Another factor is pollution, which can make the water too toxic for fish to survive.

The loss of these lakes has had a significant impact on the local fishing community. Many anglers have lost their favorite spots for fishing, and some have even had to move to new areas to continue their hobby.

But there is hope for these lakes. In some cases, the water levels can be restored by reducing water usage and improving pollution control measures. In other cases, natural processes, such as climate change, may play a role in the drying up of lakes.

It's important to remember that these lakes are not just sources of water for fishing, but also important habitats for a wide variety of plants and animals. The loss of these lakes has already had a significant impact on the local ecosystem, and we must work to prevent further loss.

In the meantime, anglers are urged to be patient and to continue exploring new areas for fishing. With a little luck and creativity, there are still plenty of opportunities to enjoy a day on the water.
Good Sportsmanship During Ocala Hunt
Is Urged By Morgan

A recent letter directed to members of the Florida Wildlife Federation to Director Ben C. Morgan, of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, suggested that the rules of good sportsmanship during this year's annual hunt be followed. It stated:

"Many have expressed the opinion that there is less success now than there were several years ago," the letter continued. "It is to be hoped that there have not been many years running that have not been occasions for improvement. Although the rule of good hunting is now in effect, it is essential that all hunters observe its requirements and cooperate for the benefit of all."

Mr. Morgan replied, in part, that he had not heard of any major changes in the rules of conduct and that the Commission was working to improve the situation. He urged all members to cooperate for the benefit of all.

Federation Publishes New Educational Folder

Continuing its educational drive for conservation, the Florida Wildlife Federation is now publishing a new folder titled "Understanding the Wildlife Conservation Club." The folder is designed to attract the interest of all Florida sportsmen in the fight for wildlife restoration and conservation. It will be available at sportmen's clubs, fishing camps, cabins, and hardware stores and will be frequented by hunters and fishermen.

Attached to the folder are blank applications for club membership and it is anticipated that these alone will succeed in attracting hundreds of sportmen to join their favorite sportman's organization. Green hunters, too, are to be interested in the Federation's St. Petersburg headquarters at 35 East 5th Ave. The folders are supplied free of charge.

Bartow Club Prexy Urges Conservation Program for Youth

The great importance of educating Florida's conservation program was stressed in two articles written by Alphonse de L. Alexander, president of the Pinellas County Sportsman's Club, when he appeared before a group of members of the Orlando Sportsman's Club, which is a part of the Orlando school system.

The club president explained that his interest in conservation today does not concern the benefits to be derived from present-day hunting and fishing but is confined to those to be gained by our future sportsmen.

"Most of our present-day hunters and fishermen are thoroughly familiar with game laws, and wildlife officers may not find it necessary to explain to us what constitutes violations of the law," Alexander stated. "However, he continued, "we are now a lot of young folks and we must have an educational program for these young people, since they are to be the future sportsmen of the state."

"We realize that it costs millions of dollars annually for schools to teach our youth the laws which are essential for a well-balanced hunting season. Why should we expect them to learn perfect sportsmanship by themselves? Wildlife officers can do more to teach sportsmen sportsmanship than any other group. It can be accomplished by talking with them about the law, invidiously advertising their existence, and adjusting their policies to fit the spirit of the times." Alexander concluded.

"Youth officers can easily make friends with these young sportsmen, both by giving them good fishing spots and at the same time telling them about conservation," he suggested. "Any kid who will go out in cooperation with us will find that he can make life more pleasant for any officer who tries to live by just finding the game and telling others about it."

"Your actions with the youth must be far," Alexander said. "You must give them the opportunity to do good work. You must encourage them to be part of the future. Only in this way can we hope to keep Florida's future open to all."
If you are interested in Lake Okeechobee or Lake Okeechobee fishing, you’ll be interested in this report. Bass have been biting well on Lake Okeechobee, and you can expect a lot of action in the early morning hours. Bass will be feeding on shad, minnows, and other small fish. The best times to fish are during low light conditions, such as at sunrise or sunset. Bass are also known to feed on live bait, such as minnows or nightcrawlers, so be sure to have some on hand. Use a medium-action rod and a light to medium-action reel. Bass are known to be a picky eater, so try using different baits, such as plastic worms or jigs, to see what works best. Good luck and have fun fishing on Lake Okeechobee.