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.
WANNA FISHING CAMP?

Dear Sir:

FLORIDA WILDLIFE must be read from coast to coast, and by EVERYBODY in Florida. The plans you published for use recently in the Sticks and Stones department brought no less than 112 replies—offers to sell fishing camps all the way from $1,500 to $42,000. The fellow with the 42,000 dollar offer practically didn’t notice that my title was "editor."

Thanks a lot for getting started on something I’ve been planning for years.

P. R. McCLEARY, Editor
PARTS PUPS Magazine
Atlanta, Ga.

WANTS MORE STRIPERS

Dear Sir:

I especially enjoyed reading the recent article by John Dillin, "Fresh Water Stripers," I am 100 per cent for any effort to encourage breeding and stocking of these splendid game fish. From personal experience fishing for stripers in Jersey water, I know that it’s a game fish in its own class, besides being a splendid food fish.

R. HUDSON,
Daytona Beach

GOOD HORSE SENSE

Dear Sir:

As one who must consistently review the periodic reports of various state game departments, may I offer hearty congratulations to Florida on the appearance of Jack Harper’s article "Ain’t Cracker Game Good Enough?" in the February issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE. This analysis contains more horse sense and down-to-earth thinking than I have seen in game department literature in the past year.

JOSPEH J. HICKET,
Associate Professor
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wis.

The Cover

Tommy the Chimp and his art friend Bob have a flying at least fishing—Photo by C. H. Anderson

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There’s a Lot of Stuff in Taxidermy

The average sportsman doesn’t realize how much work and know-how it takes to produce that mounted bass so proudly displayed in his trophy room.

By BILL SNYDER

TAXIDERMIST A. R. Register puts the finishing touches on what will soon be an eye-catching trophy for a proud fishermen.

ALTHOUGH the art of taxidermy dates back some 300 years, it’s a profession that is attracting countless thousands of new customers each year in this modern age. In recent years, mounted fish and animals have graced the walls of the executive offices of at least two presidents of the United States. It’s a hard task these days to find a sportsman who doesn’t possess one or more mounted specimens to prove his prowess in the field. As far as sportsmen concerned, taxidermy serves a double purpose. It provides them with a perpetual reminder of a hunting or fishing thrill they’ll never forget, and it often saves them from being called downright liar when they can back up an exciting yarn with a mounted 14-pound bigmouth or a 200...
A short time ago I spent an interesting and productive half-day in the busy workshop of A. B. (Abie) Register, chief taxidermist at the Florida Wild Animal Ranch in St. Petersburg. At the end of my visit with Abie I was firmly convinced of two things: Properly mounting a fish, bird, or animal isn’t, as I had supposed, a matter of just a day or two—it’s a painstaking task that easily stretches into weeks, sometimes months, before it is complete. Therefore, if a taxidermist expects to turn out satisfactory work, he must possess first-hand knowledge of the anatomy and true coloring of practically everything that swims, flies, or lives in the wild.

Specimens, ranging from the sub-life to the ridiculous, have reached Register’s workshop since he was appointed chief taxidermist at the Florida Wild Animal Ranch back in 1946. At one time or another he has preserved everything ranging from a massive 20-foot killer whale, weighing 2,600 pounds, to a tiny flying fish that tipped the scales at slightly less than an ounce!

Strange enough, most of the specimens brought to taxidermists for mounting are far from being record-breakers. Usually they are very ordinary size—simply being preserved to recall a certain thrill to a sportsman in the years to come. While I was interviewing Register, two excited twins, as identical as two peas in a pod, burst into his office. One of them carried a black grouper that likely weighed less than five pounds. The other proudly displayed a one-pound rock bass.

"We want ‘em mounted right away," the twins shouted in unison. "Today was our first deep-sea fishing trip and these are what we caught. We want ‘em mounted so we can display them in our headshnasy shop at Lake Wood, Ohio.""}

Judging from the twins’ enthusiasm, it is more than likely the two fish couldn’t have been bought for a hundred-dollar bill—and yet, they wouldn’t have made a good meal for two hungry fishermen!

Preparing a fish for mounting, I learned while watching Register at work, is an intricate deal. First of all, the specimen is half-buried in a box of white sand where the fish is carefully shaped to conform with the desires of the owner. Next, it is encased in a thick coating of moulding plaster which hardens for 15 or 20 minutes before it is removed. The inside of the mould contains every intricate marking of the fish from stem to stern. Now it’s time to skin out the fish. This operation begins with skilting the fish along the side that will not show when it eventually is mounted. Skinning a fish requires plenty of patience, considerable skill, and an awful lot of care. Strangely, the skin of a kingfish or a bonito is so thin after being removed that a newspaper can be read through it easily! On the other hand, the skin of a tarpon is a quarter-inch thick.

Once the fish skin has been peeled off, it is slated for a series of chemical baths. One of them removes the grease; one of his assistants made a mistake while compounding the tanning solution. From the start to the finish of the curing process, the skin must be kept completely submerged and out of the air at all times. Then it is covered with a moth-proofing paste preserving.

Assuming that the chemical bath solutions have been properly prepared, the skin will exactly fit every detail of the original mould. However, Register still shudders when he recalls the day several years ago when one of his assistants made a mistake while compounding the tanning solution. "We were preparing the skin of a 20-inch grouper, but when I took it out of the bath my eyes bugged out of my face, it was over six inches!" he explained. "If you don’t think I had a hard time explaining to the fishing and sportsman, then you’ve got another guess coming. Anyway, I’ve been doing my own chemical mixing ever since."

The treated skin next is carefully fitted to the intricate contours of the original white mould before the taxidermist starts packing in a compound fiber and inserting a sort of wire netting, in the very center of the specimen. If the fish is to be mounted on a wooden plaque, a block of wood equipped with small stove bolts is placed in the side that will not show when the fish is finally mounted.

The "stuffed" fish then is removed from the mould and the fins and tail are carefully covered on both sides with thick cardboard. This is done to avoid breaking them during the drying period that continues from four to six weeks.

Once the specimen is sufficiently dry, Register begins restoring the original coloring through the use of artificial dyes which he applies with a fine brush. From a hair to a brush, the true coloring has been fully restored, resulting in a finished product with real color and clear lacquer. As a final step the fish is supplied with a lifelike set of eyes and a real fish is placed in the den wall of its proud owner.

The preparation of animals for mounting in somewhat similar fashion is not of fish except that chemical fluid is used instead of a degreaser, and it ordinarily requires 28 days for tanning. The cured skin then is carefully fitted over a piece of mache form. Glass eyes are inserted and the job is completed.

Register admits that the preparation of birds for mounting likely calls for the most patience and skill in his profession. Assuming that a bird has been shot prior to being left for mounting, the first task of the taxidermist is to plug all of the shot-holes with cotton. In this regard, Register offers some advice to all hunters who kill specimens for mounting purposes. To assure a life-like, clean job, plug the shot holes with cotton immediately after killing the fowl. Wash the bird thoroughly in cold, clear water before taking it to a taxidermist, he suggests.

As the very first step in preparing a fowl for mounting, the tongue is removed and the throat plugged with
You think raising a bumper crop of quail was easier than raising a crop of weeds. If you saw some of the requests for quail-food seed currently coming in to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, you'd realize they were about all false. Please send me some food seed that will grow on a sandhill."

A more typical one was, "I haven't got any woods, but I've bought a 40-acre bottomland pasture and want to start some quail covers. I understand you always find quail where there's quail food, so please send me all the seed you can spare . . ."

Don't laugh at these requests. It is fortunate for the state that the trend of its landowners is toward better conservation. What makes the Commission weep is that eager but uninformed farmers and stockmen are in some cases expecting pure miracles. It would be a fine thing indeed if every landowner looked to the future as regards his quail populations—but the Commission doesn't want those landowners to pour its quail-food seeds down the sink of impossible chances, or to waste their own time. Scattering a handful of seed to the four winds will not produce quail, any more than the usual farm crop can be produced by such optimistic methods.

Quail management, in fact, is far more complex than most landowners realize. The only effective way to increase birds is proper management of food, habitat, and birds. A cattleman would expect to accomplish very much toward improving his land for grazing by scattering a handful of seed to the four winds. Quail management, in fact, is far more complex than most landowners realize. The only effective way to increase birds is proper management of food, habitat, and birds. A cattleman would expect to accomplish very much toward improving his land for grazing by scattering a handful of seed to the four winds.
Do snakes milk cows? Can groundhogs forecast the weather? Does a porcupine shoot his quills? These are all popular beliefs, but the scientists say—

It is about as logical to say snakes milk cows as to say cows milk snakes.

It Ain't Necessarily So!

by S. R. Winters

Snakes do not milk cows! To say that they do, contrary to popular belief, is about as logical as saying that cows milk snakes. Another myth exploded as a fantasy from the “Arabian Nights” is the belief that eagles swoop down and carry off children. Ornithologists say Sindbad the Sailor, in the “Arabian Nights”, is about the only one who has ever been treated to that sort of sky-ride.

So-called milk snakes, when full grown, are rarely more than five feet long and obviously incapable of milk- ing even the most minute bivouac. As a matter of fact, milk snakes prefer water. In debunking experiments, wildlife technicians of the National Park Service found that milk snakes drink milk only when they are suffering from the most acute thirst, and in such cases they take the beverage not from cows but from more conventional containers. Milk snakes are in the farmer’s barn for no more nefarious purpose than that of catching the mice which eat the grain the farmer buys to feed the cows which produce the milk the farmer sells at market to you and me.

For years golden and bald eagles have been shot down in this country as suspected violators of the Lindbergh Law. Yet, there has never been a verification or single instance of truth in this old wives’ tale. The golden eagle, a species larger than the bald eagle, weighs on an average slightly more than 10 pounds. The very few exceptions never reach a weight in excess of 14 pounds. It is true that this bird has a wing-lifting power much greater proportionately than the size of its body. Yet, these powerful birds cannot lift over six or eight pounds with 10 pounds as an absolute maximum. Of course, it is entirely true that if an eagle should lose all its fear of human habitation, which is extremely unlikely, it might swoop down and pick up a newborn, or very young infant, if that baby happened to be left alone in the wide open spaces—which is also extremely unlikely.

Our early colonial settlers killed off the northern raven because they were supposed to harbor devils, demons, and evil spirits who preyed upon the good fortunes and stocks of the struggling pioneers. Hawks have been slaughtered because of the belief that the only good hawk is a dead hawk. However, the hawk is one of our most valuable mouse-killers.

A comparatively new one is that owls are blind in the daytime. A simple experiment, not even requiring a butterfly net, is to take a handful of salt and go out and try to catch one some nice sunny day. About the only one which can be caught during the daytime because he can’t see you is the one fourth to the right, third shelf, city museum.

And, of course, you’ve heard the one about the poor sociable goat who met up with a porcupine with definite anti-social inclinations? You know, the one where the porcupine ran him through, or let him have it the sure-shotting quill way? Not so, say those in the know! The dermal muscles of a porcupine are arranged so that when its back is humped the quills stand out on end like the hairs on the scalp of any “Fido” or “Rover.” The quills are substantially fixed to Mr. and Mrs. Willie Porcupine’s heads, back, legs, and simply serve as a “nuttlesome” cover to those who want to play pat-pat.

April, 1950
Some 150 years ago Jose Gaspar, the pirate, made a bold entry into the sleepy fishing village of Tampa. In return for the notoriety of that visit the city of Tampa has for many years set aside a day of swashbuckling merrymaking known as Gasparilla Day. Bradenton and Sarasota have their festivals that do honor to other visitors of a long-past day, De Sota and his daughter, Sara de Sota. Running down the list of other up-and-coming cities of the state, the record shows that practically every one pays some type of festive homage to an alien resident of the state. Edison Day in Ft. Myers pays tribute to a famous winter resident. Hastings has its potatoes; Ruskin the tomato, and in Sanford it’s celery that takes the throne for a day. None are exactly native Floridians.

But Moore Haven, a community of 800 nestled in the flat, rich muckland just north of the Everglades, has gone them one better. It celebrates a native resident, the black bass, with a day named by the state’s oldest inhabitants, the Seminole Indians. Moore Haven follows the usual pattern of such festivals, but it has a flavor of its own. The program, thanks to the talent of the Glades County folks for alligator grunting and turkey calling, is colorful in itself, but more colorful are the people, especially some 250 Seminole Indians who turn out to celebrate a day named in their own language—Chalo Nitka, meaning Day of the Bass.

Chalo Nitka is a newcomer among festivals. Last year, a few Glades County farmers and businessmen decided it was time that more was heard of Moore Haven and the lush fields nearby. So they organized the Glades County Chamber of Commerce with Tom Daczy, a prosperous dairy farmer, as its president. The same year the Chamber put on the first Chalo Nitka celebration.

As it is with all festivals the word over, Moore Haven bedecks itself with red, white and blue bunting, the merchants compete with each other with store front decorations and about noon of the big day the merrymaking begins with the inevitable parade of floats, pretty girls and, in this case, a band of hard-riding cowboys and cowgirls right off the Florida cattle plains. But there the sameness with other festivals ends. There are no signs of the glaring and blaring carnival so closely connected with other celebrations; no street hawkers of

The casting tournament offered events in distance and accuracy casting for red and real and fly line fishermen. Nationally known champs participated.

Turkey calling, the feature event of the day, drew several feminine contenders as well as rugged outdoorsmen.

Jose Billy gives out in the “gator grunting” contest. Strongly, no Indians made a first place in the contest.

Guests came in every type conveyance. Hule-drawn buggy, swamp buggy and Model "T".

Two of Florida’s most famous residents—the Seminole Indian and the black bass—come into their own when Moore Haven celebrates Chalo Nitka.
souvenirs, balloons or lapel pins, no merry-go-round, no ferris wheel, no aromas of hamburger and frying onions.

Chalo Nitka is completely home-span. All of the entertainment of the day-and-a-half celebration stems entirely from the choirs and pastimes of the people who live on the fringes of the 'Glades. So thoroughly does it include the pastimes of the people that even the more reticent of the Seminole men, who usually have nothing to do with the white man's ways, joins in the games and competes for the cash prizes offered.

After the parade makes its circuit of the community's business district and begins to disperse the people gather on the town square where the entertainment will take place.

A dry-land fishing contest, in which several nationally known rod and reel experts enter, starts off the afternoon's activities. Prizes are offered for the longest plug cast and the most accurate cast. Fly line experts also compete in placing a dry fly nearest a target and in laying out the greatest length of line. But the local folk, figuring that anyone living on the shores of Okeechobee should be able to handle a fish line, are anxiously waiting for the big event of the day—a contest of the woodsmen and hunter by sundown this little Seminole was ready to say goodbye to Chalo Nitka until another year.

THE STORY OF THE LITTLE KEY DEER

To the contest judge, Col. Davidson, Billy Bowlegs, Bill Piper and Ross Allen, fell the lot of choosing the champion wildlife caller.

TWO FIGURE of Florida's famous Key Deer is hanging on a thin thread. Within recent months alarmed sportmen have awakened to the fact that the small remaining nucleus of the most unique and most endangered deer in the United States is in immediate danger of extinction unless quick, drastic action is taken by state and federal agencies.

Assuming that quick and adequate action is forthcoming—it is to be hoped that it won't prove to be too little and too late if it does then the last of Florida's "pocket-size" deer is doomed to join the ranks of the completely vanished passenger pigeon.

For many, many years key deer have been on Florida's protected list but despite this protection, illegal hunters have diminished the midget deer ranks to an estimated 20 to 40 survivors scattered in a group of subtopical key deer between Key West and the Florida mainland. Big Pine Key, No-Name Key and others in the vicinity comprise the present range of the diminutive key deer.

Vainly, the remaining deer show unusual ruggedness and tenacity of life as they swim from island to island in search of fresh water and in a last-ditch effort to elude year-round illegal hunters, who burn off the keys to concentrate the deer and then try to exhaust them with dogs.

The scattered herd inhabit human residents on the few keys that constitute the only remaining habitat of the attractive little deer attract most of the frequent fires on their keys to illegal hunters from the mainland, Key West, and even from Cuba. They come to the islands to engage in the "sport." Many experienced hunters, it is reported, also put dogs ashore on the Keys, and then wait in boats for the exhausted "midgets" to enter the water in an effort to escape.

The Key deer appears to be a diminutive form of the well known white-tailed deer—which also occupies some of the Keys. Many naturalists, however, believe the animal to be a unique species. The Key deer stands only 28 to 32 inches in height and weighs about 80 pounds.

Due to the diminishing number of Key deer still alive, and the remote area comprising their "last standing" habitat, few sportmen have ever experienced the thrill of seeing one. However, hunters from the Keys say Key deer were first found when Columbus discovered America. In his memoirs he described a small animal that since has come to be known as the Key deer, a fact that establishes the existence of the diminutive deer on Florida Keys more than 450 years ago.

Recently, a party of sportmen sighted a number of the deer while approaching Big Pine Key.

"As we approached the Key in our boat, I saw what I believed to be a herd of fawns," one of the sportmen reported later. "However, after looking closely with a pair of binoculars, I observed one animal with horns—a miniature stag. As we reached the Key, I realized that all of them were adults. We immediately started about a half hour and no taller than the deer that I saw."--Reps. Charles Bennett, of Jacksboro, is the most recent official to take up the fight in Washington to save the nation's few remaining Key deer from total extermination. At this time he was con-testing with government officials in Washington in an effort to regain a protective program with real teeth to it. During the controversy sportmen have suggested government purchase of the islands still offering a "last frontier" to save Key deer from becoming just a memory. --Helen Sullivan

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TAXIDERMIST (Continued from Page 5)

Easton. After an incision has been made from the fork of the breast to the vent, the bird is carefully skinned. The bird's skull is removed and all substance removed from it before it again is attached to the beak. It takes from three to six weeks to properly dry and cure the feathered skin.

As soon as the bird has been skinned, the body is laid on a table and an exact replica reproducing the body is fashioned from tow (fine hemp rope). String is used to give the body and neck the natural form. The same type string is also employed in duplicating muscles and even the wind-pipe. Many times, while the body is being fashioned, a micrometer is used to calibrate the exact contours of the real bird.

Once the skin is thoroughly dried and has been fitted perfectly to the man-made body, wires are run up from the bottom of the feet, through the legs, and then are secured to the body. Another wire is run from the front of the body, through the neck and terminates in the skull. When the feathers have been brushed in place, like a lure, the fowl is ready to assume an attractive role in a museum or a sportman's trophy cabinet.

Long experience has convinced Register that a taxidermist must be ready at all times to face tasks that, first-hand, might appear impossible. He admits, however, that for one deficit—missing the head—was fixed at a day's work by a showman who has displayed the mammal in nearly every section of the United States.

From where I sit it appears that taxidermy isn't something to be confused with a hobby. The fellow who accepts it as a profession is walking into a hard job. What's more, he'd better be backed with a lot of knowledge about wildlife whether it be a bear, a flying fish, or a two-ton whale.

IF YOU WANT QUAIL (Continued from Page 7)

land use practices and requires too much that might better be devoted to the production of something else. Quail are planted and maintained properly, food and cover plantings for quail need not occupy more than one per cent of the land. A great many quail can be produced on this amount of land with very little interference with other land use practices, and the Commission supplies both food and cover planting stock to interested land owners.

These supplied foods, which are here detailed, are of high quality and yield a yield that will last throughout the winter. A high yield is necessary so

LAKE ISTOKPOGA

Rains that fell were welcomed to Highlands county after a long dry spell. The big boys have really been giving sport many a tussle and there is plenty of action awaiting fishermen who head to this choice spot. Recently, big blue gills have started showing considerable interest in worms and these are an indication that fishing is interesting as the season progresses.

Charles Padgett, his wife and son recently accounted for their full bag limit of specks while fishing in the creek just south of the dam. A. C. Gee, of Southport, landed a 9 1/2-pound black bass near the same point. All of the fishermen were registered at the popular Arbutte Creek Fish Camp operated by Mrs. Lottie Alexander.

CLAY COUNTY

There's plenty of fishing excitement for you in Clay county. Just pick your choice between Johnson's and East Fork Black Creek. Work the short lines for bass and in deep water for specks.

The 2000 ton water plug has been an excellent spawning place for bass and minnows for the specks so your fishing in the late afternoon.

LEON COUNTY

Fishing isn't exacting to pot in this county due to high water in many sections. Despite this, numerous good catches have been made.

For instance, while a lot of anglers were mornig "spotty fishing," conditions. Boliner Hill, of Tallahassee, drove four miles to Lake Overstreet and connected with a 6 1/2-pound black bass that offered plenty of fight. He was using a Lucky 13 plug. Then too, Lake Iamonia has shown consistent results for patient fishermen during the last few weeks. You're almost certain to take home a black bass or two if you stick to roaches or live shiners, and fish during the morning.

LAKE MINNEOLA

Fishing in Lake County's Lake Minneola these days is somewhat like buying a grab-bag—you never know what you are likely to catch. Fishermen have been taking home choice catches of catfish, crappie, bluegills, and black bass. Take Mr. Duke of Minneola, for instance. He recently copped a swell 14-pound 1ounce bass out of the lake. Then too, there's Douglas Smith, of Clermont, who took the bass bag limit during three consecutive days. Mr. Smith stocks the lake with black bass in an effort to start fishing in Lake Minneola. Catches are being registered anywhere from one pound upward to 50 pounds. Release your own fishing line, either early in the morning.

SUWANNEE RIVER

Many of the spring growing things now available these days like zucchini, squash, black bass, bream, and catfish near the mouth of the Suwannee in Dixie county. You'll have your best luck fishing right now. White crappie are that same size.

H. Wilson, of Orange Lake, fishing with L. J. Alexander in Lake Clay, caught 13 beautifi

LAKE WASHINGTON

Lake Washington is located on Lake Washington at Lake Helen. Reports from anglers claim that the altitude, with its high proportion of bass and specks, has proven to be a great attraction for bass while live bait or a Dog Days of June is considered the best of the season for bass. The fly is considered the best of the season for bass. The fly is considered the best of the season for bass. The fly is considered the best of the season for bass. The fly is considered the best of the season for bass. The fly is considered the best of the season for bass. The fly is considered the best of the season for bass. The fly is considered the best of the season for bass.
SUMMER FISHING CONTESTS

Many of the sportmen's clubs and chambers of commerce have begun their annual fishing rodeos and tournaments. However, there has been a dampening of the interest as publicity on this type of recreation is nonexistent. Some such tournaments have been called "lotteries" in the eyes of the U.S. Postal authorities and, as such, information, listing of prizes, etc., may not be sent through the mail as it has been in the past. As a matter of fact, publicity on such contests may not even be announced through the medium of magazines, newspapers, or other literature which may find its way into the mail. Some sponsors of these tournaments have resorted to sending out their entry blanks, etc., via express in order to cover their mailing costs.

Florida is perhaps affected more severely than many other coastal States, and ultimately may suffer economically unless something is done to alter the situation. All children may help straighten this matter out by immediately contacting our Congressman and Senators and insisting that H.R. 7619 be brought out of the Committee on the Judiciary at an early date, and recommended over in its present form. The bill has already received the approval of the National Wildlife Federation which is now endeavoring to get a little steam behind it.

UNITY IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Whether you belong to a club or not, or if you also a fishing fan, you have the responsibility to respond to the needs of your assistance in keeping Florida alive as a prominent fishing resort State. It will be to your advantage to join your local conservation or sportmen's club so that you may reap the multitude of benefits and pleasures from close association with these organized workers for better conservation conditions in our State. If you do not know the names of the club nearest your residence, a postal card addressed to the Federation will bring this information to you promptly, together with full information concerning the objectives and purposes of the Florida Wildlife Federation, and how you may benefit from this association.

This is the day when numerous sneak tricks are intended to handicap the privileges of the sportmen or make them the targets for additional tax levies of various nature are being introduced in Congress. Without your Federation to carefully screen every bill pertinent to conservation, sports activities, boating, etc., the privileges of the sportmen might soon be so restricted they wouldn't be worth the trouble.

There must be unity among sportmen and all other citizens if we are to keep Florida's hunting and fishing success. The best unity is the support of your Federation, so that we may become an even stronger bloc behind our legislature and our Congress. We have nothing but a mutual goal at stake. It is essential to unify our efforts some, and prepare for a secure future in hunting and fishing privileges for all. Join your club, and join your Florida Wildlife Federation. Thousands of dollars are spent annually for your privileges. Your small contribution, or large, if you desire to make it so, will aid in a most worthy cause when placed in the hands of the Federation to be used in support of our objectives. If you are not in a position to contribute or join a club, then be kind enough to give us your name as a person who may be depended upon to aid in such legislative activities as are necessary to protect our recreational privileges and restore our wildlife resources.

CALL FOR PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

With the dates and place of the next annual convention of the Florida Wildlife Federation now established it is requested that each person desiring to attend please write the Federation describing the entertainments features which they would most like to have on the program during the convention.

Last year there were trap and skeet shoots, skittles tournaments, outboard motorboat races, a fox hunt, and other outdoor recreational features during the convention. This year, at Sportsman's Lodge in Welaka, we wanted to present the attractions which are most desired by the members and their guests. In order to prepare the sports facilities, and make such events, it will be appreciated if you will advise us of the preference so that plans may get underway for interesting everyone and well-selected events of your choice. Simply address your letter to Florida Wildlife Federation headquarters, and it will be directed to the chairman on recreational activities.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FEDERATION OFFICERS

President E. A. Markham, Gulfport
Treasurer William Forsythe, St. Petersburg
Secretary C. S. Price, J. L. Underwood, and G. W. McCell

Federation to Hold Next District Meet

At Eagle Nest Camp

Chairman R. M. Sheeter, Time and Place Committee for the Florida WildLife Federation, announced that the May 6th and 7th meeting of the Federation will be held at Eagle Nest Fish Camp on Lake Griffin, nine miles north of Leesburg.

Jerry Garriott, manager of Eagle Nest, will have around forty boats available for the members and guests who desire to go fishing. He states that those who wish to fly in will find a 2500 feet runway or hydroplane anchorage on the lake. Sleeping accommodations will range from $1.75 per day per person. The reception room will be used for the general meeting and will accommodate around 150 persons. Meals will be served from the camp restaurant.

Lake City Entertains Federation Officials

LAKE CITY—With a gale street parade, headed by the high school band and replete with caged animals loaned by Dales Circus, wintering here, the Florida WildLife Federation district officials held here recently, got off to a colorful start.

Federation officials expressed the opinion that the two-day Federation convention held here recently, got off to a colorful start.

Federation officials expressed the opinion that the two-day Federation convention held here recently, got off to a colorful start.

Cooksey Named Director

In National Federation

Ralph G. Cooksey, past president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, has been elected to the board of directors of the National Wildlife Federation. Cooksey was elected at the national NWFF annual meeting in San Francisco.

Another southern, Claude Kelley of Mobile, Ala., was elected national president succeeding David Ayerbed of Boston. George Averett of Doris, Ala., was re-elected vice-president, Dr. Halvah Babick of Columbus, S. C., was also chosen as regional director, giving the southeast four high officials in the huge nationwide organization.

In addition to being a director, Cooksey will serve as chairman of the Federation's publicity committee. The National Wildlife Federation has more than 5,000,000 affiliated members.

APRIL, 1950

Five past presidents of the Bay County Sportsmen's Club passed before a massive clubhouse fireplace during a recent celebration of the club's 60th birthday. From left to right the former presidets include: H. M. Mischl, President, 1937-1941; C. E. Bissell, J. L. Underwood, and G. W. McCell.

Cooksey Named Director

In National Federation

Ralph C. Cooksey, past president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, has been elected to the board of directors of the National Wildlife Federation. Cooksey was elected at the annual NWFF annual meeting in San Francisco.

Another southern, Claude Kelley of Mobile, Ala., was elected national president succeeding David Ayerbed of Boston. George Averett of Doris, Ala., was re-elected vice-president, Dr. Halvah Babick of Columbus, S. C., was also chosen as regional director, giving the southeast four high officials in the huge nationwide organization.

In addition to being a director, Cooksey will serve as chairman of the Federation's publicity committee. The National Wildlife Federation has more than 5,000,000 affiliated members.

Bay County Sportsmen Hold Mortgage Burning

Members of the Bay County Sportsman's Club met recently at the clubhouse in Okaloosa county for their annual birthday party and election of officers. A chicken and yellow rice dinner was topped off with a huge birthday cake decorated with six candles and yellow and green roses. At the election, A. W. Pledger was named president; C. W. McRae, vice-president, John W. Douglas, secretary; and H. W. Mischl treasurer. Members of the board of directors include: George McColl, chairman, John Halley, Lex Hawkins, J. L. Melvin, and C. M. Kelly. Highlight of the evening's program was the burning of the last remaining note on the clubhouse. The club, which is incorporated, owns 48 years of what was once known as Bowling Field.
IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO (Continued from Page 9)

of significant news, but if this bird does not fly out of my hands and onto your neighbor. It is a sure sign of death in his family. However, if you live in Alabama, you will discover another story runs, it is regarded the best of luck for a bird to enter your home.

Woodpeckers have "pecked" their way into singing fowl, and the ageless, hopeless, these careless birds hammer away on a tree or on your roof, and it has been known to be a bear of bad news. But if woodpecker is a bear of bad news. But if the bear happens to be a -wren-and is building a nest that means good luck! Whippoorwill, on the other hand, brings good luck, as do the things. Hearing them in the spring signifies that you'll return to the same happy place as you did the year before. And if you do the same thing job the following year. However, if you, make a wish at the moment of hearing a whippoorwill that wish most assuredly will come true! A wish-bone in flight, as it were!

The lovely ant has been reckoned with, since ancient times, as a good omen of longevity and happiness, as wise; Hindus regard the black ant as sacred; whereas in Bulgaria and Switzerland, the ant is accepted as a bad omen. France, according to legend, identifies the ant with the destruction of ant hills. The Pueblo Indians of North America believe ants are vindictive and, consequently, cause disease, curable only by an "Ant Doctor" or "Ant Society," Tao Indians harbor the superstition that Indian women consort with men who the Indians refer to as "white ants." American folklore claims the ant is a nature's weather forecaster—knowing when it will rain, and if ants are in swarms above you, it is an augury of a severe winter.

This is an old one but it persists with the tale of the old man's convention—that eating fish develops one's brain. But don't try to explain this to a young person. Eating copiously of Florida's black bass, crappie, panfish or red snapper, for the most you may expect consuming an abundance of fish is to digest it readily and not being sluggish after meals your brain functions easily. A similar myth, that has been debunked, is that frogs cause wars. Good fortune and bears are believed in any list of myths—if they hibernate early this is supposed to mean a keen winter. However, they are a sprint, the yarn about the groundhog seeing his shadow on February 2nd, Brinn says, is a party to the idea. If he comes out of his hollow and sees something amiss, he will face the arms of Morpheus, sleeping for 6 weeks, while foul weather is a sure thing.

Don't try this one on a bear. Legend has it that if you fall down as dead while chasing a bear that you are not to molest his target! That is without proof and a distinctly ill omen! In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." In Indian lore bears are thought off and children are given rides on them as "premonition bears." (Continued)
Florida Game Chief Is Selected to Head Regional Association

Florida was highly honored at a recent meeting of the Southeastern Game & Fish Commissioners Association meeting at Atlanta, Ga., when Coleman Newman, director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission was elected president of the organization. Representatives of 11 southeastern states participated.

Other officers selected included: J. C. Calhoun, director of the Georgia Game and Fish commission; vice-president, Mid. James Brown, director of the Louisiana Game and Fish Department, secretary-treasurer.

DeLand Whops It Up During 2nd Annual Silver Shad Festival

DELAND—More than 2,000 DeLand and west Volusia county residents thronged to the second annual Shad Shad Festival here on March 15 to make the occasion an outstanding success. The Festival, for the second consecutive year, was sponsored by the Volusia Wildlife Association.

The event was officially launched with a colorful opening parade through DeLand streets and terminated late at night when scores of valuable prizes were awarded to winners of various contests that were staged throughout the day at Blue Springs Park.

Winner of the shad fishing contest, with a 3-pound beauty, was Robert Grigo, of nearby Orange City. He was awarded $525; Col. Warner Bailey, who placed second, received a $100 award.

Two performances by the New Smyrna Beach water ski team highlighted the after noon entertainment and a large portion of the overflow crowd lined the river banks to watch the exciting water ski feats. Flag raising and lowering exercises and an evening band concert by the DeLand high school band were other features.

Miss Sara Jo, of DeLand, was named “Miss Shad Queen,” and was presented with the crown by L. J. Jacobs, president of the Volusia Wildlife Association.

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Commission Makes Few Changes In This Year's Fishing Rules

With a few minor exceptions, the 1950-51 fishing regulations adopted last month by members of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, remain substantially the same as last year.

The daily bag limit of 25 fish, including none more in Camel Creek bas, was re- tained. However, game fish once attached to a hook, though thrown away or replaced by another fish under a certain rule. This was made to apply to the practice of keeping a fish after a larger one has been caught. This commission also passed a rule that restricted a fisherman using more than one pole except in his home county. Effective July 1, all fishermen will be permitted to use up to three poles regardless of what species are fishing in.

Four bodies of water in south Florida—the Dead Lakes in Gulf and Calhoun counties as well as Merritt and Ochlockonee Pond in Jackson county, will remain closed to all fish water fishing during April and May. However, the remainder of the state will be open to fishing through out the year. John D. Deering, chief fisheries biologist, reiterated that the taking of fish during these months had a definite effect on the fish supply.

The enforcement authority, according to Coleman Newman, would not hesitate to take culprit in basket traps in all waters of the state. At present, basket traps are permitted in only a few rivers.

At the request of the Alachua County Sportsmen’s Club’s, the board voted to close the Alachua Lake to all fishing during the month of April. The club will use the area to trap and raise quail for breeding purposes.

State Warden School Gets Underway Again

School bells have started ringing again for Florida Wildlife officers. Twenty officers, the second class of the year, started their 56-day course of instruction on April 2, at the School’s 1950-51 Wildlife Officers Training School at Williston. Ben McLoughlin is the school director.

The first class of “students” graduated from the school on March 51. Last year, two classes received instruction at the Commission’s first permanent school at Camp Blanding. Early this year it was decided to move the school to Williston after a survey of that town showed up the possible installation at the Williston Air Base. Thirty-day courses will be offered continuously until just before next hunting season, Director McLoughlin explained.

Heads of various Commission departments spoke personally during the course of instruction that covers law enforcement, courtroom demeanor, public relations, fish and game management, and even instruction in the proper manner of filling out reports to headquarters.

The eager, once nearly exterminated by the feather hunters, is becoming common again in marshes all over the East in late summer and early fall.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

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APRIL, 1950
Teamwork and Conservation

By COLEMAN NEWMAN

Teamwork is probably one of the most overused words in the American system of real communication. From time immemorial it has been employed tirelessly by generals of the army, admirals, football coaches, sales managers, garden club presidents, and scoutmasters. Offhand I can’t remember hearing over two pep-talks in my life where the term didn’t crop out a half-dozen times. It has been used so much and so often I feel a little reluctant to hurl it into a conservation editorial.

But strangely enough, for all its triteness, the word represents a fundamental of cooperative accomplishment as tried and true as democracy. If I had to choose one word on which to hinge a successful conservation program, that word would be teamwork.

Let’s give the matter some local application. Here in Florida conservation is an accepted project. The idea sounds good, and like motherhood and good times, everybody is in favor of it. But unfortunately lip service and passive acceptance doesn’t make the mare go. Game and fish management isn’t half as simple as it sounds, and it’s roughly twice as important as we may think. Florida’s population is growing by leaps and bounds and hunting and fishing pressure is mounting with it; industry and agriculture are making deeper and deeper inroads into what was once prime wildlife land; communities are growing into towns and towns are growing into cities, and with it all there come the inevitable demands of an expanding civilization. The faster people live and the closer they live together the stronger grows the desire for outdoor recreation. Paradoxically, the very trends and practices which obliterate wildlife frontiers stimulate the demands for good hunting and fishing. In a deal like this it’s hard for the wildlife to win, and if it loses, we lose—not only a wholesome recreation but a vital part of our economy as well.

What is the answer? We certainly don’t want to hinder the wheels of progress; on the other hand we don’t want to destroy a living heritage worth millions in dollars and cents and billions in pleasure and relaxation. The answer is wise and vigorous conservation. It is time we all realized that depleted wildlife is the inevitable penalty of growth and progress. Any basic student of nature can predict the future of Florida’s game and fish resources if they are loosely tended and ill-managed. The way our state is growing, and without proper game and fish management, in a matter of 20 years there would be no hunting and only a slender memory of the fine fishing we have today. It doesn’t take a soulshayer to predict this, there are barren states and barren nations standing today as silent proof of what can happen under such conditions.

That is where teamwork comes in. It takes more than a mere state agency to make wildlife conservation effective. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is only a service organization, designed to serve the people and the wildlife they hold title to. It cannot carry the whole conservation load; it can only help show the way. The effort must be carried out by a working team—a team composed of lawmakers, county courts, newspapers, educators, game wardens, technocrats, and citizens and sportsmen. This is a necessary chain and if there is a weak link it will be reflected in your game and fish supply, if there are too many weak links the chain will fall apart and conservation will fail with it. When this happens Florida will certainly lose an asset that has helped make it the greatest state in the Union.

A GUEST EDITORIAL

The right road is the green road

The tourist trade is always best where forests are green and growing. A great menace to forests is fire, fire that reduces trees to smoldering snags, dries up streams, kills wildlife and fish, and destroys recreation areas.

Every year, fires start in Florida intentionally or carelessly by people burn over 3,000,000 acres of growing timber. Yet, trees in Florida will grow rapidly again and again if protected and harvested properly. And from these trees, Florida makes valuable lumber, plywood, pulp and paper, and other manufactured products. And these trees provide the forest cover necessary for wildlife to flourish and for fishing streams to remain clear.

By protecting our trees from wildfire, we can maintain a sportman’s paradise in Florida. KEEP FLORIDA GREEN!

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE