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.

1950
Vol. 4 Issue 3
August

Hellen Blazes
Dear Sir:

Having been deputed by the Government of India for training in fisheries, I arrived this country two years back and am now scheduled to return to India July 3, 1950. In India I am to work for my Government in the State Fisheries Department. I shall sincerely appreciate if you name be placed on your FLORIDA WILDLIFE mailing list. This publication along with a copy of "Beneath the Surface Tagging Studies of The Florida Largemouth Bass," by Dr. DeQuin and Mr. Hall, may please to forward me in India.

D. S. SARBARI
Locknow, U. P., India.

(We are happy to put you on our mailing list. Good luck to you and good conservation in India.—Ed.)

LIKES ALLEN AND FREY

Dear Sir:

I have enjoyed your magazine more than any other—and I take them all— frequent features by and about Earle Frye and Ross Allen, who had farms here, are of particular interest.

DICK COY
Winter Haven

FLORIDA ADVERTISING

Dear Sir:

I recently noticed a letter of thanks from one of your readers whom you did not accept advertising in your publication. I agree except for Florida firms and Florida manufacturers. I think it would be appropriate to allow them to place advertising in FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

J. D. RAWLITT
Tampa

WONDERFUL

Dear Sir,

I'm proud of the FLORIDA WILDLIFE. I think it's a wonderful little book.

R. L. DAVIS
(Continued on Page 15)

The Cover

The picturesque Oklawaha River's outstanding inland cruising water—By Charles H. Anderson.

An Editorial

WHO OWNS THE RIVERS?

You don't have to be an Old Timer to remember the days when you could putt-putt up Dunn's Creek, the Oklawaha, or the St. Johns River without taking your life in your hands.

Today when you take to the river roads you are in as much danger as you are on the highway. While you move serenely upstream, an aquatic Barney Oldfield sweeps around a sharp turn throwing three-foot waves from a high-powered outboard motor. Unless you have time to maneuver to meet these waves you will be swamped or washed into the hammock. The specters oftentimes will sweep on out of sight with nary a turn of the head to see what has become of you. Or if you are unwise enough to anchor near a sharp turn in the river or have to stop there to refill your motor, you stand a good chance of being sliced in pieces by one of these speed demons of the waterways.

Now, we are not saying that there is no place for the fast boat on our rivers and streams. We do like to get to our favorite fishing spot as quickly as the next fellow. We don't like to spend the best part of the fishing day getting to the place where we plan to fish. We like fast motors and fast boats. But we like safety and courtesy more.

There is no reason why the big motor owners can't approach sharp bends in the rivers cautiously. There is no reason why they can't cut their motors when they pass a fisherman. There is no reason why they should consider our rivers and streams their own private speedways. No reason at all except pure carelessness, rudeness, lack of regard for the other fellow.

With the rapid increase in the number of boat and motor owners there is a growing need for traffic rules for river riders just as there are for motorists. Few sober drivers would think of speeding up the left side of a highway, but give them a 10 or 16-horsepower outboard motor and a fast boat and they will take both sides of a river as well as the middle, as the fancy suits them.

Who owns the rivers? The answer is obvious. We who use them for our vacation hours need to be more considerate of others, more careful, more sportsmanlike. Our thoughtlessness might not cause as much damage on the river as it would on the highway, but a drowned person is just as dead as one killed in an automobile accident.

reprinted from Palatka Daily News
In order to really understand the Hellen Blazes area, you must visit it many times. After you have become accustomed to the giant black bass, the huge alligators and the thousands of other creatures that frequent the air, water, and land of Hellen Blazes, you will then begin to see what is happening about you. You will then see that here nature is both destroying and creating things at the same time.

The keynote of Lake Hellen Blazes is birth from destruction. From the destruction and decay of living things of the vast marshlands beyond, Hellen Blazes gives birth to new land and at the same moment creates the river that eventually becomes the St. Johns. As it does this, Hellen Blazes also furnishes ideal refuge for the largemouth black bass that attract eager fishermen from everywhere.

In order to reach these relatively unknown fishing grounds, the angler must first hurdle a series of obstacles that have made many a fisherman turn back in dismay.

The fisherman must journey by car and by motorboat to begin his approach to Hellen Blazes. Then he must be prepared to travel segments of rivers and streams, cross several lakes and wind his way through a small moving channel that weaves between huge chains of floating islands. He must also be ready to dodge the smaller floating islands, paddle his boat over soft land, follow thin trails through the masses of "boomets," and risk being locked in or out of the Hellen Blazes area.

But the trip is fully rewarding, both in scenery and strings of bass.

Land grows, fish live under­ground, and rocks sink through the earth at Hellen Blazes.

If the St. Johns river is noted as being a mecca for black-bass fishermen from all over the world, Lake Hellen Blazes should surely be marked down as the ultimate goal for all good anglers who fish the St. Johns. In other words, if you haven’t as yet added a Hellen Blazes bass to your fishing memories, you have a most remarkable trip before you.

First, before you make the trip, you should understand the nature of this strange fishing paradise. Actually, Lake Hellen Blazes is marked on the map as the southernmost lake in the St. Johns chain, and, as such, is the breeding ground for both the water and the land that moves northward.

Into Hellen Blazes flows all the water from the St. Johns marshes which sprawl out in the territory west of Vero Beach and Melbourne, north of Teecah and south of Holopaw.

As this marsh water moves into Hellen Blazes, it carries with it a light, decaying substance that is actually the remains of the plants and animals that have died in the marshes. Usually tan colored, this substance is soft and mushy, floating very easily. This floating debris is actually the seed of the growing land of Hellen Blazes.

As the thousands of pieces of substance are pushed and carried along by the flowing water, they are slowly mashed together, growing ever larger. As they grow, each bit eventually reaches a size where a goodly portion of it is above water, much like a floating cube of ice.

Now a strange thing begins to happen. Nature, with her slow but steady hand, begins sowing the seeds of grass and weeds on this mass of fertile, floating land. Meanwhile, still carried along by the water from the marshes, the soil continues growing. Sooner or later, each piece of floating soil becomes large enough to carry a thick mass of grass and weeds, and each piece of grass, each stalk of weed is pressed forward by the constant winds of Hellen Blazes.

On any day, this particular piece of floating land becomes so large that it carries great clumps of tall grass, weeds and even bushes. Blending before the wind, each piece of vegetation is actually a small sail, and, when there are enough of them, the island begins moving before the wind, like a silent, ghostly ship. As it moves, it continues colliding with other small islands, and keeps growing larger, slowly but surely. Then it becomes a huge floating island, bearing not only grass, weeds and bushes, but even large trees.

Finally, the island becomes so large and heavy that it becomes grounded against other chains of islands on the bottom of shallows with the river, moving only before hurricanes or when the area is flooded with high water.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE Cat Squirrel?

So you thought there weren’t any cat squirrels last season! The author proves you were wrong...

WHAT happened to the cat squirrel? That’s the question asked by many a missed who hunted in north Florida last year. The strange and sudden disappearance of these favorite small game animals caused numerous hunters to take refuge behind an aspin bottle after becoming involved in lengthy heated arguments over the whys and wherefores of the situation.

In those areas of Florida where there was a poor acorn crop the tremendous numbers of squirrels which were seen in the early fall almost completely disappeared before the hunting season. This disappearance was especially noticed in the Gulf Hammock area which has always been known as one of the best places in Florida to hunt these animals, as well as deer and turkey.

In the newly created Gulf Hammock Game Management Area on the coastal west coast many hunters left after the first week of hunting season. Most of them, including many ardent deer and turkey hunters, complained because they could find no cat squirrels.

Apparently many of the hunters who entered the hammocks of north Florida during the hunting season for the purpose of hunting deer and turkey spend a large part of their time shooting cat squirrels and get a great deal of pleasure out of this sport. The great contribution that these small game animals make to a satisfactory hunting season was not really appreciated until they turned up missing.

The purpose of this article is to make public some evidence, gathered during an investigation begun in Gulf Hammock in September 1949, which probably explains the squirrel disappearance in that area and may well be applicable to other areas where a similar condition existed last year.

According to the evidence presented, there were very few squirrels in the middle of January. At that time the squirrel population was reduced to the small squirrel population was reduced to the small

The average hunter should be able to put meat in the pot after a short hunt.

By W. L. Jennings

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

There had been little or no reduction in the population during the hunting season. In several test areas the squirrels were trapped, marked by placing a numbered metal tag in the ear and released. Many of these animals which were tagged in October and early November were recaptured after the population reappearance in the same general area where they were tagged.

Many hunters suggested that the squirrels which disappeared had migrated. Squirrel migrations, however, have been carefully studied for many years and it is known that several conditions which are found during a migration did not exist in north Florida last season. In all the records of squirrel migrations studied it was found that the animals of squirrels moved in great waves across the country for as much as 300 miles. These animals always left an area where there was an abundance of food, usually acorns, and they never returned. There was always an overpopulation condition in the area before migration and for several years afterward almost no squirrels were found there.

We know that, although the squirrels in Gulf Hammock last year were fat, there was no abundance of food. Also, there was a high population present but it did not appear overpopulated. The strongest evidence against the migration theory is the reappearance of the population as soon as the normal spring foods were plentiful.

Since the squirrels did not migrate it is reasonable to assume that they stayed in the area but changed their habits in some way so that they could not be found by hunters, judging by the evidence at hand that is what happened.

Anyone who has hunted squirrels during a good acorn year knows that there is a tremendous amount of activity connected with acorn storage. Several squirrels gather in one tree and bury, chamber and feed about, producing a great deal of noise and movement. There are fights and quarrels when good acorn harvesting spots or storage areas are protected from rivals. This noise and movement, which quickly attracts the hunter’s attention, is properly called observable activity.

Since squirrels continue to store acorns as long as any are available, the bigger the acorn crop and the longer the supply of unstored acorns lasts, the more observable activity is produced, no matter how many squirrels are involved in storage activities.

If acorns last until the end of hunting season there will be observable activity until they are gone and hunters will be able to locate and kill many squirrels.

Worse the supply of acorns is exhausted, storage activities cease and there is no more of this kind of observable activity. Last year, the acorn supply did not last until hunting season began so there was no observable activity resulting from acorn storage activities during hunting season.

The squirrels last fell for acorns stored in October, cedar haw, sawtuny, wild turkey, and a few other foods. These feeding operations produce little movement and almost no noise because there is no community effort. Little observable activity was produced and consequently hunters had difficulty in locating squirrels in 1950, even though a good population was present.

It is believed that the squirrels in Gulf Hammock spent most of their time in hollow trees except for brief periods when they recovered and ate stored foods or searched for other foods not normally stored. There is a story going around in the Gulf Hammock area which would support this belief if it could be checked or traced to one of these trees which witnessed the act.

It seems that a party of hunters from Tampa returned to camp after an unsuccessful day’s hunt. They pushed down a dead tree to get firewood and were surprised to see 12 squirrels scampers out of it and make off into the woods.

A number of fox kits which were examined in December were found to be in migratory stages. Few hunters who did kill more than a few squirrels used a method...
banded, while the adults are indistinctly banded or uniformly dull, as noted above. Several species of harmless water snakes, common in Florida, superficially resemble the cottonmouth; but in the harmless forms, the tail is long and tapering, the pupil of the eye is round, and it does not bear a pit.

A few hours after birth, the young cottonmouth sheds the epidermis, or outer layer of the skin, and thereafter wanders away from the female parent, who pays no attention at all. The baby snakes feed upon tadpoles, frogs and toads, "mud-puppies," lizards, small snakes of other species, minnows, and young mice. They grow rapidly, increasing in length at a rate of about 12 to 18 inches yearly. Full-grown adults may be as much as 6 feet long, and very heavy-bodied. When disturbed, the cottonmouth is apt to coil up and open its mouth wide. The lining of the mouth, thus disclosed, is whitish, occasioning the common name of "cottonmouth." The cottonmouth also thrashes its tail about when annoyed, producing a rattling sound if the snake is in dry leaves or vegetation. Its aim at such times is sinister, and decidedly in keeping with its venomous properties. If too closely approached, it may fence off in a lightning-fast strike; and, unlike the rattle snakes which usually react to the instant after striking, the moccasin may retain its hold, biting and chewing to imbed the fangs deep in the flesh. The bite is sometimes fatal to human beings. Even the bite of a small specimen is attended by great pain, severe swelling, and, very frequently, permanent crippling of the bitten part.

Although most cottonmouth moccasins attempt to escape when disturbed, some stand their ground, and a few sometimes even attack. Cottonmouths are almost always found near water, being most common along stream banks, river aways, and near the mouths of lakes. They feed upon frogs, salamanders, water snakes, lizards, rats, mice, small birds, and fish. Sometimes they catch and eat baby turtles, b a b y alligators, squirlers, and young rabbits. Herons' eggs are sometimes broken by them. They also feed occasionally upon carrion, and will eat any kind of raw fish that they happen to encounter. They seldom prey on the fast-swimming game fish but catch such a goodly share of moving eels, catfish, and suckers.

Cottonmouth moccasins do most of

(Continued on Page 16)

KNOw YOUR REPTILES

The Cottonmouth Moccasin

The cottonmouth moccasin, ranging from the Rio Grande River of Texas northward to the Mississippi Valley, northward in the Mississippi, of Texas northward in the Mississippi; of Texas, and finally reaching southeastern Virginia, is considered the eastern and western one; but the distinction between the two is slight and of little interest to the layman, who may consider them all "cottonmouth moccasins." These dangerous snakes are found throughout Florida, occurring in every county and on many of the coastal islands.

By ROSS ALLEN

And WILFRED T. NEILL

AUGUST, 1950

"Beehive" Catfishing

"Beehive" Catfishing

Continued on Page 16)
OL’ BILL PELICAN

By Howard A. Miller
(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

FLASH...A CONTRACT HAS JUST BEEN EXECUTED WITH A DELAWARE AGENCY TO PROVIDE THE DELIVERY OF SEVERAL THOUSAND SKINS OF NATIVE BIRDS TO CERTAIN MILLINERY FIRMS.

News such as this today would bring congratulation to millions of conservation minded Americans, but in 1900, the year in which it actually occurred, found objection only from a small number of wildlife-loving enthusiasts. Nevertheless, the cry of this small group of bird lovers was heard even into the White House, and in order to protect fast vanishing species of colonial birds, President Theodore Roosevelt created Pelican Island Reservation on March 14, 1903. This reservation is composed of a small group of islands in the Indian River near Sebastian, Florida.

While Pelican Reservation was established principally for the preservation of a breeding colony of brown pelicans, numerous other birds found refuge throughout the years. Pelican Island Reservation was the first movement in a program which created the National Wildlife Reservation System, a chain of millions of acres of coastland of the United States and the Territories.

With the establishment of Pelican Island Reservation a warden was at once appointed who furnished local protection to the nesting pelicans. The reservation has not been without its misfortunes and problems. Normally between two and three thousand pelicans nest on the small island, and the two nesting seasons usually start in November and May. Generally due to climatic conditions, however, the young of one of the nesting periods rarely live.

In 1906, after a normal nesting early in November, the young began to die, and in a few days six hundred to seven hundred had perished. No evidence of disease could be found, but weather reports indicated cold and inclement weather which undoubtedly resulted in death of the young. The second nesting of that year was successful, and about four hundred young were raised.

In 1907, following a successful nesting, the second brood was almost drowned by a cold storm and high water. Climate has taken its toll of young and old birds on Pelican Island.

Also affecting the pelican populations on the reservation are the peculiarities in behavior of the birds themselves. In 1914, following an unusually early nesting season, the parents apparently without cause deserted the young before they were able to care for themselves.

In 1918, local fishermen claimed that the pelicans were destroying food fish and therefore should be killed during the period of national stress. A night raid was made on the reservation, and about four hundred were wantonly slaughtered. Investigation proved that the charges by the fishermen had little real basis, as the fish eaten by the pelicans were not classed as food fishes.

Today, Pelican Island remains one of the farthest chain of National Wildlife Refuges, and a survey made in April, 1950, noted that over 2,000 pelicans were nesting on the refuge.

POPPOK, peanuts, and cracker jack will be in order when the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission unveils its new exhibit at more than a score of Florida fairs and expositions this fall and next spring. This will mark the first time anything so spectacular in the way of an animal and bird exhibit has ever been attempted by a State Game Commission.

Three separate sections, depicting old-fashioned circus wagons, will be shown including a calliope, clowns balancing monkeys and many other exciting features that go along with a display of gars and mudfish, two bad-acting predators.

Bill Snyder, director of the Commission’s information and education division, is responsible for “dreaming up” the ideas for the new-type exhibit. While it was being planned, Charlie Anderson, Snyder’s assistant, visited the Ringling Museum in Sarasota and snapped many excellent pictures of old-time circus wagons. He even took minute pictures of authentic scroll work along with the once-popular sunbonnets on the wheels.

Artist Andy Janson, assisted by Bertie Rose, used the pictures for his pattern in decorating the display. Wildlife Officer J. H. Harrison, of Tallahassee, did the carpentry.

The circus theme is expected to fill two-fold purpose. Not only will it be interesting for the youngsters, it will also prove informative and educational for the adults. The primary purpose of the entire exhibit is to aid Florida citizens, and visitors too, in recognizing the importance of conservation and the preservation of our wildlife and natural resources.

A top the aquatic section is an old-time calliope played by an enormous clown. Snyder has obtained 20 authentic calliope records which will be heard over the loud speaker to add to the circus color.

TO FAIR MANAGERS:

BEQUEST for the Game Commission’s fair exhibit is being received at a rapid rate and approximately 20 fairs and expositions have already been booked.

These requests are booked on a “first come, first served” basis. If you are interested in booking one of our displays for the 1950-51 season it is advisable that your request be mailed promptly to avoid disappointment.

Address your inquiry to Bill Snyder, Information & Education Director, State Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee.

The entire exhibit is easily dismantled and reassembled in less than an hour. It is easy to tear down and load. Wild Life Officer Carl Walter has been assigned to manage the exhibit during the fall. Wildlife Officer Carl Walter has been assigned to manage the exhibit in central and south Florida next spring. He will be assisted by other officers at the various fairs in answering questions and explaining the preservation and protection of wildlife in general.

A secondary exhibit unit is being made available to fairs for dates that conflict with other fairs. This unit is being loaned to the

(Continued on Page 16)
A Skishin' Time!

At the Second Annual All-Skish National Tournament, Miami

By Charles Anderson

1. Skishes, juniors and seniors, were ready for the first round of the national tournament.

2. Paul Browne draws his model, 'A', for Paul Misch. He tied for men's first place with veteran John Neary, PhD, who tied in the net off.

3. During competition the dock was ten feet from the dock and under supervision of a skisher and a judge. The building County Sportsman's Club memburs.

4. Unusual event—Mack and Mrs. Ruben, Miami, walked off with top honors in the same class. Mack was tops in fly accuracy; and she took the same in the Women's division.

5. The Daddy of Skish, Clair Brown, tied after 31 years of tournament casting. He is shown receiving a trophy pinfish, a mummified black bass, from Eddie Miller at the Miami Club's board.

6. In the distance events the judges had to eye the line across the lake. Some of the casts were in excess of 225 feet.

7. Representing the Daytona Beach Sports Club, John Neary, W. W. Boulter, Sr., Paul Misch, Sr., Lou Brown, and Jack Brodbeck carried off the honors in the state team event.

8. The juniors gave the old timers a close shot at in all events. Wendy Dillon, St. Augustine, took top junior honor's a cast 930 in the skish belt casting.
Helen Blazes (Continued from Page 5)

And each island, large or small, moving or grounded, is an ideal haven for many species of fresh-water alligators and the thousands of white-tailed deer, bobcats, raccoons, and other creatures of Helen Blazes.

Now do you understand the nature of Lake Helen Blazes? Do you know why trees float, land grows larger, fish live under moving ground and rocks sink through soft, muddy islands?

But wait—there are a few more essential things to know about Helen Blazes. Foremost is the fact that Lake Helen Blazes is not only anchored and guarded by several huge chains of floating islands. So thick are the large islands at the north end of the lake that there is usually only one thin channel which wanders through them.

This small channel is usually marked with a strip of cloth tied on a bush or tree. The strip of cloth is necessary since the chains of islands sometimes move with the channel moves with them. Occasionally, only one side of a chain will move, and the other side is not marked, so be close. If it opens, well and good, but if it closes the fisherman is forced to hunt another channel, ride his boat over the soft, shifting land. If he fails to find a way to cross the chains before the sun sets, he may well spend the night at Helen Blazes. A rather uncomfortable thought for many people!

It is also well to remember that the scenery is always changing at Lake Helen Blazes, what with floating islands and moving channels, so it is well to take a good guide along with you on your first few trips. Nobody but a fool would visit the area without some idea of what it is really like, and, more important, how to cope with it.

To reach Lake Helen Blazes, you must take Highway 192 west from Melbourne or east from Holopaw. When you cross the bridge over the St. Johns river, stop at either of the fishing camps and obtain a motorboat and guide, if necessary.

From the St. Johns river bridge, you will have to be ready to travel about ten miles southward by motorboat before reaching Lake Helen Blazes, situated near the head of the St. Johns marshes.

First, you scout down a length of the St. Johns, and then enter the body of water known locally as "Little Sawgrass Lake," which is not marked on any known map.

Then comes another length of river, this one crowded with water lilies, or "bonnets," through the center of which is a thin trail of clear water kept chipped open by rocketing motorboats. This trail twists you into Big Sawgrass Lake, which is marked on your map.

At the south end of Big Sawgrass, you should find the short, slim, weaving channel which leads through the chains of floating islands.often too shallow for a running outboard motor, the channel may be so narrow that you will have to help pole the boat through, or it may be so wide that it is easily cleared.

Now you cross another body of bonnet-covered water, sometimes called "Trestle Lake," dodging small and large floating islands, and finally enter the last stretch of the St. Johns river. This leads you, more or less directly, into the Helen Blazes area, fabulous looking and seemingly impossible.

As you enter the lake, you see floating islands moving here and there, some grounded in fantastic places, and you will notice the fragments of growing land. You will also see a stretch of black, flowing water which is Lake Helen Blazes, and perhaps a 12-foot alligator as well as many smaller ones.

But don't waste too much time gazing at the strange scenery. Instead, tie a popping plug, a pork-rind-baited spinner or a streamer fly on your line and begin casting close to the edges of floating islands and other likely spots. You will have to do a lot of spot-casting, since the crowded floating islands and the masses of bonnets, as well as the growing, moving land, leave little room for casting errors.

Sooner or later, you are bound to hear it. You are going to be shocked by the awesome sound of a huge Helen Blazes bass smashing your top-water plug high into the air as he tail-dances over the surface before falling back into the water with a mighty splash.

Then you'll be hard put to stop his savage rushes short of the treacherous bonnets, and you'll be frantic with worry that he'll clip under a fragment of floating ground, cutting the line in the process.

But if you fight your Helen Blazes bass hard and shrewdly, you may be fortunate enough to add him to your stringer and scale in at 12 to 14 pounds or more.

Then you'll know that your trip was worth both the time and the trouble, for the black bass of Helen Blazes grow big and numerous, disturbed by few other fishermen.

So if you're not afraid of growing land and floating trees, try Helen Blazes.

Your tackle box may sink through the ground at Helen Blazes, and your floating islands may crash into your boat, or you may get lost in a maze of moving channels.

But, at Helen Blazes, monstrous black bass lie unburdened of any kin, or brothers and sisters, when they come charging out to smash at your hook...LOOK OUT!

STICKS AND STONES (Continued from Page 2)

TATE'S HELL, AGAIN

Dear Sir:

I read with much interest your recent article on Tate's Hell. Very authentic. My husband and I have been fishing very near vicinity of the place, our family having lived there for about 20 or so years. Any advice you can drop by and see me at Perey, the welcome sign will be hung out. I would like to have you see the Game Refuge there.

L. P. Gibson
Perry

FISH HUNTERS, TOO

Dear Sir:

Found an old copy of FLORIDA WILDLIFE in a fishing camp and finally discovered exactly what I have been looking for: A fishing and hunting book about Florida, our state. After all, we "fish hunters" are more interested in the local rather than national sport activities. You have a swell publication, so keep it rolling.

W. J. Switzer
Jacksonville

MR. MCCLEARY

Dear Sir:

Being a native Floridian, a Georgia resident, a regular Florida fisherman and an avid reader of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, I was delighted with your letter I read some time ago in this column. It was from D. R. McCleary, Editor, Parts Pup Magazine, Atlanta, regarding his efforts to buy a fishing camp.

In the April issue I note that he received some letters to a short letter he published in your magazine.

For some time I have had the same idea in mind as Mr. McCleary, and have had about the same amount of success locating the type of fishing camp I'd like to have without some ideas of how to go about it. Have made many trips to Florida looking over many fishing camps but have not found one that seemed worthwhile.

Now I am wondering if Mr. McCleary could possibly be interested in the 112 answers in which he has no interest. Maybe I could find one to my satisfaction. Or else this could be published in hopes that I will get the same answers.

I have sent Florida Wilderness to many friends in my area who also did not know it was being published, and I would like you to know that they are more pleased with it.

GEORGE W. HULL

1502 North Davis St.
Albany, Ga.

AUGUST, 1950

NO CHIMPS OR KIDS

Dear Sir:

For one hope that you will stick to the unique and distinctive Florida action pictures of man and fishing and scenic subjects which have in the past graced the cover and back pages of FLORIDA WILDLIFE. The dressed-up chaps and pious young hopeful on the April number might well be published on any of a dozen other publications. Let's keep FLORIDA WILDLIFE individual.

EAVES ALLISON
Sanatoga

WELCOME, NEIGHBOR

Dear Sir:

I am very much interested in the outdoors, wildlife, conservation, and both fresh and salt water fishing. I anticipate locating permanently in Florida in the near future so any back numbers of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, or any other information which you have available, will be appreciated.

WALTER BEARD
Lincoln, Ohio

SKIN GAME

Dear Sir:

Your story, "Skin Game" in the June issue was interesting but to a "duh" who takes fish on a fly, the skin on one catfish only excites envy. How about explaining "catfish" technique so we too will know how to do it?

EVERETT AUTRIM

Warington, Ohio

FISCAL REPORT

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

JUNE 30, 1950

Debit

$ 249,997.92

Cash with State Treasurer

565,715.04

Disbursements:

Reimbursement

$219,347.64

Regular Expense

12,874.00

Special Expense

Receipts:

Sales of Licenses

$329,118.00

Fishing per Day

1,047.00

Hunting per Day

Permits and Alien

30,705.00

Commerical

Federal Aid (Pitzman-Robertson)

12,839.89

Costs Collected

Magazine Subscriptions

14,973.19

Accounts Payable

40.75

Due Counties (overpayment)

Cancelled Warrants

4,273.00

Hunting and Deer Fund

Uncumbered Balance, as of July 1, 1949

$1,419,626.48

$1,419,626.48
If you have questions concerning fishing, hunting, camping, guns, or ammunition, add them to PROFESSOR SMARTY, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, TALLAHASSEE. He'll do the rest.

Q. Who can tell me where I could obtain movies featuring game birds in action?
   - E. B., Ocala

A. Unfortunately, we know of no available on loan from Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission: "Wild Fowl In Slow Motion," and "Thousand Fles.
   - Both 16 mm color, running time 15 min.

Q. Have a bet that bears are most dangerous animals in America. Do I win?
   - A. Sorry, but more people have been killed or seriously injured by deer than by any other wild animal. Bears particularly bad during breeding season.

Q. What are the new bag limits on quail?
   - L. R., Pensacola

A. Same as last year, 10 a day bag limit unchanged.

Q. Would like to fish in Okaloachee County. Where can I stay-D. T, Marion County

A. Write to C. E. Hardin, Box 76, Okeechobee, Fla.

Q. Would it be all right if I used gullible for live-bait for black bass?--V. S. N., Daytona

A. Good heavens, NO! Gullible belong to the ehrb family, and will easily revert to ehrb-like sitie in waters with sufficent room and sze. Set out of your hook, or escaped from a bait-well, you might be responsible for helping to ruin Florida's free fishing.

Q. What poison is found in Florida waters?--S. H., St. Augustine

A. Boren, Stumpkicker, Red - Brest, Shellracker, Warmouth, and Speckled Frech.

**COTTONMOUTH MOCCASIN**

(Continued from Page 9)

their hunting by night, and spend much of the day coiled on a stream bank, often in a grassy patch or on a pile of debris. Sometimes they climb into the branches of trees overhanging the water, although seldom ascending to any great height. They swim well, both on the surface or below, and sometimes capture their prey on the bottom of a pond or stream. There is no truth to the common belief that they cannot bite while in the water! The cottonmouth can strike from any position in the water, or turn and bite while submerged. Although they prefer to strike from a symmetrical position, cottonmouths can strike out from almost any position, and in almost any direction, including straight upward or even backward.

Large size, sullen disposition, potent venom, a lightning-like strike, dark colors that blend into the swampland background—these features combine to make the cottonmouth mocassin one of the most dangerous snakes in the United States.

**CIRCUS WAGONS**

(Continued from Page 11)

Commission by the St. Augustine Alig.

agricultural department that approximately 10 fairs throughout the state while the main exhibit will be held at the Coliseum, including the Tampa State Fair.

Composed of 15 feet of glass cases in Florida, each exhibit has long hours of planning, sketching and building.

A hoop and pole are to be held up in a fair's area; this is called the "hoop and pole" exhibit. They are usually located just opposite the main entrance to the fairgrounds. The hoop is placed on the ground, and the pole is held up in a vertical position. The distance between the hoop and pole is measured, and the time it takes for a person to pass through the hoop while holding onto the pole is recorded. This measurement is then compared to the times of other people who have attempted to complete the challenge. The person who completes the challenge in the shortest amount of time wins.

In the end, this is a fun and challenging activity for both adults and children to participate in while enjoying the fair. It requires physical strength, agility, and coordination. It also serves as a great way for families to spend quality time together and create lasting memories. Overall, the hoop and pole exhibit is an exciting addition to any fair or carnival.

**SUMMERTIME IS 22 TIME**

By Robert Irwin

E ven since the birth of the nation, shoot-

ing has been a national pastime. The sport has always had a special appeal to youngsters, particularly when the 22 caliber rifle is the firearm used. And with the ar

ival of summer comes the ideal time for 22s practical use. The first thing anyone, youngster or

senior, should think about in connection with firearms practice is a safe place to shoot. Start out right by finding a location that is absolutely safe for rapid-fire shooting and is easily accessible.

One type of safe place to shoot outdoors is a plot of ground near a nearby hill or a river bank affords a good practice area. This backstop must be free from rocks, fences or other hard objects which would cause a bullet to ricochet, thereby endangering persons or property beyond it.

Another type is any open area afford-

ing clear vision for at least one mile in any possible firing direction. Rivers, lakes and other bodies of water cannot be traveled because there is no danger of bullets penetrating these walls and endangering life and property. Remington Arms Company, Inc. has recently announced a new and improved "Spatter-gun" bullet especially designed for shooting gallery and indoor shooting. Its design is such that it does not ricochet, providing high accuracy, eliminating the possibility of ricochets.

In most parts of the country outdoor shooting had been best confined to areas that offer good backstop facilities. These can be made in use of in high banks, cut banks of streams and abandoned roads, strip pits below the surface, as well as in rock quarries. Extra caution should be taken, however, in the selection of strip pits and rock quarries, as the slate, slate and rock that may be encountered are liable to cause ricochets. In the more open spaces of the western states, the shooter should not depend on visible distance for shooting safety. Even here it is best to have a good backstop. Old railroad ties and waste barns can be employed as backstops to good advantage.

While outdoor shooting offers more summertime fun, one should not overlook the fact that indoor ranges are comparatively easy to build and afford excellent opportunities for practice. These ranges are usual-

ly limited to a distance of not more than 25 feet. Quite often the distance is reduced to as little as 20 feet. Here safety is again the prime consideration. It is necessary to provide a safe backstop and the entire end of the range should be so constructed that there is no danger of bullets penetrating these walls and endangering life and property.

Remington Arms Company, Inc. has recently announced a new and improved "Spatter-gun" bullet especially designed for shooting gallery and indoor shooting. Its design is such that it does not ricochet, providing high accuracy, eliminating the possibility of ricochets. Plans for setting up home ranges can be secured free of charge by writing the Sport-

ing Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute, 543 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York.

For safe shooting with a 22 rifle offers sport of a varied nature, ranging from the blackwater matches, where precision shooting is the order of the day, to plain ordinary in-
Hunting Season In 1950-51
To Have No Staggered Days

Florida hunters will enjoy a new deal in hunting seasons this year under regulations adopted by the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission last month. There will be no closed days during the hunting season which will run from Nov. 25 to Jan. 5. For deer, turkey, squirrel, bear, and panther, while quail will be open every day from Nov. 25 to Feb. 5.

Crooked ducks as well as other wildfowl will be hunted this year, while bear and panther will join the list of protected game animals for the first time. Buck deer may be killed only one or more visible antlers instead of the "one or more antlers not less than five inches long" in effect last year. Use of tall calibre rim-fire rifles for deer hunting is prohibited.

Complete regulations run as follows:

DEER—Buck deer open from Nov. 25 to Jan. 5. Bag limit of one a day and two a season. Bucks must have one or more visible antlers.

TURKEY—Hens and gobblers both open from Nov. 25 to Jan. 5. Bag limit of two a day and three a season (a reduction of season bag of one).

SQUIRELL—Gray and fox open from Nov. 25 to Jan. 5. Bag limit of 12 cut squirrels a day and three for squirrels a day unchanged.

QUAIL—Open Nov. 25 to Feb. 5. Bag limit 10 per day.

BEAR AND PANThER—Now protected permanently in state waters.

TURKEY—Hens (except during season). However, special permits will be issued by the commission for shooting bear and panther which are destructive to livestock and bee hives out of season.

MEAT STORAGE—Because of numerous freezer lockers now in Florida, the rule forbidding storage of game for more than 40 days after close of hunting season was abolished. However, the ruling still applies to migratory birds which are under Federal control.

CLOSURES—First District: Deer remain closed in Hernando, Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Turkey remains closed in Hernando, Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Second District: Deer and turkeys remain closed in Alachua, Bradford, Clay and Union Counties, and that part of Baker and Gilchrist Counties south of U. S. Highway No. 90 from Jacksonville to Lake City and that part of Columbia and Suwannee Counties north of U. S. Highway No. 247 from Lake City to the Suwannee River. Fourth District: Monroe County remains closed.

MIGRATORY BIRDS—Hunting dates and bag limits on duck, geese, and other migratory birds is set by the Federal Government.

Sportsmen Wage War On Hyacinth Plants To Improve Fishing

DUNELLOON—Helicopters and barges are being used at Orange Lake in a hyacinth control program sparked by the Orange Lake Awa Sportmen's Association, Taylor Heagy, president, announced recently.

Spraying operations were begun weeks ago in the attempt to rid the area of the estimated 1,800 to 2,300 acres of hyacinth-infested waters. It has been found that spraying barges do good work wherever there are strips of hyacinths along shorelines, but that they are unable to maneuver in huge areas where the water is heavily infested with the plants, or in marshes where the water is too low.

A helicopter operator was contacted by Heagy to begin the aerial spraying operations over areas previously untouched.

Sponsors of the work are eager to complete the task in order to take advantage of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's offer to plant food in the lake to attract ducks during the hunting season. The Commission also plans to seine the lake and remove any rough and predatory fish after the hyacinths are under control.

The Sportmen's Association has invested approximately $600 for two spraying barges, one of which will be constantly maintained as a back-up hyacinth-control work in the future.

Wildlife Officers Nab Alleged Hunters Hiding Illegal Hides

MCFADYEN—Use of road blocks at Breakfast Branch in the northern part of Baker County resulted in the arrest of Jesse L. and R. C. Hunter by Wildlife Officers C. H. Rhoden and D. A. Yarbrough, Second District.

The two men were forced to be in possession of sixigator hides which had reportedly been taken from a swamp in the county.

Both men pleaded guilty to illegal possession of the hides, and Law was fined $100, costs, and 30 days in jail. R. C. Hunter, as a first offender, was fined $75 and costs or 90 days in jail by Judge W. M. Brown.

 Attempt to Escape Is Costly in Court

MOUNT DORA—Ray Cassells found that there was little profit in attempting to escape justice by fleeing into the swamp on the edge of the Apopka canal after being caught with an illegal seine in his boat. Arrested by Wildlife Officer Ben Reeves of Altamahaw, Fifth District, Cassells found that his sentence for attempting to take fish illegally was much stiffer than that of his companion who was shot and quietly in the boat while he was arrested.

Appearing before County Judge W. T. Hallman, Cassells was fined $800 and costs or six months in jail, while his partner, Franklin Turner, who submitted to arrest, was fined $150 and costs or six months in jail.

TREATMENT FOR BLUE POND

CHIPLEY—Blue Pond is getting a thorough cleaning. Upon request of the Washington County Junior Chamber of Commerce, the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission supplied several treatments of fertilizer and restocked the pond.

Commercial fertilizer will stimulate plant growth in the pond, thereby furnishing the fish with more food. One shipment of fingerling fish has already been placed in the pond.

TWO ARRESTED FOR HUNTING

BRADENTON—Two Ruskin men were received at the Justice Court for legal proceedings in Bradenton. The two men had apprehended Ernest and Kenneth Rushby after trailing them for several miles. Both men pleaded guilty in court and were fined $10 and costs by County Judge Farham.

August, 1950

Advertising To Be Accepted For Florida Wildlife Soon

In the three short years of its existence, Florida Wildlife magazine has exhibited an amazing ability to gain new growth and advertising time. From only a vague idea in a man's head a short time ago, Florida Wildlife has spread and grown until its paid circulation list has soared over the 15,000 mark.

Now, as it goes into its fourth year of publication, still bringing the message of conservation and sportsmanship to outdoor lovers, the magazine is planning again to spread additional growth.

Effective with the October issue, Florida Wildlife will be expanded from its present 24 pages to 32 pages, and, for the first time, advertising will be carried regularly on its pages, according to an announcement made recently by Editor Bill Snyder.

"The change-over is being made only after months of careful study by the members of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission," Snyder said.

It was explained that the new advertising policy will serve a twofold purpose. First, and probably most important, it will be an advertising medium which, with a large magazine. Actually, it was pointed out, the 81 annual subscription rates for $3.00 barely covers half of the cost of publication.

Secondly, within the last six months, scores of requests have been received regularly that advertising be allowed within the magazine. Such requests have come from both the constant readers and friends as well as potential advertisers.

In accepting such advertising for the October issue, Florida Wildlife feels that it will again be serving the best interests of its subscribers in bringing them fine advertising featuring sporting goods, fishing and hunting camps, hotels and lodges, as well as restaurants and other places of interest to sportsmen.

So the editors and staff of Florida Wildlife hope that all of its readers will be pleased by the inclusion of Florida Wildlife's Own Outdoor Magazine. All persons interested in using the new advertising medium, which will directly contact outdoor lovers in all walks of life, are requested to write FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Lake Alfred Dept., Tallahassee, Florida. Advertising rates and space available, and other information of interest will be immediately forwarded upon request.
Businessman Invents New Fishing Method; Mice Used for Bait

F. Houck used mice to catch fish by using a special method of fishing. He constructed a box-like device with a net at the bottom, and introduced several mice into the water. The mice were attracted by the scent of fish, and soon began to bite at the net, thereby creating a small opening. This allowed the fish to escape, but the mice continued to bite, eventually creating a large hole in the net. The fisherman then netted the fish as they swarmed out of the water.

Wildlife Officer Says Indian River County Fishing Luck Is Good

The wildlife officer in Indian River County has reported that the fishing luck has been good this year. In recent weeks, there have been several large catches reported, including a 150-pound tarpon and a 125-pound bonefish.

Angler Catches Bass Also Retrieves Plug

A local angler caught a large bass and also retrieved a plug from the water. The bass weighed in at 30 pounds and was released back into the water. The plug was a small silver salmon, which the angler had been trying to catch for several days.

Bohunk the 'Gator Has Emily Post Mealt ime Manners

Emily Post's grave has been disturbed by a gator named Bohunk, who has been啦eating her mealt ime manners. This gator has been terrorizing the town, and people are becoming increasingly nervous.

Spanish moss

Spanish moss is a common sight in Florida, hanging from trees and clinging to the ground. It is a fascinating plant that adds a unique touch to the landscape.

Eating a Dog Causes Gator's Moving Day

A domestic dog was killed by a gator, which then dragged it to a new location. The dog's owner has filed a complaint against the local wildlife agency, accusing them of not doing enough to control the gators.

Good News of Dingell Bill

The Dingell bill has been signed into law, providing significant funding for fish and wildlife conservation. This is a major victory for environmentalists and fishermen alike.

Duck Hunters Harvested Bigger Bags Last Year, Say Federal Officials

This year's duck hunting season was a success, with hunters reporting a significant increase in the number of birds harvested.

Florida Wildlife

August 1950

I didn't know Charley could swim.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Joint Club Meeting
Hears Officer Archer Give Quail Program

LAKE WORTH—A discussion of quail conservation measures by Wildlife Officer A. C. Archer, Tampa, was recently heard at a joint meeting of the Lake Worth Boating and Fishing Club, the Delray Beach Boating and Sportsmen’s Club, and the West Palm Beach Sportsmen’s Club.

Officer Archer showed motion pictures of trapping quail and the feeding program that has been undertaken in Pasco County. He also called for an increased effort in quail conservation, and said that in his opinion “food has been taken away from the quail and we ought to put it back if the quail are to survive.”

Boynton Beach Kiddies Enjoy Two-day Fishing

BOYNTON BEACH—of Boynton Beach and the Boynton Charter Boatmen’s Association cooperated recently in sponsoring a two-day free fishing trip for just about 350 boys and girls in the 5-14 age bracket, according to Frank Darling, fishing coordinator for Stuart-Wil- Palm Beach, who sparked the program. A total of 152 youngsters took part in the first of a series of such trips on June 19, with the kids managing to reel up 472 fish during the day. Marvin Lusefors, a 12-year-old from Boynton Beach, high-lighted the session with a 4-lb. snook which was awarded a deep-sea red and 200 yards of line.

Florida’s Outdoors Speaks

Law Enforcement Officers—Friends or Enemies?

T

he other day I dropped by the city fishing dock on Lake Park in Lakedale, chatting with the guy behind the counter about their luck, looking for information.

Some of the anglers I knew. They answered pleasantly according to their success, but the folks I didn’t know didn’t answer cautiously and with a certain amount of antagonism.

Now, the reason for this attitude was well known to me for I have had some years experience along this line, but it was brought right out into the open by the remarks of one white-haired old lady.

“Are you a game warden?” she inquired.

“No,” I answered, “just wondering if you were enjoying yourself.”

“Well, I’ve gotten so that I think everyone is a game warden, and every time I see one I shake in my shoes,” she said.

Well, I wondered about that. Why should a nice old lady, intent only on having a good time fishing, FEAR a game warden? Had an officer, sometime in the past, abused her or mistreated her in any way?

Or is it just the all-too-vain, so-called “ingrained fear” and dread of all law enforcement officers that people have?

Further inquiry produced the information that it was the latter. No officer had ever treated her otherwise than courteously.

Then did she feel that an officer was to be avoided, distrusted, and even to be circumvented if the opportunity presented.

Frankly, I don’t know the answer to that one. But it just the all-too-prevalent, seemingly ingrafted fear, and dread of all law enforcement officers that people have—

Green, white, or black, the future. No doubt some parents do teach their children all this. But a far larger percentage teach their children, through their example, that it is “smart” to circumvent an officer—and Johnnie grows up to be a law violator.

So in the interests of good parenthood and good conservation, I claim that the next time little Johnnie tells you to “look out,” that you take him over to meet the officer. Explain that the man is not only friendly, but that he is also one of a group that often give their very lives to see that little Johnnie and his rights are protected.

Promoting the use of new materials and technology to improve conservation efforts.

Florida Wildlife

FRANK W. JONES

OUTDOOR EDITOR

THE LAKELAND LEDGER

(Another in a series of important articles prepared by Florida Outdoor Writers and radio commentators—ED.)