SHIMMERING SHAD

By ALLEN CORSON
Fishing Editor, Miami Herald

A long about now, lovers of choice seafoods seek the menus of fine restaurants more closely. They are looking for something special in the line of toothsome morsels — they’re looking for the word “shad.”

This is nothing new in the line of seasonal appetites. Smart restaurateurs had been hop to this springtime season to an extra dollar for many years, for the shad is a fish with a long and honorable history.

In George Washington’s day, springtime social gatherings at Mount Vernon often centered around steaming dishes of broiled shad. An early chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, John Marshall, was another gentleman who paid his pre-revolutionary respects to the shad. A banquet featuring “plastered shad and shad roe” was sure to cause Marshall to cram himself to the rafters.

Through succeeding generations, more and more Americans have acquired a taste for this fish and its succulent roe, despite the fact that the shad is unbelievably bony.

At first, only residents of the coastal Atlantic states knew the species of which they were so fond. Then, like the striped bass, shad were imported to the Fens of England. Between the years 1871 and 1896, a total of 1,529,000 shad were transplanted in the Sacramento and Columbia rivers, and shad now roam at least 2,000 miles of Pacific coasts.

As you can see, this species is well known as an “eating fish.” It is a member of a large tribe that includes the various herring and menhaden.

Salt-water anglers catch certain fish known by the common name of “shad,” but the species have only the name in common. The hickory shad is sometimes hard to distinguish from the common white shad, and both varieties frequently run in the same rivers.

The shad is centuries old, when viewed as fare for the table. Sports anglers have known it only within recent times. By 1822, however, it was a favorite of flycatchers frequenting the Connecticut River, below the Cotowisco dam.

Within the past few years, fly casting for shad in Connecticut Rivers has proved a great seasonal favorite. An experimental New Jersey trotter once gave the writer’s father a hint that the Mullica River. The donor of the fish said it had been caught on a small spoon. Dad accepted the shad, but not the angler’s story.

Fishermen around DeLand are getting accustomed to the silvery streaks of fighting gamefish known as shad.

very popular, highly localized and amazingly specialized sport.

In his place in Florida Wildlife for April, 1946, Bill outlined the fact that Webster took his first shad the day before he planned to leave Florida for his home in New York. Webster, so surprised at his catch that he felt people would laugh at him if he told the truth, dispelled possible jeers by telling docksdiers, watching him unload, that a commercial netter had given him the shad.

That was in 1945. He kept dreaming of the day he would return. In 1945, Webster managed to land nine more shad. There was a fishless interval during the war years, and then Webster returned once more in 1947, adding technique and savvy with each of his next 17 fish. He then was ready to reveal a brand new possibility to Florida fishermen.

The town of DeLand went for Webster’s idea in a big way. His pal, Eugene Devos, cooperated by stocking the unorthodox tackle items required for successful shad fishing.

In 1946, the U. S. Army Engineers moved in. They cut a large channel right through the spawning grounds of shad, black bass and panfish. Thus Webster’s pet hole, Blue Springs, became too muddy for any self-respecting fish.

Webster and Devos admire part of one day’s catch of Lemon Bluff shad. Many were released.

The shad moved south (which happens to be upstream in the case of the St. Johns River) to an isolated spot known as Lemon Bluff.

The Florida spawning migration of shad is the earliest on the Atlantic seaboard. The migration begins sometime in November, with the smaller buck fish acting as trail blazers. The roe-laden females make a rendezvous shortly thereafter. Intervals of about 15 days space the arrival of successive migrations, which come to a halt around the middle of May, depending upon the weather.

Incidentally, roe fish average heavier than the males. The first run of females are said to average more than successive roes. Webster, the father of Florida shad fishing, says that a 614-pounder was his heaviest specimen. He also remembers catching 34 shad on a single trip.

Actual fishing for shad follows this pattern:

You drive to Herman W. Brooks’ boat livery at Lemon Bluff, trusting that your partner knows his way in and out of the place. Once at Lemon Bluff Fishing Camp, you jump into a skill, hook up the outboard motor, and run a couple of miles up or down-stream from the camp, trolling at moderate speed.

Your tackle may consist of any number of combinations of taste. At present, trolling tackle is used exclusively. This means that glass rods are superior to bamboo; especially bamboo fly or spinning rods. The bamboo sticks neatly to weaken quickly under the strain, and acquire a permanent set.

Fly or spinning rods give a shad the best chance for fighting action. Long lines (up to 100 or more feet) are used in trolling. Natives of DeLand favor a 25-0 yard length of line, which is composed of a steel core with a nylon covering. Another line in great favor is made of a plastic material. Both are heavy. Each will sink a small silver Reflecto spoon down deep, where the shad lie.

The brighter the day, the deeper the fish. That’s the reason for the short and the long, heavy line. It carries the lure down to the fish, a certain number of spoons are lost, of course, yet the bottom around Lemon Bluff has areas almost free of underwater obstructions.

Another tackle item that is important consists of a landing net. Shad have “glass” jaws. Their paper-thin almost transparent upper jaws present a problem while they are being played and when they are about to be landed. Like a bonito, they shy away from the boat. They do their best to
stay in the water. Their tender mouths force careful handling, both during the fight and before the landing net is slid beneath them.

We'd select a flyrod as the best all around weapon for shad, with a spinning rod running a very, very close second. If the latter were used with 4-lb. test line, or lighter, then spinning reel would get the nod.

Fred W. Jones, who was on a recent fishing trip to Lemon Bluff with Webster, Bevis, Charley Anderson, and the author, thought shad were good sport on light flyrods.

Paul W. Malts, outdoor editor for the Florida Times-Union, plunked down for spinyline as the top way to troll for them. Paul remarked that if you hook a shad while trolling monofilament line, you will be looking in one direction, and the shad will leap clear of the water 100 feet away, and not a very different spot. It was true—and fun.

These comparatively small fish give a good account of themselves, if allowed the chance. Fluggers who play them with heavy hand will give up in disgust. It requires a truly delicate touch. To prove this, grab a shad just behind the gills. Then slip your finger under the upper jaw and flick it back. The rear portion of the jaw will become unhinged so easily you will wonder if it wasn’t “Freewheeling” all the time.

You will find that male shad are easier to catch—most days—but are less sport than their heavier mates. A 4-lb.roe shad taken on 4-lb. test spinning line is right good fun. They jump, dive and try to broaden to the best of their ability. They shy away from the boat; jump some more when close in, and then keep chewing their “glass” jaw until they die.

Webster’s pet way of going after them is for only two people to troll at one time. He first locates one school, has the second angler pull in his line when a fish is hooked, attempts to get both lines back over by the time a second pod is found; and dillutes if a third bunch is revealed by a third hooked fish.

When double catches occur, which can be frequently, courtesy is a thing of the moment. Once his favorite pattern of three schools has been mapped out, Webster charts the landmarks along the interesting river banks—and then anticipates action on a round-robin basis.

He finds buck shad school better than females, which tend to fan out more. When a group of roe fish has been located, however, he sticks with them. Often this results in many strikes from a group of females favoring a small area.

There are no bag limits on shad at the present time. However, it is easy to practice good conservation. The (Continued on Page 25)

This is Lemon Bluff area on St. Johns near Deland, where shad are plentiful and playful.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

AUGUST, 1951

High School Theme:

Our Waste in Wildlife

By Larry Block
Senior, Leon County High School

O F TEN in hardware stores or filling stations, where a small group of sportmen are likely to gather telling tales of the “better hunting’ or fishing’ days they have seen,” it is commonplace to hear them tell of the long runs with fish that one could almost sweep them out with a bucket. Of forests thick with huge flocks of wild turkeys; of stately deer on almost every hill; of flights of ducks and geese so thick that “the sky was black with them, honest!”

After listening to these “old-timers,” I can’t help but wonder why I have never witnessed these almost unbelievable spectacles of nature. Certainly I have spent as much time in the woods and on the lakes as did those older men in their youth, and yet have never seen the sky blackened with flocks of geese or ducks. I have searched several counties for the lakes I have heard of where the fish were so abundant. None of these things have I found, or have any other of my young friends ever seen.

It seems as though we, the youth of today, are to know only a barren nature; stripped completely of all the glory and splendor that she once knew. The seasons will only be surpassed by the barrenness that our children will know... Unless we do something about it; we must act now.

Let’s go back about 50 years and look at the start of all this waste. Certainly there was no shortage of wildlife in 1900. But this was when the shortage was born. The used of greed was planted about the turn of the century. The pioneers had lived by a code: “Kill only what we need for survival, and leave the rest to multiply and insure a supply in years to come.” They may well have taught us a lesson.

The year 1900 brought about the urbanization of the nation. City dwellers depended more and more upon their country friends to furnish them with food and wild game. As soon as a market for game was opened, groups of market-hunters sprang up all over the country. They slaughtered ducks and geese by the thousands for sale in the cities. Entire flocks of turkeys were wiped out to supply the demand for wild food to the city dwellers. The passenger pigeon, a bird which had great possibilities as a game bird, was made completely extinct by those who thought that God’s great gift of wastefulness was inexhaustible. So-called sportmen went hunting, and killed as many as 100 geese in a day, merely for “fun.” Then the great hawks were discarded... left to rot.

By the time our great slow-moving governments moved in action, it was almost too late. The passenger pigeon was already extinct. The great American buffalo was fast following the pigeon. All other wildlife was at an all-time low... something had to be done.

Laws were made to prohibit the sale of game... seasons and bag limits were set and through the years have been more and more rigidly enforced. Areas of land and marsh have been set aside as preserves for replenishing the dwindling supply of game animals. Lakes have been fertilized and restocked. Ponderal control has been initiated. The number of sportmen has been slightly reduced by requiring a license fee. These facts, in turn, (Continued on Page 27)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Larry Block, a Leon County High School student, was recently required to write a term paper as a part of his senior course in "Problems in Modern Democracy." As a result of this assignment Larry was so impressed with the research work he drew his own conclusions. His paper, which was read by the botanist by his teacher, is presented here, as he wrote it, because it all the more clearly indicates what our present problems of wildlife conservation are to be solved... for our youth of today are our citizens of tomorrow.

Larry, at 17 years of age, is a confirmed outdoorsman, spending most of his time fishing, hunting and camping. His theme, incidentally, was graded A minus because he wrote it as he felt it, and forgot to submit the required outline.

SCENIC St. Johns river is rich in likely spots to out fish—an important part of any fishing trip. Reading clockwise from left: Fred Jones, Bevis, author and wife, and Webster.
Contrary to the opinion of many, the canoe is a light, graceful, and practical craft. One of Florida’s foremost canoeists tells the fundamental techniques of safely paddling your own canoe:

**By Nathan L. Mallison**

For canoe paddling, tandem paddlers rest comfortably on both knees, with hips on thwarts, a position which throws weight of body toward bottom of canoe. Bow paddler, Jean Smith (foreground), is holding paddle correctly, but would actually have the paddle closer to canoe when under way. Stern paddler, Rose Harlan (background), is beginning a quarter-sweep stroke.

Spring, no word short of “exciting” can begin to describe it all.

To discover the intimate view of the real Florida, no craft serves as well as the Indian canoe—even though many people consider a canoe to be far too “tippy” and “dangerous” for all but the most foolhardy adventurers.

It is true that, when improperly handled, this light, graceful, and trustworthy craft can set up, just as would an improperly handled horse, or even an automobile with an incompetent driver at the wheel. But, with some understanding of the basic principles involved in the correct handling of a canoe, and a hint or two on how it may be most effectively propelled and guided by means of a paddle, almost anyone can make initial trips on quiet waters with safety, and quickly acquire the skill for more adventurous trips.

In Florida, especially, the canoe is a very practical craft, since many of the more secluded bits of wildlife and scenic beauty cannot be reached by any means other than the shallow, straight canoe, which is easily transported atop a car, or can be taken over and carried around obstructions.

Before going into the techniques of canoeing, the beginner should have some understanding of the nature of a canoe.

The one thing in common with canoes is that all are propelled by a paddle which may have one or two blades and which is not attached to the craft at all, as are sweeps and oars in other types of boats.

Next to the raft, the canoe is man’s oldest form of water transportation. It has appeared all over the world in many forms since the dawn of history, and, strangely, most of the known types are still in use.

The Eskimo still paddles his kayak or umiak made by covering a framework of bones and skin with skin. His tropical cousin, in the atolls of the Pacific or the Everglades of Florida, finds a dugout quite practical. In Europe, where kayaks are popular, a covering of rubberized fabric over a light frame takes the place of the Eskimo canoe.

Natives of the Solomon Islands use reeds to sew hemp boards together, and then seal the seams with pitch. Mexican Indians, in the Xochimilco Floating Gardens, use the same board idea, but employ more modern fastenings.

Many American Indians, in the northern half of the continent, needed a light craft that could be easily carried from one stream to another, and the birch-bark canoe was the result. This canoe was the forerunner of the white man’s canoe, whether made of light planking covered with canvas, or, more recently, of aluminum, molded plastic, or glass.

No originality is claimed by this author in describing the following canoe techniques, but he will share his honest sentiments by saying that, after paddling a canoe on streams and lakes all over the world, Florida’s 6,500 miles of streams still hold the most charming trips.

**LAUNCHING**

A canoe is launched from a beach, or a bank, stern first, without sliding it on anything. Two paddlers, standing on opposite sides, slide the gunwales through their hands. The stern man enters the floating canoe while the bow man steadies it. The bow man enters last, walking down the keel line, with hands on gunwales, until the canoe floats free, when he takes his regular position.

When alongside a pier, the stern man steadies the canoe, holding the gunwales while the passenger is seated amidships, and the bow paddler located forward. Then he takes his position and gets under way.

**POSITIONS**

Seats do not belong in canoes, despite the fact that most every manufacturer puts them in! The trick is to learn to kneel while paddling. This not only places the principal support of your weight low, in the bottom of the craft, and makes an accidental upset virtually impossible, but it also puts the rest of your body in the most favorable muscular position for easy and comfortable paddling. However, we don’t suggest squatting on your haunches like an Indian; this requires long training, and even then is uncomfortable. Place a cushion beneath each knee and then rest back comfortably, in a partial seated position, on the seat or on one of the crossbars ( thwart).

Now, if you also have a passenger seated directly in the bottom of the canoe, at its center and leaning back against a cushion supported by a thwart, you will have so much low concentrated weight that you will begin to paddle the canoe as a “tipsy” craft! Make certain that you have distributed all your weight in such a manner that the front (bow) of the canoe is just a little higher than the other end.

**PAIDDING**

If you are paddling with a partner, one of you should paddle on the right, and the other on the left side. Do not use fancy strokes by reaching the paddle far out from the canoe. Stroke closely to the canoe, so that each of you will apply your power as close to the centerline, or keel, as is convenient. This will send you ahead, instead of turning you in circles. Try to stroke in unison. Let the front (bow) paddle set a steady stroke, and the back ( stern) one keep time with him; you will move more easily this way, and keep the canoe standing. Since normal leverage of the stern paddler is slightly greater than that of the bow paddler, even though you match strokes, you will gradually curve your course toward the side on which the bow man is paddling. The simplest—though not the most effective—way to compensate for this, is for the stern paddler to drag his paddle and steer momentarily; perhaps one touch of a sweeping in each of three or four strokes. Gradually, it will be discovered that by keeping the bow a little way from the canoe, at the end of each stern stroke—and matching the bow of the canoe to determine how much of such a “hook” is needed—a completely straight course can be held, without missing a stroke to “drag-and-steer”.

(Continued on Page 22)
try some fishing that is really fishing, take a try at surf fishing.

Here’s a sport that is incomparable. Here’s a type of fishing where you don’t have to sink a month’s pay into tackle. You don’t even have to know a bank slipper from a three-way swivel. Hell, you don’t even have to buy bait or actually catch a fish in order to enjoy surf fishing. All you really have to do is to be ready to meet the surf on its own terms.

Any confirmed surf-writer will tell you that there is something about surf fishing that is like a magnet—once you’ve been exposed to it, you’ll always be drawn back to it. It’s an exaggeration to say that catching surf fever is something like contracting a malarial fever—it burns hot and drys all first, then cools off until you’ve forgotten all about it, and then it breaks out suddenly when you’re least expecting it. Once you’ve been exposed to it, you might suffer an attack of surf fever when you’re high in the mountains, deep in a poker game, or sound asleep in your dreams. But don’t worry, you’ll suffer unappreciable torture, for the only known remedy for surf fever is the smell of the surf.
Notes on 66 Kinds of Florida Animal Tracks
Reprinted by Courtesy Nature Magazine, Washington 6, D. C.

By Dr. F. Laurence Palmer—Cornell University

See Special Animal-Track Section—Pages 14-15

For more than twenty years I have had one hobby that has given me much pleasure: the study of cat tracks. This has led me to experiment with a se"...
1. Raccoon. FF 2½"x3", 5 thin fingers. HF 2½"x4", 5 thin toes. Stride 7' to 20'.
2. Common Skunk. FF 1½"x2", 5-clawed. HF 1½"x2", 5 claws. Stride 5'. Form diagonal line.
5. Fox Squirrel. FF 3½"x1½", 5-toed, paired. HF 1½"x2½", 5-toed, paired. Spread 6'. Leap to over 9'.
6. Gray Squirrel. FF 1½"x1½", 4-toed, paired. HF 1½"x1½", 4-toed, paired. Spread 3½'. Leap 5' to 8'.
7. Flying Squirrel. FF 1½"x1½", 5-toed, paired. HF 1½"x1½", 5-toed, paired. Spread to 2½'.
8. Short-tailed Shrew, Blarina. FF ⅛"x⅛", 4-toed. HF ⅛"x⅛", 4-toed. Alternates in walking. Tail droops.
9. White-foot Deer Mouse. FF ⅛"x⅛", 5-toed, paired. HF ½"x½", 5-toed, paired. Spread to ½". Tail marks show.
11. Cotton Rat. FF ⅛"x⅛", 5-toed, paired. HF 1½"x1½", 5-toed, paired. Spread 5'. Leap to 7'.
14. House Cat. FF 1½"x1½", 4-toed, alternating. HF 1½"x1½", 4-toed, alternating. HF 1½"x1½", 3½-toed.
15. Bobcat. FF 1½"x1½", 4-toed, alternating. HF 1½"x1½", 4-toed, alternating. HF 1½"x1½", 3½-toed.
20. Horse. HF 2½"x2½", 5-clawed. HF 3½"x3½", 5-toed, paired. HF and HF rarely, track.
22. Pig. HF much like HF. HF 3½"x3½", 2-toed, paired. HF and HF rarely, track.
25. Sis. Width to 1½'. Outer web less. Length to 2½'. Toes webbed. Outer toe freer and more spread.
27. Willow. Width to 3½'. Outer toe longer. Length to 1½'. Bould web may show. Toe only as dot.
28. Curlew. Width to 2½'. Length to 2½'. Hind toe may show. Outer web longer than inner.
29. Greater Yellowlegs. Width to 2½'. Length to 2½'. Hind toe may show. Bould web middle to outer toes.
30. Lesser Yellowlegs. Width to 1½'. Length to 1½'. Female larger. Bould web middle to outer toes.
31. Wilson's Snipe. Width to 1½'. Toes slender. Length to 1½'. Hind toe may show. Web latching.
32. Woodcock. Width to 1½'. Toes slender. Length to 1½'. Hind toes, webs, latching.
33. Sora Rail. Width to 1½'. Toes slender. Length to 1½'. Long hind toe. "Otherwise like woodcock."
34. Least Sandpiper. Width to over 1½'. Length to 1½'. Female larger. Not obvious.
35. Piping Plover. Width to over 1½'. Length to 1½'. Side toes unspread. Middle-toe outer-toe web small.
36. Sanderling. Web as to toe border. Length to 1½'. 3 toes webbed. Stride 6'.
37. Solitary Sandpiper. Middle-toe outer-toe web moderate. Length to 1½'. Width about same.
38. Spotted Sandpiper. Outer to middle toe webbed. Length to 1½'. Web to find toe joints.
39. Wilson's Phalarope. Web may show or not. Length to 1½'. Width about same. Frost toe web marred.
40. Golden Plover. Bould webs between front toes. Length to 1½'. Width the same. Web may not show.
41. Golden Plover. Web between middle toes. Length to 1½'. Hind toe not webbed at base.
42. Blackbird. Sides of toes may spread widely. Length to 1½'. Width greater. Outer toe longer.
43. Green Jay. Marks from tracks. Length to about 3½'. Toes 4 to show. Forestry toe slender.
44. Domestic Pigeon. 4 toes show, each clawed. Length to 2½'. Width to 2½'." Side toes even.
45. Squirrel. Side toes commonly shorter. Length varies but to about 1½'. Tracks paired by hopping.
46. Robin. Toes drag rather commonly. Length to 2½'. Width 4½. Towed or alternate commonly.
47. Starling. Toes may drag. Length to 2½'. With 4 toes. Paced or alternate commonly.
49. Otter. FF 2½"x3", 5-toed pairs. HF 3½", hair padded, paired. Leaves danger tail mark.
18"
51. Gallinule. Width to 3½'. Toes all slender. Length to 4½'. Web not evident. Hind toe equals middle.
52. Cot. Width to 3½'. Hind toe short. Length to 4½'. All toes, with webs, with scalloped margins.
53. Ringneck Pheasant. Middle toe longest. Length to 5½'. Width about same. Inner toe shorter.
54. Black Bear. FF 3½", 5-toed. HF 4" to 7½", 5-toed. Slow stride to one foot.
55. Herring Gull. Width to 3½'. 3 toes show. Length to 3½'. Toes webbed. Stride about 3½'.
57. Great Blue Heron. Hind toe slightly off center. Length to 8½". All 4 toes show.
58. American Bittern. All toes slender. Length to 5½', all 4 toes show. Hind toes unparallel.
60. Goose. Width to 3½'. 3 toes show. Length to 4½'. Toes webbed. Hind toe shows.
61. Duck. Width to 3½'. 3 toes show. Length to 4½'. Toes webbed. Hind toe shows.
62. Domestic Hen. Tame hen, usually marked. Length to 4½'. Width about some. Inner toe unwebbed.
63. Turkey. Like large chicken track. Length to 5½". Webless about some as length. Back toe may show in mud.
64. Domestic Duck. Rattlesnake. Rather regular wave series. Broads sides, tracks. Beak marks are pouches.
THE WONDERLANDS OF FLORIDA

Florida—the original, wild, primitive Florida of our history books and geographies—is being carefully preserved today by the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials.

The savage imprint of the Spanish conquistadores, the exotic influence of the French crusaders, and the leavening developments of the Anglo-Saxon colonizers are all visible in the more than 70,000 acres set aside in the State Park system.

Visitors find areas of magnificent natural beauty in the eight developed state parks, three partially developed parks and fifteen historic memorials which are open to the public. In addition to a scientific area, the Board of Parks and Historic Memorials has also acquired sites for eleven other parks which are being held until funds are available for their development.

Each park is representative of a particular charm at a certain section of the state, and may offer pre-Civil War sugar mills, mansions and plantations, forts and battlegrounds, bathing beaches and playgrounds, or freshwater streams and lakes. Each park has its own individuality. Each has a special appeal.

Visit Your State Parks and Memorials

Florida Caverns State Park, near Marianna, has an amazing network of lighted underground trails, and features beautiful natural rock gardens as well as wildlife and recreational facilities for all ages. St. Andrews State Park, on the Gulf coast near Panama City, is a popular place for fishing, swimming, picnicking, and relaxing.

Lone Star State Park, on the Santa Fe River, seven miles north of High Springs, is recreational camp and training area for many youth organizations such as Future Farmers of America and Boy Scouts.

Lake Johnson (above) is situated in Gold Head Brooker State Park near Crystal River, while Sunray State Park (below) is on Apalachicola River near Rock Bluff in northeastern Florida, and has many rare trees like torrey and yew.
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FLORIDA WILDLIFE

and

HUNTING

By FRED W. JONES

OWN A USEFUL DOG!

More than half the families living in suburban areas in the United States own one or more dogs. Many of these dogs are kept just for pets and many are of the "working" breeds. By "working" breeds we mean dogs that are useful in one way or another including those used for hunting purposes.

It seems to us that a lack of information is general about dogs is one reason why the association between a family and a puppy doesn't always continue to be as happy and satisfactory as it starts out. Many dogs are selected originally just because they are "cute." Little thought is given to what is going to happen when the cute puppy grows up.

In this column we will consider only dogs that may be used for hunting. Sticking with that rule, we believe that if a family decides it is time to acquire a dog for hunting, a selection is made with an eye toward the future, and the result will be much happier for all concerned.

And we would go even further in advising the selection of a puppy than simply recommending one of the hunting breeds. We would advise the purchase of a good-blooded dog—not necessarily a registered bloodline, but at least one whose ancestry can be traced back for a couple of generations. Finding good dogs is not as easy as fishing into one of the Florida streams.

Many of the hunting breeds will serve equally well as pets and watch dogs. They also may be selected with an eye for other requirements such as size and temperament. For the family with a small budget and small space in which to keep a dog there is, for instance, the beagle—a small, affectionate, easily kept pet who will, if the occasion presents, do a very workmanlike job in the woods and fields.

But before we go into the various qualities of the various breeds and strains of hunting dogs that might better be purchased (though the original purpose is simply to acquire a pet for the kids) we might go into this business of breeds and strains a bit, for it seems to be a subject on which even dog owners are often in doubt.

There are, of course, many TYPES of hunting dogs that make good pets and may be used by Dad and Junior on their trips afield. There are the dogs which hunt by sight, such as the greyhounds and whippets. These will be little use in the thick cover commonly found in Florida. They are more suitable for the open spaces of the West.

Then there are the dogs which hunt by scenting, or smelling, their game, such as the setters, pointers and spaniels. These are the dogs that find the game birds of one species or another. If Dad is an ardent bird hunter it is this type of dog you will have purchased.

It is possible to stay within this type and still have a choice as to size and temperament. If a small dog is wanted, one that is extremely adaptable, and suitable for hunting and for companionship, a spaniel might be indicated. While spaniels are not often considered top gun dogs, they can still add to Dad's pleasure in quail hunting for they can be trained to do a top retrieving job. They will also trail up and flush birds for the hunter.

Another type would be the dogs which use their scenting ability to follow the game. The bloodhounds, for instance, are bred to follow the scent. In this state this type is probably the most useful, and at the same time offers the widest selection as to sizes and temperaments.

Within these types come the various breeds, and within the various breeds come the various strains. For instance, within the trufflehound, we find strains of such breeds as foxhounds, beagles, and more recently the black-and-tan coonhound. Within the bloodhound strains we find such famous names as the Walkers, Triggs, Redbone, Jyles, Plott, and many others.

Each type has its special uses. Each breed has its distinctions; and each strain has its own special adaptations.

To illustrate our point here, it might be well to take the foxhound as a breed and point out the special qualifications of certain strains. All foxhounds, all black and tans, all cat dogs (including mountain- lion dogs), and all coonhounds, have been developed from the trufflehound strain. These in turn were developed from the English foxhound which was imported into this country right along with the first settlers.

Of all the various strains that have been developed, only one has ever been developed as a separate breed—the black-and-tan coonhound. This breed was recognized a few years ago by the American Kennel Club after intensive breeding was done for the purpose of developing a dog specially adapted for hunting raccoons, or as hunting assistants, only to North America.

The Plott hounds, which are developed by the Plott family for the special purpose of running bear and hare, is a strain of the foxhound. So, too, is the Walker dog, a strain developed for its speed and sureness, most popular for running big game such as the deer, and ordinarily favored hounds of the red-coon- tan-train strain. These dogs are not generally as fast as some of the other strains, but are commonly credited with being "cold-nosed" and possession of the ability to work out long, old trails.

A fine distinction between the meaning of a breed and a strain is often lost to our attention by the question, "Can I buy a registered redbone?"

The answer is "yes." A man can buy a registered redbone. But the dog will be registered as an American foxhound, not as a redbone.

Within the beagle breed there are also strains—the beagling, the English roughcoat, and the mud-coursing beagle. Each has its special adaptations. We breed our beagles to do a specific job, and while we make no claims for developing a strain, we do breed a full 15-inch dog that is specially "beared." We use these dogs on deer, on small woodland game, and on the ordinary beagle breed. And while, as we said, we do not claim a strain, this has been done by natural selection.

So whatever type of puppy you happen to choose for your family, be sure that it is going to be useful. Pick a good useful breed, and you'll probably be more than satisfied with the results.

Posthumous Medal Awarded For Game Agent T. M. Lines

Tallahassee, November 24—Florida's Game Agent T. M. Lines received a special posthumous medal at the recent session of the Florida Legislature for meritorious service for Meritorious Service for Game Agent T. M. Lines.

The Governor appointed Mr. Lines as game agent in Tallahassee, Florida, in January, 1933, and he served until November 14, 1941, when he became a Game Management Agent with the Fish and Wildlife Commission with headquarters at Estill, South Carolina. On October 4, 1947, he was transferred to Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Lines rendered outstanding service to the game law enforcement programs in the Southeastern States and willed his job plan, which included the enforcement of public relations and was instrumental in establishing wildlife officers' associations and in the training of enforcement personnel. For superior service as a conservation officer, and in recognition of his contributions to public relations, the meritorious Service Awards of the Department of Conservation were presented to Mr. Lines posthumously by the Secretary of the Interior.

APRIL, 1951

Federal Government, including fourteen months of military service. He entered Government Service as a clerk with the Department of Justice at Tallahassee, Florida, in January, 1933, and he served until November 14, 1941, when he became a Game Management Agent with the Fish and Wildlife Commission with headquarters at Estill, South Carolina. On October 4, 1947, he was transferred to Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Lines rendered outstanding service to the game law enforcement programs in the Southeastern States and willed his job plan, which included the enforcement of public relations and was instrumental in establishing wildlife officers' associations and in the training of enforcement personnel. For superior service as a conservation officer, and in recognition of his contributions to public relations, the meritorious Service Awards of the Department of Conservation were presented to Mr. Lines posthumously by the Secretary of the Interior.
HUTCHINSON
Finest Bass Fishing in Florida
Wire or write Camp Penosekke, Penosekke, Florida

Tallahassee

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You will be glad you came to Service - ALL SATISFACTION.

TALLAHASSEE MOTOR HOTEL
U. S. 41, Alternate U. S. 319, Mile Diminished IN THE CENTER OF A VELVET PRAIRIE AND DAW DUCK WATERS GOOD HUNTING

By PHIL FRANCIS

HOW IMPORTANT IS LINE COLOR?

If you do not use a black line for fresh-
water bait casting you're one in 1,000, but
do n't let that bother you. Your choice of
line color--whatever it is--is probably a
perfectly correct one.

Ask any member of the legion of black-
line advocates who he uses a black line, and
you'll get one answer. "It doesn't show in
the water. " And it doesn't... to be fisherman. Fresh water appears dark when
viewed from above, and a black line seems
to blend into this dark background. Light
colored lines, on the other hand, stand
out like neon lights to the human eye.

But what about the fish? How do lines
look to them? No one can say for sure, but
the evidence presented by Nature's system
of protective coloration seems to indicate
that white lines may be less visible to the
fish than black ones!

Look at the top-minnows, shiners, and
other fish that swim near the surface of
the water. They are light colored,
frequently silverly or golden, but invariably
light. Presumably, this coloration blends
well with the sky and the brightly lighted
surface water, making these fish less notice-
able to the hungry gamefish cruising underneath.

Forage fish, like catfish, suckers, and
tone clubs, stay close to the bottom and
are of dark, somber hues. These fish swim
below the gamefishes, and their dark color
blends with the mud, rocks, and weeds so
as to camouflage them from the would-be
assailants.

Notice, too, that all fish are rather dark
colored on their backs, with a gradual
lightening on the sides to white, or near white, on the underside. This is Nature's method of rendering fish inconspicuous
to enemies both above and below them, and
Nature certainly knows how to take care of her

Audubon Society Issues Centennial Wildlife Stamps

A flamingo strolling along a mud flat, ivory-billed woodpeckers with white
grubs, and a snowy owl against a blue-black sky are a few of the dramatic sub-
jects portrayed in the full-color Audubon Centennial Stamps recently issued by
the National Audubon Society.

John B. Baker, president of the Society,
says, "These beautiful miniatures of Audu-
bon's most colorful paintings are published
to commemorate the centennial of the
naturalist's death in 1851. His bird por-
traits have never before been reproduced in stamp form."

The Audubon Society recommends that the Audubon Centennial Stamps, consisting of
24 miniatures to a set, be used to deplo-
rate letters, envelopes and packages "in order that Audubon paintings will receive

from one to the other every 10 cent, has
given me no reason to prefer one color over
the other. Each took its share of fish under
conditions of fast as well as slow fishing.
Each failed to produce under poor fishing
conditions. My personal opinion, therefore,
is that line color has little or nothing to do with
success or failure in bait casting. (My experi-
ences were conducted with small diameter line of 10-lb. test. Color, however, conceivably make a difference in heavier
line.)

Fish can probably see a line, even a small diameter one, no matter what color it
is. Recent experiments have demonstrated that
even the higher mammals have to take a
back seat to fish when it comes to dis-
inguishings form, and this entails an eye
for detail. In these tests, fish were taught to
recognize the difference between a circle
during the Centennial Year the public at-
tention which they merit."

Proceeds from the sale of Audubon Stamps will be devoted to the conservation work
of the National Audubon Society. They are
above the rate of two sets for one dollar and are available either from the
headquarters of the Society at 1000 Fifth
Avenue, New York 28, N. Y., or from the
local Audubon organizations throughout the

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IT IS AN ECONOMIC NECESSITY

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April 1951

21
PADDLING YOUR OWN CANOE
(Continued from Page 2)

J.STROKE
Even this, however, is not the way the expert does it. Watching such a paddler, you will see that he begins to bend his body when about half-way through the stroke, and so forces the blades of his paddle to the rear of his boat so that the blades face aft throughout the power drive. At the end of the stroke, when the rear of the boat is opposite the tip, the blade is slipped edgeways out of the water, and the whole way from the canoe and paddle forward for the next "catch of water", with the leading edge of the blade tilted up to "move more easily in the water..."

The backwater stroke is the opposite of the bow stroke and is used to stop a canoe under way or to reverse direction. Reaching back, with the top hand low, the flat of the blade is placed on the water. Press downward on the lower hand and pull back on the top hand until the paddle is vertical.

To go astern, repeat the stroke as an opposite of the bow stroke, taking the paddle out where the bow stroke usually goes.

SWEEP STROKES
If you want to turn the canoe, you can do "sweep" in a similar way with your paddle, instead of keeping the stroke close alongside (Figures 3-4). If the bow-man is on his left side, and the turn is to be made toward the RIGHT, he can sweep a wide arc to the right from the bow, or a storm can get the same result while paddling on his right side, by doing only one-quarter of a "sweep", from 'way back to partially forward. By combining these bow and stern strokes, a very tricky turn can be made toward the right.

To make a LEFT turn under the above conditions, the stern-man (paddling right side) can execute the wide arc of the "sweep" stroke, from the bow and stern side (Figures 3-4). For this, he holds his paddle in the position about 45° to his left, with its blades edgeways to the surface of the water, then he dips it partially, and holds firmly against the opposite pollution. He has, in effect, put a wedge into the water near the front end of the canoe, and thus gives the canoe a left turn. With a little practice he can do it smoothly and unobtrusively, but it should be performed only at once in a while.

DRAW AND PUSHER STROKES
There is only one other maneuver which is commonly used in canoeing for the beginner to know, and it is a most interesting one. This is the "draw" and "pusher" stroke, where the canoe is in the only craft in which this maneuver can be done effectively. The "draw" stroke and "pusher" stroke which is put in the opposite direction (Figures 5-6).

To do a "draw" stroke, try to "push" the center of the paddle directly away from the side of the canoe. Then, as you dip the blade into the water, you pull toward the canoe with your lower hand, and press in the opposite direction with your upper hand. As the canoe moves toward the paddle, and before the paddle-sluff touches the side of the canoe, press your upper hand down, and then upward to make the paddle pivot in your lower hand and the blade of it becomes edgeways to the water. Then repeat the stroke. Do not try to pull your paddle vertically out of the water, or you may be in trouble. Also, do not pull the stroke with both hands, or you will get one hand on the other—lower hand pulling, upper hand pushing.

The "pusher" stroke has exactly the opposite sequence. The paddle is initially held close to it, and parallel with, the length of the canoe edgeways into the water. By lifting with the upper hand, the blade cuts edgeways deep into the water.
SHIMMERING SHAD
(Continued from Page 61)

bucks are not nearly so tasty as the roe fish. A 4-1/2 female would supply any average family with a lavish feast. Why not RELEASE all the males, and keep only enough roe fish to serve a few plates of Shad taste better when kept alive in the wells found in most rental skiffs. If you are driving any distance, keep only the lower two-thirds. These helpful hints may help do away with the foolish, wasted hauls of shad that are common practice at Lemon Bluff. Incidentally, Dr. A.M. Winchester, head of the biology department at State University, has identified the shad taken by sports fishermen at Lemon Bluff as the common, or white, shad. This is in contrast to the sporty, but relatively undesirable, hickory shad, a very close relative, that also inhabits the St. Johns River. There are few people in Florida who can claim an angling first.” Webster demonstrated the lack of for discovering and developing shad trolling in the DeLand area. In fact, the Junior Chamber of Commerce has made him an honorary life member for his work along these lines. Shad fishermen themselves have paid their own particular tribute. Webster chose 11 families who tended their winter stay at DeLand in order to remain and fish for shad. No wonder his tenants are happy about their new “industry.” No wonder they are so enthusiastic about the Annual Silver Shad Tournament, an event that took place this year on March 28.

There’s one thing that has not yet been attempted to any degree. That’s casting for shad, instead of trolling. If you locate a school that offers fast action, why not try sinking a fly? Better still, why not attach a head-loaded spinning lure, say one with white bucktail trim? Perhaps you’ll not win first prize during the tournament, but you may also start a refinement of shad fishing that is ready a dandy one.

Shad fishing in Florida is so new that there are no holds barred in the line of technique. Anything goes for the shimmering silver streaks of fighting fish that are shad. — END

FISCAL REPORT
GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 28, 1951

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
FLORIDA WILDLIFE
AUGUST ISSUE, 1951

| Total Paid Subscriptions | 20,252 Copies |
| Total News Stand Sales  | 25            |
| Total Unpaid Subscriptions: Exchange, etc. | 375 |
| Overage—Single Orders, File Copies, etc. | 848 |
| Total Press Run         | 21,500 Copies |

(Sequences from March 20, 1951)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
APRIL, 1951

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TELEPHONE 319
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General Line Hardware — Fishing Tackle
BAIT, GUNS AND AMMUNITION
WANDER INN
CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA
CABINS — BOATS — GUIDES
Hunting and Fishing Information
Packer Motor Company
Crystal River, Florida
TELEPHONE 241
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GOWERS CORNER
Information of us 24 fl. 48 fl. 4 fl.
Deposits of Fishing Licenses, Bait, and Tackle with Retaliations

24
IT'S THE SURF FOR ME
(Continued from Page 11)

so of lead, bait, hooks and leaders sailing far out over the waves.
It sounds difficult, but it's comparatively simple. Anyone, young or old, male or female, sickly or healthy, can learn to cast simply by watching action and then trying out a similar cast on a lonely expanse of beach away from your neighbors, friends and family.

But enough of this talk. If you really want to go surf-fishing, put your hand on mine for a moment and let's go down to the surf.

Clothes? Don't be silly! Wrap a towel around your waist, for all I or anyone else cares. One of the beauties of surf fishing is that nobody cares much what you wear or do.

Tackle? That's easy. A borrowed surf rod loaded with 8- to 10-pound line, a homemade calcutta rod, a hunk of 9 mm steel leader wire, two 6/0 hooks and a 5 oz. lead sinker is all that you need this trip. Anything more in the line of tackle is a waste of time and pocketbook.

Ready? Then let's be gone to the surf.

You can always tell when you near the surf. It fills the very air about you. Its voice is beating in your ears. Its long, languid plashes at your nostrils and the back of your throat. Its brilliant coloring dins the eye.

Ah, Surf! The beautiful rolling, pounding surf, capped with white and green with bits of seaweed.

But you are going to use surf gear until you've walked the expanse of lonely beach for a while, looking for that perfect spot in which to start. As you walk, the clean sand glistens under your nostrils and you see the feet of the heels. The strong seawater savages you off course so far that when you wish to look back on your long, lonely trek, it reminds you of the wandering path of a Saturday-nightearable.

And, likely as not, Mother Sea gets in a game of tickle of battle by sending her rolling surf up to bite at your ankles as you dreamily gaze about you.

Well, no need to worry about that. You'll be well to the tops of your towed before you're through with this day.

Purpose of the preliminary walk up the beach is to study the surf closely so that you have a fair idea of where the fish are located, or might be located. This is a good trick, if you can do it. The trouble is that, as a surf caster, you are at the mercy of the elements. You are matching wits with Nature, herself. Everything thing about you—the wind, surf, sand, tide, and sky, and all the living creatures in them—have an immense effect on the result or not whether or not you will catch fish today.

Most surf-men favor the period of time running from late incoming tide through high tide of high tide to early outgoing tide, especially when this occurs in the early morning or late evening.

Condition of the very water before you is also important. Best signs of all is to see a brisk surf which has a fair amount of whitecaps and frothy water, and a minimum of rolled sand and seaweed. If you should also chance to see small baitfish, shrimps, snails or seaweeds in such water, you are in luck, for this is a place where the gamefish may line up for cho at high tide.

The wind should be from behind or from either side, to make casting easier. You have to be a pretty good surf-man to catch fish in the high wind, but you can try it.

While you're walking along, watch for wrecks, reefs, rocks and other obstructions in the water that might be hindrances to a good surf-fishing.

Joe's tackle shop

JOE'S TACKLE SHOP

OUR WASTE IN WILDLIFE
(Continued from Page 7)

are used to improve hunting and fishing conditions. The automatic rice gun is a great boon to wildlife. It has enabled more people to hunt and fish by speeding up travel.

In recent years with government regulations on seasons and limits, and shooting regulations, the supply of game is still plentiful, but there seems to be less game than the last year. This is because there are all sorts of selfish few individuals who are not peering into the wet sand. String him on your hook and you're a winner. If you catch a whiting on a whiting, we'll have some more bait, and if you can catch a 'bluefin' we'll feed bits of the blue back to his cannibal brothers. If we had money in our pocket, we could add mackerel, shrimps, crabs, eels, or any other salt-water bait.

But we don't, so we'll use a sandfisk which is free for the picking. Are you ready when you're ready to cast? Just a minute and let me say that you can catch anything while you're surf-fishing. You might catch a whiting, a huge shark, a flat-sided flounder, a sharp-toothed bluefish, a line-sided snook, a bony sapper, or any other denizen of the sea. I've even heard tell of one surfer who landed a 8 ft. saltfish near Daytona Beach, but I don't know whether we should believe that or not. At any rate, one of the best features of surfing is that you can catch, and probably will catch, many species of fish.

All right, now make your first cast, long or short, as you will. Now wait. We shall see if we can't hit like an express train on a downgrade hill grade. Take off like a stuck bullet.

Brother, that's a bluefish! No other fish in the water looks like that. Take that long red rod and swing it around your hands? Bear that reel spinning its song of battle? Feel the heat of the sun on your face, the wind in your hair. That's all, Franny. You're hooked!

Pick him up fast before he disapp
BLACK BEAR weighing 100 lbs. was shot by R. E. Free, Clermont, while hunting near Lake Tracey in Lake County, just one day before close of season, according to Wildlife Officer A. P. Beal. No game-in-left, right, left to Standing.—Free; E-wild.

RICKS P 

SPORTSMAN'S PARK INN & MOTEL ISLAND, FLORIDA
On US 41, 2 1/2 miles north of Ybor, Florida, Telephone: 782-4408
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On US 41, 1 1/2 miles from Lake Week-Akoka
MODERN KITCHENETTE COUGARs

SPORTSMEN... IT'S UP TO US... —END

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
APRIL 1951

WILDFIRE was barged by W. H. Petersen, Panama City, while hunting near Rocky Creek, east of Ponce-de-La.—was not a true albino, but merely a sport, according to Edwin L. Tyson, wildlife biologist (shown above with deer). The ghost-like animal weighed 55 lbs. down, and had a 6-point rack. Three such deer were reported killed on Eglin-Field-Reservation during recent hunting season. (U. S. Army Air Force Photo.)

WILDFIRE DEER was barged by W. H. Petersen, Panama City, while hunting near Rocky Creek, east of Ponce-de-La.—was not a true albino, but merely a sport, according to Edwin L. Tyson, wildlife biologist (shown above with deer). The ghost-like animal weighed 55 lbs. down, and had a 6-point rack. Three such deer were reported killed on Eglin-Field-Reservation during recent hunting season. (U. S. Army Air Force Photo.)

Mrs. Maude Webb Passes at Tampa Home March 20th
Mrs. Maude Mayo Webb, 64, of Jacksonville and Tampa, passed away March 20 at her Tampa home after protracted illness.

Born in Richmond, Ga., Mrs. Webb had lived in Florida 30 years and was a member of the First Methodist Church. Funeral services were held in Tampa with the Rev. Forest E. Church officiating.

Surviving her are her husband, Mrs. Julius Raino, Tampa; Cecil M. Webb, Chairman of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and Tampa; and Roy E. Webb, Tallahassee.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY Observed By Oldest Conservation Group
Florida's oldest conservation organization, the Florida Audubon Society, observed its 50th Anniversary March 3, rounding out a half century of its work in protecting wild life.

In its special field, the Society has traveled a long road to its present stature. In the first decade of its existence, it tackled the fight, single-handed, for preservation of nature. As the Society grew, it threatened with extinction. In time, its efforts attracted the interest of those in official circles, and a creditable, but bringing about the first State Game Commission.

Officials and members of the State Society observed the anniversary by mapping out a program for another ten years. Part of its efforts will be devoted to increasing active and supporting memberships, it was stated.

11 Old Lady's Plea For Fish Dinner Is Granted By Dequine
A gravely ill old lady who had no one to go fishing for her received the fish dinner she craved. The fish, a pike bumps, was taken from the laboratory tanks of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The woman, Mrs. Olive C. Ward, Tallahassee, was on a salt-free diet, so she could not eat a seafood meal, and fresh-water fish can't be kept in and a Mrs. Ward, suffering from a heart ailment, said that she had been unable to have her desire satisfied.

Her daughter asked the Dequine Club for help, and John F. Dequine, chief fishermen biologist, promptly fulfilled the request from the tanks which line his office.

STICKS AND STONES (Continued from Page 3)

KEY DEER
I have been a regular reader of your magazine, although I have never subscribed which I am now going to do. I am especially interested in animal and reptile life of the world, and your magazine gives wonderful descriptive articles on Florida birds and beasts. I read the bloody tale of the (Key Deer) (January, 1950) and the Everglades Kite. It is pitiful to know that we Floridians are the cause of destruction of so many of God's beautiful creatures.

I am a pupil in Memorial Senior High School.

PATRICK ELLIOTT
Orlando

ST. JOHNS MARSHES... .am a duck hunter and have watched St. John's marshes for 15 years. Goose Commission is trying to get the little stumps cut in and the ducks and other water fowl of the marsh is not so good as a couple of thousand acres of this very marsh. Now which do you think is the" best damage 15 airboats and hunters, or the farmer who has drained a large tract and

MRS. MAUD WEBB

COTTAGES
BRAND'S COTTAGES, WITH rockng facilities, Lake Apalachee, 2 1/2 miles and half, Box 288, Tarpon Springs. Phone 2473.

REAL ESTATE—RESORTS
"WILFRED," the St. Johns River Sportsman's Paradise, fishing camp, river front homes, groves, business occasions, etc. E. J. Teobald, Greensboro, Fla.

COMPLETELY FURNISHED FISHING CAMP on Lake Apakoke. Five-man camp, 1 1/2 miles from lake. One duplex, Restaurant, sixteen meals, fees 100 per cent. Young, skilled in fishing. Price $00,000, will yield twenty five per cent on investment. Three baths, half acre property. W. G. Talton & Son, Rte 2, Apalachee, Fla.

STICKS AND STONES

(Copied from Page 3)

KEY DEER
I have been a regular reader of your magazine, although I have never subscribed which I am now going to do. I am especially interested in animal and reptile life of the world, and your magazine gives wonderful descriptive articles on Florida birds and beasts. I read the bloody tale of the (Key Deer) (January, 1950) and the Everglades Kite. It is pitiful to know that we Floridians are the cause of destruction of so many of God's beautiful creatures.

I am a pupil in Memorial Senior High School.

PATRICK ELLIOTT
Orlando

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DEADENED forever large breeding and feeding grounds.

Our marshes are disappearing, if you don't believe it make a survey west of St. John's, course and see for yourself! These people (farmers) are killing off and destroying our wildlife faster than on any of your lands. Isn't there something that can be done about this? I would like to know if you people are aware of these facts and if there is any way to preserve the marshes.

GEORGE H. LANIER
Malbone

HOG'S HOW
Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed reading Rose Allen's article "Hog's How" in the February issue. I have also enjoyed all the articles on "Know Your Reptiles."

RANDY SMITH
Greenville, S. C.

EVEN A NEWSPAPERMAN
I call FLORIDA WILDLIFE worth a buck of any man's dough, even a newspaperman. So herewith please find my check for a few subscription.

Leo Harley
Red & Con Editor
NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

FISH BAIT FOR SALE

LIVE BAIT FOR SALE—GILBERT'S HAPPY CONTENT WILDING, RED LATER WORMS—1,000 Worms, $9.00. 2,000 Worms, $10.50. Worms packed 10 to cup with ample food for two weeks. Worms shipped same day received. Prepaid—GILBERT'S FARMS, CHIEF, FLORIDA

EARTHWORM: Domesticated bymud and potatoes. Fish bait, preparation Ask for free literature. William Fackler, 1121 W. 94th St. 668, Miami 37, Fla.

RINGNECK PEACOCKS

CHICKS, WAG—Now booking orders anytime. April, May and November. R. R. 35 east. 42nd St. 450 hundred—Chicks 40 each, 42nd St. 450 south. 2. R. 3. Box 490, Osceola, Florida. Phone 5013 Black.

DAVY JONES' LOCKS

You've heard of Davy Jones Locks. You've heard of Davy Jones Locker. But what about Davy Jones Lock? These names come from the old days when pirates were a common sight in the area. Davy Jones was said to be the leader of a group of pirates who would sink ships and leave them to their fate. The name Davy Jones Lock is said to come from a battle between Davy Jones and the British Navy. Davy Jones was ultimately defeated, but the name stuck. Today, Davy Jones Lock is a popular tourist attraction, where visitors can see the remains of old ships and learn about the history of piracy in the area. Davy Jones Locker is another popular tourist attraction, where visitors can try their hand at gold panning and learn about the history of prospecting in the area.
Organizing a Tournament

In order to create and maintain interest in fishing, the St. Petersburg Winter Fishing Tournament was sponsored by the St. Petersburg Rod and Gun Club.

The idea, first originated by Al N. Taber in 1949, did not become an active plan until Taber became president of the Rod and Gun Club, in 1950, and appointed John W. Gardner as chairman of the tournament committee.

The committee first contacted all boat and bait dealers. These agreed to sponsor a booklet listing the rules, places to fish, fishing camps and parties, boats taking part, measuring stations, measure masters, and other information valuable to contestants.

No prizes or cash donations were solicited, but many sporting goods stores, hardware companies, tackle dealers, and boat operators offered their contributions.

A nominal entry fee of 50¢ was set in order to attract a large number of entries from all types of fishermen. Because of this low entry fee, the tournament was dubbed "The Poor Boys' Tournament." Each entrant received a booklet free of charge.

Tournament dates were set from January 1, 1951, through March 31, 1951. Weekly prizes were given for five species of fish selected by the judges from an approved list of 16 species. In addition, grand tournament prizes were awarded to the winners in each of the 10 classes.

Awards were made every Tuesday night at the clubhouse. Large crowds attended these meetings, and many new members joined the club as well as the tournament. Guest speakers included Bob Becker, Chicago Tribune, and other men prominent in the sports circle. Movies were shown, and free refreshments served. Conservation was particularly stressed at every meeting.

Rules were kept as simple as possible, and included:
1. Only persons excluded were judges and those who derived all or part of their living from the fishing industries.
2. A membership card had to be obtained by each entrant before a fish was caught.
3. All fish had to be taken on conventional tackle—no spears, nets, etc.
4. Fish were measured from tip of nose to fork of tail. This eliminated trouble over weights and disputed scales. In a previous tournament, held by another organization, weights were used and there were many protests, some scales were found to be incorrect by several pounds.
5. Salt-water fish eligible were: Tuna, redfish, bluefish, mackerel, black grouper, red grouper, red snapper, cobia, yellow, sheepshead and mangrove snapper. Fresh-water species included black bass, crappie, perch, bream, and shellfish.
6. All entries were certified by a measurer at one of the 35 measuring stations.

Certified registration cards were filled out and mailed to tournament headquarters not later than 48 hours after a fish was caught. Winners were selected by three judges, and notified when their prizes would be awarded.

Very little difficulty was encountered in staging this tournament. It was noted that more people were fishing, and more fish were caught, than during any previous year. Part of the educational program of the tournament was: "Release all small trout," and "Keep only enough to eat."

Perhaps there are other cities and clubs in Florida which are interested in running similar tournaments this year, or next year. If so, information may be obtained from Charlie Kruse, St. Petersburg Independent, St. Petersburg, Florida.
There's something new under the Florida sun... the finest, most luxurious resort of its kind in the nation! On the interior you live in an atmosphere equal to the Waldorf. Outdoors you are in one of the world's most famous fishing and hunting grounds. Paradise Point is newer than tomorrow... open for your inspection and reservations. Here's a sight you won't want to miss... be sure to see it!