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FLORIDA WILDLIFE AUGUST, 1951

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Tallahassee, Florida

For the Conservation, Restoration, Protection of Our Game and Fish

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Copyright, 1935, by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.
I had just finished my afternoon's fishing in the St. Johns near DeLand, and was all set to take off for New Smyrna Beach when I heard an argument between two fellows down by the water's edge. Looking around, I figured one of the men was perhaps 70 years old and the other about 30. And of all the things to argue about on a hot summer day, they were apparently disagreeing about hunting while they beached their boat.

"Are you kidding?" bellowed the oldtimer. "I've never been no huntin' like they was in the old days. Why they used to be so many deer and turkeys, we could just can't find a thing in these here woods, and if you call in my rifle. That sport is dead now, just as dead as a dodo I tell you!"

"Why you crazy old fool," exclaimed the young fellow, "we've got game in these woods that will bring you no end of fun and enjoyment. All you've got to do is go out and find it. Remember," he added, "They won't hunt like they used to in the old days." And he smiled as he said, "the deer and turkey, and quail too, have learned a lot since the time you were a youngster."

Yep, the hunting—and fishing too—of years gone by still cloud the minds of many oldtimers in Volusia County, but there also remains another train of thought in present hunters and anglers in this section who insist that the county abounds with all types of game and fish that mean vacations of enjoyment for sportsmen from all over the country at this inland and coastal area of Florida.

A county of three sportman diversions—fresh water fishing, salt and surf water fishing, and hunting—Volusia is a paradise of activity for the out-of-doors person, whether he be a rod and reel specialist or an expert in tracking down game in the woods and fields.

A survey through this area promises good luck for the angler who casts his tackle in any of the many fresh water rivers and lakes in this area, seeking bass and bream and shad. Then too, the salt water areas are crowded with tarpon, channel bass, drum, king mackerel and almost every other deep sea fish known to man. One needs only to see the take of the various fishing camps and charter boats to realize that this is no idle boast, but one of definite promise to those changing their luck in the waters of Volusia County.

While the fishing is good, there is much more to be said about hunting prospects for next fall, with an unusually large amount of deer and turkey roaming the woods and forests. In some sections, quail are seen all about, and in the southwest portions of the county, a walk through the fields and strips of woods along pasture lands reveals coyotes of quail just waiting for the start of the season.

FRESH WATER FISHING

The slogan, "fresh water fishing," is synonymous with fishing for the largemouth black bass of Florida. The St. Johns River from Lake George at the northwest end of Volusia County to Lake Harney at the southeast and is unquestionably the premier black bass stream of America. These bass are taken under circumstances that are the most exciting to be encountered anywhere.

The main reason for bass staying in the St. Johns is the food supply, and from their eyes it's the best that nature has to offer. In the winter, menhaden, shad and herring come up this river to spawn. This is but a shadow of the bass as they follow the spawning fish upstream. After spawning, they return to the ocean, and the black bass gather at what are known as striking grounds and feed on these fish in repulsion.

The more prominent striking grounds on the St. Johns are on the west shore of Lake George, Beacon No. 7 just north of Ashor, Lake Dexter, Devil's Slough, Cañofish Bend, Blue Springs, Wekiva River, Leon Woff, and Lake Harney. At these places, any lure looking like a menhaden will invite a crashing strike from bass and any plug or spoon having flash or color that might attract a bass to the surface will be vigorously attacked.

Evidence of the big salt water fish landed in deep sea fishing off Volusia County shores.

Seven large channel bass recently taken in the Pass de Leon inlet near New Smyrna Beach.
For HUNTING FUN
Know YOUR GUN!

Personal comfort influences successful hunting. Too lightweight, luster system cotton clothing and undetected powder bagger (with fine, flexible wire mount), and suitable turret, together, make for personal comfort and safety.

S U R M I S T R Y few hunters take to the fields and woods knowing exactly where and how their rifle and shotgun will shoot. More game is missed each season, for this one reason alone, than from any other cause.

You will shoot best with a gun whose features and idiosyncrasies you know intimately. The other extreme is the firearm that may be borrowed for a hunt. A borrowed rifle, especially, is seldom sighted-in for the borrower, no matter what success the owner may have enjoyed. You need a gun adjusted to you and to your selected ammunition, ready to do its job if you do yours.

Though it may seem logical, sight-in a rifle for the exact range you expect to kill your Florida squirrel, turkey, deer or bear, ballistics don’t work out that way. The secret is to sight-in your rifle to best take advantage of that all-important factor, bullet trajectory, so that you can expect to make killing shots on game at both short and long ranges without changing sights settings, or having your bullet hit high or too low. If that doesn’t make sense, then sup-

pose we examine the following case history:

Last hunting season a hunting ac-

quaintance served his 270 Winches-

ter at 100 yards, the range he figured his shots at deer would be made. His load was the 150 grain bullet; the rifle scope-equipped. The day he got his one and only shot at a deer the animal was quite close to 250 yards away—not 100 as he expected would be the case—but, fortunately, from his viewpoint, it was a shot in the clear, a shooting, relaxed animal. The hunter took the shot from a steady, steady position, but with the report the deer bounded off, with no indication of being hit. Why?

The trouble was largely in the tra-

jectory of the bullet, alone with the size of the target area, which, in the case of a deer, represents a variance of from 14 inches to an extreme of 20, depending on the size of the animal and measured from bottom of brisket to up of shoulder. The 150 grain load, fired from a rifle previously served to hit dead-center at 100 yards, dropped some 10 inches over the distance between rifle muzzles and the point of aim. This uncompensated error, added to whatever imperfection that may have existed in aim at the moment of firing, resulted in a miss, even though the hunter later claimed to have held mid-

way between brisket and shoulder.

Had the rifle been sighted-in for dead-center impact of bullet at 225 yards, the shots taken thereafter would have been striking only three inches high of dead-center at 100 yards and only two inches low at 250 yards. Shots over either of the named ranges, with the rifle sighted-in as described, would have resulted in killing hits.

The scatter should be in mind that a bullet in flight intersects the line of flight (not to be confused with line of bore) in two places, one near near shoulder, and the second at or near the mark at which normal aim is

In addition to the figures already given for the 270, the following calibers, bullet loads and trajectories will, together, embrace just about every

[Continued on Page 20]

A Volusian and his limit of ducks.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

AUGUST, 1951

EDMUND MCLAUERN

Certified Rifle instructor — National Rifle Association & U.S. War Department

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[Continued on Page 20]
animal rifle used by Florida hunters for the taking of game:
- .30 Long Rifle (low velocity), used with metallic sights, served at 75 yards. 20 yards +30 100 yards = 90
- .44 Magnum (high velocity), used with scope sight, served at 85 yards. 100 yards +2 125 yards = 100

Begin sighting-in procedure by setting up an exercise aiming target against a safe backstop some 25 yards from rifle muzzle. Make major sight corrections at this short range before moving back to the full range.

Fire your sights shots prone, or from a steady bench rest, rifle resting on a rolled-up blanket or other soft material, contact point being slightly forward of the rifle’s trigger guard. Position of the left hand is optional; a comfortable, steady firing position is what you want, with the rifle free to recoil naturally.

Animal silhouettes targets, with aiming bull’s-eye superimposed, are practical and offer variety. They cost only a few cents.

The Coachwhip

One of the longest snakes in the United States is the coachwhip, found from North Carolina through Florida and westward to Texas and Kansas. This slender, active serpent often reaches a length of more than 7 feet, and 8-footers are occasionally found.

The coloration of the coachwhip is rather unusual. The head and neck are black, but the body is dull brown, becoming lighter toward the rear, so that the tail is pale tan or even whitish. This coloration, the large scales, and the slender form cause the snake to resemble a braided whip. The resemblance of course, occasions the common name of coachwhip.

In many parts of the South it is believed that this snake will actually whip a person. This is an absurd superstition and is completely untrue; the coachwhip is harmless to man. However, it will fight valiantly when cornered, shaking its tail to produce a rattling sound, and striking rapidly. Its small teeth produce only scratches; the bite is entirely non-poisonous.

By ROSS ALLEN and WILFRED T. NEILL
Ross Allen's Reptile Inst., Silver Springs

(Author of a series of authoritative articles written exclusively for FLORIDA WILDLIFE about the reptiles Florida sportmen are apt to encounter.—Ed.)

AUGUST, 1951
Hunting and Fishing
IS BIG BUSINESS

The Article published in Sports Afield in 1947, on business volume in sportmen's spending, slugged "How much time do they and just how much time our fellow outdoor people as being "sentimentalists, dreamers and crackpots" and of no economic importance, whenever we stand against misuse of our natural resources. The economic status of hunting and fishing is something to carry weight. That article has been used many times, arguing in dollar terms against destructive exploitation of our natural wealth and damage to our hunting and fishing.

Several good reasons exist for bringing up to date the data regarding business which rests on our fish and game. Conditions, until recently, have been more nearly normal than in the period covered by the 1947 analysis. A better picture of how great this sportman's business has been is available now than probably will be possible in some years ahead.

Also, our remaining woods, waters, forests, fields and wildlife are in greater danger from profit-bent gen-try now than at any previous time. Herefore those who would exploit our natural wealth for personal profit might try to scuff conservationists out of court by jeering at such "nature lovers." Now some who are just as bent on personal profit will cloak themselves with the virtues of "national defense," as they attempt raiding of natural resources.

If we have to talk in dollar terms against wrecking some of the essentially intangible things we would defend, the current status of sportman's business can furnish us one type of effective arguments against ravishing exploitation.

The 1947 analysis showed that the sportmen's annual expenditures approached $4,000,000,000. That, when compared to U. S. Department of Commerce records, was greater than all sales by retail drugstores, more than double the take of retail liquor stores, about four times the business of jewelry stores, and more than the income of all gasoline filling stations.

What sportmen spent was double the value of all crops on farms, eight times the reported value of all sheep in the nation, and approximately half the capital value of all cattle.

That was the case with business boom and sportmen not yet back to normal activities.

It was certainly that any survey of what sportmen spend is indicated the 12 months just before we were declared in a national emergency at a higher level than in 1947. The question was just how much greater the sportman's segment of business might prove to be.

In 1945, during war, 7,846,168 fishing licenses, 7,500,328 hunting licenses were sold in all states. By 1947 each type had topped 12 million. In January, 1946, Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman announced that between July 1, 1945, and June 30, 1946, 12,756,695 hunting licenses and 15,476,570 fishing licenses had been issued in the United States.

In addition to the license holders, millions of youngsters, veterans, pess- ioners and others go afield without permits being required of them. Millions more enjoy salt-water fishing with no license necessary. How great this other fishing may be is indicated by the million plus California sportsmen — California is the only state licensing salt-water anglers — who bought $3 sea fishing licenses in 1949.

The number of fishermen and hunt- ers which we need not estimate has been more leisure time to enjoy these sports. That meant more things pur- chased. Costly recreational facilities have climbed above 1947 levels. We know with certainty that sportmen's business is greater today.

Canvasing 28 million license hold- ers to find what they had spent was impossible. What was needed was an index of average outlay per individual, which could be applied to all. That would supply a reasonably sounder average to the totals outdoorsmen spend.

All such data of studies made by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, all states' data bearing on this subject, voluminous information from other reliable sources were gathered. The Wildlife Management Institute and Inak Walton League co-operated. I sent out questionnaires to reach some 2,000 sportmen, asking what they spent in 12 months past.

This survey probably does not ap- proach the accuracy of some of the big national opinion polls. It does supply an index to sportman spending.

The questionnaire answers were dotted down in 25 columns on big sheets and averaged. Executively skilled and common laborers, students, farmers, office workers, all sorts of occupational categories were repre- sented. As the mail brought these replies, stack after stack, the federal and state data were searched. Even in partial figures in these data there was indication of the level at which sportmen's spending would be estab- lished.

Resident North Dakota hunters spent approximately $120 each in 1948 as they gunned for migratory water-fowl and upland game. That year these hunters channeled about $6,500,000 into business of the state. Nonresident hunters left 100 each in the state. No cost of travel to North Dakota, capital investment, other proper expenses were included in the latter figure.

Seth Gordon reports 1,500,000 Cal- ifornia sportmen, at an average annual outlay of only $100 each, plus spending by marine anglers, produced $200,000,000 worth of business. Cap-

ized at 4 per cent, the wildlife re- sources of California are thus worth $5 billion annually.

Back in 1947, Ohio's sportmen reg- istered an average cost for their fish- ing of $66.95, hunters of $41.88. Total Ohio business for that year stood at $71,576,850 — and in 1949 the total was probably more than double that.

Kentucky's records of 1949 sports- man spending showed hunters buying an average of $181.28 in equipment and services, fishermen $61.58 and a total of over $58,000,000. New Mexico reported resident fishermen spending an annual average of $122,534, non- resident anglers, $71,67.

Doubleng to tripling in average spending is reported by data from Wyoming. In 1943, resident hunters spent $127.65 and nonresidents, $108.67. In 1949, residents were spending $174.28; nonresidents $280.61.

The Fish and Wildlife Service still figures it cost $75 to bag an antelope, $160 to bring in a deer or bear, $50 for elk, $350 for moose. It estimates each pound of bigmouth bass, walleye, and northern pike cost $7; trout and smallmouth $5. It has raised the cost of ducks to $6 each, of goose to $6 each.

These were figures on only portions of what sportmen spend. If they spend at this rate for segments of fishing and hunting, the inclusive

(Coontinued on Page 27)
A '{\textit{bonito}}' poised motionlessly on the edge of aยว鰻's patch. Small minnows were swimming out of the water just beyond the {\textit{bonito}}'s effective feeding range. A bass was working under the minnows. The egret was waiting with infinite patience for the minnows to get a few inches closer. In spite of an empty stomach, he made no false move... an expert fisherman.

Two bass fishermen in a rowboat 40 feet from shore also noticed the fish sign. One immediately cast his lure into the agitated small fry, Swoosh, and the bass was hooked. The minnows dashed for hiding places.

The egret straightened up, looked at the men in the boat, and let out an enraged squawk. Then, with an ungraciously flop, he took to the air and circled the rowboat, giving voice to righteous indignation. Still expressing his wrath, he left for a less obnoxious fishing area.

Brother, that bird had a right to squawk! He was there first. He was using a masterly technique. He was interfering with no one else’s sport. But two thoughtless bass fishermen had ignored common fishing courtesy, and sulminated the fishery.

The fisherman playing the bass was an oldtimer. He knew what the secret was entitled to be saying about the incident, and he mentally replied: "Mister, I'm sorry. That was a filthy, dirty trick. I hope I observe things more closely next time, and never again ruin an expert's fishing spot."

How many times have you seen it happen? With a whole lake to fish in, and good fishing everywhere, a fisherman sees a catch of fish, moves hurriedly over to your spot, heaves out an anchor with a water-quaking splash, asks you what plug you are using, and then backlashes all over your fishing area? As a result, neither of you get any more fish.

There is good courtesy in fishing, and yet, there is courtesy that isn't so good. You can be courteous and ruin some good fishing by moving made with the best of intentions. And, as an opposite of good courtesy, there is bad courtesy, to never disturb another's fishing spot in any way, what-so-ever.

Large schools of Spanish mackerel were in Tampa bay and the edge of the lower platform of St. Petersburg's million dollar pier was lined with fishermen who stood elbow to elbow. Cage poles were so numerous that the scene resembled a windblown cane jungle. Thin lines and small bobbers rippled through the waves. Cans, cartons and buckets of white and glass minnows dotted the platform.

Every few minutes someone would let out a whoop and a cane pole would bend violently. The line would swing around a second or two and then, the fisherman with a healthy bait would sail a tail-beating mackerel over his head into the crowd of watchers standing behind the fishermen. Everyone was having a wonderful time.

Suddenly, far down the pier, the water boiled, over a large area. The gulls screamed and dove into a huge school of frenzied white minnows that were being erupted into the air. Someone yelled, "{\textit{Bonito}}!" The fishermen frantically baited with their largest minnows.

The lashing water got closer. And then, the bonito hit the baits. Lines snarled, tangled and broke. Pole cracked, but, here and there, was an exciting "Plomp" and a bonito would hit onto the platform.

One frail young lady, a veteran fisherman, stood motionless, her eyes shining, her pole quivering with suppressed excitement. She had fished for years for a moment like this; to have a bonito on a cane pole.

Her pole smacked the water. She shrieked, "I've got one!" Then, she settled back to play the fish with her measurer outfit. Nerves ailing, she was one bundle of "thrill" from head to toe.

A man, a big man, rushed from the crowd and threw his arms around her and grabbed her pole. Her arms were pinned helpless. The man heaved back on the girl and the pole. The line broke. No mackerel line could stand a strain like that.

The man looked blankly at the empty pole and then, lamely said, "I was scared he'd pull you in." The young lady, with tears of disappointment streaming from her cheeks,辅助 and then very quietly said, "Thank you."

The bonito were gone. Her long awaited opportunity was gone. Every honest-to-goodness, fisherman could see what that thoughtless bout had done to that girl. An assist, if it had been requested would have been a fishing courtesy. In this case, the man's act was an ignorant, thoughtless and givable discourtesy. So, make it a rule to never grab another's fishing equipment unless so requested. That is fishing courtesy.

Jim Dyre's brother was down for a visit to Florida. He wanted to go out fishing, so, Jim took him out in the back yard and they practiced hand casting at a target. Jim explained that in fishing from a kicker boat it is necessary to cast and hand for three reasons:

First, overhand was the only safe way to cast when two were fishing from the same boat. Second; one could get more accuracy with overhand casting. Third; one wouldn't be so likely to force a cast, and back-lash. Jim said that it was no fun in a boat picking out back-lashes when fish were fishing. They agreed to meet at the boat dock the next morning for the trip.

Jim was there early! The kicker, full of gas, was on the boat. The lunches, anchor, gaff hook, extra gasoline, fishing tackle and all gear, were shipshape when Jim's brother appeared with a friend in tow. The brother introduced the friend, and said, "He wants to go with us and I told him it was all right.

Jim was skeptical but hated to be rude to either his brother or the friend's brother, so they took off for the fishing grounds several miles away.

On the way, the men rigged their rods, and as soon as the anchor was casing-over on the fishing grounds, the men started to cast. The friend had the method. The brother sat on the bow. Jim casually remarked, but with concern, "You boys have casting troubles. There isn't room for any other kind of a cast."

The man in the middle, unconcerned, the man in the middle, with anything except getting a plug cast to the fish said, "Oh, I always do all right like this."

Jim, with a grin at the pale and perspiring fishermen, proceed to cut out the gangbox with some difficult jack-knife surgery.

It wasn't a sight for squamish stomachs, but, there were no more side-winding casts made that day. And, never again will Jim's brother invite a friend to go fishing with Jim without an invitation. (Continued on Page 25)
What F.F.A. Means to Me

BY BOBBY WOODWARD

Two of the biggest thrills in Bobby’s entire life came last June when he received the top award in Florida from the Future Farmers of America in Soil and Water Conservation. His speech on an important problem in agriculture took second place in the State F. F. A. Public Speaking Contest.

Receiving this award has caused him to look back to the time before he knew what scientific farming meant and to examine the steps necessary to take in carrying out his farm program. This led to his understanding of the importance of conservation in the use of land for crops, game, timber, and pasture. Then too he has placed a high value on the part that water takes in irrigation and supplying fish and recreation for future generations.

WHAT IS THIS ORGANIZATION CALLED FFA? What does it do? Who belongs? What makes an FFA member unique? What can I get out of it? Why join? In the fall of 1946 these questions faced me for I was a 14-year-old boy ready to enter high school. My life up to that time had been that of an average farm boy. I was born in Quincy May 1, 1935, the first child of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Woodward, Jr. When I entered the 8th grade I joined the FFA not fully realizing the significance of these questions.

During the first year of agriculture my project was a steer which brought me an income of $116.31. The following year I had 90 head of poultry and another steer. The combined income from these projects was $146.66. During my third year of agriculture, I had begun to understand the import of the questions which had faced me as a green hand in the FFA. That year I expanded my project program to include 50 head of poultry, 2 head of hogs, 8 head of cows, 1 acre of corn and 1 acre of shade tobacco, with a profit of $1,257.20. Last year I had 9 head of cows, 1 acre of corn and 1 acre of shade tobacco. From that year’s work I realized an income of $1,430.50. During the past year I had 1 hog, 13 head of cows, 5 acres of corn and 2 acres of shade tobacco.

The total income for the 1st 4 years of agriculture was $2,594.51. As yet my records are incomplete on this year’s income.

An FFA member needs to have many interests to make him well-rounded. Some of the activities in which I participated were as follows: I served as president of the Quincy FFA my senior year, and reporter one year. In the State FFA contests I won 3rd place in Public Speaking last year and 2nd this year; chairman of the Farm Safety committee which won 1st place last year; 2nd place in the Reef Breeding award last year; 2nd in the Soil and Water Management Award last year and I won first place this year, receiving a $100 award. For 3 years I have served as a member of the Parliamentary Procedure team; and for 2 years I was a member of the hay, grain and forage judging team which went to Tampa. To me the greatest honor I have received was being elected as 2nd Vice-president of the State Association of FFA. Last year I was a member of the Farm and Presbyterian Council and president of the Presbyterian Young People’s group. During my senior year I maintained a 90 average and have received 2 honorable mentions for my grades in other years. For 3 years I was a member of Student Council, lettered 3 years in football and was a member of “Q” club for 3 years.

This fall I plan to enter the University of Florida where I hope to major in Agriculture. Like most farm boys I love farm life and plan to come back home and continue my farming when I leave the University.

Back in my first year of Vocational Agriculture I learned the FFA Creed and the contents of it have never left my mind. The first paragraph of this creed expresses the foundation upon which our entire organization is based, and the principles to which I try to adhere. It is as follows—“I believe in the future of farming with a faith born not of words but of deeds—achievements won by the present and past generations of farmers; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.”

Now, as never before, the answers to those questions which concerned me at the beginning of my FFA career come to me clearly and distinctly. What is this organization known as the FFA? Why, it is a national organization of just about the best farm boys on earth. What makes an FFA member different from other farm boys? It is their faith in the future of agriculture and their application of practical leadership in channels of their communities.

Now in these years of stress and poverty, the American farmers are not only having to support our people but the burden of the masses of starving people all over the world is heaped upon their shoulders. Because of this, the American farmer now has to be a well-trained, hardworking man. The future of the world lies in his hands. This is the reason I believe that scientific knowledge as well as common farm sense is essential in the farmer of today. The organization of the Future Farmers of America is striving to meet this need as the members live by their motto: “Learning to do Doing to learn, Living to serve.”
It's said that an ambition of every family in America is to have one of its members become a president, but a family here in Florida has done more than that—it has two presidents. This is their story.

An unusual example of family cooperation in working for Florida's Wildlife conservation program came to light recently when it was learned that Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Bailey of Miami were both presiding officers of various outdoor organizations in the Dade County area.

Mindful of the achievements of various conservation projects and remembering the plentiful supply of fish and game in bygone years, both husband and wife have combined their efforts to get organizations, groups and individuals to adopt conservation measures to protect the state's natural resources.

Present positions for the Bailey family include President of the Dade County Conservation Council, Vice-President of the Florida Wildlife Federation, and the Board of Governors of the Dade County Sportsman's Club for Mr. Bailey, and President of the first women's conservation club in Florida for Mary Lee, his wife.

But the start of their love of hunting and fishing and conservation started when A. D. and Mary Lee were young people.

Born on a farm in the State of West Virginia, Mr. Bailey spent the majority of his boyhood days hunting and fishing in a time when pastimes were really fruitful with ample supply for those indulging in the sport.

After finishing high school, Bailey entered Temple University in Pennsylvania where he wrote many articles on wildlife for the college periodical. He hunted game in that state and New Jersey while at Temple. Shortly after his graduation in the early twenties, conservation programs were inaugurated by the two states and A. D. enrolled in several clubs and assisted them in their programs.

Coming to Florida in 1931, Bailey noticed that the "Sunshine State" was encountering the same problems as Pennsylvania with reference to the depletion of game and fish, and he pitched in to lend his assistance.

The most outstanding club at that time was the Dade County Sportsman's Club. Bailey was a member for a number of years, later was elected president in 1949, and re-elected to the same spot in 1949 and 1950.

In time other clubs were started and A. D. and Mary Lee soon enrolled in them, not as social members, but as working members, giving the benefit of their experiences of past conservation ideas, problems and solutions to the newer organizations.

A. D. served as director of the Florida Wildlife Federation several years before he joined this group and is now Vice-President, a position he has held since 1949. He attends all meetings of the Federation both as an official of the group and a delegate of the Dade County Sportsman's Club.

He was also president of the Dade County Sanitary Association during 1949 which started a drive, with successful results, to get Miami to build a sewerage system and discontinue dumping into Biscayne Bay.

While not a member of all the organizations her husband belonged to, Mary Lee did assist her husband in all of his work, attending many of the meetings, and hunting and fishing with him. Born and raised on an Alabama farm, she also has enjoyed the life of an outdoor sportswoman since she was a child.

She was elected secretary of the first women's conservation club of Florida when it was founded in Dade County in 1950 and was honored this January by being elected president of that group.

As she explains it, "I enjoy dove, quail and squirrel hunting along with my husband which probably accounts for my interest in conservation. Fishing has also been one of my favorite sports. My record catch was ADB (A. D. Bailey)."

After working together for so many years, Mr. and Mrs. Bailey do not intend to stop their efforts in conservation, rather as A. D. said, "We expect to keep on and do even more wonderful results in the wildlife and natural resources program this year."

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

GOLD MINE OF GOLDEN SHINERS

Two cut down on the high cost of providing live bait for his fishing trips, to prove that the golden shiner can be successfully cultured, and to provide an independent income for the rest of his life—these are the dreams of Tom Flowers, a professional fishing guide in Volusia County.

The fulfillment of these dreams may be found in a series of eight ponds near Lake Beresford in Deland in which Tom is determined to raise adequate fishing bait for his entire section. So far he has succeeded with a present total of more than a half million shiners in his ponds.

The beginning of the story goes back several years when minnows, primarily used as bait for Florida's big fish, were becoming scarce throughout the state. Perhaps the real reason for this depletion was the increasing number of fishermen.

To meet this demand for bait, commercial dealers went from area to area seizing minnows from many of the waterways. But those caught still weren't enough. When it was made known that shiners could be caught at a particular spot, people swarmed to the place wearing down the bank of the river or lake as "slick as an otter slide" in order to get the bait, which according to many fishing authorities is the best for bass. Anglers throughout the state hoarded for more and more shiners, and as is the case with many other items, scarcity of the bait drove the price upward.

Tom Flowers, a guide for more than 31 years on the St. Johns River and several other smaller ones. Again the victory knell was sounded for the fishing guide, and just recently he had a bulldozer dig four additional ponds of several acres each on the land adjoining the first breeding plant.

Tom admits he has a secret which he's told no one about, that has resulted in his success. Maybe it's the fertilizer, it might be the food he gives the minnows or the construction of the ponds, possibly it's the artesian well he has that supplies the water.

His ponds are arranged in a series, where the babies are in one pond and the older shiners and minnows are in the other ponds. Ponds contain shiners, bullhead and minnows in sections that have a surface area of one eighth acre to two acres. All ponds which are built on sandy soil and dependant of one another are equipped with controlled inlets and outlets which means a maximum return from the fertilizer and simplifies fish removal.

When Tom starts out on a breeding place, he digs a well, then he has a 'Continued on Page 33'.
Wildlife University: July 14, 1951

The Game Commission's "Wildlife University" of 1951 got off to a
record breaking start at Williston on
June 18. Members of the graduating
class on July 14 had set an all-time high
average grade in final examinations that
covered scores of subjects ranging from
fish and game management to maintain-
ing a jeep properly. Commission Director
Ben L. McLaughlin himself described the
class as "the most outstanding of any
previous class in the three years of oper-
ating a school for wildlife officers."

Under the supervision of Chief Wild-
life Officer Francis Villar, the school is
conducted in army barracks supplied
rent-free by the City of Williston at a
nearby former army air field. The first
class was evenly divided between veteran
officers who had never before attended
training school and young officers who
have joined the Game Commission re-
cently.

School instructors are selected from
the Commission's own personnel and in
addition numerous state and federal bi-
ology and law enforcement experts offer
their services in presenting important
subjects.

The value of the schooling was best
described by a remark made by a mem-
er of the graduating class who had
served eight years as a wildlife officer.
"When I came to school I felt that I
knew all there was to know about being
an enforcement officer. But, it took only
a few days at school to convince me that
I had a lot to learn. Now that I've com-
pleted my course, I feel that I am qual-
ified to offer the public and the Game
Commission better service than ever
before."

Crime didn't pay for these two students. A Game Commission plane swooped down on them
after they were discovered "sneaking." One, door jumped overboard in an effort to escape
from pilot.

When classes end at night the students gather in their dormitory to read, write letters, or
swap yarns.

The "illegal sailors" were forced ashore and placed under arrest in the demonstration of
hunting down law-breakers.
VOLUSIA COUNTY

(Continued from Page 6)

being hooked from the month of February until summer.

There are more than 15 fishing camps along the St. Johns River which provide the best fishing grounds. Many of these camps report that bass as big as 20 pounds have been taken from the bass and from skiffs, particularly during January and February when the bass make their runs up the river.

A string of lakes starting with Lake De Leon Springs and running to the St. Johns River is also an excellent fishing spot. It's in the center of Volusia County, running to the western end and includes the Springs, Spring Garden Run, Lake Woodchuck, Tick Island Run, Lake Dexter, River Run, and Lake Kissimmee. Bass, brook, bass, pike, perch, their waters are an angler's delight with the bass taking skimmers and bullheads, the bramming grabbing bread and worms, and the perch following small live minnows.

The Tomoka River and Little Haw Creek at the southern end of the county are also famous for black bass and sunfish. The former are known to hold sizeable schools of fish, and the 2000 series lakes for surface fishing with underwater spoons and pork rinds.

Fresh water fishing in Florida is marked by many number of streams, some pretty like the one about an old logging camp where the first big bass and the thermost in the stock of catching him. There are numerous such streams on the west side of the county, and the best known among them is located near the mouth of the polishing branch of the St. Johns River in the town of Lowell Hills, of DeLand, who fished all morning for shiners and took the three biggest perches from the shock of catching him. He lost the first one, but finally he landed his third he hooked a large fish, a furious battle for 10 minutes then landed a 4-footed bass.

SALT WATER FISHING

Fifty miles of beach from the north end to the southern end of the county spell delight for every angler interested in salt water fishing. That's only the coast of Volusia County and just a west of the coast there's an inland channel that runs the total length of the county giving a salt water fisherman another 40 miles of fishing to catch many types of sea fish.

While the beaches of Volusia County are admired and viewed in all their beauty by thousands of tourists every year, there is another reason, and by far the most significant, why people flock from all over the United States return to visit them again and again every year. It's the salt fishing called by many of the great fishermen, "The real fishing sport."

The Ormond Beach and Daytona Beach sections, fishermen jam the Queen, fish offshore from slips in the river and inlet and cast their lines from the piers into the fishing piers and beaches. The best season is from March until October and the cast includes everything the ocean has to offer.

And the Atlantic has a lot to offer according to guides and charter boat owners, for seldom a day goes by that the pelagic schools don't come in, both

The take of the inland channel is the same as the same as the season with channel bass being the favorite. Other varieties are snook, sea trout, whiting, and snapper. Here in the southern part of the state, the snook is king; the channel bass, the bluefish, and the sea trout are kingfishers. The sheet of drift of the sea bass, the king mackerel, and cabana, and sea bass.

Along the inland waterway are intertidal marshes, rice, redfish, drum, and the land bass. The channel bass is the most common fish taken from the area and one party from Daytona Beach recently took over 600 pounds.

New Smyrna Beach considers salt water fishing the real money maker as the annual tournaments bring in thousands of dollars. New Smyrna Beach is located about 20 miles north of Daytona Beach and the area is noted for its abundance of game fish as tarpon, albacore, bonito, and sea trout. New Smyrna Beach is also located near the mouth of the Sebastian River and is famous for its king mackerel and cabana, and sea bass.

The sea bass is the most common fish taken from the area and one party from Daytona Beach recently took over 600 pounds.

The county has two large tracts of land used as game refuge and trout fishing areas, and the deer, turkey, and quail hunting just outside these areas is the best the county has to offer. These areas are in the middle of the county and Game Warden officers are on the lookout. Nor far offshore from this town is located an excellent fishing area. The sapsucker banks and the sea bass hold an abundance of game fish like tarpon, albacore, bonito, and sea trout. The king mackerel and cabana, and sea bass.

The county has two large tracts of land used as game refuge and trout fishing areas, and the deer, turkey, and quail hunting just outside these areas is the best the county has to offer. These areas are in the middle of the county and Game Warden officers are on the lookout. Nor far offshore from this town is located an excellent fishing area. The sapsucker banks and the sea bass hold an abundance of game fish like tarpon, albacore, bonito, and sea trout. The king mackerel and cabana, and sea bass.

New Smyrna Beach is one of the best fishing areas in the county. Last month one party hooked and landed a 75 pound tarpon by trophy fishing from the flats. Others have been caught recently by using a Johnson spoon for bait.

Old Tom's Hole, a famous fishing spot, is a pool of water with a照顾 of the salt water. The pool is fed by satellite tributary streams and is located near the mouth of the Sebastian River.

The mouth of the Sebastian River is known for its king mackerel fishing, and it's the best part of the county for fishing. It's protected waters seemed to be favored by anglers because they catch many species of fish. The lake gets its name from the mouth of the Sebastian River at latitude 29° 56' 30". The fish season is from 1st November until 30th June. The fishing is best from March until June.

The Lake George pasture and woods are home to many a sportman who enjoy the thrill of catching a fish.

In the Ormond Beach area, deer and turkey will be on a par with ducks. In the county, the best of all the duck hunting districts is in the central part of the county. In fact, the best duck hunting in the country is for ducks and is located on page 15.

Well-equipped campers hold the finest duck hunting of its kind for duck hunters. In fact, the well-equipped campers hold the finest duck hunting of the country. In fact, the well-equipped campers hold the finest duck hunting of the country.

August 1951, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FINISH BLACK RASB FISHING IN THE WORLD

DELAND, the sleepy home city to east cen-
tral Florida, is only sixty miles south of Jacksonville. It is also near, 60 miles away from the Atlantic coast, 8 miles to Daytona Beach, and 16 miles to the St. Johns River. Fifty-old miles to the St. Johns River to the east. This lake is the highest lake of the At-
lantic Coast may be sought in waters as deep as 150 feet from Deland.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DELAND, FLORIDA.
Volusia County

Fishing Courtesy

(Continued from Page 13)

It is a courtesy, and an imposition, to use a good fisherman's help in one of your friends fishing.

Now, with the above incident digressed here is another courtesy rub with a sting in it: If your back-lashes average more than 12 feet when fishing, you don't belong in a boat with a good fisherman. Stay home, stick to the shore casting, or else go to your own boat until you have learned to cast.

When you can drop a plug in a 30-lb. line at 40 feet, four out of five times, for an hour without back-lashing, then you are ready to try to become a good fishing companion, but not before. A back-lashing fisherman is more odious than a cute blonde with a halo.

There are more advantages to the above rule than most people think. If you practice until you are proficient on the 40 lb. target you will have accomplished a great deal towards becoming an expert fisherman. You now will cast very accurately, one has the overhead for accuracy. You will add back-lash. You will know how far 40 feet is, and 40 feet is a good distance for average spot casting to a shoreline. You will have learned to keep from making an exact fishing spot. You will have learned not to overcast, a most important feature in fishing.

A fisherman who overcasts is continuously hanging-up in weeds, trees, brush, brush, brush, or other shoreline impediments. Big hang-ups on just one overcast means that he has not cast in shore to free the lure. Getting a fish out of the manner could ruin your best fishing spots. You want to have boats ranged into their living areas. To fish a shoreline carefully, intelligently, and effectively, you must have one person should attempt to cast at any one time. The man handling the boat has to make his first cast to make two tries to fish, so many fisherman are always generous to try to make a cast, but the other men have a fault, that if the companion has a cast, then the rest cast. The results are a failure. Every few casts a hungry fish would knock the plug sky-high, so the fish was in the jetties and no food. The rest were kept. Joe was having a wonderful time.

Several hours later, fishing having slowed to a standstill, Joe, comparatively...

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This sounds reasonable, but, again, it is amazing that both parties have the ability to anticipate the other's wishes. They may do the fishing part efficiently, but when it comes to turn manipulating the boat, they may not think of the side of the boat with the oars, run in from the fishing spot, or too far out, and in general make it a terrible deal for their partner. They have never thought how to observe the boat that was skillfully manipulated for them when they were doing the fishing.

(a) When two casts originate from the same boat, never make the same cast as the other's, especially while one man is working at the reel. This is a dis- traction to worry fish and cast at the other. Either fisherman should have all the time he needs to work his fish.

(b) When two are casting from the same boat, one from the bow and one from the stern (or rower's seat), extend an imaginary line across the center of the boat at right angles to the sides of the boat. Never cast over that imaginary line. That gives fisherman 180 degrees of the fishing area.

(c) When two men are casting from the same boat and working a shoreline curvature, each man should carefully fish about a 50 foot section of shoreline and then skip a 50 foot section so his line in the rear can also have a section that hasn’t been fished.

(d) (a), (b), and (c), can be branded good fishing courtesy. However, it’s surprising how few fishermen ever think of the thought of this kind of courtesy.

Jack and Joe were fishing for bass with surface plugs. Jack was known as a fisherman, who always caught fish. Joe seldom caught any. Jack had taken the first turn at the oars. He kept the boat nearly motionless and dropped his plug close to the shoreline-50 feet away. Jack made it his best cast to place at least 50 feet away. The results were gratifying. Every few casts a hungry bass would knock the plug sky-high, and Joe was able to eat with ease. Joe was having a wonderful time.
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Know Your Gun
(Continued from Page 21)

soave, and made of tough, briar-resistant, Zelos-derived materials. These uncracked pungent legs are usually permitted to hang free and outside and over hunting shoes, for comfort and to give an unseen rattler a loose, disorienting target.

A hunting coat and hat are two items that are optional, though a third item, the combination game and shell bag, is in the nature of a necessity here and very convenient.

Carry a small bag complete first aid kit, including a phial of 5% ammonia to quickly neutralise the effects of any brush with poison ivy or belligerent wasp, and a pockezized snakebite treatment kit of the suction type. A compass should be carried inside the pocket flap of shirt, with a pocket of paraffined-dipped matches tucked care in this same kit.

I don’t believe in a hunter loading his person with a lot of extra, cumbersome shooting accessories, but when dove shooting from a chosen stand, within short walk of farmhouse or parked car, I’ve found a bucket-seat mighty handy and comfortable, especially in wet weather. Simply cut a plywood cover to fit an ordinary 12-ga. galvanized bucket. Add a brass hinges and hasp, and a padded, plastic-covered seat pad, the latter tacked all around. Replace the metal handle with one of rope.

In use, the bucket-seat provides a low comfortable rest from which one can arise quickly, and serves as a handy place to rest for extra shells, downed birds or rain jacket. Between seasons, the bucket-seat adds to fishing pleasure.

Three other useful items in the gadget class might be mentioned to10 advantage:

Quite often, when several gunners are deployed around a large dove field, incoming birds will approach a hunter from behind, the flight possi-

Big Business
(Continued from Page 11)

figures would be far greater. As the hundreds of capibles were tallied they confirmed this assumption.

Not all those queried replied; but the lists had to be closed. The calculating machine bearings warmed up. Totals were drawn and averaged. Here are some of the general facts the analysis indicated.

Only one of our three sportsmen be- longed to any kind of conservation club. About one in three are members of local clubs. Those who report belonging to national groups also have joined a local organization. One out of seven belong to state-wide organizations, one in eight to some national group, predominantly to the National Rifle Association, which is not as active in conservation as some others.

In the listings, 20.7 per cent were executives or professional men, 20.6 were skilled laborers, 19.1 were in some phase of merchandising, 11.3 were clerical, 8.7 could be classed as laborers, and 19.7 were in other cate-

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BIG BUSINESS
(Continued from Page 27)

BLANKET, CIVET CATS, OPOSSUM, ARMADILLO, SNAKES, BIRD TURFLEST, FOREIGN ANIMALS.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

itar, comfortable, of the extreme upper-brackets. It seemed to be a fair average sampling. A few crowded all the hunting and fishing into one annual trip. Others went out every week. A few, lucky enough to be near hunting and fishing, had fun on from 100 to 300 trips afield. The average was 27 times afield.

(Continued on Page 30)

HUNTING

Tagging New Feature of Hunting Regulations

It was with deep satisfaction that I watched the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission adopt the tagging system for deer and turkey at their July 16 meeting, for the system had been one of my pet projects over the past few years.

It is in no way dependent on the size of the tag or the color of the hunting license, for the system is based on the tagging of game, including the Florida Wildlife Federation, the State Chamber of Commerce, and others.

Before it was set up, the game management division checked with 41 other states to obtain the benefit of their knowledge and experience. TWENTY-FOUR of the 41 contacted used the tagging system. The system will be used in Florida in a combination of the best features of all those now in use elsewhere.

At the meeting of the commission in which the system was adopted, there were some criticisms offered. These were, however, based on a lack of knowledge. One, to the effect that a single tag for a dog wouldn’t work because of the usual division of a dog into three or four hunting licenses, involved a misunderstanding stressed at least twice.

However, from personal experience, I can vouch for the effectiveness of the single tag system. It has been used in Massac for many years and 137,000 has worked wonderfully.

That state allows the taking of one deer of either sex in each season, and has for many years. Yet their total legal kill has now climbed to an average for the last three years of some 35,000 per year.

It is true that our total deer and turkey licenses are, and have been, increasing during the past few years. Under existing rules and regulations, and with cooperation from the sportmen, the system undoubtedly will continue that trend.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

August, 1951
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FLORIDA WILDLIFE

BIG BUSINESS
(Continued from Page 29)

There has always been a question of how many not requiring a license joined in the licensed sportmen hunted and fished. For every 100 species licensed, there were 49 other subspe-
ses or fish that hunted and hunted without licenses. Many of these were youngsters, they are sometimes as
able to bring home the game and their dad's and this does
not indicate the kids that go out on
their own.
With that in mind, here is what the fellows reported as actually spent, the categories of the questionnaire.
The figures are for a preceding 12-
month period.

Category of Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Expenditure</th>
<th>Percent Average</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ammunition</td>
<td>4.1/2.45</td>
<td>12.00/7.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns, repairing or d n major fittings such as special sights</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>55.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing rods, reels, lines, lures, creels, etc.</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>42.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation on trips with hunting or fishing</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>90.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals and lodging</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>42.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boats purchased, repairs, etc., fees</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>43.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club dues, assessments, fees, dues, fishing, hunting on private</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guides, outfitters</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging—fishing, hunting year, feed, kennel, veterinary, training, etc.</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>37.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing, all types bought or made for hunting and fishing</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>41.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous, tents, cooking kites, flashlights, boots, coats, tools, knives, cameras, etc., etc., etc., books, etc., purchased primarily for hunting and fishing</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>117.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra expense, taking along 500—you pay for trips primarily to get there</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>18.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total per individual</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>$559.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You question that figure? Many Waste at least 50% of what you will figure your own outlay during the last 12 months because you went hunting and fishing. We feel that support that as being an average annual expenditure for a sportman.

One column in the tabulation was separate and distinct from the annual spending. It in all expenditures for four years for major equipment costing more than $50 were listed. These data showed that over that period in major investments in such major items was within a few cents of $275 total, $50 per year. When each average is spent on major items, and does not include the heavy, it is not surprising, that the buying power of the major items in ammunition, guns, major and new club fees, it begins to back
up the annual figure average.

To be more specific, suppose we take the average and cut it to a third, to a round figure of $400.

It's a nice figure to the number who go hunting and fishing.

Let's be additionally conservative. We could add license totals to indicate total that would in-
research duplication. The survey showed that most hunters spent an average of $1.17, perhaps only three per cent hunt-
ed and did not fish. We can take the current number of those who fish for a base figure; roughly last year 16,000,000. That is license sale only.

We'll have to add to that number about 3,000,000,000 angler-people and they spend more individually than those fishing. We'll add to that number about 7,000,000,000 angler-people and fish and hunt without licenses being on or outside these lands where state laws permit this, veterans not requiring licenses, pensioners, and wo-
men in certain states. Found in a census 8,000,000 who do fish and do hunting, but let's just bypass them as to total average that we apply our conservative $400 average to a conservative 25,000,000 per year.

Actively, there must be more than 30,000,000 who hunt and fish in these United States. But we reckoned that 23,000,000 of these are subsides or lessors of possession of hunting services, and that they spend only two-thirds of the average per year, while the sportman's expenditure, we certainly are on the safe side of the totals this will produce.

On the basis of these discounted and very conservative figures, the average annual expenditure of those hunting and fishing last year in these United States would stand at $9,200,000,000, or an average expenditure that put hunting and fishing business in relation to other segments of our economy?

So the sportman's business stands by more than seven times the total sales and receipts of all retail liquor stores. It exceeds the volume of business in radios and household appli-
cance stores. It is nearly 50 per cent more than the total income of gasoline filling stations. It is nearly twice the amount paid to dealers in farm equipment.

U. S. Department of Agriculture reports state the farmer spent $300,000,000 for hogs in 1945. Sportsmen spending is two and a half time that amount. We are buying and fishing 20 times what pro-
ducers received for sheep marketed and the wool crop. Business from sportmen was about 180 per cent of what was paid for all cattle slaughtered in 1945. Consumers give us $300,000,000 for that.

It is obvious that whatever we spend on hunting and fishing, we are buying and fishing 20 times what producers got for both hogs and cattle on the farm.

That, remember, is after cutting what the survey showed as averages spent, one third. And taking a mini-
um of those hunting and fishing to which the average is applied. If any-
thing, this position indicated for hunt-
ing and fishing business in our econ-
y is well on the conservative side.

Now let's look at these two greatest American sports with those competitive, generally commercial, spectator sports which get so many pages in our papers, so much time on the radio and television.

Taking the survey findings at face value in this instance, the total spent on sportment alone amounts to around $875,000,000. That alone ex-
ceeds by a wide margin the latest available figures of what the public paid at the gate to see all baseball, football, basketball and hockey games, horse races and prize fights, both professional and amateur.

In 1947 we pointed out that a mil-

ion-dollar gate at a boxing match made front-page headlines, and that sportsmen's expenditure on 10 times that amount. If they spend each day more than $25-

000,000, you want for the door-
door column is a total score. You'd usually find it jammed into an ob-
verse corner of one of the stories of some ballplayer spraining his back or some plug winning the feces.

The fact remains, regardless of the blank spot in public news circles as to the importance, tremendous value the sporting business is to our nation. They are the most vital sport of all. Positively, they are "Big Business" bigger busi-
ness today than four years ago, as a vital part of the national economy, a mighty force in national life.

We are in crisis times. Survival is the first problem. National existence demands we must all strengthen our hands to maintain what we call the "American Way of Life." Natural resources, our future hunt-

ing and fishing are in greater jeopardy from unemployment, than at any time. But we have the irreplaceable use of all our national resources as we throw all our strength into defending our nation.

But not everyone can stand firm against the headlong wrecking of some of the mighty things we will fight to preserve. It would be a sorry victory for industry and political fields if we exhaust some of the most important of our national possess—things not impor-
table in any defense.

If there can be any consideration of carrying on our defense efforts to the least damage may be done to the basic econ-
omy of the country. Here are the data which demand that the business standing on our wildlife resources, and we have comparable consideration with all other segments of our business.

Outdoorsmen must hunger and battle that they get out of hunting and fishing in dollar terms. There is treasure found in outdoor living which is beyond any measure of dollars spent.

There is a very definite element of maintaining national peace, health, love of country, in outdoor days. There are no more important things—things we should emphasis in protecting what we possess in outdoor America.

But if you have to use money to fight against plain greed and exploit our national wealth, facilities that produce our fish and game, here are the facts of where the sportmen's dollar stands in the na-

tional economy.

Just on dollar value today, "Hunt-
ing and Fishing Is Big Business" far bigger than four years ago.

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Dahne Appointed

As Aid To Jones

Bob Dahne has been appointed assistant director of the Information and Education division of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Director Ben McLaughlin announced.

Dahne resigned as editor of Florida Wild-
life magazine on June 15. Bill Snyder, former editor of the magazine, was returned to the post.
By PHIL FRANCIS

Florida's inshore salty waters are the stinking grounds of many of the world's greatest gamefishes. In other areas, such as Florida, there are so many varieties of hard-fighting fish to be found. Many crevalle jacks would receive top billing in other sections of the country are passed up as mediocre game in Florida. A fish must have plenty on the ball to gain recognition in the fast company of such tackle busters as the bonnethead, the tarpon, the permit, the jacks, the snook, the barracuda and others. Few fishes of other states could make the grade. There is one, however, that is almost a better common to most of the Eastern Seaboard, which has bolted its way to a highly regarded position among Florida's finest by being one. Indeed, this fish is the often-forgotten, yet highly capable, portion of Florida's angling fraternity. Redfish, they call him....REDFISH short, technologists call him sciaenops ocellatus. You may know him as Red Drum, Red Sea Bass, Sea Bass, or any of 15 or 20 different local names, or more correctly, Channel Bass.

The channel bass is a year round resident of the Gulf of Mexico and is a member of the family of species called migratory mouth-brooding. These hardy creatures are not afraid to brave the ever changing weather of northern Florida. In the spring they are in the coastal waters of his kind and works his way northward. Mid-summer finds him as far north as New England, but not in great numbers. He's too apt to settle more toward the southern coast. When the ocean waters begin to cool in early fall, he schools up again and migrates to our southern coastal areas. Schools of channel bass contain fish of approximately the same size, with little difference in size among members. The larger schools are made up of the smallest fish, and the larger the individual fish, the smaller the school. The very largest specimens tend to be solitary or exceptions due to diet and to the many large carnivores that inhabit them. The Channel Bass is an inhabitant of estuaries, bays, and coastal waters. Initially, the fish are usually found in the nearshore areas, but as they grow, they will be found in deeper waters. The Channel Bass is renowned for its aggressive nature and is often referred to as the "Red Drum.""
"Closed Seasons" Again?

Every so often, the subject of "closed season" on Florida's fresh water game fish elicits a furor. Well meaning, but often sentimental fishermen scream that the fish are gone from the streams and lakes and that the only remedy is to close the waters for two to five months or in some cases from one to three years! The "closed season" advocates base their contention on the theory that a ban on fishing will (1) allow all of the adult fish to spawn undisturbed and (2) will prevent the catching of all the large fish. The theory, as high sounding and noble as it may seem, cannot be supported by the evidence at hand, gathered from Florida and many other states.

Let us examine, in the light of available evidence, the two points mentioned above. First, is it necessary that all adult fish spawn in order to provide adequate young to replenish those removed? The answer is definitely NO. In stock- ing a new lake, the maximum number of fingering fish used is 40 bass and 400 bream per acre, where no fertilization is planned. This stocking rate has been found by years of experience to be adequate to produce all of the fish that an average fertilized lake can grow in a single year. As the average bass net contains about 7,500 eggs, one pair of bass is sufficient to stock more than 175 acres of water, even when no other fish are present. With the average bream producing 5 to 15,000 for an average of 10,000 a season, the young produced from one pair are ample to stock more than 25 acres. Inspection by Commission technicians of several hundred ponds and lakes over the state last spring showed that natural reproduction was adequate in all ponds containing the desired species of fish, except those in which there were too many fish for the available food supply. The overcrowded, stocked individuals in those waters were too starved to produce young. What was needed was more fishing, not less!

Will the "closed season" prevent the catching of all the large fish? Let's look at the results of tests made on the populations of the available fish now being caught from Florida waters. Several years ago, 1,816 adult bass were tagged in six Lake County lakes with prices of considerable value offered for the return of the tags. Only 370 of those fish, or 20 percent, were caught by anglers in the heavy fishing which followed the prize offers. In Lake Okeechobee, only 74 percent of about 1,500 tagged bass have been reported caught.

Results of tagging bream and sheefishers show that even less of these species are being caught. Of over 500 tagged in the Dead Lakes several years ago, only 11 (or 4 percent) were reported caught. In another test, only 2 of over 300 were taken. A study involving the tagging of over 5,400 crappie (speckled perch) in Alabama revealed a catch of less than 1 percent.

It is also contended that catching the male off the beds prevents the hatching of the eggs. If all the males could be easily caught, this argument might be valid. However, it is not true that male breams can be readily taken when actually guarding eggs. While preparing the nest many of them are taken easily, but the male bream seldom, if ever, takes food once the eggs are in the nest. Of course a female taken at any time of the year is prevented from laying her eggs. Furthermore, it has been amply demonstrated that bedding bream will move into and spawn in water up to 30 or more feet in depth when unduly disturbed by activities of fishermen.

But the best evidence contradicting the opinion that fishing prevents adequate spawning comes from the experimental stations, where ponds built side by side were tested to determine the effect of closing some and leaving some open. Those ponds which were left open indefinitely produced some fish per year than the ponds which were closed for a period, and continued to do so over many years.

It is significant that after many years of closed seasons, size limits, and indiscriminate stocking, fish commissions over the entire United States are realizing that these restrictive, biologically unsound practices have not improved fishing, and are eliminating them as increasing evidence proves them worthless. Let's hope that the "closed seasons" advocates among Florida fishermen will consider the facts governing the production of good fishing, rather than letting sentimental theories deprive them and their fellow fishermen of several months of fishing pleasure.

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