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SAMBAR DEER

Dear Editor:

I tried to tell a friend of mine about the large deer on St. Vincent Island off Franklin County, Florida. It has been quite a long time since I read the article about these deer but I seem to remember that they were brought over from Europe, released on the island and grew to a rather large size. Please furnish me with some information so that I can get back in good standing with my friend.

R. E. Cook
Winterr Park, Fl.

Hunting Rights Genz

One Raleigh County man set away his hunting equipment for the next five years as the result of a penalty imposed by the state Conservation Commission.

The Raleigh County Clerk's office this week received an order from the Commisison stating that the在网络上 finding his name was Jackie Pappas of Sprague has been revoked for the next five years.

The suspension was the result of a charge of negligent shooting occurring in Monroe County on December 14, 1957.

Pappas was ordered to turn in his license to the clerk. He can not sell it to another for five years.

EVEN MOSQUITOS OKAY

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a check for a one year subscription to Florida Wildlife.

One certainly doesn't appreciate Florida's brush, willow, heavily wooded areas over it behind for a few months and goes to colder more barren country. I'm thanking the Lord I shall be returning home to cabbage palms, live oaks, cypress, Spanish moss, saw palmetto, long leaf pines, oaks, diamondbacks, and even water hyacinths and mosquitos.

Pat, R. E. Elliot
Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

SUSAN HUGHES

Spinning tackle, fly rod, bait casting outfit, cane pole, or jig gun—no matter what the connecting link—a hook stung large mouth is capable of advancing some vitamin packed arguments against coming aboard. Widely acclaimed as Florida's Freshwater Champion, the largemouth is known in a variety of waters throughout the state.

Five representatives of the largemouth group occur in the state. They are the Northern Largemouth, the Florida Largemouth, the Suwannee River Largemouth, the Spotted Bass, and the Redeye or Coosa Bass. Whatever you call 'em, Florida's bass are ready to argue most any time.

W. H. Core
Panama City, Fl.

FLORIDA FISHING

Gentlemen:

I just received my first copy of Florida Wildlife, the February, 1958 issue. A very excellent and informative magazine. I found your first issue most enjoyable. I am an enthusiastic fisherman and intend to spend the months of March and April investigating the famed Florida bass fishing. I also like to fish for the elusive pickerel, a very popular New England species.

I plan to fish from the Appalachia to the Everglades with special emphasis on the headwaters of the St. Johns. Richard Samson
Pensacolana, Mass.

WILDFIEST FIRST

Dear Editor:

In our home we have many different books and magazines but none can take the place of Florida Wildlife. My husband and I read and enjoy everything published in it. Please send us your fishing stories and tell us how to catch fish.

W. H. Core
Panama City, Fl.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Florida would be the only state to have no funds earmarked for game and fish if proposed constitutional revision is carried out, according to a letter from Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Wildlife Management Institute, Washington. The letter was read by Dr. H. R. Wilber, Federation president, at a Wildlife Federation staff meeting held in Tallahassee in February.

The awards program was discussed and the staff heard minutes of the meeting of the Florida Conservation Fund trustees. Bob Aldrich, director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, commented on the awards program and recommended the addition of a career award.

Discussion of the recently formed Conservation Council brought out the fact that it is to be a discussion panel and act as a sounding board for state wide organizations with conservation interests.

Walter Mims, regional director of the National Wildlife Federation, complimented the Florida Federation on the past year's work and made special mention of the awards program.

As chairman of Wildlife Week, Tommy Anderson stressed the importance of using that period as a time for issuing as much conservation publicity as possible. The 1958 theme was "Protect Our Public Lands."

Representing south Florida, Sam DuBion pointed out that his area might support skin divers but was in opposition to any kind of spear fishing.

Dr. Wilber announced he would attend the National Wildlife Federation meeting and the North American Wildlife Conference in St. Louis early in March.

Wildlife Federation Officers have been busy with the awards program for the current year. Following the successful awards banquet held in Tallahassee in February, the system was reviewed and changes considered. The following is a brief outline of awards matters as they stand at present.

The committee decided to rewrite the entire awards brochure to simplify it and make some basic changes. The number of club awards will be cut to three: Outstanding conservationist of the year in any category; public school teacher with the most achievement in conservation; adult guidance of junior conservationists. At present, it is intended to keep all regional awards as they were during 1957 with the addition of an award for the outstanding junior conservationist. The ruling that career personnel are not eligible to be removed.

The conservation fund committee has requested any club having contacts, industrial or otherwise, who might be interested in contributing to the educational fund, to contact the Federation so they can be notified.

According to present plans, the scholarships to be given to worthy students interested in conservation information and education will be made for the junior and senior years. Conferences with university faculty members indicated that the first two

CONTINUED ON PAGE 47
and watched the sky. The moon was full and the night was clear."

[Image of a person standing outdoors with a moon in the background.]

"The stars were sparkling in the sky. It was a beautiful night."

[Image of a person looking up at the stars.]

"I felt so peaceful and calm. It was a perfect night for a walk."
If you have ever attended our camp, you have probably, by this time, received by mail an application card for our 1958 summer camp. If you have not received an application, and wish to attend the camp, you should write now and request an application-reservation card from our office at 205 West Adams Street, Ocala, Florida.

Our quota for each weekly camping session has been set at not more than 125 campers. We are sending the application cards out early this year so that you can make sure of your camping reservation.

Don't forget that there is a two-week session for campers this year, for the first time in the history of our camp. The two-week camp is an experiment. If successful, we will have other two-week camp sessions.

Please notice that the camping fee is slightly higher for the two-week camp session of 13 days without interruption. This is simply because it costs more to feed you for 13 days than for five days.

The experimental two-week camp starts July 6 and ends July 19, with a full daily program scheduled. Boys between the ages of 8 and 12 may attend this two-week camp.

No matter which week you are attending, we suggest that, as soon as you receive your application card, you should make sure that your parents fill in all of the right blank spaces on both sides of the card, and return the complete card to our Ocala office.

If you make sure that the card is filled in right, you will not have to stand in the long registration lines that we used to have at camp. This part of the card must be filled in either by your family doctor, if you have one, or with the help of your County Health Department. If your Health Department does not give such examinations, they will be able to tell you who to contact.

Another part of the card explains the number of camping weeks, the dates, and whether the week is for girls or boys. It also gives the ages of the campers for each week. On the other side of this section is listed the camping fees for members and non-members of our League.

On another section of the card are the blanks that you should not fill in. When you return the complete card to us at camp, we will fill in the blanks and return it as a receipt for your money. The receipt will also show the week that you will attend camp. On the other side of your receipt is an explanation, for your parents, of the camp, and the address and phone number. Be sure that your parents keep this section of the card, when it is returned to you, so that they will have the camp address and be able to write you letters while you are at camp.

You will see that the application card is really three cards, separated by perforations. Don't separate the sections. Send the complete card, all three sections, to our Ocala office, where they will be separated and the proper receipt card returned to you.

One of the other two sections will be kept on file at our Ocala office, while the third one will be on file at the camp.

Our staff feels very proud of this new type of application and looks forward to the results it will bring. Applications will be mailed to all those who filed an application with us last year. Our mailing list is made from all campers attending the Sixth Annual Encampment. If any of you young boys and girls are reading this for the first time, and have not attended camp before, please write, or have your mothers or fathers write, in for an application. Don't wait. See that it is done NOW!

Governor's Banquet

It was our privilege to attend the Governor's Banquet presented by the Sears Foundation and the Florida Wildlife Federation February 8, 1958, at the Duval Hotel in Tallahassee. There were over a hundred in attendance. Governor LeRoy Collins was our principal guest and speaker. Dr. H. R. Wilber, President of the Federation, was Master of Ceremonies. Some of our top leaders in Conservation were present at the banquet. There were many names, too many to list here. I do want to tell you, though, of the Governor's Award for the Top Conservationist. Mr. George X. Sand of Deerfield Beach received this honor. Mr. Sand is an Outdoor and Resource writer, probably one of the best outdoor writers in the country.

There were other awards, both state and regional.

On the regional level, the Adult Guidance for Jr. Conservation Club awards were given to the following leaders:

(Continued on Page 49)

Slow Jig Time
For Specks

A SPECKLED PERCH is not likely to strip the gears of your favorite reel, he will not shower water over your covering frame in mighty leaps for freedom and few fishermen have stuffed crappie hanging over their mantelpieces.

When they handed out the brains for fishes the speckled perch was probably off somewhere looking for something to eat. Down through the years, he has been hurled into various pastures all over the United States, often on the business end of tackle more suited for marlin, and he has been yanked up from great depths with such dispatch that he barely wiggled when he reached the surface. Called "crappie", "crappy", "papermouth", "speckled perch" and a lot of other things, he has saved many a fishing trip that would otherwise have been doomed to failure.

By CHARLES WATERMAN

(Continued on Next Page)
A No-Alibi jig proved to be the medicine for this nice speck.

(Continued from preceding Page)

I knew the Florida specks ran man-sized and bowled to no fish at the table but I never had much interest in them until a couple of years ago. At that time, I condescended to fish for them and was humiliated to find out that the string had gotten heavier than he thought and he traced his feet and lifted again before he cleared the water. That’s no wonder because he was hefting 50 pounds of fish. Some of them weighed around three pounds and my snare fished a little. They were too busy catching specks to pay much attention to me and so I moved up the shoreline and tried it myself. I finally caught a couple, neither of which was big enough for a place on the stringer. I then began figuring a tactful way of getting in on that business.

It is not easy to get invited on a fishing trip when you are pretending that you don’t really want to go but after making numerous slighting remarks about speck fishing I had to save some face. Finally, I agreed to go with Bob Budd, hoping I had not shown any trace of eagerness.

Bob put me in the front of the boat and manipulated a 3-horse motor from the stern without missing a cast, using feet, knees and what appeared to be several hands in the process. He loaned me a tiny, yellow jig for my light spinning outfit and put on a little white one himself. After an hour I figured I had been jibed so I changed to a white one but I caught only two or three specks while Budd caught and threw back ten or twelve in looking for some to keep. I thought the ones he threw back were big enough for anybody.

Budd was using 4-pound monofilament line with a little below-the-hand closed face reel and a fingering gadget he had made himself. He claimed the fingering gizmo gave him better accuracy but that wasn’t the secret. He was fishing very slowly with regular lifts and drop of his rod tip but that wasn’t the secret either because I imitated him—I thought. All of this time he was explaining to me how you catch specks and I was listening but it didn’t soak in for a while. A speck usually takes a jig like a pickpocket in a crowd of cops. Once in a while one gets in a hurry to beat out his friends and hits as if he meant business but for the most part he strikes like a snag on the bottom. Apparently his table manners are very tidy and gulping and yanking are taboo.

"Dead trees and brushy spots are the best," Budd kept saying. "You find a brush pile near deep water, maybe on a drop-off, and you cast ‘er right in close. Then you set it back on the bottom and wait a little. Then you lift it again but if he takes it usually on the fall back. He doesn’t fool with anything that looks as if it might be much trouble. When you get one, keep on trying the spot. There may be a hundred there. If you don’t get hung up, you may catch all you want—but generally you get hung up.”

I generally got hung up but finally I began to catch specks—not my full share but quite a few. It was a little like feeling for a light button in the dark only you were feeling for specks in 20 feet of water.

On one open shoreline, Budd was really cleaning house and I was wasting my time.

"Here," said Bob, "look down there.

I looked and twenty feet out from shore there was a barely visible fringe of eel grass on the bottom in about six feet of water. On the offshore side of the grass the water deepened into darkness.

"Don’t throw at the bank and don’t throw into the deep water," Budd admonished. "Drop it into the eel grass and then bump it on down over the drop off, like this. Wup! I caught grass that time... No I didn’t!" He wrestled a dinner-plate-sized speck around the idling motor and brought it aboard. So I hung in the grass and then bumped the drop off and then caught a speck.

Sometimes your jig doesn’t reach bottom. It just starts sliding slowly off to one side and when you tighten up there’s Mister Speck and sometimes he’s nearly swallowed your lure.

If the tackle’s right, there’s a little scuffle when the victim goes over a pound and a half. Keep it to light spinning gear and a small line gets your jig down to about six feet of water. On the offshore side of the grass the water deepened into darkness.

Some of the better speck catchers figure you can clean out a hole in a couple of trips if they’re biting good. It must be so because hot fishing in a given spot on succeeding days is pretty rare. No one ever said the speck won a quiz show.

Although the fish put up with an idling motor without complaint as long as you don’t get it directly over them, they don’t bite if you keep running it around their bailiwick while un snagging jigs. Whether they actually leave or simply resist their hunger pains I don’t know.

The best speck jiggers I know make short casts and they give good reasons for it.

"There’s no use dragging a bait over water you know has no fish," says Budd. "If you throw 35-foot casts instead of 40-footers, your accuracy suffers and half of your retrieve is wasted. If you hang up, it’s that much further into the crucible hideout. Then too, most of the jigs are pretty small and aren’t comfortable to throw for long distances."

(Continued on Page 49)
In addition to some BRUSH named lakes, Flori­
da has an abundance of streams, creeks, ponds and sloughs.

FISHING

FLORIDA'S FRESH WATERS

Part One: Introduction

By MORRIE HAGGAR

I AM PLANNING to spend my vacation in Florida this year. Where is the best place to go fishing? The out-of-stater's note was short and to the point; he wanted to go fishing in Florida and he figured someone "on location" should be able to tell him where. That would all be well and good except for a couple of simple facts that cloud the issue. One is geographical in nature, the other biological.

First off there is a matter of the fish themselves. Authorities list 154 species that are found in the fresh waters of the state. Some of these are fishes that normally spend a considerable part of their lives in the briny and are therefore quite properly classified as marine species. Tarpon, channel bass (redfish), sheepshead, snook, and mangrove snapper are good examples of these. As marine species. Tarpon, channel bass (redfish), sheepshead, snook, and mangrove snapper are good examples of these.

The sport fisherman is likely to come in contact with the freshwater basses of the state. At one time it was generally believed, and quite widely acclaimed in the outdoor literature, that there were both smallmouth and largemouth bass in Florida. One "smallmouth" from Florida was at the head of the record list for several years before it was established that the specimen had been incorrectly identified from the beginning. There has been no authenticated record of a smallmouth bass taken from Florida waters. There are five bass of the largemouth group represented in the state. These are the Suwannee Bass, the Northern Spotted Bass, Northern Largemouth, the Florida Largemouth, and the Coosa or Redeye Bass. This latter, it is interesting to note, is the species that caused quite a stir in fish management circles in late 1956. Originally believed to be the "lost" Chipola Bass, it was finally discovered that specimens from the Chipola River of west Florida actually represented a previously unrecognized extension of range of a more northerly species.

BREAM—Probably because the publicity showered on the largemouth bass far overshadows most other fresh water fishing, the drum is seldom loudly beat over Florida's excellent warm water parfish angling. Actually these sunfishes or "bream" probably contribute more poundage and certainly more in actual numbers in Florida's hook-and-line catch than any other group of fishes. Many of these scrappy cane pole and light tackle favorites are so similar in appearance that only the most avid angler seeks to separate them by species. Bluegill, banded sunfish, blue-spotted sunfish, redbreast, shellcracker and stump-knocker are examples of the species that are commonly lumped into one group. Not usually classified as bream but closely related scientifically are the rock bass and the speckled perch or crappie.

OTHER SPECIES—Five species of catfish are commonly caught by Florida anglers. These include the Channel cat, white cat, southern brown bullhead, snail cat, and the yellow cat. Usually the catfish are taken by bait fishermen specifically seeking them or, not in­

(Continued on Next Page)
frequently, by bream anglers, although now and again both fly fishermen and plug casters find catfish eager in certain fresh waters this far south. A few years ago the striped bass or rockfish as they are commonly called was known as a fish of the area only, insofar as the locally, for many years. A close relative of the redfin pickerel, is also an eager striker but its size does nothing for its popularity with sportsmen. The bowfin is a “trash fish” that frequently strikes plugs and spoons, especially when bounced along the bottom of pond, canal, or stream. Bass fishermen, using live shiners for bait, frequently tangle with the mudfish or grindle, other names commonly applied to the bowfin. The fish usually gives an excellent account of itself.

The variety of fishing waters to be found within the state is reflected by the array of species available to the rod-and-reeler. (Continued from preceding page)

The American shad provides much sport each winter in parts of the St. Johns River. Because it is a consistent producer, the Lemon Bluff area on the St. Johns is the best known shadding water in the state. Trolling is the usual method of fishing for these hard hitting scrapers. Lesser known is the somewhat smaller Alabama shad. A close relative of the St. Johns River's American shad, the Gulf drainage is the home ground of this vitamin packed fish. Up to the present time this species has not been specifically sought to any great extent. They make their spawning runs during late winter and early spring. A small spoon, trolled slowly, is a good lure for the Alabama shad. Surprisingly enough for this group of fishes, usually not taken on bait, many Alabamas fall for earthworms and other commonly used natural baits being dunked for bream or catfish. The chain pickerel is a fine, hard hitting game fish that has been all but neglected by the state's anglers. A close relative, the redfin pickerel, is also an eager striker but its size does nothing for its popularity with sportsmen. The bowfin is a “trash fish” that frequently strikes plugs and spoons, especially when bounced along the bottom of pond, canal, or stream. Bass fishermen, using live shiners for bait, frequently tangle with the mudfish or grindle, other names commonly applied to the bowfin. The fish usually gives an excellent account of itself.

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The channel catfish ranks high in popularity with many Florida fishermen, is a ready bite, a pretty fair fighter, and first rate on the table. (Continued from Preceding Page)

itself when pitted against spinning tackle or bait casting gear. Most people do not care to eat the bowfin, partially, no doubt, because of its far from handsome appearance. They are able to tolerate conditions that are fatal to other fishes such as bream and bass. Bowfins are able to get along nicely in drought shrunken waters that have been reduced to little more than mud holes.

Gar, common in most of the fresh waters of the state, are seldom considered to be anything other than predacious pests. They are hard fighters on suitable tackle however, and provide much sport for those who have learned the knack of hooking or snaring them.

In the extreme western portion of the Panhandle, the Alligator gar is occasionally the object of angling efforts by fishermen seeking something different in the way of piscatorial activities. Heavy tackle is needed to handle these fish which sometimes reach a hefty 100 pounds or more. Many fishermen find a gun a useful tool in putting the coup de gras on an alligator gar that has been fought up to the side of the boat.

Considerable numbers of suckers, representing three species, are found in various waters of the state. Locally they are avidly sought, especially during the spring months when they gather for the spawning runs. Quillback, blacktail redhorse and spotted sucker are the three species represented in Florida's waters. Those taken by anglers usually succumb to a worm-baited hook.

Waters of the Panhandle also host a sizeable population of carp. Utilized only to a limited extent for food, they attain considerable size. Troutline fishermen, as well as rod and reeders and cane polers, not infrequently hook 20- to 30-pounders and undoubtedly there are much heavier specimens landed now and then. The slower reaches of the Apalachicola River drainage especially seems to favor this fairly scrappy but looked-down-upon fish. (Next Month - Part Two: South Florida Region)
BE SURE TO GET THE POINT

Your lowest cost tackle item is the most important. When selecting hooks, a concerted effort should be made to choose proper size and style.

By EDMUND MCLAURI

There are seven major components or physical features to the average fishhook.

What bait and hook size? The manner in which a particular fish species takes its food, the size and shape of its mouth and the size of the fish sought should always be considered when selecting both baits and hooks.

l1ving in remote sections of the world, Eskimos have long made practical use of an iron barb set in a piece of ivory. Polynesian and Fiji natives know how to fashion fishhooks from wood, shark teeth and shaped pearl shell, and curved stone and human bone fishhooks occasionally are used by Easter Island inhabitants. But the universal availability of modern fishhooks is fast making such primitive improvisations rare.

Although hooks are still an angler's basic need, the average sport fisherman knows very little about them. That fact becomes obvious when he is asked to tell you what he knows about hooks!

Aside from being able to correctly name such common component parts as the point, barb, shank and eye, few anglers readily recognize the more common variations of these four components, nor are they generally acutely conscious of other influencing features, like hook gap, throat and temper.

To make average hook identification easy for the sport fisherman, a brief review of hook nomenclature and term definitions, followed by a resume of the more common patterns, is in order:

Component Parts

There are seven major components or physical features to the average fishhook—point, barb, shank, eye, bend, gap and throat (or bite). Certain of these need further explanation.

Bend: A hook's bend is at its bottom or curved portion. While it has become common practice to consider a hook's bend as being a particular pattern, like the Sobey and the radically different Aberdeen patterns, technically there are only three basic bends—straight, reversed and kirbed.

A hook of straight bend has its point parallel with the shank; a kirbed bend has its point offset to the left of the shank as you face the point, and a reverse bend is one that is offset to the right.

Gap: The distance or clearance between the point and shank; a kirbed bend has its point offset to the left of the shank as you face the point, and a reverse bend is one that is offset to the right.

Throat (or bite): The distance from hook point to the bottom of the hook's bend or curve.

Shank: The upright portion of the hook that extends from the eye to the bend, on the side opposite to the point.

Hook shanks are made in various lengths, diameters, degrees of temper and pattern shapes. You can purchase them straight with and without ringed eye, barbed on their backs, humped and with turned up eye, curved down with turned up eye, triangular, knobbled, bent up with ring eye and round, oval or forged flat, in just about any length desired.

It is the leverage of a hook's shank that causes it to penetrate, whether the shank is long or short.

Hook Eyes: Designed for attaching leader or line, hook eyes are given various shapes and bends, the more common styles being the ringed eye, flat eye, ball eye, tapered eye, turned up and turned down eyes, brazed eye, looped eye and needle eye. These, in turn, are combined with the different types of hook shanks, bends and bars to create a wide range of finished hook styles.

Points: In hook point styles there is also a wide choice. Spear, hollow ground, needle, barbless, twin barb, arrow, spade, bent out spear, bent in, rolled and needle eye. These, in turn, are combined with the different types of hook shanks, bends and bars to create a wide range of finished hook styles.

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Hooks with stiff weed guards, on the other hand, may often contribute to too many missed strikes, by presenting the point too late or insufficiently.

It is largely a good combination of hook bend, tempered shank, gap and point, in relation to the line of another for a specific job. H. C. Pennell, English author of THE CHEAP, poorly-made hooks often fail to penetrate properly. A quality-made hook proves its worth when you battle the strength, lightness and neatness. He also wrote the greatest penetrating power of a fishhook occurs when the line of penetration is coincident with the direction of force.

Hook Sizes: The manner in which a particular species takes its food, the size and shape of its mouth and the size of the fish sought should always be considered when selecting both hook size and pattern. To designate the sizes of the various hook patterns, hooks are numbered from about No. 22 or 0 to 5/0, etc.-each higher number increasing in size as numbers get lower. From No. 1, the author believe it is a good combination of hook bend, tempered shank, gap and point, in relation to the line of another for a specific job.

O'Shaughnessy hooks have a round bend and possibly of the offset shank, used for sucking feeders like flounder, whitefish and ling. Also popular in the same section is the Gravitation Bass pattern makes an all-around bass hook, used with minnows, small frogs and earthworms.

Eagle Claw Aberdeen, featuring a claw-shaped point in contrast to the original Aberdeen straight-point hook design.

Carliisle and Cincinnati Bass: The early English Carliisle and the American-developed Cincinnati Bass patterns are somewhat similar, both having round bends, long shanks and kirbed points, with the bass model usually being made of heavier wire than the Carliisle. It is largely a good combination of hook bend, tempered shank, gap and point, in relation to the line of another for a specific job.

The Kirby pattern is much like the Sproat but with a definite offset.

Anglers believe the offset or kirbed point is less likely to be pulled out of a fish's mouth than a hook with a bend and point in direct line with hook shank. Actually, as most experts will tell you, offset hooks generally give slow and shallow penetration, are more quickly detected by biting fish than straight bend hooks and usually result in missed strikes if a fish hits an offset hook on its blind side.

Kirby: Originally English, the Kirby is a hook pattern much like the Sproat, but with a definite offset, and so named because of being bent out of line with its shank.
Slow and DELIBERATE

That's the way to fish for largemouth bass.

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

Slow and deliberate though this languorous may have been in taking the deep running lure, it is the hook's keynote a fast and frantic reaction.

W E WERE CASTING CAUTIOUSLY parallel to shore, Bill in the bow casting and me manning the oars. Bill shaded his eyes and scanned the shoreline. Suddenly the deep running lure, the bite of the hook brought a fast and frantic reaction.

As he passed, the fisherman called: "What you fellows trying to do? Set some sort of casting record?"

We stopped casting momentarily and rowed over to where he was anchored. If there is one thing I've learned about fishing, it is to accept constructive criticism whenever it becomens - especially when it comes from someone who knows what he is talking about, and this deeply touched angler definitely spoke with authority.

"What do you mean," I questioned curiously, "about trying to set a casting record?"

"It isn't that you're casting too much," the older fisherman said. "It's just that you're working your lures much too fast. Slow 'em up and I bet you'd catch fish."

I pondered his sage advice. Perhaps he had something. At least it was worth a gamble. We surely weren't setting the world on fire at our present pace. As we passed, the fisherman called: "What you fellows doing?"

Thanking the oldtimer for his help, we continued down the shoreline. I dropped my lure almost against the wall of vegetation, allowing the bait to sink steadily. It was practically the instant the plug kissed the bottom. I immediately started reeling the plug to watch. Most beginning anglers don't know a good bass spot when they see one, he explained. "And once they discover a hotspot they fish it haphazardly and too fast." As a footnote to his observations, I might add that this applies to many experienced fishermen too, especially the fault of fishing too fast.

We drifted along the lake shore, working furiously. No luck. We floated past a boat where a still fisherman was channel-ninnymouthing. As we passed, the fisherman said: "A good rule is to take your present fishing system. There are times, of course, when a faster retrieve is the prescription for putting bass on the business end of your fish line. A sound formula is to start with an ultra-slow retrieve - experimenting with it thoroughly before changing - then gradually increasing the speed. If the bass are hitting, you'll eventually chance upon the magic combination.

Deciding the old-timer was right, I started retrieving the plug very slowly. After a few moments, I noticed a faint flutter, much like a crippled minnow attempting to escape a foraging bass. I immediately started reeling the plug to watch. All of bass simply by bouncing a plug along the bottom, letting it rest idle in one spot for several seconds before I jerked it forward slightly with a flip of the rod tip. On another day, I had grand success by skittering a surface plug, never pausing in my retrieve. I'd cast near bank and start reeling practically the instant the plug kissed the surface. For some inexplicable reason, that steady sputtering retrieve drove the bass into a frenzy.

Generally speaking, which a man ought never do when talking of bass fishing. I've found that a slow retrieve consistently will put more fish on the stringer than will a fast one. A largemouth naturally is a slow and deliberate feeder, and to try and hurry one is bordering on the foolishly. You must pattern your retrieve to the fancy of Mr. Mossback if you hope to return home with proof of your fishing prowess.

My favorite retrieve of an underwater bait is to cast into likely looking water, allowing the bait to sink to the desired depth. (The depth is dictated as to where the fish are feeding.) I reel very slowly and about every twenty turns of the reel handle, I jerk the rod tip slightly while the bait will dart forward. The minnow attempts to escape a foraging bass. In most circumstances this retrieve will work. Otherwise, a slowing or speeding up of the retrieve is the answer.

When fishing a top-water plug, I cast and slowly count to twenty before twitching the plug; to fifteen before moving it the second time; to ten before jerking it again; and finally five before retrieving and restarting. This is a sure-fire system that will slow your retrieve to the desired speed - deliberate and tempting.

Some fishermen go overboard when fishing a surface bait, letting

A slow, bottom-bouncing retrieve yielded this nice largemouth.

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BASIC ANGLING

A brief review of the four general classes of fresh water, light tackle angling.

By CHUCK SCHILLING

The only plug casters who never get a backlash are my fellow members of The National Professional Casters Association. Paid up members of our organization are allowed to use the term "overdie." Whenever you call it, a backlash is no joke—it's the stumbling block that separates the men from the boys in the plug casting division.

Most anglers who don't know will buy a new casting reel after first spinning the handles on a number of times, picking out the one that runs the smoothest. This generally means a reel whose gears, spool, and handle build up so much momentum they spin like a flywheel. If you have ambitions to be an expert plug caster, shun such a reel like the plague.

Look, instead, for a lightweight reel with an aluminum spool and light gears (usually nylon). The best of these will spin very little when you give the handles a flip. Don't forget—the heavier the spool, gears, and handle, the more vigorous the cast must be to get them started and the more momentum you will have built up that will demand control.

The length and action of a plug casting rod must be balanced to the reel you are going to use and to the type of cast you are going to employ. A fast tip rod together with a heavy spool reel just won't work. Most experts use the light reels with a 5½ or 6 foot glass rod with a fast tip action. They use the overhead-straight forward cast. That's all there is to it. Bring the rod up sharply to the ear—pause—bring the rod sharply to the ear also, usually spent a whole lot more time practicing to get your hooks out of a companion's face. The companion will only rob your lure of its proper action.

Remember that the thumb should touch the lower reel handles should always be turned up. In this position, the reel runs smoother, and your wrist is free to function properly in the cast. Learn to cast with "free spool," that is, with the "anti-backlash" devices turned off. The thumb is the only reliable controlling factor.

The cast should be cleaned after every 5 or 6 days. The level wind should be lightly oiled after every hour of use.

The cast should always be overhead—straight up and down. Sideswiping will only mark you as a duffer and will, eventually, cost you a hospital bill to get your hooles out of your companion's face. The reel handles should always be turned up. In this position, the reel runs smoother, and your wrist is free to function properly in the cast. Learn to cast with "free spool," that is, with the "anti-backlash" devices turned off. The thumb is the only reliable controlling factor. The cast should always be overhead—straight up and down. Sideswiping will only mark you as a duffer and will, eventually, cost you a hospital bill to get your hooles out of your companion's face.

The secret of plug casting a shore line is getting the lure in close. If you never get caught you are not getting in close enough.

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For average, fresh water fishing, I much prefer the automatic fly reel, because, with it, I can keep my line in the protection of the reel most of time instead of walking all over it in the bottom of the boat. I like tapered leaders, and I prefer to tie them myself. For most Florida fishing, I taper (using the Surgeon's Knot — see October 1957 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE) my leaders 20, 15, 10, and 6 pound test. These will cast better and catch more fish than level leaders.

Don't be taken in by that old malarkey about casting while holding a handkerchief between elbow and side. This is for the birds. Most expert fly rod men cast with a full arm movement, adding a flip of the wrist at the top of the cast. I, personally, use an 8-ft. rod, and my hand is usually as high or higher than my head as I cast. A good rule to follow is to cast in the manner most natural and easy for you. If this means holding your elbow tight against your ribs, by all means do so.

Most beginning fly fishermen try to cast too long a line. Thirty or forty feet is the ideal distance for most fly fishermen. At this distance, you can easily lift the whole line and lay it down again without false casting. It makes for effortless and accurate fishing. As a rule, 50 feet should be your extreme cast. More than that is generally not practical. Fish it slow, slow, and then slower.

I think popping bugs are the most fun to fish and are by far the most effective all-round fly rod lures. Streamers are almost as effective but not so much fun. The best bugs and streamers are the ones you dream up and tie yourself. Nothing beats the thrill of catching a brook trout on a fly lure of your own creation.

Spinning

The advent of spinning in America caused more commotion than two dozen scared mice at a WCTU convention. It was first described as "crazy, upside-down, backwards, and left-handed foolishness." It could still be described the same way, except we now know there is very little foolishness about. It's a wonderful way to fish, and present day spinning tackle is a far cry from the first imports that turned up after the war. We have taken spinning to our hearts and melded it to our own conception of what we think it should be.

All spinning reels have the fixed spool in common. It does not revolve. The line reels in spirals off the end of the spool. In general, there are two kinds of spinning reels — open and close faced. The open face reels have devices called pickup arms that put the line back on the spool by revolving around it. There are full bale, half arm, stud or manual. They all require manual operation. The operation of open face spinning reels makes their position in relation to your hand mandatory. They must hang directly under the hand and, as a rule, with two of your fingers on either side of the reel stand.

The closed face spinning reel, a strictly American innovation, operates on the same principle, except the spool and pickup mechanism are enclosed in a hood, with the operation of the reel made automatic. The reel fits on the rod behind the hand, much as a fly reel fits on a fly rod.

Open face reels (mounted as they must be, directly beneath the hand) produce a tip heavy, unbalanced outfit that is undesirable from this old fly fisherman's point of view. Some rod makers are now producing rods slugged with lead in the butts to overcome this tip heaviness, but most anglers are trying to avoid extra weight these days.

A quiet lake. Fly rods, and big blue beans hitting poppying bugs under a warm, summer sky. These are angler's multiple rewards.

Spincasting

This is the big, bawling baby of the fishing world. It was born out of the resistance of human nature to change. Anglers for years refused to take the time and trouble to learn to use plug casting outfits properly. They traveled along their stony path, beset by back-lashes, dogged by poor casting and poorer results.

Along came spincasting to show an easier, less troublesome way. Would our hero try this? Not on your life! Use an upside-down outfit? Not him! Learn to reel left-handed? Never! Our average hero stuck to his plug casting rod, but he was no longer satisfied to be a duffer.

Casting a secret but obvious eye on the spinning converts, the howls of dissatisfied bait casters rode the wind. One of these errant breezes fell on the ears of a company out west engaged in making practice bombs for the Air Force. With great and commendable foresight, this company produced the first Zebco Reel (Zero Bomb Co.). Accurately gauging the public temper, the Zebco people converted the spinning reel principle to a closed face spinning reel as much like a casting reel as possible. Mounted on top of a bait casting rod, it was still necessary to change hands to wind in the lure. The pickup was semiautomatic. The rest is history. Today, spincasting is on top of the heap. There are now many different spincast reels on the market and many sizes to choose from. The best of these reels are trouble free, simple in design and operation.

Rods to fit spincast reels lagged far behind. All spincast rods had regular, bait casting handles which placed the new reels too high and too far back for comfortable operation and control. This year, the South Bend Tackle Company brought out a line of rods with a handle they call "Master-Grip." These rods, for the first time offer the same comfortable feel with spincast reels that formerly was possible only with fine, well-balanced bait casting outfits.

I have two spincast outfits. One is light with 6-lb. line. The other is a medium weight rig with 10-lb. line. I love them both. I am using the new "Master-Grip" handles and feel right at home with them. The fast, efficient, trouble free, and most effective would be a better description.

Uncontrolled line, peeling off an open face reel, is gathered by the first and largest guide on the spinning rod. Between reel and gathering guide, the fast moving spirals slap the rod in a rapid taton, sometimes hard enough to cut into the glass of the rod. Both line slap and gathering guides produce friction that impedes the cast. In closed face reels, the line peels off the spool but is immediately gathered and controlled inside the reel hood. The line leaves the hood aimed straight at the first guide, much as the line leaves a casting reel.

Both of these methods produce line resistance, and the arguments go on and on as to which produces the most. The closed face reel gets my vote of approval on this score, too.

Spinning rods are almost all hollow glass, which, for this purpose, is by far the best. I like a light, 2-pc., 6½-ft. rod with a very fast tip. The cast with spinning tackle should be an exaggerated snap cast — very fast action, with the hand standing the forward cast while the tip is still traveling back. If you can master this quick flip of a snap cast, your spinning casting problems are over.

In salt water, I like 10-lb. mono and in fresh water, I like 6. I like spinning tackle at all times in fresh water or salt. I have concentrated on two lures for spinning that are just about all I need. One is the famous Super-Duper, an underwater lure made in many sizes. I use it in 1/8, 1/4, and 3/8 ounce sizes, and I like the gold and chrome finishes. I have never found its equal as a reliable fish getter. For top water spinning, I use the Spin-1-Diddee plug. This is a 3/16-oz. floating lure with spinners fore and aft. It comes in many colors, but I stick to Silver Flash (S), Florida Frog (FF), and Orlando Shiner (SH).

One of angler's brightest rewards is in introducing a boy to this fascinating sport. You may even get a helper hand.

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FORESTRY
and FISHING

By JOHN DANAHY, JR.
Florida Forestry Service

Beautiful, well-timbered waterways have great aesthetic value. Vegetation holds the soil in place, builds up a humus sponge which is a natural water regulator.
Bass Fishing From A to Z

There's no question about it. All bass fishermen are experts.

By ERNIE LYONS

Trouble is every bass fisherman knows everything there is to know about bass fishing from A to Z. My own affliction with the art started because I liked to throw things. Like most small boys I would toss anything that wasn't nailed down and could be picked up: pine cones, sticks, box turtles, live harmless snakes, dead harmful snakes — and one wondrous tackle box on the pack pocket. He wasn't much as bass go—may be a pound and about thirty feet of string I was carrying in a chalk-line, stout cane pole and sheer, brute strength.

Each of them, long gone with a Florida of pioneer practicality that has vanished, was an expert after his own fashion, knowing how to catch bass from A to Z.

No one condones the rough and rugged methods of Florida's early-days fishermen. I cite them to illustrate only one point, but to my mind the most important single thing about bass fishing then or now: to consistently catch really good bass you must be a master of deception.

If black bass were entirely creatures of instinct, automatically responding to certain stimuli, it would be no problem at all to catch them consistently on any waters. The fact is that most anglers appear to subscribe to that theory, casting the shoreline of a stream or the padded rim of a lake with mathematical precision, shooting their casts in to the shore every six or eight feet, reeling rapidly or popping slowly and, in the course of a day—to the mutual surprise of both, I am sure—landing four or five bass "if conditions are right."

Once in a blue moon the plug or the bug lands in front of the nose of a worthwhile fish, and the angler joins the ranks of those who know everything about bass fishing from A to Z. But I wonder. The black bass is a rugged individualist. A good-sized one has spent a large part of his life evading danger in many forms. He is a creature of convictions. He believes. He makes decisions and he acts. In my personal opinion, we Florida fishermen for the most part don't give our bass credit for the intelligence they have. Because there is such an abundance of bass in our lakes, streams and canals, a great many of us have become loose and sloppy in our fishing. A man from Missouri taught me that skill brings the big pay-off even in hard-fished waters — and I found that his same methods, used in South Florida, will turn "bad days" into good ones.

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watched "Mac" put on a good imitation of those early day Florida Crackers who stalked their big bass. He crawled across gravel bars on his hands and knees, kept his rod low, sought the cover of stumps and log jams, cast sidewise—and collected a good fish from each pool.

The ultimate in black bass fishing is the highest degree of deception achieved by the angler against the smartest possible bass.

As more and more anglers invade Florida waters—some of them so "bait-crazy" that they roar through good fishing spots on hit-and-miss quiet streams—the successful bass fisherman is going to have to be more careful, more skillful and is going to have to adopt the same rules that still produce good fishing in heavily fished northern waters.

To me, this means getting up before daylight and being on the fishing grounds at dawn, after the bass have had an undisturbed night. It means careful and selective fishing in which you use your "know-how" to the utmost, instead of blind "bait casting." It means easing up on quiet pools, being still and self-effacing, studying the lay-out before you make your cast and working one cast to the utmost, rather than whipping a pool to a froth.

Let the bug or plug lie motionless for 20 to 30 seconds after it hits. In close quarters in only partially murky water it is sometimes possible to see a couple of feet below the surface—and to note a dark shadow hovering below. A really good bass is watching, thinking, deciding. Be still. If you twitch the bug at all, give it the slightest of twitches, just enough to make it shiver like a dying insect.

A wise bass, making up his mind, is less apt to charge than to slowly rise and engulf the lure. He’s coming up. He believes! Your heart pounds but you stay still until the instant that he “kisses it down” and then you strike quickly before he spits it out.

That, to my mind, is the ultimate in bass fishing. Stealth, quiet, skill are now needed to get good bass from small pools, like the upper South Fork of the St. Lucie River, and the same methods will work on any other Florida stream.

Try long casts, long waits, if you’re after hunkers in larger bodies of water, such as Blue Cypress or the central Florida lakes. If you’re casting a crippled minnow or plunker type of plug, try letting it be still for as long as one minute. Remember, one minute is a long, long time—but the boys who are used to getting the big ones don’t mind waiting for them to make up their minds.

On a cold day, when nothing seems to be biting, try going down deep with salt water jigs or other weighted lures in the very centers of the lakes or the deepest holes in the streams. The water is warmer in the depths and you are not apt to find many bass in the shallows if a cold snap hit the night before.

Paradoxically, this also works in the hottest days of summer. One blazing July morning, I cast all around the shores of Lake Minneola without a rise. At high noon, just before quitting in disgust, I sailed one of those floaters with frog skin stretched over it out into the center of the lake—and in seven successive casts caught eight bass. The last cast was a double-header, with an eight-pounder and a two-pounder latched on to the lure.

That’s worth remembering when you can’t raise them along the shore.

A word about tackle. If you’re fishing the bonnets or heavy "feathered minnow," a grandad of our modern bass bugs. We were fishing the Black River headwaters in the Okeechobee in the fall of the year when the stream was low and crystal clear. We would walk down on blue pools against rocky bends and those holes were loaded with smallmouths. I could see them as clearly as if they were in an aquarium and although I cast feathered minnows at them until I was blue in the face, I got nary a strike. “Guess those things are no good,” I told “Mac” in disgust.

“They’re O.K. but you keep showing yourself,” he said. “The bass can see you as good as you can see them.”

I handed the rod and the lures to him and on the next four holes I
THE WINGED MENACE

By DAREL McCONKEY
U. S. Department of Agriculture

The screwworm will be eradicated in Florida and the Southeast because of what it is and what it does. It is a parasite of warm-blooded animals and feeds only on living flesh. It lacks the dignity of a buzzard or a blowfly, which serve a purpose in disposing of dead flesh. The fly does not bite, but the maggots flourish by feeding on wounds made by other means. The wound, large as a barbed-wire slash or small as a tick for the weak spot, a break in the skin. They come by dozens and lay their white egg masses around the edges of the enlarged wound. These pure white egg masses make the wound distinctive and easy to identify. Unless treated, the wound enlarges to the size of an orange, may become as large as a grapefruit, as hundreds and even thousand of screwworm maggots bore into it. A full-grown steer can die of such an infection within 10 days. (Continued on Page 42)

Eggs of the screwworm fly hatch into larvae that feed on the living flesh of the warm-blooded animal host and eventually kill the untreated animal. Screwworm infestation of domestic animals can be treated and kept under control by riding herd on animals, treating them by approved methods, and keeping them confined for additional treatment when needed. Nobody expects infected animals ranging the woods and swamps. Nobody can inspect wild animals attacked by this flesh-eating pest. Already shy and retiring creatures, they become more so when the maggots start to eat on them. They cannot be found, caught, and treated. They can only die from screwworm assault. And they serve as a reservoir of infestation for other animals.

Screwworms can attack any warm-blooded animal, regardless of size. They do not attack the cold-blooded creatures because of the cold. They ignore birds and animals, even though attacked, do little to spread the pest. They die so quickly from the infestation that the maggots are too immature to pupate and the maggots die with them.

Rabbits, skunks, opossums, raccoons, bears, and deer are large enough to support screwworm infestation until the larvae are ready to leave the wound, burrow into the ground, pupate, and carry on the life of the species.

Florida and the Southeast have lived through a serious and hard-working attempt to rid livestock of screwworm by control methods. The pest first appeared in the Southeast in 1933, in the vicinity of Boston, Ga. Before the year was out, it had spread to 50 counties in southern Georgia and northern Florida. Unfortunately, the winter of 1933-34 was not severe enough to freeze out the initial infestation. Before the end of 1934, the pest had spread all over Florida, and was entrenched in South Florida. In this bland climate the screwworm could remain active the year round and spread northward each summer. By 1936 the screwworm had spread to every southern state except Louisiana. Screwworms, which to lay her eggs. When she finds it, the urge to seek a place to lay her eggs overpowers her. She lands on carelessly built pens, chutes, or fences. Unless animals are handled or driven quietly they may panic and injure themselves in a dozen different ways.

The female screwworm fly has no great difficulty in finding a break in the skin of some animal around which to lay her eggs. Within a day, before the wound has had time to heal, the eggs have hatched in a greyish downy mass of tiny larvae. They crawl into the wound head first and begin to feed on the living flesh. As blood and serum ooze out they continue to eat, standing on their heads and breathing through their tails. Two hundred of them can make a patch of infestation the size of a lemon. Now the wound is even more attractive to female flies. They may come by dozens and lay their white egg masses around the edges of the enlarged wound. These pure white egg masses make the wound distinctive and easy to identify. Unless treated, the wound enlarges to the size of an orange, may become as large as a grapefruit, as hundreds and even thousand of screwworm maggots bore into it. A full-grown steer can die within ten days. (Continued on Page 42)

Great prolificacy and persistence makes the screwworm a Menace to livestock. In a week or less, maggots of the original brood grow to their full size, about half an inch. They crawl out of the wound, drop to the ground, and burrow into it. They change into the pupal or resting stage and spend a month or two in this stage. When they are ready to take flight, in a day that is old enough to mate. Females mate only once, however for the ratio of males to females is about equal. Females are ready to lay eggs when they are 5 days old. In weather favorable to the pest, it takes only about 3 weeks from egg to egg, from one generation to another. Great prolificacy and persistence makes the screwworm the expensive pest it is. Losses of livestock, maiming and stunning of animals, and the expense of treating screwworm infestations — which can be readilyspent—run to about $10 million a year in Florida; and to more than $20 million in the Southeast. This damage is to domestic livestock alone; no one has ever attempted to compute the damage to wildlife.

Screwworm infestation of domestic animals can be treated and kept under control by riding herd on animals, treating them by approved methods, and...
EVEN THOUGH, according to the Prophet, "To talk of the weather, it's nothing but folly, for when it rains on the hill, it shows on the valley." Weather is a favorite subject, and discussed by all classes of people.

When our great country was being settled the majority of the inhabitants lived on farms. Since their livelihood was chiefly dependent entirely on the weather, the farmers' greatest concern was and other curlicues, their own home system of forecasting the coming weather. It was only natural that the men, who were so closely associated with both wild and domesticated animals, should have observed the actions of certain animals or birds, while another would be guided by unusual happenings in the world of fish, insects, or plants. It was claimed that, not only could this plant foretell stormy weather, but it predicted earthquakes as well. "The West wind always brings wet weather; the East wind wet and cold together. The South wind usually brings the North wind blows it back again," was a jingle used by our ancestors in forecasting rain. Other old adages were: "When grass is dry at morning light, look for rain before the night." "A round-topped cloud with flattened base, carries rain in its face." "Puss on the hearth with velvet paws, sits wiping o'er her whiskered jaw; it will surely rain, I see with my own eyes, a cloud is coming over to-morrow." "When clouds appear in the sun, the earth's refreshed by frequent showers." "A quick change in weather, from Good to Bad, was anticipated if: One crow was seen flying alone; seagulls were sitting on the beach instead of flying over water; a rooster turned his tail toward the door and crowed at night; the wind was a ship, and a dog rolled over and remained upon his back."

Fishingmen first named certain cloud formations "mackerel sky," which was the herald of fair weather and a good catch, and doubtless responsible for "Mackerel sky—never long wet, never long dry." And then we have the well-known proverb of, "An evening red and a morning gray is a sign of a fair day," and "Evening red, morning gray, sets the traveler on his way; evening gray, morning red, keeps the traveler in bed." "Rainbow in the morning, shepherds take warning; rainbow at night, shepherds de light," and "Rainbow to windward, foal fall the day; rainbow to leeward, damp runs away," are proverbs of rainbow weather lore.

Dry Weather was forecast when: Mid-wasps built their nests low on walls; rabbits played in open places; doves sang in early morning hours, and quails remained in flocks instead of pairing off. Some prophets said that a halo around the sun meant a dry spell, while the moon's halo naturally portended rain. You could even tell the exact date of the expected rain by counting the number of stars within the halo, calling each star a day. The day of snowfall was a sign of the snow's coming; the day before snowfall was a sign of the snow's leaving. Good, the modern weatherman, with his typical scientific bluntness, debunks the theories that through the ages have come down to us in the form of proverbs, jingles, folklore and superstitions, but many examples of these quaint, but pleasing notions are found in America's most popular literature.

The Bible, as recorded at Matthew XVI, 2-3 says: "When it is (Continued on Page 46)
"...and so, whatever 'twas—man, beast or devil—that was the last time anyone seen it. The next day they looked for tracks where it had run back into the woods. They found nothin', of course—not even a broken twig!"

No one spoke as old Tim, the head guide, finished his story. In the black night outside a restless wind moaned softly through the crowding pines, sending small eddies of powdered snow whispering away over the frozen ground; imparting lifeless motion to the shaggy coats of the half dozen horned bodies that hung stiffly from a limb behind the wood shed.

Then, abruptly, the tension was broken. A dying log collapsed inside the big fireplace. The little geyser of amber sparks sihnetted the old guide's thoughtful face as he turned and knocked out his cold pipe and I stared at Gruder. Distorted shadows in the man's eyes challenged me.

Having hunted the Georgia deer country for a number of years, I had of course grown accustomed to the superstitious, almost sullen, manner of the natives who live in the outlying pine barrens; I'd heard before the legend of the cursed offspring that supposedly roamed the woods and was half horse, half man. And yet here was something—

"Where did you see it?" I demanded. Gruder's smile was mocking. "In the woods—at night."

"You mean you were spot-lighting?"

No answer.

"What happened?"

I was movin' through an' ol' orchard that'd grown over. All Venet I knew I wasn't alone. I froze, listenin'. Then I saw it. 'Twas lookin' over a bush, glarin' at me!"

The man's slick lips began to work. "What did you do then?"

"I threw the light on it. It's eyes were awful—blood red."

"And it had horns?"

"Sharp 'uns!"

"Hell, man!"

Gruder's reply was a passionate whisper: "No, the horns went straight up, without a single point on 'em. an' the hair on the chest was snow-white!"

"You're lying?"

I stopped before a box-like gen­

erating farm building and came upon the Hinton place. I knew that if I drove the car in, yet I know that if anything were occurring this de­

solate place it would be best to have the car hidden...

Scattered patches of frozen snow still lay upon the uneven ground. Instinctively I avoided them, pre­

ferring to let the grass muffie the sound of my buzzing footsteps.

Shadows were already filling the pits brim-full as I skirted the brook­

ing farm buildings and came upon a well worn deer trail. I followed the trail almost to the edge of the pits. Then I sat down with my back to a gnarled apple tree and prepared to wait.

(Continued on Next Page)
Night fell quickly. It seemed to bring with it an etereal hush that softened the harsh contours of the land.

I slipped a couple of backhoes loads into my 12-bore and laid my

shaped. I was tired. In the shadows beside the brooding barn. A white form, my eyes. "Look-there!" he said tone-

"Comin' outta the pits behind the old Hinton place!"

This time when I returned I was much better equipped to deal with the Ghost. I had brought along a .30-30 rifle, night glasses and a big thermos of steaming coffee. Even more comforting, I had brought with me a companion. Jim and I had hunted bear together and I knew that I could depend on him if the going got rough.

"Weird sort of a place, isn't it?"

Jim moaned as a quarter moon re-

a shifting ground mist that
dense, seemed actually to press­

hounds in the distant village. That

heard the thin, plaintive wail of a

 wolves. I slipped a couple of buckshot

loads into my 12-bore and laid my

bring with it an ethereal hush that

to press hard. Nothing!

chill and cramped. I had about de­

visions grew more dense, seemed actually to be pressing in on me from all sides. Once I heard the thin, plaintive wall of a sound ringing in my ears. I had been disbelieved at the flaring, crumbling nostrils, the white, even teeth. "A deer," he whispered, "but what a deer!"

I looked at the snow-white, quiv­

ering body, and nodded. It was true. And yet, suddenly I felt prudent and uncautious -I had expected something else.

"I think I know what happened," I said at last. "Look at those horns, the long chin whiskers. This ani­

mal is the product of a mating be­tween a white-tail deer and a do­

mestic goat." I'd heard of a similar instance once before.

"Yes," Jim agreed. "And that explains those tracks you saw in that small patch of snow—it was probably playing on its hind legs, reaching out to eat the new branches on the apple tree.

We were carrying out the heavy equipment in a string of their subjective figures that seemed to rise up out of the ground as they found themselves in the presence of the unknown. No word was spoken, only a weird matter of hushed sound that rose and fell above the trilling fun­

eral procession; strange people, pallbearers shrouding the white body of Mary Hinton's grotesque offspring in a semblance of respect that was too old to die.

Needless to say, Jim and I were glad to send the humungous car back through the pike country and down the concrete highway over the cold, distant city where we were shining the bright lights of reality.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

APRIL, 1958

**BASS FISHING, A TO Z**

(Continued from Page 32)

that they only use 4-lb. or 6-lb. mono. Put down these: they are either fishing clear-water lakes without

or fishing for small bodies of water. I have found that it is impossible to turn even a four­

pound bass from pads or a snag with anything less than 6-lb. monor, and after many disappointments in snag­

water (what other kind of water is

bass water?) I now use nothing but super-lump 8-lb. or 10-lb. spinning gear and as terminal leaders in fly casting.

Bass is a fish that roared as I scrum­

bled frantically to my feet, search­

ing for the fallen flashlight.

"It's the Ghost!" Jim yelled. "Inside the barn—" his words were lost under the protesting clatter of a heavy rain on the broken windows.

Within the dark building bed­

room had broken loose. Again and again there came the splintering crash of a powerful body striking against unseen obstructions. I ran forward.

Jim was a dark blur leaping against the shivering door, sobbing for breath.

"Open it," I yelled, "and stand clear!" Man, boast or devil, I still had faith in the .30-30.

Jim did so. I saw him leap side­

ways as I brought up the gun.

Silence. Silence broken only by a throbbing heart, racing and intensifying pain from somewhere inside the black void before me.

"Comin' out. Comin' in "

I sensed the murderous, vengeful rush even as the hooved feet rang again against the鲃m and piercing, insane scream rent the night as flame spurted from the .30­

once, twice—three times!

"For God's sake, get the light!" I sobbed. "I've killed it!" And I re­

strained myself from rushing for­

wary.

There was now only a pitiful gasping for breath, and I could hear a body trying to drag itself away. I attempted to strike at a match, I couldn't.

The sound changed to a rattling choking that grew louder—demand­

ing. "Bring the light—quick!" I pleaded again.

And then Jim returned. We stood shoulder to shoulder, grateful for each other's presence, as the light played over the blood-splashed ap­

rition that lay dying at our feet.

There before us was the white face, the hairy, whiskered jaws, the liquid, glaring eyes. And, most asto­

nishing, the thick pointless horns jutting straight up out of the skull! Jim smacked his lips blackness.

I snapped. "We'll get him just before he goes into the snag and he will sometimes come out again. Sounds unbelievable, but it happened once.

Last summer I took a seven­pounder from a pot-hole after he had proved he was getting into the bullrushes despite all the pressure

I could apply without breaking the leader. I gave him line and watched him jump inside that clump of bull­

rushed. He threaded his way out again exactly the same way he had gone in, then barged into a bunch of grass on the far side. I gave him line again and he came out again, so disgusted that he laid over on his side and let me land him.

It doesn't happen often, but it can.

Your veteran, artful, skillful fisherman views the efforts of the amateur, and finds a disgust at the fish in fishing every man's ex­

pert.

Just the other evening I scooted a likely spillway on St. Lucie Canal. I approached it silently, eat it care­

fully without receiving a swirl or a follow. The moon was wrong. The breeze wasn't right. You could have thrown a frog out there and he could have swum across it 7 times without even trying to make any move from a bass. When bass aren't hit­

ing they aren't hitting, and that's all there is to it, as every bass fisherman know. Carelessly I walked down to the spillway edge, cocked

my flyrod across my arm and lit a cigarette.

Along came one of those fish-tailed outboarders with a 30-h.p. engine screaming at its tail. A big, beefy, bull-necked guy—he didn't even look like a bass fisherman, I can tell him a story—a guy—jammed the boat side and, emptied a beer can and threw it over against the concrete wall.

"How they bitin', fellow?" he asked.

I gave him my best patronizing smile. "They aren't on the feed this evening."

Old Dumb & Stupid cast an attrac­
tive plug right down below where I was standing. A hideous thing. No bass in its right mind—

"Who's on'em?" Spray from a

strike showered my face. Old Dumbo

definitely landed a six pounder.

He reached back in the bucket and put it on a stringer which held half a dozen more, the smallest of which looked to be about four pounds.

I turned and thereby walk­

away. That's bass fishing to A to Z.
Woodcock, Philohela minor.

In general appearance the woodcock is a blocky, rich brown bird boggy thickets. From parts of the state, the woodcock is sought out. Most of its daylight less common than it is in the more Hatchee River the species is much ward to the vicinity of the Caloosa.

The unusual downcurved bill is the most outstanding characteristic of this species. The head is striped and the body coloration basically grayish brown.

Hudsonian Curlew, Numenius phaeopus. The unusual downcurved bill is the most outstanding characteristic of this species. The head is striped and the body coloration basically grayish brown.

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The woodcock is a fairly common sight, chiefly along the coasts, during spring and fall migrations. Their musical, rolling call, size (body length averages about 17 inches and wingspread about 32 inches) and the preferred open sand bars and flats where large flocks often feed make them a well known and conspicuous portion of local bird life.

The species nests in the northern part of the Northern Hemisphere. The breeding area is from British Guiana southward to the mouth of the Amazon and from Lower California to S. Chile. A few individuals linger here and there along the main migration routes. Food items include both animal and vegetable material, depending upon season and locale.

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THE WINGED MENACE

Continued from Page 35

Cecil Tucker of Fort Christmas, reported that every wound of livestock was infested that year. Henry Partin of Kissimmee said that his sons shot three heavily infested deer. Roscoe Bass, a stockman, said that planned calving in the winter months had not prevented screwworm losses and that he might have to give up raising calves; riders cost live $12 to $15 a day and are hard to find.

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MORCH of the pleasure of participation in shooting sports today stems from use of modern, improved equipment and from keeping up with the latest firearms developments. It was not always so... This Gun Editor remembers quite well the existence. Gun catalog succeeded gun teen year period between 1925 and usual today, were practically non-factory-fitted Remington, Winchester, Marlin andments in stock shapes and fore-ends, pocketbook were disappointingly too expensive to change production pre-drilled for optional installation of receiver and scope sights brought disappointing replies. It would prove too expensive to change production methods, or to furnish desired features as standard equipment, was the basic theme. It's a different story now. Not only have some of the old-timers, like the original Marlin 39, Savage 99, Winchester 71 and the Marlin 336, been improved, largely in ac- cordance with shooters' expressed preferences, but newer models have been introduced. But, just as yesteryear—the Remington models 12 and 24, and the Winchester models 57, 90 and 64, to name a few—have either been discontinued entirely or radically re-designed and given new model designations. Even a gun editor, whose personal and professional firearms subject interests are almost at-all-time, finds it difficult to keep up with all of the many changes. New gun models call for constant investigation and testing. Whereas firing and mechanical testing of new guns once occupied only a small part of this Gun Editor's time, now weekly accuracy and mechanical tests are the rule. Ammunition consumption (all calibers and gauges) has gone up from an average of 28,000 rounds per year to approximately 40,000, with the cost thereof a major item in the family budget.

In those days, fervent letters to Remington, Winchester, Marlin and Savage suggesting new developments in stock shapes and sights, and generally recognized as being a fine, inexpensive training rifle for youngsters.

Barrels on the 67's have always been good performers. This Gun Editor once re-stocked one of the rifles, fitted it with target front and rear sights, tuned up its mechanism and proved the rifle's barrel capable of almost unbelievable accuracy, fired over 100 yards from bench rest.

The Winchester Model 55, low-priced, single shot .22 is obviously given new model designations. Even though the older models were discontinued entirely, the Remington models 12 and 24, and the Winchester models Nos. 721 and 722. In the new Remington Model 725. Illustrated, these have been combined with both beauty and new developments in the firearms field. Available Calibers are: .280 Remington, .270 Springfield and .270 Winchester.
WEATHER LORE

(Continued from Page 37)

noteworthy changing over the years in the case of most weather lore. Many of these sayings are handed down from father to son, and some have been updated to reflect modern conditions. Here are a few examples:

**SEVERE WINTER WEATHER**

"Ev­
and inclement. Bees, with prophetic evening, ye say, It will be fair weather for the sky is red and weather; for the sky is red. And " All

**SHORT AND DELICATE**

(Continued from Page 32)

it rest a full minute or more before moving it that first all-important time. If there is a bass lurking beneath it, it normally doesn’t require much time to bring a bass into your curio­

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**GET THE POINT**

(Continued from Page 21)

In other sections of this country, as well as in foreign lands, hook patterns are apt to vary radically. It is impossible to describe a few. Also, when the mesquite started budding that was the signal to set out tomato plants, just as it was corn planting time when the leaves of the elm were the size of a squir­

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Air vents in each end of the case can be opened to provide free circulation of air during storage or transport. Retail price is $24.95, regardless of overall length chosen.

To get the maximum use from one of these fine gun carrying trunks, FWFT&T recommends removing the mesh shell horizontally across the back of a car's trunk compartment. On this shelf the Outers Rahman in a horizontal position, case also pushed back snugly against the far end of the car's compartment. Then take a pencil and draw a line the full length of the shelf, using the face side of the positioned gun case as a guide. Remove the case temporarily and nail a thin strip of wood full length along the line just drawn. When you return, it will appear as if there is a line along the shelf, it will automatically drop into the formed recess, secure against slipping or noisy transportation, yet easily removed by merely lifting it over the thin strip.

FWFT&T has never seen a luggage style gun case equal to the Outers Lumberman product. It's quality merchandise throughout-out, guaranteed by its makers for workmanship and will surely give nothing but satisfaction! A test model has been given more than a full year of both urban and rural use and of the sort described above. FWFT&T, yet is still practically new in appearance. When you examine a sample, you will readily understand why FWFT&T recommends the Outers truck-style gun case without reservation.

Among fishermen the world over, the names of Pflueger, inside mark of the Pflueger Mfg. Co., Akron, Ohio, means much. The manufacturer of the Pflueger line has been making quality tackle for a long, long time. Some of the Pflueger surf reels that the editor of FWFT&T used as a boy are still giving good service after more than thirty years. The plating on some of those early Pflueger reels was really too good.

FWFT&T, for various technical reasons, never wound more than 10-1/4"-worm-load in enthusiasm for Pflueger's original Pelican model open-face spinning reel, although from the first, the catalog listing was backed by the manufacturer's generations-old guarantee.

Pflueger line is the new model 85, closed-face cylinder style spinning reel is an entirely different matter. In its incorporated features that the Pflueger engineers devoted joint and prolonged energy to its development, it is a reel that would please the most critical.

Above FWFT&T regards the Pflueger 85 as one of the best stocked reels in the world. Since Century in appearance, it incorporates its own claims for distinction. The Pflueger engineers claim it is the smoothest enclosed spinning reel ever built. After trying it, you may well agree.

Line control is achieved by pressing a plunger which actuates a cam, without the necessity of first turning the reel's crank. This cuts down an already smooth surface that occurs the moment the lure hits the water. Another unique feature offering line control is the gently curved center of the reel's extended cover, which eliminates abrupt turns in the line between reel spool and cone end hole. This direct line feed results in less line friction, smoother casting and smoother retrieve.

Cone end side plates are anodized with bright shining red finish, other parts being bright blue. It is of aluminum. The reel's line pick-up is made of carbo-nylon, one of the hardest materials known and often used on a cutting edge on other hard metals.

Like any mechanism uses a break sheave of curved nylon with wide contact area for smooth action and long life and is easily adjustable for any type of use and of course the reel's case is die cast aluminum for greatest strength and flexibility. The line guide long nose where the line comes in contact near pick-up pin. Silent anti-reverse automatically prevents the fisher from accidentally gumming the wrong way, and stops at any point without breakage.

Gear is bronze and stainless steel—precision machined, not moulded, for close tolerance. Line spool is of light, strong, aluminum. Back drag is adjustable. All reel parts are precision made of solid aluminum. Line spool capacity is 100 yards of 6 lb. test monofilament, 150 yards of 4 lb. test line. Extra spools are available and it is simple to interchange them.

FWFT&T likes the new Pflueger model 85 fine finishing, believes you will like it too.

Price is $19.95. Your local tackle dealer can either order the new Pflueger fish-and-fowl in stock by now.
FISHING
(Continued from Page 5)

Even suggesting to most fishing resorts that their dining room schedule could be improved brings howls of anguish and furiously fast beating. Expecting to get this service is like asking for low rates during the rush season, and, in either case, you'll get nowhere.

I can't understand why. Surely serving food early and late on a limited basis wouldn't put an added strain on establishments, many of which think nothing of keeping a cocktail bar open until 2 or 4 a.m.

The reel is used to take up the slack the rod pumping produces. Using a spinning reel like a winch will only result in a badly twisted and perhaps broken line.

Most spinning reels have a 4-to-1 reduction gear. When you turn the handle around once, the pickup arm goes around four times. This is usually done by testing the drag by hand, pulling a little line from the mono going thru the guides and rod tip would break a line so set. The only safe way to set your drag is to tie the line to something solid and back away, holding the rod high and putting a bend in it. Now adjust the drag so that even, quick jerks on the high held rod will not break the line. After you've done this several times, again test the drag by hand at the reel. You'll be surprised how light it is.

Have Fun

The purpose of sports fishing is to have fun — pleasant, relaxed, peaceful fun. To get the most out of angling, resolve to park your aggressive, competitive drives when you park your car. These will only rob you of much enjoyment out on the water.

Angling isn’t a game to be won. It’s a sport to be enjoyed. The rewards are not prizes and assorted loot but, rather, a communion with nature. Angling offers an opportunity to escape for a moment the busy adult world of stress and strain and be, again, the carefree boy of yesterday.

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