February

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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
"FOR THAT BIG ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY"

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded data of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK
APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION
The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date
GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS... 8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL... 4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)... 1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER... 2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE... 2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST... 1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fly, spinning, or bait-casting tackle, with artificial or live baits, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

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ROSE TALLAHASSEE

FEBRUARY, 1960
Dear Sir:

I am retiring from the U. S. Navy which has been my life since 1926. I have seen much of the world in uniform and learned to use casting, spinning, and using the bait.

I

Dear Sir:

in Florida. I am looking forward to the day when I hang up my uniform.

The fishing is not particularly long but the girth was immense. This is one of the best bass I have ever caught.

M. Cracy
Dunnellon, Fla.

TRUE SPORTSMAN

Dear Sir:

Recently I came across a poem in my scrapbook that I thought very apropos for a magazine like yours. I have been reading it for several years and it has done a wonderful job in making the TRUE SPORTSMAN conservation conscious.

I

LUMKER LARGEMOUTH

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a photograph we here at Lumker Largemouth believe would be of interest to all sport fishing enthusiasts.

H. Nixon, formerly of Tampa, is an engineer and accomplished angler. Oil at Aruba, Netherlands West Indies, 18 miles off the coast of Venezuela, and finally, that the God's given love for fishing recently (Dec. 22) when he hooked this 17-pounder in the Rainbow River.

Nixon was using a plug-casting outfit, with 15-pound test line, when he landed this big one about three-fourths of a mile from where the Rainbow River empties into the Withlacoochee River. Art Johnson of Bass Fishing Club pointed out, the majority of bass fishermen use only 10 pounds; huge is 5-6 pounds. As long as I remember, all the things I learned back in school years that correspond to the subjects covered in the leader's Project Sheet.

The key to the year's activities, however, is found in a set of Project Sheets, sent to the club leader at regular intervals. During the coming year, five Project Sheets will be issued on Trees, Birds, Insects, Flowers and Mammals. These sheets give basic information on each subject and list many fascinating activities for the club to enjoy.

Each child receives a Junior Club Scrapbook, divided into sections, that correspond to the subjects covered by the leader's Project Sheet. The Scrapbook is a sort of framework. Each child fills it with his own highly individualistic pages containing clips, clippings and a record of nature observed through a child's eyes.

Nature Through A Child's Eyes

NATURE as seen through a child's eyes is a world of wonder and fascination - a world of fresh and undreamed-of surprises. Through the unclouded lenses of the eyes of children, the most commonplace events of nature are sharply focused on impressionable and receptive minds. A seed traveling on the wind on a silken parachute - a spider web glistening with droplets of dew - the chirping chorus of crickets in the autumn dusk. These are wonders of nature that capture a youngster's imagination and spark his curiosity.

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Where did the seed come from? How did the spider build its web? How do crickets sing? Finding the answers to these questions is the start of a boy's budding awareness of his surroundings. Each year the Junior Club Program is designed to instill in children a love and respect for all of nature. The concepts of good conservation can be readily understood at a later date by a child who is concerned about the world of nature, of which he is a part.

To date, the lives of some 11,000,000 children have been enriched through the Junior Club program. Some of America's top-flight naturalists and conservationists were inspired to their life work by Junior Club activities in their formative years.

How does the Audubon Junior Club program work? To begin with, most of the clubs are formed through local Audubon Societies. Its method: to provide parents and teachers with guidance in giving their children first-hand experience in exploring nature. In this way, children could not only be given expert assistance in interpreting what they saw but also they could be shown how to observe more widely and accurately.

It was the conviction of the Audubon Society that if America's precious natural resources were to be conserved and wisely managed, the nation's children would have to develop early in life, an appreciation of their importance. The Society wisely decided that the best way to accomplish this was through the child's own budding awareness of his surroundings. Each year the Junior Club Program is designed to instill in children a love and respect for all of nature.

In God's apraizin eyes. But praised his scrappy deeds

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John A. Rothven of Cincinnati is the artist responsible for the black and white drawing which depicts a drake, hen and four ducklings swimming in the reeds. "Wild" Club Stunt Is Success When the Sportsman's Club of West Volusia County scheduled a "blind auction," some of the membership did a little head-shaking. The event, to be held in conjunction with a catfish stew supper, depended upon the donation of items for auction. The merchandise ranged from a cracked brick to an "antique" Meek baitcasting reel and included a pants presser, miner's pick, collapsible saw-horses, and a few unrecognizable items. But the guests bid with a vengeance. Not only did the receipts pay for the catfish stew and what went with it but there was some money left. "We didn't do it to raise money," wondered Neil Allinger, president. "But since we showed a profit, that is fine too." Rattlesnake Rodeo The annual rattlesnake rodeo sponsored by the Washington County Sportsman's Club may be the most novel of Florida sportmen's clubs events. Running from December 15 through January 29, the event included $3,000 in prizes for largest, smallest and best-rattle-equipped snakes. The show was climaxcd by a demonstration by Ross Allen, selection of a "rattlesnake queen" and a parade. New Wildlife Rep Fielden H. (Pete) Farrar of Atmore, Ala., has been appointed to the newly-created position of southeastern field representative for the National Wildlife Federation. He was named to the post by National President Claude D. Kelley. Farrar, 39, is a native Alabamian with a background in study of forestry and wildlife management. Recently, he has been employed by the forestry division of the Alabama Department of Conservation in public relations and fire investigation work. Headquartering in Alabama, Farrar will serve Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. Helpful Neighbors It has long been a sore spot with U. S. hunters that Canada and Mexico have permitted heavy shooting of migratory waterfowl while those of us in "between" have constantly reduced limits. In two news stories U. S. gunners this winter when both Canada and Mexico announced reductions in bag limits due to the present period of low prices. Hunting seasons in Alberta and Saskatchewan were shortened. Although hunting pressures have never been as great to the north and south as in the U. S., it has been a common practice for U. S. hunters to buy licenses in Canada or Mexico to take advantage of the generous bag limits. Save Our Shorelines A newly-organized group of conservationists recently put out an "SOS," and it was a call for help. But it wasn't the "SOS" of distress signals at sea. This call is to "SAVE OUR SHORELINES"—save them for the fishermen, the hunters, the swimmers, the sailors, the water skiers and for people who just like to look at them. It came from the Izaak Walton League of Brevard County, newest branch of the Izaak Walton League of America. The new organization now has over 100 Charter Members from all parts of Brevard County. For a new organization, it has a very active program planned. The central point is part of a nationwide study of shorelines and recreational waters. In essence, explains League President Gary Bennett, the SOS campaign will be broken down into five studies: PUBLIC ACCESS—a study of how you and I can get to the water. WATER—a study of pollution and management of fresh and salt waters. LAND—a study of the uses and abuses of shorelines and how it affects the waterfront. PUBLIC CONDUCT—a study of the way the public uses the water and land. ACTION—a study of recommended steps for improving the
THERE IS NOW TRENDBNSOUS NATION-
WIDE INTEREST IN DEVELOPING AND
DEMOBONMING PERSONAL SKILL IN THE
FAST DRAW OF A HAND GUN, A Livi-. Dillen or Johnny Ringo. A rising
tide of popularity has swept over
the country since the sport was first
reviewed in the September 1958 is-
SUE OF FLORIDA WILDLIFE.
Currently, there are more than
250,000 fast draw enthusiasts and
more than 1,000 organized clubs.
A recently held contest in Miami
attracted a large field of entrants of
both sexes and all ages. Also, last
October at Tombstone, Arizona, fast
draw fans from all sections of the
country competed for the national
championship title, won four con-
secutive times by Dee Woolem, re-
ferred to as the "fastest gun alive.
Woolem can draw, cock, level,
guarded as the "fastest gun alive·• to-
championship title, won four con-
ditions. Thedraw fan may be consid-
ered as the "fastest gun alive· today.
Woolem can draw, cock, level, and fire his hip-worn single-action
gun and live ammunition used) at
no time would the shooter receive a
leg injury.
Many of the gun handling a.
demonstrating personal skill in the
fast draw activity. Woolem's technique differs radically from
those used by certain rival con-
temporaries, who undeniably are al-
saft, but whose techniques are
classed with the efforts of a kid to
aim at a target. In reality, according
to those who have tackled the sport
in serious vein, the activity is both
relaxing and thrilling.

Busy industrialists, especially ex-
cutives, find that practicing the fast
draw at the end of a strenuous work
day tends to relieve gradually ac-
cumulated inner tension. One
Robert Six, president of Continental
Air Lines and a director of Ameri-
can Airlines, says, "I have enjoyably engaged in
fast draw practice for some
years, sharing the interest with
many of my business associates.
I have even taught my son and other
children the correct technique of
this popular pastime. I feel fast draw is
a very constructive sport for it
relaxes young people, as well as
adults, the importance of proper gun
handling and good gun manners.
Persons who engage in it seriously
benefit from acquired safe gun
handling knowledge and developed
competence and manual dexterity."

The fast draw gun is a useful tool used in hunting and
self-defense. The gun may be held in the hand or
shoulder_supported. It is effective at
distances from 50 to 100 yards.
Florida Wildlife Magazine is written primarily for Florida readers, but as it says on the cover, we are "The Florida Magazine for all Sportmen." This takes in a lot of territory and is no idle boast. Florida Wildlife has subscribers in almost every state and in all 50 of the United States and 13 other countries. We are not only national but cosmopolitan in our coverage. As an example, this column gets more mail from out of Florida than in, and we have received mail from readers in Australia, Africa, England, Germany, France and other foreign lands.

This report serves two purposes—it permits me to crow a little about Florida Wildlife Magazine, and it illustrates the intense interest people all over the nation and world have in Florida. I've been seeing these fishing columns for a good many years, always aimed at the Florida sportsman. I think it's time I wrote a column that may provide some guidance to our out-of-state readers—buying with the idea of coming to the Sunshine State.

Florida's visitors fall into two broad categories. The first come for a vacation, and the second have decided to make Florida their permanent home. Florida's visitor groups can be divided almost endlessly, but for our purposes, we'll go no farther.

Let's take the vacationing out-of-stater who comes to Florida in the winter season. Already we are into a very complicated proposition. Floridians worry winter visitors because of their mild climate. In Florida, the sun shines bright while the rest of the country shivers in winter's icy grasp—shines most of the time that is—because, actually, Florida has five distinct climatic ranges. Let's take them one at a time.

The Florida Keys boast our state's best climate. The Keys are the only part of Florida that permit me to crow a little about the future, and it permits me to crow a little about the past, too. One chart of the nation and world that comes to mind is the Florida of the Gold Coast, bathed in the Florida Keys, is a region of the occasional "cold snap." I've seen a few of these that would almost snap your head off.

Central Florida runs from the South Florida peninsula south of a line drawn across the state thru Ocala. This is the Florida of rolling hills and orange groves. This is the spring and lake region of the Sunshine State. Central Florida is probably the best all-around sportsmen's area in the world. It is a vast region of woods, rivers, and lakes abounding with game. It's bordered on each side by salt water, world-famous for sports fishing. In winter, it's a region of the light topcoat and central heating.

North Florida is pine woods country, with rivers and lakes more sparsely spaced. Actually, North Florida, along with Florida's Panhandle (stretching west from Tallahassee to Pensacola) is considered tops in summer fishing. In winter, this is a region of the occasional overcoat and fruit in early morning. So there you have it—if you are in Florida and your head is in the right place, you can safely fish any of Florida's inside waters with your own outfit.

There's no denying cold weather puts our fresh-water fish down. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule, but I, personally, don't count on it.

This cold weather, however, is not a total loss to the angler. In salt and brackish water, cool weather works just the opposite, at least to a certain extent. Our cold weather seems to concentrate them in shallow, sun-warmed waters on our beaches and in our estuaries. When the north wind blows cold, sea trout and channel bass move into shallow bays and rivers. Snook and tarpon follow. In the winter, it's a region of the light topcoat and central heating.

No part of inland Florida is more than 50 miles from salt water, so this understanding of fish and temperature is a very useful bit of knowledge. One thing is sure—some kind of exciting sports fishing is ready and waiting for the Florida visitor at any time of year. It's just a matter of knowing in advance what kind of fishing you want to do and where to concentrate your efforts.

Another subject of great interest to prospective visitors is the matter of equipment and costs. Again, this is something that is fortunately very simple. I travel around this country a great deal, fishing in many of the famous places. I can truthfully say Florida has fishing camps and resorts of finest quality and at the most reasonable cost of any place in the country. What's more, floating equipment in Florida offered to the visitor is almost always of first-class construction and in good condition. Everything about Florida's facilities, available to the visiting angler, will compare very favorably in all respects to what you are accustomed to at home.

If you want to bring your own equipment, you can be sure it will be perfectly adequate. The boat and motor you use on your own favorite lake or stream will be just dandy in Florida's fresh or brackish water.

With common sense precautions, you can safely fish any of Florida's inside waters with your own outfit.

Outside, ocean fishing is another matter entirely. I would advise no one but the seasoned salt-water angler to venture out on the open sea. I can't possibly stress this advice too much. Many lives are lost each year because inexperienced boatmen venture out on a deceptively innocent ocean. If you want to live to enjoy your old age, stay on inside water.

Generally speaking, I would name the best all-around Florida fishing boat as an outboard hull, 14 to 16 feet long, powered by a 15 to 25 horsepower motor. Most used fishing outfit is a medium action, 6' foot spinning rod with open faced spinning reel of medium size. Standard line weight in Florida's salt and fresh water is 8 or 10 pound test, and most universal lure used is the jig or weighted bucktail.

Of the people who come to Florida to live, those in the retired group have perhaps most to gain and the toughest problem to lick. What a paradise Florida is for the outdoor-minded person who can devote much of his energy to outdoor affairs. Unfortunately, for many, Florida is a paradise of mind that has no relation to Florida as it actually exists.

Many persons come to Florida after years of dreaming of so doing for half their lives. What place could be better for such people than Florida? Especially for many of the retired group. Florida is a region of the occasional "cold snap." I've seen a few of these that would almost snap your head off.

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Last Chance For Squirrels

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

"O.K. I'll be ready," I said. "I was ... The property where we were to hunt was only about 23 miles from town, a section of river-bottom land possibly a mile and a quarter off one of Florida's main highways, arteries. Most-festooned oaks lined the access road, and a fresh crop of acorns popped and crunched under the car's tires as we entered the property. It was squirrel country all right!

Our host was setting a new fence post in a nearby field when we drove through the last gate. When he saw us, he waved a greeting and ambled toward the car. We later learned he was replacing a section of fence damaged by inconsiderate hunters who had hunted on his property without even asking permission.

Bud quickly made the introduction, pointing out the name, Bud. I said, "What time do you want to go?"

"In about two hours," Bud replied. "I'll be comin' by and pick you up."

For end of the season hunting thrill, seek out the bushytails in the moss-vested, acorn bearing oaks along Florida's countless lakes and streams.

Always the landowner's personal desire to post against public hunting; he often has to do it to keep from suffering constant, costly damage by irresponsible hunters.

Our host pointed in the direction of a massive grove of oaks. "You'll get good hunting over there," he said. "After you shoot a few, move on down by the river—over yonder. He pointed to another heavily wooded section. "You'll probably be able to kill your limit, but I ask that you don't. Just take what you can use, and from different areas." Obviously, he was conservation-minded as well as a past sufferer from game-hogs.

"Thanks," I said.

"We won't shoot 'em all!" Bud added. "In fact, we've observed self-imposed daily bag limits ever since we started hunting together. We won't try to shoot the limit."

"That's fair enough," said our host.

Bud ended the conversation with a "Well, let's get started!" injection.

We began to pull guns and ammunition from the body of the station wagon.

For the afternoon's hunt, Bud was using a 16 gauge shotgun and size No. 6 shot in high base shell loadings.

While the shotgun is the more popular squirrel hunting weapon and undeniably accounts for more squirrels than a rifle, I personally prefer a scope-sighted 22.

During season, I alternate between a Marlin Model 39A lever-action and a J. C. Higgins Model 31 auto-loader. This day I had the Marlin 39 A in service.

Both rifles have identical sighting equipment—Weaver low-power scope, possessing boldly visible flat-top reticle combined with a single horizontal crosshair, which I consider better than the conventional and more popular crosshair style of reticle for woods hunting.

Likewise, the combination of bold post and single horizontal crosshair is the same style of aiming reticle always the landowner's personal desire to post against public hunting; he often has to do it to keep from suffering constant, costly damage by irresponsible hunters.)

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(continued from preceding page)

To take a slug for a squirrel is much like firing a rifle and getting nothing, only the rifleman has to load his rifle every time and the squirrel has a head start. You start with the expected shot, and you may not have more than a single shot. 

During this time, Bud’s gun had boomed twice in the distance. I wondered how he was doing. My second kill was an easy shot, combined with a good measure of luck. I had been kneeling by a bush, carefully but fruitlessly eyeing every tree and limb, and had just about decided to move deeper into the grove, when my roving vision picked up a barely visible squirrel flattened out on a big limb. However, when I put the scope on him I could see his head for a clear and easy shot. At the crack of the rifle he pitched earthward. I pocketed my kill and cautiously moved into another section of the grove. Bud’s gun had boomed twice more. Evidently he was doing all right.

My third kill was a young squirrel taken as a result of calling. He didn’t exactly come running up to grab me by my shirt and inquire “What’s up, Doc?” but he was curious enough about the sounded call to move about, thereby revealing his location. The shot was made from sitting position, with plenty of time for careful aim and a smooth trigger squeeze. The curious animal never knew what hit him.

In fact, most of the shooting was like that. In a way, it was too easy, for in less than two hours Bud and I had our self-imposed bag limit of five each. Two from each lot were given to our host when thanking him for hunting privileges.

“My wife’s away for a week. Suppose you take my squirrel,” I told Bud. “That’s . . . Well, you must come over here for supper tomorrow night. How do you want yours fixed? Stew all right?”

“Stew suits me fine—and I’ll sure be there!” I said. Bud’s squirrel stew is something to remember, and the recipe one to be shared, so I am giving it here:

**Squirrel Stew**

Section three dressed squirrels into six or eight pieces each, and soak half an hour in cold, salted water. Add salt to flavor five quarts of water and boil five minutes. Then put in onions, beans, corn, pork cut in fine strips, potatoes, pepper and squirrels.

Cover closely and stew very slowly 2½ hours, stirring frequently to prevent burning. Add tomatoes and a tablespoon sugar and stew one hour longer. Then add about ½ cup of butter, cut into small lumps and rolled in flour. Bring to a boil for ten minutes and serve.

If your preference runs to fried foods, then fried squirrel will prove a tasty dish—or perhaps, once tried, you’ll come to prefer Southern-style biscuits dipped in squirrel gravy . . .

Bud and I have been hunting squirrels a long time. We can modestly say we have hunted long enough to know a few tricks of the game and habits of the little animals.

As might be expected, we are also familiar with a number of either amusing or unusual squirrel hunting experiences.

One—always recalled with a chuckle—was the day we saw an eager hunter repeatedly shoot at a squirrel and miss. The squirrel ran down the trunk of a tree, striving to reach the safety of a hole about five feet above ground. In a supreme last effort, the anxious hunter ran forward and thrust his gun’s barrel into the opening, desperately trying to shut off the escape route. But the fast-thinking squirrel jumped to the barrel and ran along it into the hole!

Then there was the day likeable Louise Brightell, of St. Petersburg, attempted a shot at a running squirrel with a 30-30 firing reduced handle. His swing was a rifle slow, and the bullet only clipped off the animal’s busby tail just as he disappeared into his den’s entrance.

But within seconds four squirrels came rushing out the same hole, seeking other quarters. Louise’s combination was that the startled and only slightly injured squirrel evidently believed that one of his den companions had hit off his tail. The sudden inability to get outdoors was to escape the mayhem being attempted in retaliation.

Clement Brightell, of Tampa, killed a squirrel with a solid bone collar around its neck. Evidently, the little animal somehow had thrust its head through the center of the day’s bone and then been unable to withdraw it.

Hunters who have trampled heavily hunted woods all day only to return home with but one or two squirrels will agree that the bushytails are generally smart. But perhaps the acme in squirrel intelligence is the report by John Wylie of an old squirrel that deliberately placed nuts on a roadway so passing cars could crush them—because he had lost his nut-cracking incisors!

Probably the most unusual case of our knowledge is that of totally blind, but keen-eared, Tom Hopkins. Guided by an intelligent hound dog, which trees his squirrels for him. Hopkins’ sight's the grays by sound alone! All hunting is done on familiar ground—his own property. Even so, hunting blind is quite a feat, you must admit!

Added to your own, such stories as developed from squirrel hunting experiences could fill a book.

The name “squirrel” is derived from two Greek words—“skia” and “oura.” Translated literally, the

**Squirrel Stew**

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Hunters who have trampled heavily hunted woods all day only to return home with but one or two squirrels will agree that the bushytails are generally smart. But perhaps the acme in squirrel intelligence is the report by John Wylie of an old squirrel that deliberately placed nuts on a roadway so passing cars could crush them—because he had lost his nut-cracking incisors!

Probably the most unusual case of our knowledge is that of totally blind, but keen-eared, Tom Hopkins. Guided by an intelligent hound dog, which trees his squirrels for him. Hopkins’ sight's the grays by sound alone! All hunting is done on familiar ground—his own property. Even so, hunting blind is quite a feat, you must admit!

Added to your own, such stories as developed from squirrel hunting experiences could fill a book.

The name “squirrel” is derived from two Greek words—“skia” and “oura.” Translated literally, the

**Squirrel Stew**

Add salt to flavor five quarts of water and boil five minutes. Then put in onions, beans, corn, pork cut in fine strips, potatoes, pepper and squirrels.

Cover closely and stew very slowly 2½ hours, stirring frequently to prevent burning. Add tomatoes and a tablespoon sugar and stew one hour longer. Then add about ½ cup of butter, cut into small lumps and rolled in flour. Bring to a boil for ten minutes and serve.

If your preference runs to fried foods, then fried squirrel will prove a tasty dish—or perhaps, once tried, you’ll come to prefer Southern-style biscuits dipped in squirrel gravy . . .

Bud and I have been hunting squirrels a long time. We can modestly say we have hunted long enough to know a few tricks of the game and habits of the little animals.

As might be expected, we are also familiar with a number of either amusing or unusual squirrel hunting experiences.

One—always recalled with a chuckle—was the day we saw an eager hunter repeatedly shoot at a squirrel and miss. The squirrel ran down the trunk of a tree, striving to reach the safety of a hole about five feet above ground. In a supreme last effort, the anxious hunter ran forward and thrust his gun’s barrel into the opening, desperately trying to shut off the escape route. But the fast-thinking squirrel jumped to the barrel and ran along it into the hole!

Then there was the day likeable Louise Brightell, of St. Petersburg, attempted a shot at a running squirrel with a 30-30 firing reduced handle. His swing was a rifle slow, and the bullet only clipped off the animal’s busby tail just as he disappeared into his den’s entrance.

But within seconds four squirrels came rushing out the same hole, seeking other quarters. Louise’s combination was that the startled and only slightly injured squirrel evidently believed that one of his den companions had hit off his tail. The sudden inability to get outdoors was to escape the mayhem being attempted in retaliation.

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TACKLE FOR SALE

Here are some ideas about the selection of the “best outfit” for Florida Fishing

By CHARLES WATERMAN

It is very difficult to use more than one fishing outfit at once — a fact I am reminded of every time I peer into my roomful of fishing junk and treasures. (It had originally been intended as a guest room.)

In there is mute evidence of a lot of foolishly spent cash which would now be a big help what with inflation and all. It’s not that the stuff isn’t good but it is a little difficult to rationalize the purchase of fourteen flyrods — I even doubt the necessity for sixteen baitcasting reels.

And the worst of it is that I am not a collector. Every time I bought something I thought I needed it. Of course, the things you buy for fishing are bought for fun but I see no reason why you shouldn’t use a little common sense, even if I don’t.

The most common question about Florida angling is simply: “What’s the best outfit for both fresh water and light salt water fishing?”

It’s asked not only by visitors but by Florida residents as well — and some of the inquirers already have enough tackle to equip a small store.

Of course the “best outfit” depends on what you have to spend and if it’s only a dime I’d recommend a 1/8 hook and a piece of handline, but to prove I’m no coward, I’m going to attempt to describe some tackle collections — three of them — graduated as to cost and adaptability.

This, of course, might make me some friends. I am sure it will make me plenty of enemies among those who are wedded to some single given method of fishing for everything from mako sharks to stumpnckers.

The angler who is to use these various outfits will be one who seeks a variety of fishes, ranging from panfish to some of the more warlike salt water prowlers. His main interest will probably be fresh water bass. He will fish frequently but will probably have a few other things to occupy his time and won’t get away more than a couple of days a week.

If he fishes more than that he will figure he knows it all and wouldn’t be caught reading this anyway.

We’ll start out with the guy or gal who wants one reel and one rod; then we’ll go to a “set” of tackle that employs two of each, and finally, one that includes three methods of fishing. The least expensive set I’m going to talk about could be had for less than $30 and the most expensive should cost a hundred or more.

First, we’ll take up the individual who is starting from scratch and wants just one complete outfit for everything.

Now, if I were important enough to warrant it, there would be a picket in front of my house with a placard proclaiming that Waterman is unfair to spinning. Repeatedly, I have been withered by the acid speech of spin-fishermen, most of whom I have found a bit on the unreasonable side. Ever since I bought my first spinning outfit right after the Japanese quit fighting, I have been told from time to time that the spinning reel and monofilament line would eventually replace all other light forms of sport fishing. I’ve always put up an argument.

Anyway, it may surprise some of these characters when I say that the best all-around single combination is a spinning outfit. That’s what I recommend for the person with only one rod and one reel.

The rod could well be around 6½ feet long — but length isn’t too critical. It should be capable of casting a half-ounce lure and perhaps it’s best described as a “medium action fresh water rod” although I’ve known “medium” to describe some strange things. Such a stick would do a good job with a quarter-ounce bucktail and could be used for lighter stuff but it would be a trifle stiff for extra-light baits.

The reel should have a capacity of at least 200 yards of 8-pound test monofilament. For this one I lean toward the open-face type although I don’t want to enter the argument. It should have two spoons — with about 4-pound test line on one and about 8-pound test mono on the other. It needs a good drag.

That combination will be a trifle heavy for speckled perch and brems but it will work very nicely. In fairly open water fishing, especially with underwater baits, it will be ideal for bass. When it goes to the coast, it will handle salt water trout or weakfish, it will be perfect for ladyfish, small jacks, reds and snappers, it will get by very nicely on snook and small tarpon and will fit in on bonefish. Although a little light for the job, it will land a lot of kingfish, mackerel and bluefish if you take it offshore and, if the drag is a good one, should account for dolphin too.

It is not ideal for surface baits that require a lot of manipulation and it is a little short on the-power end.
and tarpon and works with large, heavy bass. A darter is speedy and salty fellows, besides being fine for tarpon and snook. For this outfit if you want to use a fast baitcasting reel for small jigs, you'll need a leader of no more than twelve. Then, if a big fish goes down, you'll have your fly rod a middle weight glassie will come more nearly to the mark. The spin-cast reel, which is growing rapidly in popularity, isn't to be sneezed at, especially in the housekeeper versions, although it generally takes more coiling that a conventional baitcasting reel. It's popular with those who won't bother to learn bait fishing.

So far they haven't built a spin-cast reel that gives quite the accuracy of a conventional reel because you can't really "feather" your cast or slow down your line. It either runs free or it stops. This is important to those who lack the ability to throw accurately without stopping. Most spin-cast reels won't stand up as well under heavy fishing as will conventional baitcasting reels.

All right. Now let's go and buy the stuff. It's fun to pick it up a piece at a time at cut rates here and there but the brutal truth is that you'd better be smart to go and buy each outfit complete on a single shopping expedition.

It's seldom that fishing tackle is tried out before it's bought. The beginner has to take the word of the dealer. Fortunately, that's apt to be pretty reliable in Florida where the man who sells fishing tackle generally uses it too.

Some years ago I did a little guiding on a bass lake and was appalled by the fishing tackle brought to the dock by a wealthy sportsman who obviously didn't get to go fishing very often.

This pilgrim, fresh from a city department store, had spent a hundred bucks on a nice flyrod; a top-grade baitcasting reel, monofilament lines and an assortment of lures that ranged from No. 16 trout flies to South Florida's size. He had been asked for the best of everything and the misguided clerk had dutifully gone by the price tag.

Now this guy felt no pain at all from the herring, but there was no pain at all when I glumly told him he had nothing to fish with. I ruefully led him ill and where the man who sells fishing tackle gener-

The spin-cast reel, when substituted for baitcasting tackle, is easy to use and requires little practice. Let us now consult South Bend Salesman, Garcia Johnson.

 ing and 18-pound test in salt water. You can get by very nicely with only one line and I'd suggest you choose 18-pound stuff if you want only one. It won't cast quite as far but there isn't a great deal of difference. But the best quality of line you can find.

For an all-around Florida flyrod, I'd get a single one about 8 1/2 feet long. It should weigh around four ounces, a little less for tackle with only one outfit. A big fish will start easily but will stop spinning quickly. A slow reel requires more of a spin to get going but continues running for a longer time with more "flywheel" action—considered undesirable by most casters. About the only way of determining if a reel is "fast" is comparing it with other reels.

For a while it appeared that baitcasting would become a lost art but they say it's coming back a little now. I suppose it's natural for people who want a man in Detroit to do their gear-shifting for them and who tune their television sets by remote control to be a little leery about a method of fishing that actually takes practice and employs a modicum of skill. I'm inclined to feel that any goof who doesn't take a little pride in learning to use his tackle should buy a glass rod and be sure to use a big one like the Garcia. Let's say right here that you can't beat bamboo for flyrods and if you're willing to plunk down enough for something like an impregnated Orvis you'd never be sorry—but the glass is lighter in weight and if you have only one flyrod a middle weight glassie will come more nearly covering the entire field. I prefer a single-action reel for flyrods but you won't need it. An automatic is handy although it won't hold fish that make long runs.

If you get a single action reel—get a big one like the largest size Plueger Medalist. Then you can put plenty of backing on your salt water fishing. Keep the backing around fourteen-pound test and be sure to use a lure. It either runs free or it stops. This is important to those who lack the ability to throw accurately without stopping. Most spin-cast reels won't stand up as well under heavy fishing as will conventional baitcasting reels.

The flyrod will give you wonderful sport with bugs—small ones for panfish and big ones for bass—and the best part about the flyrod is that it's at its best just when you're willing to fish. The fast reel will start easily but will stop spinning quickly. A slow reel requires more of a spin to get going but continues running for a longer time with more "flywheel" action—considered undesirable by most casters. About the only way of determining if a reel is "fast" is comparing it with other reels.

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OUTFOXING THE FOX

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

IT WAS AN IMPULSIVE thing to do. I was sitting placidly on a roadside park table, looking idly at the pine-mantled hillsides. Something made me recall a conversation I'd had a few minutes earlier in Tallahassee with Bill Hansen, editor of Florida Wildlife, and Wallace Hughes.

"We've got lots of foxes around here," Bill had told me, "but I've never tried calling 'em."

It was the wrong time of day for game calling. Early morning and late evening are best. But since I had some idle minutes to kill while the family polished off lunch, I decided to give it a try. I rummaged around in the glove compartment of my Mercury until I uncovered a Burnham Brothers game call. Then I froze in that position, my legs half bent.

The wall of timber shimmered in the hot summer sun. A faint breeze rustled through the skyscraper tree tops. Slowly I raised the call to my lips and gave out with a series of low, sobbing squeals. It was a genuine cry of distress, all right. A sleek fox bounded into the open, tail twitching provocatively. Her belly was soft, very soft. After roughly fifteen minutes if you haven't connected, then change locations, moving at least three-quarters of a mile. When they are going to come, they answer in a hurry.

A rifle is good to start with since your initial tries are apt to be at long distances. Once you perfect your technique you can graduate to a handgun or hunting bow. With a pistol I like to lean against a bush, my feet pulled back almost underneath so that I can rest my weapon across my knees.

A fired arrow doesn't seem to greatly alarm a fox. That's one of the nice things about hunting with bow-and-arrow. I've actually had six or seven chances at an animal before it spooked.

Fox calling is a fascinating sport which can be enjoyed year-round. These ubiquitous animals are found throughout Florida and there is no closed season. A commercial call costs less than five bucks. That's a mighty cheap price for a no-season sport that anyone can enjoy within a short drive of his home.

The piercing, high-pitched tone of my call was soft, very soft. After roughly fifteen minutes if you haven't connected, then change locations, moving at least three-quarters of a mile. When they are going to come, they answer in a hurry.

A rifle is good to start with since

There's nothing like the thrill and fascination of calling in the critters

I blew steadily for a few minutes, then paused to look about me. For roughly five minutes I kept up the commotion. Finally, convinced that I was wasting my time, I started to rise when a flash of movement off to the left caught my eye. I froze in that position, my legs half bent.

The fox danced back and forth in the opening. I watched her carefully for a moment, then called her with the fox. It was a shocking experience for both of us.

That's what I like about game calling, that element of surprise. When calling the critters you never know what to expect. Whoever coined that expression "sly as a fox," evidently had never called one with a dying-rabbit predator call.

The high-pitched squeal drives one into a frenzy. Of all wild animals, the fox is easiest of all to fool with. The animals aren't supposed to come from any direction, you can move into the better areas. Once you have a connection, then change locations, moving at least three-quarters of a mile. When they are going to come, they answer in a hurry.

A rifle is good to start with since you are after predatory foxes.

It is also good to know whether anyone else has tried calling in this particular vicinity anytime in the immediate past. A fox that has been fooled by a game call once will be mighty hard to inveigle again.

Find a spot where you can remain hidden and still scrutinize a wide area. I like to wear camouflage clothing, leaning back against a scrub bush where I'll blend neatly with the background. Get where the wind blows into your face. Human scent is one danger signal that no wild creature ignores.

Start with a loud and piercing cry, one a fox can hear for a half mile. Still days are best since the call will carry farther. Recordings and written instructions which come with most game calls will outline the proper technique. Put a lot of distress in your call, always watching in a full circle about you. I know foxes aren't supposed to come from behind where the wind is in their favor, but sometimes one gets eag e and throws all caution aside. I was once on a road covered flat

THE FOX

Calling a fox to answer a call is no great feat. The real challenge is getting one close enough to bag it with a hunting bow or hunting gun.
There's nothing like giving the dogs a lecture before sending them out to work on pheasants.

Looking For

A Place To Hunt?

By CHARLES DICKEY

If you've had trouble finding a place to hunt and game to shoot, then maybe one of the commercial shooting preserves in Florida is your answer. There are nine preserves in the state open to hunters willing to pay for their sport.

Florida has had commercial shooting preserves for two seasons and they are proving popular with hundreds of sportmen, especially those from cities. The season stays open through March 31 for bobwhite quail, pheasants, chukar, wild turkey and mallards. The preserves are licensed by the Florida Game and Fish Commission and operate under strict regulations made after a study of laws in states where preserves have operated for many years.

Thousands of game birds are stocked on the preserves during the six-months season in specially planted food and cover strips. The operators provide the land on which to hunt, stock the birds, provide guides and dogs and in some cases offer overnight accommodations. All the hunter has to do is show up with his gun — and money.

The bobwhite quail is the most popular game bird but pheasants are a close second. The chukar partridge, which weighs about 16-22 ounces, is also a favorite of hunters. A few of the preserves are experimenting with wild turkey to see if this species can be handled for sporty hunting.

No two shooting preserves are alike. Services and hunting vary widely and hunters may wish to try two or three preserves before deciding whether or not this type of hunting appeals to them.

The following are typical scenes from commercial shooting preserves throughout Florida.

Licensed Commercial Shooting Preserves:

Wishon's Shooting Preserve, P. O. Box 249, Newberry, Florida.
Lion Shooting Preserve, Route 2, Stuart, Florida.
Ridgewood Shooting Preserve, Inc., Route 1, Box 825, Orange Park, Florida.
Dudley Shooting Preserve, P. O. Box 5263, Jacksonville, Florida.
Glen P. Oliphant, P. O. Box 187, Melbourne, Florida.
Diosia S. Smith, Box 74, Inglis, Florida.
W. O. Davenport, 216 Von Bursten Sr., Jacksonville, Florida.
Hunters' Paradise, Inc., Route 1, Box 37, Ocala, Florida.
H. G. Mooney, Route 1, Sebring, Florida.
Shoalhaven Shooting Preserve, Penny Farms, Florida.
The big lake lay crisp and clear in all directions—a true asset for those who love the outdoors.

**DUCK HUNT**

The three gadwall had barreled in low over the nodding decoys, approaching from an angle that hid them from my view until the very last second. Now they flashed past, so close to the tops of the tall reeds which hid my aluminum boat I could feel the air disturbed by their rapidly pumping wings.

"All right, wise guys!" I muttered after them through clenched teeth. "Try that once more—just once more!"

The gads kept right on going, however. A little bluebill hen swam into the outer decoys and I let her amuse herself there. I watched with bated breath as he cleared the motionless reeds about 30 yards off to my left. Suddenly he planed down gracefully, close above the water, as he dropped his bright red landing gear...


I'd replied to this reader that it was my understanding the wildfowl shooting on Okeechobee wasn't nearly so good as it had been when I'd gone; furthermore, that this was a bad year for ducks, that either he or I could control; only the Head Guide had the final say there. This reader's letter, however, had served to remind me there was but one day of duck season remaining this year.

I had available a brand-new Aluma Craft boat and two new outboard motors to power it. I had everything necessary for a successful hunting trip except a companion. I decided to invite someone.

Since I would be providing all the equipment and the transportation (I even decided big-heartedly I would bring along enough lunch for both of us) I figured this lucky guy, whoever he may turn out to be, would jump at the invitation.

Well, I knew one guy who'd never refuse to join me on a field trip, rain or shine—Old Glass Eye. He was on the front seat beside me as we made the two-hour trailer-tow from my home on the lower East Coast to the mouth of the Kissimmee River where it empties into Lake Okeechobee. We arrived on schedule and lost no time in putting the aluminum skiff over at Camp Okeek-simmee, beside the bridge which...
southward along the outside . . . past Second and Third points. Ordinarily, running like this with both kickers at full throttle I would have disturbed thousands of rafted wildfowl this time of day. Now what birds did get up before me proved to be mainly coot.

Tin Shack Cove didn't prove inspiring, either. Very shallow and grass-choked, I could barely work the laboring skiff across its mouth to the west shore. There I hurriedly tossed out several homemade blocks and cut tall reeds to place over the shiny metal boat.

I'd barely gotten settled when unseen wings whee­ whee-wheed past through the half-light somewhere overhead and behind me. I froze, hoping they'd return. They didn't.

Legal shooting hour came and went (it was one-half hour before sunrise last year). Then the sun inched overhead and behind me. I froze, hoping they'd return. They didn't.

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SPIDER-TAGGED FISH

By KARL OSBORNE

The operation included use of a special boat called "spider" — and the procedure was to stun 'em, tag 'em, and then release 'em.

PHOTOS BY BOB PALMER

Bill Herke tools out skiff along the narrow band of coffee-colored water stretching away to our limited horizon down the zigzag canal. A gauntlet of bonnets pressing in on both sides of the channel thrust out yellow-green tentacles that constantly foiled the prop of our outboard, making the motor race wildly until Bill stopped to free it. Threatening seven foot stands of saw grass nodded from the canal banks, menacing our arms and faces with razor-sharp barbs.

Clouds of white ibis and egrets flung themselves into the air at our approach—startlingly white against the blue of the Florida sky. They flapped clumsily away across the grey-brown sea of grass that stretched away to the south.

Here and there cypress hammocks reared up like islands in the vast expanse. The marsh, usually submerged under one to three feet of water was dry now, following an extended fall and winter drought.

High in the skeletal, sun-bleached branches of a giant lightning blasted cypress, Bill pointed out the tumbled heap of sticks and brush that spell osprey's nest. As we neared up the giant bird of prey approached its eyrie, a good-sized snake dangling from its talons.

When we first met up with the boat called "spider," Domer had a tub full of fish for tagging.

Domer grabbed a flopping four pound bass carefully by the lower lip and held him gently on the measuring board. He called off the weight and Bill recorded it on a special form, together with the date and the code number of the half mile square in which it was captured. Then Domer transferred the fish to a scale and weighed it carefully. Next he held it while Bill used a special tool to crimp a tiny device that made it possible for a two-man crew to reach their quota of 2,000 tagged fish in eight weeks, the "spider." It looked like a fugitive from some science fiction yarn tied to the canal bank there.

When Bill Herke heard of the plan, he thought it would make an excellent project for the FG&FWFC. A call to Mel Huish, Bill's boss in Leesburg got the go-ahead for Bill to do the tagging with financing under a fund set up by Federal Dingell-Johnson money.

Around a bend we found the water was dry now, following an extended fall and winter drought. They disappeared.

Here, not five minutes run from the well-traveled Fellsmere highway, we were in a wilderness that seemed almost primeval. A wilderness that abounds in all sorts of wildlife—birds, deer, rabbits, coon, possums, otter, even panthers. We were one of the labyrinth of drainage ditches which lead eventually to Blue Cypress Lake, 30 miles west of Vero Beach. It was a five mile run through fishy-looking water to our destination.

Today photographer Bob Palmer and I were the guests of Bill, a fishery biologist with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. We were out for a look at a fish-tagging operation, the first ever in Indian River County. It had begun as the brainchild of Bill Payne, director of the Rod and Gun Club Fishing Tournament.

Payne had decided to tag a number of fresh water sport fish, then offer merchandise tournament prizes for their recovery. The idea had been highly successful in his old home in the TVA area of Tennessee. When Bill Herke heard of the plan, he thought it would make an excellent project for the FG&FWFC.

Photography by Bob Palmer
The water conducts the current from the chains to the two plus poles, boxlike wooden affairs containing a network of copper wires. The 20 foot wide electric field thus set up shocks and stuns nearly every living creature it touches—fish, frogs, snakes, even turtles. They recover quickly, suffering no ill effects from the shocking.

During their brief paralysis, the fish can easily be scooped up with a dip net. The principle is nothing new. On the canals in south Florida the Spider has been used experimentally in attempts to reduce rough fish populations several years ago. Gar, bowfinas (mudfish) and other undesirables were netted, loaded into waiting boats and disposed of. However, although large numbers were destroyed many also were missed. Because of the rapid reproduction and growth of those missed, such rough fish control was determined impractical.

With a great rattling of the chains (continued on page 35)

Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla.

The Redstart is a bird seemingly possessed of the "nervous fidgets" for it seldom remains still for any considerable period of time. The habit of spreading the tail fan-fashion, drooping the wings, and jumping into the air in pursuit of an insect is a notable quirk of behavior.

The general plumage pattern is the same for both sexes. The male is black and orange-red, the female olive-green with a grayish tinge and pale yellow. During their first fall the young of both sexes resemble the adult plumage. It is an abundant species in Florida, reaching as far north as Mackenzie Territory and Newfoundland and southward into Oregon in the west and southern Alabama in the east.

The Redstart is a bird of brushy fields and pastures, and thickets in woodlands, along road-sides and field-borders are all good places to look for the Myrtle Warbler distributed here during the winter months.
Its search for insects which compromise most of the food keeps the black-throat in the woodlands, frequently well up into the trees where they are difficult to see well. The song is distinctive however and may frequently be the means of locating and identifying the bird. The song is given in many forms but all characterized by a drowsy hissing undertone. The common call sounds like see-see, repeated in a series of five or six notes, the first ones on an even pitch, then a drop of the next to the last and a rise in the final one.

Yellow-throated Warbler, _Dendroica dominica_.

A year round resident of Florida is the yellow-throated warbler. The adults are black with the yellow of a breast, greenish tan with darker streakings in the back and brownish blotchings. The upperparts are gray, the throat and breast yellow. The belly is white and the sides are conspicuous. The upper parts seem to make up a huge segment of the continent from central Missouri and Maine and New York northward to the limit of tree growth and from Newfoundland westward into the northwestern part of Alaska.

In Florida the blackpoll is seen as a common migrant in both spring and fall periods. It is encountered at such times in parts of the state although it is something of a rarity in the northwestern Panhandle. Mid-April through May and again from about the third week in September into early November are the periods during which it is most likely to be seen here. From the Guianas and Venezuela to Brazil it appears the destination of most southbound migrants. A typical warbler diet of insects is the rule with this species. During migration they often appear about homes in town as well as in rural sections. Their movements are noticeably deliberate and they are quite easy to approach for close observation.

Pine Warbler, _Dendroica pinus_.

In the spring plumage the adult male is yellowish green above and yellow below with faint streakings of grayish brown. Females and young of the species are plain appearing birds, olive-brown above and whitish below.

### BEARS VS. BEES

_Each year 11% of Florida's beekeepers have trouble with bears!_

**The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission**

**BEAR HIVES CAN BE PROTECTED 2 WAYS**

*BeesPROOF PLATFORM* (p. 16)

_Used by 93% of Florida's Beekeepers_.

*Plant Protection Against Bear Predation*. Available free from Game and Fish Commission.

**HIVE DEFENSES**

Mr. Beekeeper is a bear lover. His bees must be protected. The following methods, combined with a platform can help.

- Use a platform to elevate hives.
- Confinement alone is not a sure defense.
- The platforms must be at least 10 feet above the ground. A platform protecting a hive must be 12 feet above the ground.
- Combine two methods described above.

**GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION**

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**GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION**
Even as they flared and I threw up the scattemark I automatically counted the zooming bodies .. one comfortably hot and still. Before long, I suspected, even these scap would stop flying.

The black and white ducks swung neatly in unison, as they banked against the blue sky. Then they set their pumine wings and started down right at me.

It was easy shooting. Too easy.

The first crumpled immediately and I dropped it into the water as it met the full force of the shot load. I let the second one overairm gently upward, then folded it as it was leveled off at the top of its clinch.

Two other birds lay quietly among the matching black and white decoy. I stood up to stretch and was about to cast off the boat to retrieve them. Too deep here for wading.

I was bent over, brushing away the last of the catonflaging reeds that covered the s'kiff, preparatory to going home, when it happened — as it usually does. I hoised the rapid whirl of wisps and grabbed for my gun. Ducking instinctively, I turned my head cautiously, trying to locate these.

Out of the corner of my left eye I glimpsed the bulleting black shapes as they zipped past. Green-heads!

And they'd seen me standing there as big as a mule in a bathtub.

If any of our larger cities and at almost any time of day, you can see him mucking along at the end of a leash, his proud name, McGivern, daintily stepping himself with the mark of elegance. His coat may be trimmed grotesquely, his collar jeweled, his costume decorated with ornamental costume jewelry. There's nothing that mistake that he's a poodle, and he makes quite an impression in an elegant setting and move his presence at the marriage of a lady.

The dog is an injured in an accident, suffers a mishap around the home or or when, naturally you get the veterinarian as possible. However, it's also wise to familiarize yourself with a few basic first-aid techniques to ease pain and improve his chances for survival until a doctor is reached.

Dr. Gerald Somers, Alton, Ill., veterinarian, gives some pointers on how to handle some of the most common accidents which may happen to a Dog.

"Wire cuts and gashes, such as caused by jumping fences, should not have iodine or mercurochrome poured into them. Even an elector can burn away tissue and improve his chances for healing. Wash the dirt out of the wound with clean, cold water."

"Keep your dog away from sharp tools, such as shears or an ax."

"As a general rule, avoid putting any foreign matter into a wound to keep it clean. However, if you have a wound that is deep or dirty, you should put a clean, dry bandage around it."

"If you think that your dog's leg is broken, remember that bending and twisting the leg to find out just how bad the fracture is, can turn a simple break into a hopeless one."

"Don't forget, and a lot of hunters do forget, that a dog which is running all day and working hard, needs more nourishment than one that is doing the day away in his pen. Increase his food. And, if he is really working hard, add some meat scraps or horse meat to his rations."

"And lastly, don't expect that canine back yard, which has taken nothing faster than fleas and soup bones all summer, to turn into a rough, rugged, critter over winter. Break him in easily and gently, as you would yourself."

Muzzle flashes (continued from page 9)

McGivern fired innumerable five-shot groups of similar accuracy in less than one second.

"Any aspiration by readers to equal Mr. McGivern's record should be left to the professional gun handlers of almost lifetime experience; such form of practice is definitely unsafe for amateurs and frowned upon by the American Association Fast Draw Clubs."

When the single-action used is a harmless CO2 gas gun, firing only wax plugs, pellets or single BB's in competition, the effect is supposedly to test the skill of the shooter, as no improvised trigger device is allowed. Under favorable conditions, the technique of a correctly executed fast draw becomes so fine-tuned for precision that one can vouch for the smooth sweeping of the gun."

The poodle is a born actor, thrives on affection, and responds to baby talk. Yet, with adequate training he can be left to professional gun handlers. Any aspiration by readers to equal Mr. McGivern's record should be left to the professional gun handlers of almost lifetime experience; such form of practice is definitely unsafe for amateurs and frowned upon by the American Association Fast Draw Clubs."

Add: the single-action used is a harmless CO2 gas gun, firing only wax plugs, pellets or single BB's in competition, the effect is supposedly to test the skill of the shooter, as no improvised trigger device is allowed. Under favorable conditions, the technique of a correctly executed fast draw becomes so fine-tuned for precision that one can vouch for the smooth sweeping of the gun."

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE

February, 1960

Dog Chatter

By George Crowley

[Image of dog in a bush with a gun]
I asked Bill how strong a current the Spider actually put out. He said he wasn't sure, but he wouldn't advise me to go overboard or stick my hand in the water.

Bill stationed himself in an extra-long lashed alongside the Spider, ready with a long-handled dip net. I tried my hand with a second net on the opposite side. Bill had an opportunity right away, coming up with a big black bass.

Fish started popping up all over the area I was tending, the densest looking live fish I ever saw. Automatically I scooped up three pound mudfish, then heaved him as far up the bank as I could. He probably lived anyway, but I tried.

Pickerel hit the electric field, gave a convulsive leap, and fell back to netted mudfish. Then heaved him as far up channel cat; he filled a tub by himself.

Bill hopes to gain much information of value in fishery management through the tagging program. Comparison of data already obtained during the tagging should tell which produces the heftier specimens, lake or canals. Recovered tags should also track fish movement and determine how much commuting back and forth between the canals and the lake actually goes on. And, as mentioned earlier, information will be gained concerning the relative efficiency of the two tag types.

Recoveries of tags during the tournament which closed March 15 were disappointing despite the outboard motor and many other prizes offered in the tourney. It was decided to extend the awards of a lure for each fish tagged in as long as the 2,000 plugs donated by manufacturers held out. The G&WFC is also now offering $1.00 for the return of each tag.

The fish should be turned in at Don Fisher's camp at Blue Cypress or at Law's warehouse in Vero Beach. Fishermen should not try to remove the tag themselves but should turn in the fish with the tag still in place.

Bill is not too much perturbed about the scarcity of returned tags. He plans to let the Spider back into the area within the next 12 to 16 months and expects to get many of them back then. Obviously the more time elapses between tagging and recovery, the more information on growth and movement will be revealed.

The weekly summary reports have most of the best features of each species. Obtaining their quota from the Domer perch, were only checked to see if they Blue Cypress Lake where the Spider is a convulsive leap, and fell back to netted pickerel hit the el. An ancient Greek was a balancer and signal flag than as a trick, and only partly right; the characteristic plume tail is of more practical value as a balancer and signal flag than as an umbrella.

Some hunting seasons there are obviously more squirrels in the woods than in other years. Under Florida's plan, annual populations are tied in with the size of each year's acorn crop. A duo of slowly stalking hunters can work together to animals fleeing and hiding from one will be exposed to the other.

As fall arrives, the more squirrel-taking ideas numbers of squirrel-take ideas personally know to be effective. Here are a few more.

A treet squirrel that defies a lone hunter can sometimes be tricked by running a length of fishing line to a bush and then agitating the bush from the opposite side of the tree, after several minutes of mottling. With the noise, the hidden squirrel will probably move to the other side of the shrub. If a squirrel on the ground escapes to a tree, quickly concentrate attention on the tree's first big fork. Quite likely, he will poke up his head at that spot for his first quick look-as you try to shoot! Then there will be a little squirrel hunting time remaining when this story first hits newsstands. For you and for me—it offers a last chance for squirrels.
The subject of human relationships is one about which more has been written but which is less utilized than any other resource we have available to us. The fundamental rules of dealing with others are common and well known. Yet too few apply them in their daily lives. Particularly is this true among the various factions dealing with natural resources. The basic element is that we would be treated ourselves as we treat others. We are dealing in things of nature. Nature works in concert. We who are deriving the benefits of nature must also work in concert if maximum benefits are to be obtained for all of our people.

"There is a place in conservation, however, for controversy, criticism, straight talk, and direct action." Many people decry controversy. Actually, it is good. It causes men and women to think, to develop better methods, and to draw sound conclusions. After all, adversity is the ladder which men climb to greater achievement. We should look at controversy as healthy and as a proving ground for the ideas of a host of independent thinkers.

"We all seem to feel we possess the inalienable right to criticize everything. We almost invariably find criticism unbearable. In present criticism, which is in fact digressive, we find a defect in the philosophy, it is extremely important that such criticism be presented with tact and diplomacy. If we are the recipients of criticism, it is absolutely essential that we recognize the fact that when criticism is felt to be necessary, either misunderstanding or actual error was in evidence. This also indicates interest in what is being done. It is the duty of the conservationist to examine carefully every criticism rendered before rejecting it.

"When discussing the matter of human relationships and their importance to the field that is paramount today, a very important part of such relationships is the matter of bringing into the open false premises, unwarranted actions, and unethical endeavors. Straight talk and straight thinking with regard to issues on which there is conflict and disagreement certainly are parts of progressive action in finding the actual solution. It is the moral responsibility of every individual to speak the truth, think for himself, and to do all he can to obtain for others what he thinks is the truth. So that everyone knows what he thinks.

"We have discussed the interrelationships of the natural renewable resources. Nearly everyone, regardless of his particular activity, is concerned with or interested in every facet of our great outdoors from an economic, aesthetic, or recreational standpoint. Individual human use is interrelated, also. Sincerity and high ethical standards are traits most of us believe we possess. Shouldn't we assume the other person has these too?"

"We are using a part of what we know, but there is a great deal of knowledge that has not been applied. This is particularly true with regard to relationships between individuals and groups representing various interests in the outdoors. Certainly even casual observation will make us realize that no one group has a monopoly on integrity, nor is any group completely free of persons who are unethical. We who are interested in natural renewable resources must realize that it is people—human beings—who will determine the course of the wise use of our resources on the North American continent. The reality of people is that they respond to sincerity, frankness, tact, interest, and facts..."

FPRA Award

At a recent Game Commission meeting held in Tallahassee, I was most pleased to hear an announce-ment made by Mr. A. D. Aldrich, our director. He announced that the Florida Public Relations Award was presented to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Youth Conservation Education Section. The award reads, "For an outstanding project contributing to the development of children's understanding and confidence in the organization and its services. Presented to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Youth Conservation Education Section, for the year 1959, by the Florida Public Relations Association."

All of us in the Game Commission are very proud of this certificate. It makes us believe we are interested in our progress in teaching our youth the conservation of our natural resources.

State Adult Advisory Council

A meeting of the Adult Advisory Council was held recently in Orlando where a full day's session developed many new ideas. Mr. H. B. Maybrey, chairman, conducted all business presented before the council. New appointments were: Mrs. W. S. Miller, representing the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and Mr. B. L. Timmons, advisor and sponsor of the Bartow Junior Conservation Club.

Members present in addition to the two new appointments were: Mr. J. W. Brinkley, Oviedo; Mr. H. C. Knezevitz, St Augustine; Mr. Bob Gottron, Stuart; Mr. Gene Gallant, Ocala; Mr. Herb Maybrey, Miami; Mr. Howard McBride, Hialeah; Mr. Ralph Tompkins, Land O' Lakes. Alternates were: Mr. James McMahon, Stuart, and Mr. Bob Mitchell, Orlando.

Absent were: Mr. Allen Powell, St Petersburg, and Mr. Sue, Leesburg; Mr. Jack Partusch, North Miami; Mr. Dade Thornton, Miami; Mr. Russell Mason, Mainland.

The council meeting was also attended by Mr. Bob Dahnke, Chief of the Information and Education Division, and Mr. Charles Waterman, Adult Conservation Education Consultant.

Many important items were discussed. Some of them were: 1) Approval of new identification cards for conservation supervisors and advisors of state league clubs. 2) Approval of insignia to be worn on uniforms. Insignias approved were, State Advisor, Senior Counselor, and Junior Counselor. Also approved was the new letterhead stationery to be used by all members of the council and advisors. 3) Approval of a separate award for girls in competition in the league standings. 4) The board approved the use of the name "Conservationist" for the year 1959, by the Florida Public Relations Association."

Work Sheet Note Books

The office of the Youth Education Section is preparing to send out work sheets to all council members and adult advisors to clubs. These note books will be used by the advisors and counselors for their working records. So the note books used by the State Advisors will include reports and minutes of meetings, programs, and other materials relative to other youth conservation programs in the state.

All material herein will be printed or mimeographed on top sheets using the books to keep all material being sent from this headquarters office in an orderly manner. Walter Yongue III, of Archuleta, Pit. receives Merit Award for Boy Scout Conservation Award from Florida Governor LeRoy Collins. Walter was presented to the Governor by the Boy Scout Conservation League of Florida and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in conjunction with the Scouting for Conservation Program; also holds the Chief Ranger Award which is presented by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America. He is president of the Explorer Scout Post and also serves as Junior Assistant Scout Master of the local Boy Scout Troop. Walter was presented to the governor by Mr. A. D. Aldrich, director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, during the ceremony received an additional surprise. Governor Collin presented him with his cuff links as a gift very appropriate. Walter is a very young man and was ready to see now why Walter is walking on cloud nine.


**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**FEBRUARY, 1960**

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### TACKLE FOR SALE

(continued from page 13)

The "wholesale outlets" that advertise standard brands of fishing gear at reduced prices are a mixed blessing for the fisherman—especially he who's a bit uncertain as to what he wants.

The worst hazard is the substitute items offered by store advertisers who explain regretfully that they're fresh out of the rod or reel that was advertised in the newspaper. Price of the substitute is about the same, but the product advertised and the "just as good" sales talk leaves the mark loose from his money.

Spinning reels are especially susceptible to the cut-rate treatment. Even an expert reel repairman has to take a new model apart to decide if it's any good.

I've seen some Japanese imports that looked like pretty good equipment but were made of cheap materials and cost the same as the foreign, expensive models. It's any good. I've seen some cheap reels but that isn't quite true. The "best deal" on some cheap reels is uniformity. A real fisherman looks for something special, the man said I'd be unable to tell the difference. That I took with a snicker as flyrods—and just what you want, you can knock them dead. If he's like me he'll buy a couple, even if he never uses them.

My wife and I have two light glass rods, for example. Physical appearance is of questionable value, but it's any good. I've seen some cheap reels but that isn't quite true. The "best deal" on some cheap reels is uniformity. A real fisherman looks for something special, the man said I'd be unable to tell the difference. That I took with a snicker as flyrods—and just what you want, you can knock them dead. If he's like me he'll buy a couple, even if he never uses them.

Tackle dealers should be selected with care. It costs you a lot less in the long run to buy equipment you can from the same guy—preferably a fellow who knows the score because he's been in the game a long time.
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