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FOR THAT
BIG ONE
THAT
DIDN'T
GET AWAY

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES
LARGEMOUTH BASS
CHAIN PICKEREL
BLUEGILL (BREAM)
SHELLCRACKER
BLACK CRAPPIE
RED BREAST

8 pounds or larger
4 pounds or larger
1 1/2 pounds or larger
2 pounds or larger
1 pound or larger
8 pounds 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 bait, 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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Tallahassee, Florida

Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of Our Game and Fish

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CHUCK SCHILLING, Angling Editor
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The Uncertain Future
It's Easy To Remember
Case Against The Diamond-Back
The Hyacinth Control Program

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Muscle Flashes
Fishing
Florida Birdlife
Wildlife Balance Wheel
Boating

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bership,” the prexy said. “If they’re in, it may add up to a total attendance of three or four meetings in a month. The program chairman who makes the thing their officers can do. Some favors can be asked for. The club is a good thing but I doubt if an appearance by Lady Doubt would have impressed the membership drifted away if it becomes hard to collect dues...”

When you canvass the members, you are performing a community service in keeping the spark alive and when your help is needed you’re much better off with a skeleton club than with no club at all.

If your club is federated with county, regional, state and national organizations, your duty to keep it alive is even more important. With affiliations your potential is even greater. In times of emergency, you can yell up the ladder for help in putting your show on the road. At Lexington and Concord the boys didn’t have an army—but they had Paul Revere and a few other pretty good organizers.

Provisions for dealer demonstrators or boatyards are urgently needed, it was pointed out by Sam Flowers, representing the Cypress Gardens ski show, said he had considerable trouble in handling numbering of the large number of boats used in the show because of involved ownership status. This, he said, comes back to the fact that a dealer is not legally able to sell a new boat without placing a number on it—a number that must be changed as soon as the boat is sold.

It is essential that enforcing officials make the public understand that a dealer is not inclined to supply a boat under a full head of steam after the surface of the boat is clean. It was ag.

Boating Federation

The Florida Boating Federation is off under a fast stream after the board of directors approved a constitution and by-laws at a meeting in Vero Beach.

Department of boating legislation was cited as a major objective at the session. Members of the board pointed out that Florida’s present boating law was so modified in the legislation that many facets of enforcement were left unexplained.

It is essential that enforcing officers make the public understand that a dealer is not inclined to supply a boat under a full head of steam after the surface of the boat is clean. It was ag.

Retriever Club

North Florida has a retriever club, launched as an organization on March 19. On the following day, the club held its first field trials at El Rancho Lake near Chipley with Joe Newton of the Mobile and Memphis retriever clubs as judge. John Evans Newton of Mobile was trial marshal.

Winning dogs in initial trials were owned by Dempsey Barron of Panama City, Bill Harris of Panama City, Fletcher Johnson of Panama City, Dick Cheves of Panama City, James Otto of Pensacola, Lewis Whitaker of Tallahassee, O. E. Frye of Tallahassee and Herman Byrd of Panama City.

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Duck calls were presented to owners of first and second place dogs in each stake. The calls were presented by Sam Sundvik and Lohman Game Calls.

Members of the committee which will draft a constitution for the North Florida Retriever Club are Wilson Donnelly, Bill Cheves, James Otto, Rex Yates, Stu Reynolds, J. J. Jones and Lewis Whitaker. Jim Floyd is the club’s secretary.

Twenty dogs were entered for the first trials.

Caged Animals

This is the third in a series of articles concerning the proper care of wild animals in captivity. Since there appears to be an increasing desire to keep animals caged, it is important to recognize the stresses and strains that such captivity places upon the animals involved.

There is a considerable illegal wildlife traffic in such animals and birds, and the buyer plunks his cash down at his own risk. It is a four-fold rule—one, the animal may be justly confiscated by the government; two, you may be subject to court-imposed penalties; three, the animal may be sold for what it’s worth, and four, the diseased animal may infect the remainder of your cage stock, or even you.

I therefore, always thoroughly investigate the animal and the seller before you buy.

The cheapest animals to buy are always the wounded and diseased animals, and the oldest animals. Beware of bargains. Especially the “bargains,” offered by traveling animal salesmen. You may be offered a load of forty-dollar monkeys for $15 apiece, and, too late, discover that the animals are badly infested with heart-worms. Other bargain prices you may be tempted to buy are animals, you must have a possession permit, an importation permit, or a quarantine clearance. Many species, of course, are not covered by laws, permits or clearances, but it is your responsibility to determine this.

To take an animal into your possession, be certain to check with a wildlife authority—state or federal—before you buy an animal. The best way is to contact: Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C. For all imported, all imported and wild animals such as giraffes and zebras, must clear quarantine procedures for boar and monkeys. Not imported or rare species, such as birds, must be under a full head of steam after the surface of the boat is clean. It was ag.

The child may be deep-infected. The sickly or abnormally quiet animal may be badly infected with warts, pneumonia, blood disease, viral infections, and a host of other diseases and infections.

Once you have accepted delivery of the animal, and paid the money involved, you have little recourse if the animal sicknesses or deaths. The fact that the animal was infected before you accepted it does not off.

The Cover

Representative of the many kinds of birds that nest in Florida is this young mockingbird, patiently waiting for mom or pop to show up with that nourishment so necessary to every growing “youngster.” The mockingbird is the official “State Bird” of Florida. The cover was presented by Sam Sundvik and Lohman Game Calls.

Election Project

In an effort to learn just how (continued on page 39)
Question: My Ithaca Model 37 shotgun shoots low. What can I do about it? (B. S. - Largo)
Answer: You can either change stock pitch so the angle of the gun's butt-plate, when shouldered, points the muzzle higher, or you can alter comb height and drop so your line of sight takes a higher plane and causes you to shoot higher, in relation to your direction and your sighting plane. The latter is preferred.

Raise comb height by experimentally laping on 1/4, 1/3, and 1/2"-thick pieces of wood to the gun-stock's comb. Then purchase a lace-on comb height pad needed for tightened thickness.

If you simply must change your gun's present butt-plate pitch, first experiment by loosening the holding screw and inserting trial thicknesses of cardboard between butt-plate and toe of the stock until desired height is obtained. Then tighten screw. This method is usual when hand-crafted in respect to fitting and finishing. A special feature on the various types of drills, their advantages and limitations is planned for a future issue of this magazine.

The nearest thing to a drilling produced in America is the Savage Model 24, over-and-under combination rifle and shotgun, caliber 22 rimfire and 410 gauge respectively.

Question: My shotgun has such a punishing kick that I tend to flinch every time I shoot it. What causes it, and what can be done to eliminate recoil? (B. F. - St. Louis, Mo.)
Answer: First of all, you cannot entirely eliminate recoil, Newton's law—that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction—works against you every time you fire.

As to causes and cures, many factors must be considered. Shape of gunstock and height at comb; shape of fore-end, and how you hold, shoulder and cheek your gun, all have an influence.

Straight stocks, proper comb height, large fore-ends, rubber recoil pads, gas-suppressing actions and muzzle-attached compensators tend to make recoil less noticeable.

Latest innovation is a stock-attaching device that works on the principle of an automobile shock absorber.
le-statining, and that is the drag or the sun as a new, exciting, and idea further boost from me. The original Ta-Nisbed, finite variety for application that in-It artificial fly.

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there is one thing about spin fish- the dedi casters as a method favored by tyros too inept to use a conventional reel. Spinning has earned the special wrath of the traditional trout fisherman, who feels the fine mono line puts the worm dunker into business on wa- that should know only the kiss of an artificial fly.

Amid the howls of its detractors, spinning has gone merrily along, finding new converts from every walk of life. Spinning is wonderful. It is both easy and full of opportuni- for expert and skillful study. Spinning is simple. It offers an in- finite variety for application that makes it a delight to the dedicated angler.

Spinning is now so well estab- lished, it has no need for a further boost from me. The original idea that spinning would make older methods obsolete has now been dispelled, and spinning has earned its well deserved place in the sun as a new, exciting, and popular way of fishing.

There is one thing about spin fishing that still resists proper un- derstanding, and that is the drag or slip-clutch in the reel. This drag and the fixed spool are features of a spinning reel that give its uniqueness. The stationary spool permits trouble-free casting of light lines, while the drag makes their use possible.

In my correspondence and per- sonal contacts, I find misunderstanding about spinning reel drags, the single most important factor in spin- fishermen. In this piece, I’ll try to get this business of the drag out into the open for a careful appraisal. I’ll try to explain what they were designed to do and the things they were not designed to do.

**Big Fish**

Unfortunately, looking for a big fish is a rare treat for most American sports fishermen. Even in Florida, the average fish hooked by the average angler will not tax his tackle or skill unduly. For the sake of simplicity, let us, in this disserta- tion, confine our thoughts to the average Florida spinning outfit. This will be a medium size, open faced reel, holding about 200 yards of 8- pound test monofilament. It will be mounted on a medium action rod of 6¼ or 7 feet.

This outfit is ideally suited for 90% of all salt and fresh water sports fishing, in Florida or else- where. With it, our spin fisherman can and does catch with non- chalance fish up to 4 or 5 pounds. When the occasional big fish comes along, our average angler lacks the experience and know-how to suc-

feelingly cope with the situation. In Florida, sports fishermen (par- ticularly in salt water) have de- veloped an awareness about spin- ning reel drag that makes them ex- pert on this subject. It doesn’t take a dragging angler long to learn about “drag” if he ventures into the Florida Keys, and the first thing he learns is don’t try to use the reel as a winch. With small fish, a certain amount of crank leverage can be applied with success, but with big fish, such action is a certain prelude to disaster.

**Set It Light**

With our average outfit, catching small fish is duck soup, but handling fish that require “playing” is an- other matter entirely. Our outfit just doesn’t have the beef to horse a big fish. As a result, the prize catch spends about half his time running away from the anger,

stripping line through that spinning reel drag. The length of these runs, the quality of the tackle, and the experience of the angler will deter- mine the outcome of the battle. One thing is sure—if the drag is set tight, the game is lost.

With 8-pound test line, the drag setting should be less than 4 pounds; in most cases, less than 3 pounds. How do you test this drag? It’s not easy. Pulling line from the reel by hand is unreliable unless a great deal of experience is in your back- ground. As a good rule of thumb, I’d give the following as a better method.

In most respects, the lure being used and the method of fishing it will determine the drag setting. It is (impractical) to use a setting so light, the action of the lure causes the spool to slip. This is the gauge I use. I set the drag just tight enough so that lure manipulation does not cause the spool to turn. With the drag so set, and all other factors being equal, I am in a good position to handle any fish to the limit of the tackle’s potential.

The drag mechanism of spinning reels is undoubtedly their most im- portant feature for anglers fishing in waters of big fish. There are at

least 260 spinning reels on the American market, and the drags of these reels range from completely worthless to smooth as silk. Even the very best is not designed to op- erate smoothly under maximum ten- sion. Most name-brand reels have a drag that will give excellent results if used correctly.

That last sentence is the catch. The drag must be set light as pos- sible at the reel, with the additional tension needed to fight the fish in- duced by the sparce of the rod and the friction of the line on the guides and spool. The additional factor in line tension is water friction. If you have 5 pounds of drag on an 8-pound line at the reel, with another 2 pounds through rod and guides, just a pound or so of water friction will cause a break.

If a fish takes out 100 yards of line in a straight run and then be- gins to curve in a circular tactic, how much pressure is water friction building up on that 8-pound line? This is where the bonefisherman stands on the highest part of their boat, with rods and arms stretched high overhead. This stance is de- signed to keep as much of that line out of the water as possible. This reduces the danger of the line pick- ing up weeds, hitting obstructions as well.

**Pump That Fish**

With spinning tackle and big fish, you must pump the fish much the same as a tuna fisherman pumps his game. With the drag set light, this puts the greatest strain on the tackle when the rod is arced high over head. With the flexed rod and guides supplying most of the drag, a sudden rush or move of the fish is instantly and successfully countered by an automatic loosening of the rod tip, thus decreasing the rod’s arc and releasing the drag.

This last is the secret of catching big on light tackle. Remember this, no one drag setting at the reel will allow for the extremes of long, hard-fought, fishing battles. Year only chance is to set the drag very light at the reel, so that lower- ing the rod tip can instantly take all

but a minimum of drag from the fish. With your drag so set, the total ten- sion is adjusted every time the angle of the rod changes, and this is the way it must be.

When a fish screams away in a mad drive for freedom, the old pro usually lowers his rod tip, allowing the fish to run on the lightest of drag settings. What the heck you can’t stop him anyhow, so why sub- ject your tackle to unnecessary strain? I, personally, believe lack of pressure will curb a strong run quicker than a maximum amount.

Another excellent reason for that very light setting is the reel spool’s width, and the length of the fish’s run. With a full spool, the line stretches just at the break of the spool’s lip. This is its position when the “hand pull” drag test is usually applied. A strike ordinarily comes with 50 to 75 feet of line out. If the fish then runs another 100 or 150 feet, the line on the spool is now down one-fourth to three-eighths of an inch from its original position. This decreases the actual diameter of the working area of the spool.

This full spool exerts the max- imum leverage against the drag, and each layer of line played out de- creases it. A full spool set at 8 pounds tension could easily allow a drag of 6 pounds when half or better of its line is out. This inevitable buildup of drag tension as the level (continued on page 41)
Tediously careful or careless to the point of negligence, still

THEY KEEP 'EM FLYING

By MORRIE NAGGIAR

A VAGRANT BREEZE, WARM and heavily scented with the earthy perfume of spring rustled through the leafy canopy of the live oaks. Stringers of Spanish moss wavered in momentary acknowledgment of its passing. Sprawled comfortably in the back yard ham­mock I lazily watched a red-tailed hawk cutting wide sweeping circles high against the azure backdrop of the sky. The effect was restful, almost hypnotic. It was easy to drowse, drifting on a warm, fluffy cloud. Cae ce cae cae burst the harsh grating staccato. The comfortable spell dropped away in shreds. I bolted from the hammock. Again the raucous demonic sound rent the air. What in the world was a salt marsh loving clapper rail doing here in the garden, high, dry and miles from the nearest shore, I wondered half aloud.

It did not take long to get at the source of the mystery. No rail did I discover but rather a long-tailed, slender-billed gray plumaged bird perched atop a leafy canopy of live oaks. Stringers of Spanish moss wavered in momentary acknowledgment of its passing. Sprawled comfortably in the back yard hammock I lazily watched a red-tailed hawk cutting wide sweeping circles high against the azure backdrop of the sky. The effect was restful, almost hypnotic. It was easy to drowse, drifting on a warm, fluffy cloud. Cae ce cae cae burst the harsh grating staccato. The comfortable spell dropped away in shreds. I bolted from the hammock. Again the raucous demonic sound rent the air. What in the world was a salt marsh loving clapper rail doing here in the garden, high, dry and miles from the nearest shore, I wondered half aloud.

It did not take long to get at the source of the mystery. No rail did I discover but rather a long-tailed, slender-billed gray plumaged bird perched atop a nearby light pole. It was of course a mocking bird, master mimic of the avian world and Florida's officially designated state bird.

The mockingbird evidently liked what he saw and soon was busily engaged in staking his claim to our yard as center of his domain. No dog, cat, snake or fellow bird was safe in violating the sanctity of his kingdom for he flew at all trespassers with vigor, persisting until the intruder was sent scurrying to quieter pastures.

After a series of spectacular courtship activities, the mockers and his newly acquired mate set up housekeeping where we could readily keep tabs on the proceedings. It was the low shrubby thicket of the backyard wax myrtle hedge they selected as a nursery. Here, only a few feet above the ground, was built the nest. It was a bulky structure, more or less cup-shaped and loosely put together of twigs, leaves, plant stems, roots, and bits of string.

Four eggs, greenish in ground color with much blotching and spotting of brown, comprised the first clutch. The youngsters piped through into the bright sunlight of the outer world, paused wobbling momentarily and then began the gape-mouthed cheeping demand for food and plentiful it. Fruit, both wild and cultivated was the basic part of the menu but there was included a liberal lacing of insects of various sorts. It seemed to agree with the youngsters and almost before we realized it they were testing their wings in first wavering flight. Then one day they broke the gossamer strings and were on their own. As is the usual thing with Florida mockers, the parents were soon engrossed in bringing off their second brood of the season.

The nesting activities of birds is one of the most interesting facets of the whole field of bird study. Here no less than in other pursuits variety gives spice to the proceedings. Florida has variety aplenty in this regard for here we have an array of species that find conditions prime for the raising of their young. Some nesting birds attract attention because they are bold enough to take squatters rights so close to the scene of human activity that they can hardly be overlooked. Every year the press around the country call attention to some more or less unique aspect of bird nesting. A duck builds a nest on a bridge piling in plain view of thousand of passers by and makes the front page of a metropolitan daily. By popular demand the paper keeps its readers posted on the progress of the quacker's family life. Perhaps a wren builds a nest in a fedora left hanging on an open back porch and makes the news. Or the swallows come swarming back to nest about an old Spanish church and the Gentlemen of the Press loudly proclaim that the birds are right on schedule as they have been for the past untwemt years.

Actually these publicized instances are relatively few compared with the thousands of nests that each season are constructed and performed their essential function without benefit of fanfare.

The nests used by each species of bird is usually fairly uniform in general structure and location. This is readily understood for nest building is an instinctive facet of behavior. In other words the bird comes with a built-in idea of how and where to set up housekeeping.

Not all of the birds appearing on a listing of the state's avifauna nest within the boundaries of Florida. As a matter of fact quite a sizable proportion of them are only seasonal visitors or merely passers through enroute to other climes. At any rate there is an impressive lineage of species that do nest here. The idea of what constitutes a suitable nesting site varies from a penthouse atop the tallest tree in the forest to a cozy burrow below the surface of the ground. The nest itself may be an elaborately ornate cup painstakingly woven of fine grasses and decorated with bits of lichen glued to the outer surface or it may be nothing more than a slight natural depression in a field or along the shore. Some birds choose to nest in large colonies, crowding and bickering seemingly to them part of the

(continued on next page)
The Carolina wren, the bird is a year round singer begging not in the least to make its presence known with its loud ringing whistle or trappy thrill. Unlike the bashful Chat, the wren had just as soon as got build its nest in and about occupied buildings. This is the bird that sometimes preempts a hat that has been temporarily tossed aside, gathering bits of vegetation into a clump within the fowls and setting up housekeeping. An empty jar, bucket, tin can, or an old shoe are among the receptacles the busy sprite has been known to utilize as a nest foundation.

The more usual wren nest is placed in holes in trees and stumps in convenient crannies about buildings. Now and again this wren will put together a roundish heap of sticks containing an inner nest cavity reached by a convenient side entrance. A stick pile nest of this sort may be located in a tree or even now and again on the ground in a tangle of vegetation. A nest on the ground is the usual thing for the Marsh Hawk. This makes it something of a standout among the other members of its family. Most of the Aecipitrinae show a definite tendency toward large airy apartments in the middle of the tallest tree in the vicinity. The Marsh Hawk, as its name indicates, is a bird of the open country. Here in the wetary fields and prairies it finds abundant ground level sites for the stick and grass platform upon which the eggs are deposited. Since the same spot may be used season after season and the birds add new nest material each time, some of the more favored nests in time attain considerable size.

Another member of the family, the rare Everglade Kite, is also a bird of the open country. The fantastic dependency of the species upon the Moon Snail, Pomacea californica, as its sole item of diet limits the kite to the fresh water marshes where the mollusk occurs in abundance. Here, with its pantry conveniently at hand, the Everglade Kite raises its young.

The nest consists typically of a collection of small twigs and grasses, rather bulky in overall appearance and measuring a foot or a bit more in diameter. Rather than being situated directly on the ground as is the nest of the Marsh Hawk, the Everglade Kite's nest is elevated to some extent. Clumps of willow growing in the marsh offer attractive nest locations. Lacking support of this sort the birds will fasten the nest to stakls of saw grass or other marshy vegetation.

At variance with related birds of prey which usually nest in spots widely separated from one another, the Everglade Kite actually seems to seek out the presence of others of its kind. The birds nest in groups, not crowded together actually but in loose knit, well-spaced out colonies with some fifty feet or more between nests.

Although it is now hardly more than an occasional visitor to the state, the flamingo once nested in considerable numbers on the coastal flats of the Keys and along the lower peninsula. Those who have seen them at their incubating duties have reported their first impression was of each individual in the flock sitting on a small short stump. The "stump" of course is the peculiar yellow breast of the birds which seems to hold the single egg which is the usual number for the season.

Another bird which uses mud in the construction of its nest is the Wood Thrush. This sprightly little woodland songster believes in lavishing effort on its nest, forming a sturdy cup of mud as a framework. On the outside stems and leaves are cemented into place while the mud is still pliable. An inner lining of rootlets or other soft vegetable material provides a suitable bed for the unmarked greenish blue eggs, most commonly numbering four to a clutch.

The Barn Swallow also makes good use of mud in its nest building activities. With grass worked into the mud as reinforcement, the material dries into a fairly durable adobe. The more or less cup-shaped nest is plastered to a convenient surface, frequently on buildings. In unsettled areas the birds still use caves, crevices under overhanging rocky cliffs, or tree hollows in which to situate the avian version of the adobe hacienda.

A related species, the Rough-winged Swallow, has different ideas in regards to a suitable nesting situation. They locate their nests in burrows which they excavate in sandy banks. At the back of the burrow which may be as long as two feet, the swallows build up a loose collection of grass and other soft plant materials to accommodate the 5 to 7 eggs that make up the usual clutch.

The Kingfisher is another bank burrowing bird. The excavation made by this species usually runs four or five feet in and slopes slightly upward. Some burrows that have been measured were as much as fifteen feet from entrance to back. At the end of the burrow is a nest chamber where the eggs are incubated. Lack of suitable banks will not stop a determined pair of Kingfishers from setting up housekeeping. In the south coastal areas for example they have been known to utilize tree hollows in the absence of a bank into which they could dig.

In the central prairie region of Florida the burrowing owl is at home. As its name indicates the bird takes to the ground in a manner most unusual for a member of a family which includes such conventional nests as the Great Hunched Owl, Screech Owl, and the Short-eared Owl.

The bird is quite capable of digging its own burrow although they may take over an occasional excavation abandoned by other creatures. A typical burrow, located either on a sandy slope or on flat open ground, would measure about five inches in width at the entrance. The five to ten foot tunnel ends in a nest cavity.

This chamber is typically flooded with a collection of grass and bits of dried horse and cow manure. Here the 5 to 7 eggs are incubated.

The Carolina Wren will nest just about anywhere: holes in trees, ditches around buildings, and of course, will snugly accept a nest box.
To get at some of Florida's best bass fishing, it was necessary to build a network of boat trails into the Everglades.

**BOAT TRAILS INTO THE EVERGLADES**

By GEORGE X. SAND

What would you do if you lived smack alongside a picturesque 50,000 acre sawgrass marsh, a regular outdoorsman's paradise that offered exciting sweetwater fishing for bass and other species, yet couldn't get into the grassy wilderness except by airboat?

You'd fret and growl and restlessly beat a well-worn path around the edges, getting more peeved with each passing day. And that's exactly what thousands of them did right past it on their way to and from work.

For this wonderful off-limits fishing hole, known humorously as the "Bombing Range," nestled right at their back doors. Many of them drove right past it on their way there and back.

Recently, however, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission cut more than 50 miles of boat trails into this Everglades region—impassable to surfacing creatures other than the heavily-populated "Gold Coast" area between Palm Beach and Miami.

For this wonderful off-limits fishing hole, known humorously as the "Bombing Range," nestled right at their back doors. Many of them drove right past it on their way to and from work.

The site involved is the southern one-third of Florida's Flood Control District Conservation Area No. 2. It is located about 15 miles due west of Fort Lauderdale, via State Road 84, on the State's lower east coast. This highway forms the area's southern boundary.

At the moment the main access point to this fine fishing marsh is at Andytown, a handful of buildings which cluster at the intersection of 84 and 27. A typical week-end will reveal in excess of 100 sportmen's cars in the four parking and boat-launching areas there. These ramp sites were recently built by the Florida Development Commission, in cooperation with other county, state and federal agencies.

Another launching site is located farther north along U. S. 27, near the Palm Beach County line. There are nine additional boat ramps in the development stage for this Broward County area.

It was at Andytown that Game Commission biologist Norman Schlaack was awaiting me as I drove up. Schlaack and his boss, Commission biologist Frank Logas, share responsibility for scientific study of this big marsh. Florida Wildlife magazine had requested an up-to-date report of conditions awaiting the public in this newly opened boating area and Schlaack was on hand with game management specialists Bill Ware and Wayne Cone to provide this information.

We loaded fishing tackle aboard a small outboard skiff, which would follow one of the boat trails into the marsh, then Schlaack and I boarded the airboat which we would share. Once aboard the biologist quickly pinpointed the main problem confronting this promising project:

"So long as the proper water level is maintained this marsh will remain potentially one of the greatest bass sites in America," he said. "The fish you are about to encounter in here are only three years old, following the drought and fires that plagued the area in 1956, but already they've reached sizes of seven pounds and upward."

In another five to seven years, Schlaack predicted, this No. 2 Area will be playing host to higmouths that would rivet the fish of Florida's famed Lake Okeechobee in size.

It would, that is, if the precious water wasn't allowed to drain off and waste itself into the Atlantic Ocean via the nearby North New River Canal bordering Road 84 and the Hillsborough Canal farther north at Deerfield Beach. Many times in the past this writer and other incensed sportmen had questioned the logic of leaving the discharge gates of these two canals open so that the end result saw thousands of choice bass, bream and other game fish dying from lack of water, rotting beneath the sun to attract flocks of carrion birds.

When questioned on this point the biologist stated that both the Army Engineers and the Flood Control District had promised to maintain, to the best of their ability, a 10-foot water level here. This would ensure 1½ to four feet of water at this southern end of the No. 2 conservation area, a level which would taper down to impassable (for outboard boats) depths at its northern end.

As our airboat left the launching site and moved away across a shallow bordering lagoon I noted plentiful evidence of small bass and other fingerlings darting from our path in the amber-colored water.

We picked up speed, following a 6-foot wide water trail that wound away invitingly into the depths of a beautiful flooded marsh of madlancea, water lilies, man-high cattails and even taller stands of sawgrass.

The sharp, serrated edges of the latter growths tugged at our clothing as we sped through and around the brown stands and tussocks. Here and there disturbed American egrets, great blue herons and other tropic aquatic birds rose lazily skyward before our noisy approach. Busy little black cots and Florida gallinules, on the other hand, merely swam away from either side of our path without taking to wing. The mid-morning sun was warm and comfortable against our hands and faces. It was a good day to be alive and out under the fresh clean vastness of God's blue sky.

"Norman Schlaack stopped the airboat briefly at a water level checking station. After he'd finished recording the level he reached overboard and came up with a handful of hydrotide grass for my inspection. "This stuff, along with eleocharis growths—pickleweed and similar aquatic vegetation which thrives in here—makes it impossible for an outboard motor to operate outside the boat trails without fouling its prop," he said. "So long as the water (continued on next page)
The bombing Range bass reveal a preference for black egis and that old standby, the No. 2 spoon with pork rind chunk. Tackle lures like the Dblon Special work fine, too. I used a new weedless top water plug that sets up a real fuss and was designed especially for such Everglades grass fishing by Emile Davis of Deerfield Beach, Fla. It's called the Weedless Wonder. You are limited to 10 bass, 50-breem (no size limit for either species). No licenses are required other than the regular State fishing license and the usual registration for your boat, if you bring your own. If you wish to rent a skiff, or avail yourself of guide serv. ice (two fishermen can make a guided half-day airboat trip for $20) there are several fishing camps and bait-tackle stores serving this area. Probably the best known of these service and information centers is Blackie Hinkle's, located 1,000 feet west of U.S. Highway 441 on Road 84 west of Fort Lauderdale.

For those wishing to try it afoot, fishing from the bank or wading, a wooden catwalk has been built by the State across the wide and deep North New River Canal which parallels Road 84 on the conservation area's southern boundary.

Few other Florida conservation areas have produced more speculations and differences of opinion among sportsmen, engineers and flood control officials than has this unusual Bombing Range site (so named following its World War II use as a gunnery range by warplanes). There are two sharply divided schools of thought regarding the future of this fine marsh. One group of conservationists is convinced that when a new dike, recently approved for construction by the Flood Control District, is completed it will seal off this wonderful one-third of the 136,000 acre No. 2 Area forever from the vital sweetwater, rendering as wasted effort the boat trails that have been cut into it by the Game Commission.

In fact, they point out that plans are already drawn to convert the present site into a waterfowl nesting and feeding area, mainly through habitat improvement and the planting of natural foods. Others in this group take an even more probing view. They point to some 80,000 acres of immediately adjoining marshland, owned by Florida multi-millionaire realtor Arthur Vining Davis, that nestles only about a hundred feet away on the south side of the canal possible to hold. It is on record that Davis is trying to sell this big chunk of Everglades to the City of Fort Lauderdale for use as a jet airport. The land baron and his lawyers have made themselves unpopular with Florida conservationists in the past by buying up and sealing off from further public use such recreational areas and many feel this new dike is a political wedge that will permit Davis or similar commercial interests to gain control of the land that will be drained on the north side of the canal and Road 84—and permit them to later move even farther northward into the choice No. 2 Conservation Area.

Those in the other camp contend that the encounter by engineers of unexpected rock porosity conditions at this southern boundary of the Bombing Range make it impossible to hold water there by means of Levees L-35 and L-35A, as they had hoped. They explain that the new levee to be built farther north is being located in an area where nature of the underlying coral rock foundation is such that substantially no water will seep through; escape. They take the position it is "better to gain a half a loaf than have none" and express confidence that after this new Area-dividing levee is built it will be possible to hold a good depth of water in the north two-thirds of the No. 2 Area.

Ironically, the original project, begun about 10 years ago by the Army Engineers and the Florida Flood Control District, called for a huge pump—one that has long since been built and placed in its intended position behind West Palm Beach at the entrance to the No. 1 (or Loxahatchee) Conservation Area (there are three of these big water storage pools, all interconnected; No. 2 is the smallest)—to pump overflow waters from Lake Okeechobee into the three big Everglades pools during fall periods of hurricane-season-endangered high lake levels, then pump such important water out again (i.e., back northward) during the ensuing Florida dry season for agricultural purposes. To date this great pump, said to be capable of moving the combined total daily water requirements of every citizen in the State of Florida, remains idle for such use.

In any event, when the new levee is completed it will thrust westward into the No. 2 Area from a point about opposite Margate (the Pompano Canal) and will then angle southwestward to butt into U.S. 27 about two miles north of the present Andytown boat ramp. A new launching site will hence have to be built on the north side of this junction. It will then become the main entrance point to Area No. 2. Later, if it develops the area can be made to hold water throughout its shortened length, undoubtedly other access sites will be opened up. At least one elaborate combination boat livery and launching site is on the drawing boards for installation at the Hillsboro Canal locks where these form an outlet west of Deerfield Beach.

Meanwhile, the Bombing Range continues as an exciting fishing site for everyday fishing citizens in South Florida—the only such easily accessible sweetwater site, in fact. Boy Scouts, week-end families, tourists, even school children use the area (teachers take the latter there during the summer months). One boy recently nailed an 8 lb punked bass. Thanks to State interest, Everglades bass fishing has been made available to anyone with a cane pole and a boat—and if he hasn't a boat he can walk in over the canal foot-bridge. If he's a Broward County resident the canoe pole needn't even purchase a fishing license.

Don't forget to hoist your identifying flag when you show off along one of these new "outboard highways" that lead into South Florida's famed Everglades sea of grass. The flag need not be colored—your banker-chief will do.
LAKES ARE A FLORIDA HERITAGE.

Even to the earliest invaders from the arid plains of Castile, dis­ appointed in their quest for gold, the sight of these countless bodies of fresh water must have appeared as a source of some satisfaction after the rigors of the long voyage which placed them from the arid plains of Castile, dis­

Many of these, of course, are prob­ lems of nature; even more are caused by man himself, to a large extent the product of the state's explosive population growth and land development. But perhaps the most serious problem of all is the

A lake is neither exclusively land nor water, but rather an inseparable combination of these two basic re­sources. Consequently, the use value of an entire fresh water lake may be seriously affected by alteration either of the water or the bed in which it reposes. Thus, problems may arise from pollution, disforma­
tion or change in the amount of the water, or from fencing, dredging or filling of the lake bottom. These problems generally are recognized and felt by the public in their sec­ondary effects: destruction of wildlife habitats, impediments to boat­ing and navigation, contamination of water supplies, local flooding, and the like.

There is not a lake user in Flor­ida who, after a moment's reflec­tion, will not be able to think of many such problems, either natural or man-made. Just how serious the state-wide situation has become is not fully known. No lake-by-lake investigation has been attempted. In making the only recent effort to­ward a complete investigation of the problem, the Legislature's Water Re­ sources Study Commission reported in 1956 that 28 of the state's 67 counties were suffering from local flooding, 27 from too low water lev­els, 34 from water pollution, and 6 from lake bottom dredging. At best, this is merely an indication that these problems are widespread, since the survey pertained in many cases not only to lakes, but to other sur­face waters as well. Events which have come to light since then clearly show the increased incidence of dredging and filling activity result­

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The Trustees pursue a program with serious limitations. For one thing, the Trustees themselves are still handicapped by the overwhelming weight of their primary duties, and their staff is too small even to provide effective co-ordination, much less actually handle the growing needs for inspection, supervision and enforcement. All lake matters which now come before the Trustees—who sit as a board once each week—are initiated either by the relatively few applicants who are aware of the Trustees' requirements or by other individuals who seek to call attention to personal complaints.

For general information, the Trustees exercise jurisdiction to some extent over all activity which physically alters navigable lakes. For details on the current requirements for dredging, filling, shoreline alteration and erection of structures, as well as for purchase of reclaimed lake bottom land, address inquiries to that body at the state capitol in Tallahassee.

Other aspects of fresh water lake management have been assumed, at least in part, by the most appropriate state agency dealing with the particular matter concerned. Although this procedure is rather hazardous for want of a clear delineation of responsibility and a joint pronouncement of a sound, comprehensible policy, it still has functioned with a great deal of success. This is largely a tribute to the capability of the individual agencies. The State Board of Health, the State Department of Water Resources—a young agency created only in 1957—the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Florida Geological Survey and others have all participated to some extent in the effort to preserve the value of fresh water lake resources. Although each of these agencies functions with almost complete autonomy, there have been encouraging attempts at co-ordination through a recent series of informal inter-agency conferences. Until such time as the state Legislature seems fit to bring all of its related natural resource activities under administrative unity, these inter-agency conferences hold the only significant promise for a well-balanced, comprehensive policy and program for this vital phase of governmental responsibility.

Inspection Program of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

For many people, the real value of a fresh water lake is measured by its ability to support game fish and waterfowl. Certainly fishing and hunting—both for sport and food—are among the most historic uses to which Florida's lakes have been put. Lake shores have produced ample archaeological testimony of extensive occupation and use by the native Indians long before the advent of Western explorers.

To the hundreds of thousands of fishermen and hunters in Florida—and, indeed, to the millions of nature lovers in general—probably the most heartening development in the management of fresh water lakes is the active lake inspection program recently instituted by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Since its creation in 1943, this Commission has shouldered the weighty responsibility of protecting and propagating Florida's wildlife. As a serious handicap to important phases of its program, however, it has no specific authority over lakes, marshes and other vital habitat areas—only over the wildlife which these areas support. Because of this deficiency, the Commission has never been able systematically to patrol or oversee possibly harmful activity in these habitat areas unless the wildlife itself is directly involved. As an example, the Commission might prevent an individual from taking under-size bass from a lake, but still be powerless to forestall drainage or other activity certain to have a drastic effect on the lake's entire fish population.

As lakefront improvement—involving dredging, filling of low-lying areas, removal of natural vegetation, etc.—became more and more common, the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund saw the wisdom of seeking advice from the game and fish agencies before taking any action in these matters. Stating as an informal and loosely followed procedure, the practice of referring applications concerning lakes to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission was made a part of official Trustee policy on September 2, 1958.

Since that time, the Commission has made a number of inspections at the request of the Trustees, and has additionally sought out other instances of fresh water lake activity not previously reported.

Recognizing the importance of this newly assumed responsibility—for the first time giving the Trustees an ally in the field—the Commission has assigned to the task one game and one fish expert in each of its five regions. These men carefully and scientifically investigate each case referred to the Commission by the Trustees, and the effects of the proposed activity on the wildlife value of the lake are estimated. They then submit their report, including recommendation for approval or disapproval, to the Commission headquarters in Tallahassee for forwarding to the Trustees. So far the Trustees have largely governed their action in these matters according to the Commission recommendation, thus insuring full consideration of wildlife values in approving or disapproving applications for development on fresh water lakes.

While this inspection system represents a hopeful step forward, it is by no means adequate as a regulatory program for the state's fresh water lakes. By far the majority of lake-altering activity continues unnoticed by the authorities. All of Florida's citizens can be of service in this respect by reporting such activity to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission or to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund. If it is proper activity, it will be permitted under license by the Trustees; if not, it should be discontinued. Complete success in this endeavor can never be possible without maximum public cooperation.

The purposes of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund are complementary. Their activities and responsibilities are directed toward the betterment of the state's wildlife resources. While the former must necessarily be concerned with the control of certain activities which affect such resources—forests, wildlife, waters—it is distinctly true, however, that by the time this comes to pass the number of lakes which can be brought under such a program may well be but a small fraction of the lakes under exclusive private ownership and control.
Time has a way of bleaching out memories of those enjoyable hunting and fishing events. If you film your experiences, then . . . .

IT'S EASY TO REMEMBER

By EDMUND McLARIN

...to get away from your everyday worries and to put an end to the enemy, the blank page. But for those who have a tone of adventure in their blood, there is another way of putting life in a book and making it just as real and exciting as the life itself.

The effectiveness of this contact snapshot comes from the low camera angle, and the use of a yellow filter.

It takes a fast shutter speed to completely "stop" a jumping fish. Here again, the low-angle view is best.
For both effective low angle shots and steadiness, the camera can sometimes be placed on the ground. But be careful that your feet, or those of bystanders, do not scuff sand in the camera's direction.

When aiming a hand-held camera from sitting position, copy the military rifleman's idea and brace your elbows against your knees, or just below the knees, as in shooting a service rifle. Gradually, you will learn there is one spot on the knee- caps, or just below them, where the elbows tend to rest firmly.

When taking pictures from a standing position without artificial support, stand with feet well apart and gain additional camera steadiness by bracing your arms against your body and camera against forehead or head. Hold your breath momentarily and trigger the shutter smoothly when making the exposure.

Taking pictures aboard a rolling boat calls for a certain degree of know-how and timing. First, to better overcome the motion of the boat itself, or sit or stand relaxed in the center of the boat, without leaning against any part of the craft. Also-opposite of recommended technique for photography, making on terra firma—neither per-

For a roll of film and get it developed promptly, there are times when only a portion of a roll will be exposed in one session. To guard against the possibility of forgetting the brand and speed of film in the camera, a strip of the gummed paper that seals the film can be stuck on the camera as identification when the camera is loaded.

If you want to take a picture of a hunting companion at the moment he raises his gun to fire at a just-flushed bird, keep behind him—for photographic and safety reasons—and be ready to crouch or drop to one knee quickly to make the picture. This will give you an upward-angled picture, one which will silhouette (at least partially) the hunter and the bird against the sky, rather than obscure them against a background of bushes or trees. The same rule applies to fishing pictures—except you probably will want to angle your picture downward to catch the jumping fish against a background of water, un-

Keep Background Simple: If you want to take a picture of a hunting companion at the moment he raises his gun to fire at a just-flushed bird, keep behind him—for photographic and safety reasons—and be ready to crouch or drop to one knee quickly to make the picture. This will give you an upward-angled picture, one which will silhouette (at least partially) the hunter and the bird against the sky, rather than obscure them against a background of bushes or trees. The same rule applies to fishing pictures—except you probably will want to angle your picture downward to catch the jumping fish against a background of water, un-

Backlighting: A picture of a big fish or a big buck with a fine rack, may not convey the same impression of size to someone who wasn't there when the picture was made, unless there is something else in the picture for size comparison. It is easy to ar-

Camera: Make your camera to touch your subject or head when focusing and shooting. Increase shutter speeds and trip the camera's shutter during one of the moments when boat motion is seem-

For black and white photography, I follow the advice of famous photographer D. S. Brown and use a K-2 yellow filter over the camera lens for most of my pictures, to ob-

For both effective low angle shots and steadiness, the camera can sometimes be placed on the ground. But be careful that your feet, or those of bystanders, do not scuff sand in the camera's direction.

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By including familiar objects in the photograph, you can better illustrate the size of your subject.

The best photographs usually shows the subjects doing something rather than standing at the camera.
Case Against The Diamond-Back

T he eastern diamond-back rattlesnake, peculiar to the Coastal Plain region from North Carolina to Mississippi, has the instincts and capabilities of a killer from the day it is born until the day it dies. Its lethal capabilities, coupled with the population explosion that is causing the rapid development of much of its habitat for homesites, gives rise to the question as to whether or not the diamond-back can be permitted to survive.

Slow to condemn any living creature, I am now convinced the rattler is a deadly menace.

By LEONARD P. HUTCHINSON

The crowd gathers around the official judge’s stand at Freeport, Florida, as this year’s Rattlesnake Rodeo comes to a close.

The letter of appreciation contained the following succinct paragraph: “The rattlersnakes you provided will add immeasurably to the U.S. Army’s Survival Training Program.”

The Hinson-Anderson quartet are convincing salesmen and I found myself sold on two points of their three-progrmed program but they had presented no argument as to the probable efficacy of a uniform bounty law as an aid to the eradication of the diamond-backs. I asked about this and Max Hinson presented a cogent argument.

Pointing to the three cages of diamond-backs already captured, Max said, “A state-wide uniform bounty would make such catches possible throughout Florida. At the last session, the State Legislature did authorize individual counties to pay a bounty. Our County Commissioners went along on a two-dollar-a-head basis and—take a look at that haul!”

Now, my father’s name was Patrick and my middle name is the same and our ancestry stems from the county devolved of reptiles which circumstance, according to legend, was due to the efforts of another Patrick. I felt a rising of zeal to emulate my paternal namesake. I said, “Max, I’m scared to death of the cursed things but I would like to go hunting.”

His reply was a less than reassuring question. He asked, “Do you have a pair of boots?”

I said, “Leather.”

He nodded and said, “They will be all right. You can go out bright and early in the morning with Andy.”

Under comfortable cover, while waiting for the weather to break, I questioned Andy and Top intensively as to the fine points of rattlesnake hunting. As to winter hunting, the art seemingly boiled down to a simple routine with not being bitten accepted as par for the course.

The initial search is for gopher holes and, for those of you who know gophers only as fur bearing rodents, a little explanation is in order. The gophers of interest in diamond-back hunting are true tortoises. They are endowed with engineering ability which enables them to dig tunnels in which they take refuge from the elements and their enemies. The gopher tortoises are good natured animals and many old-timers in the Florida panhandle think of them with nostalgic affection because, during the big depression, they were a staple of the diet with a 2000-worth of hunting basis and—take a look at that haul!”

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Slow to condemn any living creature, I am now convinced the rattler is a deadly menace.
At left, Lt. Melanie Max Hissman, and Andy measure a diamond-back brought in. At right, the judges are grading Andy's entry at the Rattlesnake Rodeo.

At left, Hinson arranged for me to go on a hunt the next day, the final day of the tournament, with Willy Edgar Boyman, Bruno, Florida, then leading the tournament in the longest snake category with a six foot two inch diamond-back.

In the morning, Willy showed up at the Rodeo Headquarters with his pickup truck which had an unusual style body. I asked Willy about the truck and he said it was designed to carry his horse as he rides fence on a 100,000 acre cattle range located in Walton County.

I thought, This man should know where to locate snakes.

Willy called, “Max!” Getting Hinson’s attention, he said, “I’ve got to have somebody to help me with the digging.”

I knew from that foresighted statement that he was a practical man and, while he figured on making the capture the “easy” way, he wasn’t relying on it.

Max assigned Rommie Hare, one of his employees, as shovel man and the three of us piled into the pickup and headed north from Freeport and pulled up at a farm owned and operated by C. A. Sanford and his son, Sam Sanford. Both of the Sanfords were on hand to greet us and it developed that this was to be a trade-in that he uses to transport the snakes.

The diamond-back looking for fresh air in a forest.

Willy, using the “snake-catcher,” got the diamond-back’s head in the nose and carried it to the truck where he deposited it in a galvanized can that he uses to transport live snakes.

Willy’s rattlesnake was much lighter in color than the snake we caught the night before and he explained that diamond-backs take on coloration from the characteristics of the ground and that, even within a single county, it is sometimes possible to determine what part of the county a snake came from by its coloration.

At 2 p.m. on the same day, January 30, the Third Annual Cooter Douglas Rattlesnake Rodeo came to an end and, in a carnival atmosphere replete with clowns, hillbilly musicians, and girl vocalists, State Representative Thomas D. Beasley, acting as Master of Ceremonies, awarded the many prizes.

Top money winners were Burtia Peters, Route 2, Box 168, Defuniak Springs, and Willy Edgar Boyman, Bruno, Florida.
In the Freeport tournament, he said, "Several survival schools located all over the country have received rattlesnakes from this rodeo."

For me, Max Hinson and Andy Anderson had made a case against the Eastern diamond-back rattle-snake even before the contest ended; however, some outdoorsmen may be concerned as to the possibility of an ecological upset resulting from the destruction of a species. Based on the diet of the Eastern diamond-back, chiefly rabbit according to some authorities, and the prevalence of harmless snakes which are preserved by a selective killing program, I think the danger of unbalancing Nature is too remote to be considered.

So, on the basis of the foregoing evidence, my personal verdict is that the Eastern diamond-back rattle-snake should be relentlessly destroyed as a menace to the safety of man and beast.

What say you?

**FLORIDA HYACINTH CONTROL**

**WHY CONTROL HYACINTHS?**

A thick growth of water hyacinths can:

1. Make boat navigation difficult.
2. Clog water drains, irrigation canals, and other waterways.
3. Cause unsightly appearances by completely covering the surface of the water.
4. Interfere with fishing, swimming, boating.
5. Reduce open water available for waterfowl, and decrease waterfowl hunting.

**PREPARED BY THE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION DIVISION IN COOPERATION WITH HYACINTH CONTROL DIVISION, FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

**FOR SMALL PONDS, LAKES AND STREAMS**

- **CHEMICALS**
- **EQUIPMENT**
- **METHODS**
- **RESULTS**

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**HYACINTH CONTROL**

**FOR SMALL PONDS, LAKES AND STREAMS**

- **CHEMICALS**
- **EQUIPMENT**
- **METHODS**
- **RESULTS**

**EASY TO REMEMBER**

Continued from page 25

...serve admirably, the wac kit carried in a purse is spotlessly clean before loading it with film and again when it is put away. Use a soft brush to clean out the body every time you load film, then take especial care to watch for chance fingerprints on lenses and filters. When you do have to use lens cleaning tissue on optical surfaces, first blow off any dust that might act as a damaging abrasive.

To keep metal parts in good condition, wipe the camera’s housing occasionally with a Silicote Cloth, an all-purpose rag.

**INSURE VALUABLE EQUIPMENT:**

There is a way of gradually bleaching out many of the little colorful details, leaving only memories of the highlights—unless you film your experiences—then it’s easy to remember.

...It’s easy to remember

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...Con...
What Is A Water Hyacinth?
The water hyacinths are members of the pickerel-weed family, and related to the mud plantain. Two species of this plant are found in Florida—Eichhornia paniculata and Eichhornia crassipes.

The lesser known water hyacinth—Eichhornia paniculata—is found rooted in shallow ponds and ditches and along muddy shorelines in Florida. It is not known to be present in our other continental states. This hyacinth was introduced into Florida and naturalized from cultivated plants brought from Brazil.

The better known hyacinth—Eichhornia crassipes—is the one so troublesome in Florida. This hyacinth is generally found floating free in shallow ponds, lakes and slow streams. It is found in Florida, and other southern states, and in California. This hyacinth is usually considered to have been introduced into Florida from South America, but it may have always been native to Florida.

Water hyacinths have slender, fibrous branched roots. The leaves are slender but broad, and usually show above the surface of the water. The flowers are a very showy and attractive violet and white, and are arranged in spikes.

Why Are Hyacinths Pests?
Water hyacinths cannot stand cold weather. They need a tropical or semi-tropical climate. Under favorable conditions of warm climate—such as in Florida—the hyacinths grow so thickly in slow streams and in lakes as to almost completely cover the surface of the water. In some waters, they grow so thickly as to interfere with boat navigation.

A thick growth of hyacinths may carpet the surface of the water, preventing sunlight from entering the water. Such a shaded condition in the water is undesirable for the production of fish and other waterlife.

Since the hyacinth E. crassipes is a floating plant, the plants may be drifted by the wind into huge, thick rafts of almost impenetrable vegetation.

For these reasons, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has classed the water hyacinths as a Noxious Water Vegetation that should be controlled.

What Methods of Control Have Been Tried?—Both mechanical and chemical means have been used in the attempted control of water hyacinths.

What Is Best Method of Control?—The chemical 2,4-D. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has used 2,4-D for years, and all results show that 2,4-D is the cheapest and most effective chemical for controlling hyacinths.

What Is 2,4-D?—2,4-D is a hormone-type of chemical herbicide produced by many chemical companies under many trade names and in many strengths and mixtures. It kills hyacinths and other broad-leaved plants.

2,4-D is manufactured in various concentrations, and in two primary types—the amine and the ester. 2,4-D-ester is a liquid combination that may be combined with oil carriers for spraying. 2,4-D-amine may be mixed with water for spraying.

Which 2,4-D Is Best?—The use of either 2,4-D-amine or 2,4-D-ester depends upon conditions. Hyacinths, however, have waxy-coated leaves. The 2,4-D-amine, mixed with water, tends to roll off the waxy hyacinth leaves. The 2,4-D-ester, mixed with an oil carrier, tends to cling to the wax-coated leaves. Therefore, 2,4-D-ester is most effective for hyacinth control purposes.

However, 2,4-D-ester is more volatile (light and easily evaporated) than the amine type. When sprayed, 2,4-D-ester tends to drift easily with the wind, and must be carefully used or the spray-drift will damage nearby flowers, trees or ornamental plants.

(continued on next page)
When Not to Spray?—Don’t spray when there is wind. Don’t spray on rainy days. Don’t spray during colder winter months, for plants are not growing fast and will not absorb chemical so quickly.

What Is the result of Spraying?—A few days after spraying of 2,4-D, the hyacinth plants will begin to wilt and turn brown. They will eventually rot and sink to the bottom of the water, where they gradually disintegrate without objectionable odor.

Is 2,4-D Poisonous?—When used properly, according to directions, 2,4-D is not harmful to livestock, humans, fish or waterfowl.

What Will 2,4-D Injure?—2,4-D will injure many ornamental plants and trees, fruit trees, vegetables, and almost any other broad-leaved plant or tree.

Avoid getting 2,4-D or a mixture of 2,4-D on your skin, in your eyes, or on your clothing. Do not transport or store 2,4-D, or mixtures, with fertilizer, insecticides, fungicides, or seeds. Avoid getting 2,4-D or a mixture of 2,4-D on your skin, in your eyes, or on your clothing. Do not transport or store 2,4-D, or mixtures, with fertilizer, insecticides, fungicides, or seeds.

When Should Chemical Be Applied?—For best results, spray hyacinths when plants are growing rapidly—the temperature of the water and the air are above 60° Fahrenheit.

Spray only on clear, warm, still days, so that the chemical mixture will be sprayed directly onto the plants and not via spray drift. Apply spray to the plants completely. Never spray on days when there is considerable breeze or wind. Air currents will drift the spray, causing wastage, and possibly causing damage to desirable plants nearby.

How About Re-Spraying?—If possible, spray the same plants every two or three weeks (as often as new growth appears) during the warmer months. You may need to spray and re-spray as many as six times to completely control the hyacinths.

The northern third of the state westward through the "panhandle" is the main wintering area of the species in the state. It becomes increasingly uncommon through the central part of Florida and is of but rare occurrence in the southern reaches of the peninsula.

Middle or late October generally sees the first of the winter migrants arriving here. By late April all but possibly a few stragglers have cleared the northern border on their way to the nesting grounds.

In the winter plumage the black feathering of the male is overlaid with reddish brown, notably on the head and back. With the approach of the breeding season the plumage changes to black with a somewhat greenish tinge. The females' winter plumage although duller in appearance is similar to that of the male. With the approach of the breeding season her color becomes predominately gray, somewhat darker above than below. The pale yellow eye coloration is an aid to identification at all seasons of the year.

Boat-tailed Grackle, Caddispenis nigricans.

The larger of the two grackles found in Florida is the Boat-tail. A male of this species will average close to 16½ inches in total length. The female some four inches shorter. There is a striking difference in the plumage of the sexes, that of the male being black with a glossy metallic sheen whereas the female is predominantly a soft yellowish brown. The long tail measuring seven inches or more in the adult male is a conspicuous physical feature as is the relatively long and heavy bill.

Total marshes of both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts are a favorite haunt of this grackle although they are by no means confined to the coastal strip. The interior waterways, lakes (continued on next page)
Texas through Louisiana, southern Mississippi and Alabama and along the coastal strip up as far as South Carolina would enclose the major range of the Florida Grackle. Here the bird is a widely distributed resident from resident northward throughout the entire state. In the panhandle it appears somewhat less numerous during the winter than at any other time of the year.

Insects and other animal foods make up about one third of the year's diet of the Florida Grackle. Palm and to berries are an important winter food. Corn in various stages from early sprouting to the waste scattered by domestic animals and other insects are eaten in some quantities.

Florida Grackle, Quiscalus major

This large blackbird averaging considerably smaller than the Boat-tailed Grackle, ranks second in size among the state's representatives of the family. The black plumage of the male possesses a metallic sheen, appearing variously with an iridescent reflecting green, purple and blue. The plumage of the female is smaller but lacks much of the burnished gloss of the male. The brown iris characteristic of the eyes of the young becomes yellow in maturity. A line running from southeastern Florida through Louisiana, southern Mississippi and Alabama and along the coastal strip up as far as South Carolina would enclose the major range of the Florida Grackle. Here the bird is a widely distributed resident.

The location of nesting sites is the peak month of nest activity comes during the spring. Although grasshoppers make up about one third of the year's diet of the Florida Grackle, palm and to berries are an important winter food. Corn in various stages from early sprouting to the waste scattered by domestic animals and other insects are eaten in some quantities.

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I had rather a proud feeling sit­ting there with those various 140 acres in West Palm Beach County. Proud because they are doing and dedi­cating so much for this project. Out of the meeting came the very astonishing fact that the camp site could have two lakes. Ir. Earl Diener and Mr. Bill Wal­lace, engineer, showed aerial photo­graphs which had been taken of the camp site and explained how these two lakes could be brought about into existence.

One lake would measure forty four acres and would lay west of the original lake area, and the planned lake east of this would be ap­proximately eighteen acres. It was proposed at this meeting that one lake would be used for boating, ca­noing and fishing while the other lake would be used for swimming, camping, water skiing and other water sports.

It seemed most interesting to me and could probably be developed. This is the kind of thing that is be­ing discussed at the many meetings being held in the southeast part of Florida.

One of the major projects now be­fore the planning and construction committee is the borrowing or purchas­ing of dredging equipment. This is just another problem presented be­fore the committee. This too will be solved like the others in the past, for these people are quite concerned and deeply sincere in initiating this camp for the youth of Florida.

Good luck to all of you.

Did you know that the third all-girls club has been organized in Florid­a? This was done on my last visit to West Palm Beach. The organiza­tion is called the Palm Beach Audubon Society. Mrs. McClenaghan at the house of Mrs. Janice McClennan, 1508 W 5th Palm Street, Lantana, Florida.

A bird also appearing not unduly concerned over the safety of eggs and nestlings is the Osprey. Florida's fish hawk, to many Floridians, is a character­istic bird of the fresh water marsh­lands and weedy ponds over much of the state. A patch of tall de­

FLORIDA CLUB NEWS

(continued from page 5)

gubernatorial candidates stand on some conservation issues, the Florida Wildlife Federation prepared a set of twelve conservation questions to submit to all candidates.

"It is not the purpose of the Fed­eration to tell members exactly how to vote," said Hubert Roberson, Federation President. "But we be­lieve we can perform a valuable serv­ice if we give them a chance to learn just how prospective candidates stand in conservation.

By publicizing the stands of these candidates we can at least help our members make up their minds."

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

June, 1960

As Spanish moss, bark, and pine straw. The structure may be as many as nine feet in height and per­haps up to nine feet in diameter. An eagle's nest is not easily overlooked in the trees, under most conditions forming, as it does, a conspicuous feature of the land­scape.

The Bald Eagle is noteworthy as an early nester. In the southern part of the state, the Osprey's collection of sticks along with a mixture of moss, palm­etto fronds, and various other items of plant origin.

A nest with a view of the water is a favored site, but with the avian sanitation specialist often requires in incubating the eggs and young. The Least Tern, typical of these, on a sandy open beach a small shallow hollow is scratched. Here the 2 or 3 buoy, brown spotted eggs are laid, to the benefit of nest lining of any sort. With a scattering of the broken sea shells frequently found about such sites, the eggs are wonderfully well camouflaged making them difficult to find even when their approximate location is known.

There are dozens of other bird species that find Florida eminently suited to the raising of young. From the Brown Pelican to the Turtledove from Cape Sable to the Perdido there are right this moment literally thou­sands of young candidates berned in the annual chase of replenishing their kind. Whether the youngsters pip through the confines of the egg shells or come out of a hole in the ground or in a sunflower nest atop a towering pine they are all part of the pageant that keeps them flying.
By DON CULLIMORE

Groping down through the mail the other day for pay-checks and party invitations and free soap coupons and all the other race things that Uncle Sam’s blue-chip messenger can deliver, my fist came up with an insurance firm notice saying that the rates on boating equipment were going up again in Florida.

The figures were stated quite arbitrarily applying rate increases, so the numbers of dollars additional, per annum. (I have never understood why these missives always persist in using "annum" when "year" is so much easier to write, but they invariably do.)

If the amount of the increase was clearly stated, the reasons remained a bit obscure. It seemed that there had been a conclusion that the bigger the motor the better the likelihood of an accident. Liability insurance rate increases were based on horsepower.

One more plunge in the mailbox, and my fingers hit a hot envelope. It contained a scorching protest against the rate boost on behalf of the Outboard Boating Club of America.

The increase, said the OBC, was an unreasonable action based on arbitrary judgment and taken under questionable secrecy, although the number of pleasure boats in use has increased, the rate of serious boating accidents has actually decreased . . . there is no justification in arbitrarily applying rate increases to motors of more than 10 horsepower.

As a result of this protest, conferences are now under way between boating organizations such as the OBC and the "risk-rating" bureaus which recommended the increases.

Meanwhile, Florida has joined 45 other states in authorizing the rate hike. Individual companies may or may not apply the increase, as they choose. Chances are, however, that your insurance bill has gone up.

And, regardless of the merits and outcome of the current uproar over the rate hike, you should protect yourself with full coverage in marine insurance. Since it may differ, in technicalities of obtaining coverage, from the auto policies with which you’re familiar, here is a simplified explanation:

Protection in trailering: Chances are that your automobile liability policy covers a "utility trailer" (the classification in which most boating trailers fall) while you’re on the road. In other words, if your car is involved in a highway accident while towing a trailer, or the towed trailer causes an accident, you have liability insurance protection.

Protection in the water: The rate hike is apparently being justified on the basis that most boat owners are not as concerned about protection in the water as they are on the road. However, the situation has been further complicated by considerable variances between different models of "cats." A trailer that would handle one make of "cat" wasn’t properly spaced for the hulls of another.

The current dispute is over increases in liability rates. The extra annual cost which may apply (depending on whether your insurance firm elected to adopt the new rates) are as follows: 10 to 25-h.p. motors x $10 additional over regular rates; 25 to 50-h.p. x $15 additional; 50 to 100-h.p. x $25 additional; 100 h.p. and up x $40 additional. No additional charge is applied for motors of less than 10 h.p.

Those amounts, of course, "per annum." Incidentally, think of the countless yards of typewriter ribbon that might be saved if insurance people would be shortened to "year" in all the millions of notices mailed out by insurance firms. Why? The savings in fabric and ink might even make possible a rate reduction!

Outboard catamarans, which are gaining in popularity in Florida, have a problem in respect to trailers—the hull-bottomed rigs won’t fit on a trailer built for conventional model-boats; and the situation was further complicated by considerable variances between different models of "cats." A trailer that would handle one make of "cat" wasn’t properly spaced for the hulls of another.

Gator trailers of Jacksonville ( Peterson Bros., Inc.) has now announced development of a "universal" catamaran trailer which the firm says is adjustable to any hull in the 16’ and 17’ lengths. Flexibility of the tilt-type trailer is increased to practically nothing if the occurrence warrants.

Attention, boat clubs: Johnson Motors has added four movies to its film library. They are: "Seaway by Sea-Horse," the film of a trip on the St. Lawrence Seaway from Montreal, Canada, to Chicago. 27 minutes.

"Jamba—Jungle River Safari," filmed in the heart of Africa on a trip by catamaran boat. 27 minutes.

"1959 National Water Ski Championships," made at the Lagoona, N. H., competition last August. Among other scenes are those of Florida’s Nantie Rider, and her championship jumps. 25 minutes.

"The Greatest Show on Water," a kaleidoscopic movie of skiing and other water-sport attractions made by Cypress Gardens. 47 minutes.

The 16-mm. sound-and-color films may be obtained by contacting the firm’s public relations department at Waukegan, Ill., or by making a request through your local dealer.

Of interest in press releases, Mercury motors puts a new twist in the "teach your kids to fish" campaign—teach your daughter to fish, says Mercury, because it’ll help catch an outdoor-minded son-in-law for you later on.

Mercury has issued a new pocket booklet, "Introduction to Outboarding," which is packed with information useful to the small boatman.

The Florida Boating Federation is reporting a rush of new club and individual members since boatmen have been receiving their personal property tax bills. More than 400 were signed up during the Miami boat show, reports Vice-Presy J. P. Byram. One of the announced aims of the Federation is to obtain the same tax exemption for boating equipment as now applies to motor vehicles.

FISHING

(continued from page 9)

of the line melts has lost more big fish than dull hooks.

The Ideal

The ideal system would be about as follows. The rod should be such that it takes its strain in the tip and mid sections. It should have enough guides to properly distribute the strain on the whole rod. The reel should be as good as you can afford (the best are not cheap). It’s a good idea to shop around for a brand of monofilament that has a controlled diameter. Eight pound test should satisfy in most situations. Countless thousands of big, beautiful fish have been lost because of too much drag setting. Very few have been lost by too little. Too little. Many fish have broken off a twisted line because of power cranking, but very few are lost by pumping.

It used to be popular to write how spinning was simple and easy and anyone could master it in an hour or so. We know that spinning is a tremendous weapon in the hands of an experienced angler. We know it takes just as much effort and know-how to master it as it does a fly or plug rod. If you are looking for something easy, tackling big fish with light spinning gear is not for you.
THE UNTERTAIN FUTURE

(continued from page 21)

the great multitude of the state boosts. No, they will not all have died up, but many thousands will have been diverted of any public interest or right by the invasion of private ownership claims.

According to English Common Law adopted for use in this country, only those lakes capable of navigation in 1845 insured to the state by rights of sovereignty. These lakes were subject to condemnation, inalienable public trust. Many definitions have since been employed to determine navigability, varying from a requirement for an actual history of commercial navigation to a showing of a reasonable value for legitimate purposes. In fishing and fishing. Seemingly something on which to found their opinion, the courts have in many instances, to be considered navigable, must have been meandered in the federal land surveys. This means simply that the lake was water and a line was surveyed around it in order that its area might be segregated from the land area added to the public domain. In Florida, fewer than 200 fresh water lakes were so meandered. All other lakes—many of them obviously navigable were surveyed as land area, and the title thus originated has been perfected in many cases to this day. As a consequence, thousands of lakes are still susceptible of private ownership claims of varying degrees of validity. While most of these are merely ponds and other small water bodies completely within the confines of private property, many of the lakes with long histories of public usage also fall into this category.

Despite the small total number, most of the larger lakes—Okeechobee, George, Apopka, Lake Apopka, etc.—were meandered, comprising by far the bulk of the water area in fresh water lakes. But while this is a favorable circumstance in those localities, it is of small value to other areas where none of the lakes were meandered. Of Florida’s 67 counties, 32 contain lakes of appreciable size yet all of the meandered lakes are distributed among no more than 30 counties.

In all, there are at least 700 unmeandered lakes in Florida greater in size than 150 acres—a figure adopted by Florida law-makers as the minimum size lake to which private fishing rights could be maintained. Unless a definite public interest can be asserted in the majority of these, especially those in areas devoid of meandered lakes—Florida might just as well renounce the great advantages it boasts as a lake state.

Disputed by laymen, lawyers and public administrators, the relative ownership and use rights in fresh water lakes have not been too consistently treated even in the courts. In some cases even meandered lakes have been held susceptible of private ownership, while in others the court has been quick to recognize the inalienable estate of use of the public.

The only humane type of trap—that is, if any trap may be considered “humane,” — is the live-box trap that takes the entire animal into box, pit or cage without injury. Such traps may be purchased from specialty manufacturers, or may be built by the average carpenter or metal-worker. Of course, wild animals may also be taken by lasso, net, noose, or narcotics, or similar methods, but few people are skilled in the use of such methods.

CAGED ANIMALS

(continued from page 5)

set the fact that you did accept the animal. The risk is all yours.

The reason for these facts that almost all wild-caught animals are suffering from some disease or illness. Most wild animals so suffer. They die in the wilderness un-noticed, are caught and placed in your cage where you can’t help but notice it. The animal is delivered, or should be delivered, to you “live arrival guaranteed.” What happens after you accept delivery is your responsibility.

If you are legally trapping an animal for captivity, never use the trap designed to catch the animal by a foot or leg. Never buy take animals so-caught. Such traps are inhumane to dumb animals, and often permanently maim the animal. A trap-wounded animal is a bad purchase, since the wound may be infected, or may result in permanent crippling. Crippled animals are practically worthless for exhibit, and will, at the very least, bring only complaints from the public.

The present management program of these valuable birds, and the controls of harmful insect and rodent pests.
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