Hunting Season Rules and Dates

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Tallahassee, Florida

Nov. 1960
GAME LAWS AND DATES
1960-61
Hunting Season

TURKEY

DEER

SQUIRREL

QUAIL

RABBIT

DAILY BAG LIMIT: 2

Daily bag limit 16; no season's bag limit.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: 2

Daily bag limit 10; gray, two fox; no season's bag limit.

Daily bag limit 2; season bag limit 3.

First District: November 19 through January 8. Except Hardee and DeSoto counties where the open season will extend from November 19 through November 27, and December 24 through January 2. Hunting season permitted every day. Pinellas County CLOSED.

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Muzzle Flashes

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

Last hunting season a friend had a hunt where he shot at a totally unsuspecting back only some eighty yards away, but at the sound of the shot the deer dashed off into the brush apparently unharmed.

Following up on his effort, my friend noticed that his high-caliber bullet had plowed a destructive furrow in the side of a tree, almost two feet to the right of where the deer had been standing.

In brief, another hunter had just demonstrated an effective way to make his rifle immediately prior to actual hunting. Like others before him, my friend had indirectly concluded that if his rifle was properly sighted when he used it a couple of seasons ago, it must still be dependably accurate without need of again being tested. Basically, with changes in name and hunting locale the only major differences, the same story occurs every year, evidently, some hunters like to learn the hard way!%

This year the National Rifle Association is asking its member clubs to observe a Sighting-In Day, on which any hunter can take his rifle to the range of a particular club and there sight his rifle at known ranges and with available assistance. Considering that safe places for sighting-in a high power rifle are becoming somewhat hard to find in the face of land developments, and that many hunters don’t know how to go about the job of zeroing their rifles, the suggestion is definitely a timely proposal for new or old hunting, especially when rigidly tied in with basic principles of advocated hunting safety. Florida shooting clubs can render a valuable public service by inviting hunters to their ranges and experienced help on a designated Sighting-In Day.

To help local clubs quickly get set up to do so, a Sighting-In Day program, the NRA has prepared a packet of material telling how to organize the program, publicize it, target personnel and safety personnel, and have the range during its use by non-club members. Full information has already been mailed to all NRA-affiliated junior clubs in Florida. However, any club—regardless of NRA affiliation—can obtain one of the how-to-do-it kits by sending an Air Mail letter or a telegram to the National Rifle Association, Washington, D.C. There is still time for many Florida clubs to schedule and render this public service prior to Opening Day of the general hunting season.

If your community’s rifle club is not among those making ranges available for pre-season practice, you can use any safe location. For example, you can use the range of your club, a public park, your back yard, or a friend’s back yard. In Miami, you can use the range of the Bahia Honda State Park.

For rifles that have just had new sights installed, it is always a good idea to do first test firing at close range, say, 25 yards away. Another advantage of a small remaining error in windage at 25 yards away, where mid-range target distance, is that any club can test sights accurately without wasting ammunition. I like to drop a weighted cord through the center of the target, like a plum line. Then, when my test shots regularly went off to the right of where the cord, I knew my windage adjustment, at least, is basically correct and of true plane. I can then sight-in at a long range with confidence that shots will not be off far enough to miss the point-blank range for a small remaining error in windage at say, 25 yards will be four times as much at 100 yards. Another advantage is that the process of the aiming target, close range, gives me a check plane against possible unnoticed canting of the bullet in flight.

The most logical method of zeroing a hunting rifle is to sight it in for a distance sight setting that takes maximum advantage of the bullet’s velocity and trajectory curve—very useful where shots may be expected at both short and long ranges and killing hits are desired without charging point of aim.

For example, a 30-06 rifle, using 180 grain loads, is sighted-in with metallic sights so that fired slug hits on soft-drink bottles at 40 yards are near point-blank range with that particular slug. A slug hits on soft-drink bottles at 40 yards away, where mid-range trajectory is highest. Now fire five or more shots without making any sight changes. Your bullet group on the paper, and major sight adjustments can be easily accomplished without wasting ammunition, I like to drop a weighted cord through the center of the target, like a plum line. Then, when my test shots regularly went off to the right of where the cord, I knew my windage adjustment, at least, is basically correct and of true plane. I can then sight-in at a long range with confidence that shots will not be off far enough to miss the point-blank range for a small remaining error in windage at say, 25 yards will be four times as much at 100 yards. Another advantage is that the process of the aiming target, close range, gives me a check plane against possible unnoticed canting of the bullet in flight.

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Where slugs are to be used such a short range point-blank sight setting is your preference, go ahead and finish up the job. After sighting-in for, say, 100 yards—your established point-blank range—put up another target only 50 yards away, where mid-range trajectory is highest. Now fire five or more shots without making any sight changes. Your bullet group on the paper, and major sight adjustments can be easily accomplished without wasting ammunition, I like to drop a weighted cord through the center of the target, like a plum line. Then, when my test shots regularly went off to the right of where the cord, I knew my windage adjustment, at least, is basically correct and of true plane. I can then sight-in at a long range with confidence that shots will not be off far enough to miss the point-blank range for a small remaining error in windage at say, 25 yards will be four times as much at 100 yards. Another advantage is that the process of the aiming target, close range, gives me a check plane against possible unnoticed canting of the bullet in flight.

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The dreaded storms pass and Florida's fishermen reap a reward. They have less reason than they think for mourning a hurricane.

The south bank of the canal, just west of the river's mouth, a row of tall Australian pines had blown into the canal. These downed trees stretched their tops halfway to the middle of the waterway, and they extended along the bank for about 200 yards. In those days, I used fly rods and Leggy Bugs exclusively. With these weapons, I began casting between the branches of the trees by the thousands and were all ready to do battle at the drop of a popping bug.

The South Fork's mouth empties into the Cross State St. Lucie Canal just west of Stuart. This is fresh water both legally and in actuality. The fish were all sizes, and we caught bass up to 10 pounds, snook to 20 pounds and tarpon to about 50. We had a ball.

Long Range

Even from a long range point of view, a hurricane is not a complete loss to the angler. In coastal areas, the high winds and high water reach and clean out stagnant pools and channels, bringing new life to vast areas in the form of clean water and stocks of brood fish. The inshore, salt-water areas get a general shaking up, to clean the bottom and create new channels and pools, providing areas for future fishing potential.

Even the Rotson and wreckage, supplied by these downed trees and other material of the hurricane's fury, will stay around in the water for years to make concentration points for game fish. In sweet-water areas, the high water that usually follows a blow is certainly not a complete loss. Swift currents will break up hyacinth jams, and high water (coupled with high wind) piles these runious weeds above the watermarks on shore to die in the sun. The flooded marshes get a shot in the arm in the form of brood fish and minnows to provide better sport in the years to come.

In fact, a hurricane, like all other natural phenomena, has a reason and purpose for being. There is no doubt about the weak, the aged, and the sickly falling before the force of the gale. Only the strong survive. Perhaps this is nature's way of pruning to insure survival of the fittest.

Proper Perspective

I am writing this in my house, listening to the wind howl outside my shuttered windows, and I suspect the hurricane has other less tangible benefits to us sports fishermen. With the battery radio repeating the progress of the storm, along with preliminary accounts of the damage in the hurricane's path, I wonder how many others, like myself, are humbled by the awesome fury and might of nature's Sunday punch? What price now the petty squabbles of partisans of special interest? How important now the fancied insult, the implied slight? What value now the prize in the latest fishing contest, or how real the hurt in not winning one?

Donna is a full-scale hurricane. Every eight minutes, she expends the energy locked up in a topflight hydrogen bomb. If the energy and power of this storm could be harnessed, she would supply all the electrical power needed in all the United States for the next year or so.

Born far down in the South Atlantic, the hurricane is a child of the spinning earth and the heat of the sun. She can, by the same token, be exalted that his spirit rides triumphantly over this, the most awful of nature's weapons. Tomorrow, the sun will shine and the birds will sing again. Florida's fishermen will reap a reward from the storm's passing. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our mental outlook could be washed and revitalized as neatly as a back-woods pond?
When you bag that buck this year—a quick dressing job will insure fresher, sweeter meat.

**Field & Pan**

"GRACED!" Your rifle splits the silence of the crisp late fall afternoon. With heightened heart and blood pressure, you cover the thrill of accomplishment—visions of a ten point buck gracing your den with venison packed in a freezer.

Yup, all yours, provided the fruits of the hunt reach home unspoiled and the trophy head keeps in good shape for a mount or a taxidermist.

Annually, too much venison is wasted because the hunter failed to exercise proper caution in dressing his kill and by keeping the meat "cool." Following the kill, a few simple rules insure final success: quick dressing, and keeping him cool.

When he's downed, make sure he's dead—good and dead. The least sign of life should bring a merciful heart shot. Do not attempt to Jim Bowie a wounded deer. A dying buck is dangerous. Before you have turned the tables on an experienced knife-wielder.

Do not destroy evidence of sex. Check for any special Game Commission tag. Deer are tagged for various research purposes—which your license money supports. A quick dressing job insures fresher, sweeter meat. In low country hog-dress him on the ground, head down so he freely. In timber, string him up to the hind legs. Cut open carcass crotch to throat, being extra cautious not to puncture the or intestines thereby tainting the meat. If this happens, wipe immediately, and cut away sausage.

Some persons claim venison's too tough, and having an objectionable "gamey" flavor. Any meat is tough right off the hook—as to taste, the best beef isn't acceptable either while still "fresh." Aging at proper temperatures tenderizes meat and wares off the flavor. Butchers recommend that venison be aged at temperatures of about 37 to 42 degrees F. for about a week or ten days. A real old buck will kill the limit. Unless you're an expert in butchering and aging you'll save time, labor and meat by having your butcher do the job.

Venison is butchered exactly like beef, the cuts similar to veal. Personal preference dictates the cut size and thickness. 125 pounds of hog-sized deer provides about 85 pounds of usable meat. Proper cutting yields about 35 pounds of steaks, 26 of roasts, miscellaneous cuts and trimmings for stews and burgers about 22 pounds. Heart and liver are thrown in as good measure.

Venison may be smoked or cured. Gourmets, however, say they are no destroys the "gamey" taste. However you feel, venison has a small "gamey" taste— but this writer believes it's very good.
When the brush is thick, and ground visibility poor, you can equalize shooting odds by trying...

HIGH SEAT HUNTING

By EDMUND McLARUN

The hunting sky periods of sun, rain, and sunset should find you keeping your eye tuned for game in nearly the same.

Where there are no low limbs to aid in their climbing, it is popular practice to nail wood battens ladder-fashion up a tree trunk. At best, such ladders are unsafe - especially for women climbing.

I use size 70-D nails, finding them adequately strong, fairly inexpensive, and reasonably easy to drive. Overall length is 7 inches. Drive half the length into the tree trunk and utilize the protruding 3-1/2 inches as a foothold. To obtain uniform placement, lay the nails out in a row and pre-mark them with red nail polish midway their length. In the woods, drive them to the red dot which indicates half length penetration.

Inside a week the nails rust to the color of the tree’s bark, but will be there to give firm climbing support for years.

Size 89-D nails are unnecessarily large, expensive and difficult to drive when you are holding on to a tree with one hand and pounding with axe or hammer.

The smaller that 70-D sizes won’t always support a climber’s weight without bending, should the strain be close to their heads instead of alongside the tree trunk. Once bent down, they are difficult to subsequently climb with sure footing. Any slip is apt to result in a nail scrape against a gouging nail head.

Many hunters prefer to go into woods with only axe and a few nails and build their tree stands from natural materials. For long life, the component sections should be of fairly large diameter and securely nailed together. I figure it’s just about as easy to cut long-lasting, 3-inch diameter pine saplings — and have the protruding 3-1/2 inches. At best, such ladders are limited much like the crow’s nests.

The tree-seats I’ve seen in Florida forests have ranged from simple to absurdly complex, and have been as individual as their owners.

Least pretentious have been those made from a single short length of board nailed to a tree limb, with or without provided foot rests. As one owner-occupant succinctly commented after sitting in for several long, cold hours, “you sure ain’t on the beach.”

A single board or tree limb can get awfully hard over a period of hours! To use such a seat with any degree of comfort, one has to be like the fat colored chair into his tree stand.

As a rule, when you are using a foothold, you have added just a few nails and built their tree stands from natural materials. For long life, the component sections should be of fairly large diameter and securely nailed together. I figure it’s just about as easy to cut long-lasting, 3-inch diameter pine saplings — and have the protruding 3-1/2 inches. At best, such ladders are limited much like the crow’s nests.

Discarded automobile tires make excellent and durable tree-seats. Short pieces of thick lumber shoved into the opening of the tire casing constitute the seat.

(Continued on Next Page)

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER, 1960
to most of us until we were led to them in the full blackness of a very cold winter night. I drew a stand of my own basic construction, but when my guide beamed his flashlight up the tree I was appalled to find that the 19x30 inch platform had been placed on the very tip of a sawed-off pine, much like a birdhouse on a pole! There were no branches above the stand, no backrest, no sides—just that little platform swaying in the darkness an estimated forty feet up!

It was freezing cold, so I climbed up slowly, making sure of my footing before taking the next step. When I reached and stood on the last nail support, I found myself peering over the top of the platform lengthwise, but lacking some six inches from being able to gain a handhold on the platform's far end. (I learned later that my long-legged friend had not climbed into the stand after putting it up, but had merely nailed the small platform on top of the sawed off tree while standing on the last of the climbing nails.)

I tried placing my rifle on the platform, to leave my hands free to climb, but found I couldn't manage that stunt. The alternative was to hold the rifle in one hand and make a quick jump off the last nail foot-hold and catch the far end of the platform with my free hand and pull myself up. Any miss, or failure of grip, would put me in line for a long drop—straight down! I took a deep breath, jumped and made the catch.

I now found myself lying face down on the small platform, rifle in left hand, but one end. To get settled, I'd have to first assume a full kneeling position on top of the little platform and gradually work myself into sitting position, while still hold­ing my rifle in one hand. It didn't help any that the tree was bowing and swaying against a rising wind! However, I finally twisted myself into normal sitting position. Only then, when I realized just how high up in the air I really was. No black-of-night, flagpole sitting for me! Give me branches to grasp on.

At Inverness last season, during the special bow-hunt, an incident occurred that would probably have even temporarily stymied Perry Mason. . . . The day before the season closed, two of my friends noticed a tree stand a mile off one of the forest roads. They hunted a different area the next morning, then decided to close the season with a hunt from the unused tree stand they had seen the day before.

But when they reached the spot, they couldn't find the structure. Sure they were in the right spot, they searched the area carefully, but in vain. . . . They later learned that the owner, having decided to end the season with the morning's hunting, had taken down the platform and carried it home for between-seasons' storage!

Quite naturally, the builder of a forest-seat expects undisturbed use of it while he is hunting in the area, and it increases his blood pressure considerably to approach a location and find a claim-jumper occupying it ahead of him. Some colorful exchanges of opinion as to individual rights have developed from such instances!

Personally I don't mind anyone using one of my tree-seats when I am not present to occupy it. But I've had some memorable experiences myself. One day I sat so long and so still in the same tree that birds lit on limbs beside me and a squirrel ran up the tree trunk and into a hollow limb above my head!

Again, a couple of years ago I joined a party of some eight of my friends in an Opening Day deer hunt. The idea was to erect individual tree stands in good spots and occupy them a couple of hours before daylight on Opening Day. Each man was to contribute either a ready-made tree-seat or go into the woods and help build the number needed.

To place them in trees, it was only necessary to hoist for Opening Day. The result was a variety of seat design and their exact location and nature unknown.

(Continued from preceding page)
As you walk at break of day through Nature's rugged, yet divinely covered and contoured realm, at each step, tingling the nostrils, and imbuing the air with cleansing promise comes the aromatic scent of dew drenched branch and blade.

From the dim obscurity of the scattered wood comes the sleepy twitter of small feathered folk awakening to meet a new day. Before you as you go a disturbed grasshopper, or other insect on water logged wing tries to evade your strident advance.

As you move along in almost reverential homage you suddenly flush a young rabbit from his lair under a verdant bush. Startled! You stop. And as the rabbit streaks away the sun breaks forth over the landscape quickly bringing a dormant world to life, challenged by the feathered folk in louder happier cadence.

As you stand watching a colony of ants already at work passing back and forth across your path in regal procession, a lizard peaks out at you from around the edge of a semi grass covered moss encrust ed rock. Then scurries off for a safer locale.

To further captivate, you spy a single dew drop on a glossy leaf glowing and sparkling with varicolored brilliant refractions. At that precise moment the herbage, under the warming rays of the sun, seems to exude an even deeper fragrance. As a bee with humming wings whisks by startlingly close, your being becomes suffused with a feeling of deep exhilaration, and with animated pulse your spirits soar with a thrill of happiness hard to define.

Now in awed reverence as you ponder the omnipotent diversity of unseen powers, to further enhance the emotions you spy a spider's web hanging between two luster green branches. These too weighted down with drops of dew, each dribblet sparkling in irradiating hues that in comparison relegate a Queen's ornament to a dull glimmer.

Glancing around you might well stand in exuberant obeisance as in a small yet penetrating way you realize the exalting promise Mother Nature holds forth in the birth of a new day.

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Crop Damage by Deer and Bear

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTROL

By JIM FLOYD

Prepared by the Information and Education Division in cooperation with the Game Management Division.

Each year as Florida's population increases, the wilderness of the state recedes. Areas that were once vast forest and hammocks now support agriculture and civilization in the form of truck gardens, citrus groves, and housing developments. Even with this increase in human population, there has been an increase in wildlife. Due to proper management and better land-use, wildlife has survived and prospered close to humans. As the result of such close association, there is bound to be some damage caused by wildlife.

Why Not Shoot the Deer and Bear?

Deer and bear are valuable game animals and belong to the people of the State. They may be taken during an open hunting season for such animals. Set guns should never be used.

What Happens to the Trapped Bear?

When a bear is removed to good wilderness area, far from where it was trapped, and then released. Generally, it is released in an area with suitable bear habitat and where it might provide future bear hunting.

What About Set Guns?

In the first place, set guns are illegal, dangerous, and, in violation of the rules and regulations of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Set guns may destroy a marauding deer or bear; however, such guns can just as easily injure the animals, are available to any citizen suffering damage to property.

What About Harmless Booby Traps?

Booby traps and automatic devices designed to create a loud noise and a flash of light, or similar startling actions, will prevent bears from entering a yard. Such devices are not effective once the bear has made a successful raid. Such booby traps have the disadvantage of requiring daily inspection and re-placement of the sets that have been fired. They will work to protect new crops or new bee-yards.

How About Electrical Fences?

Electrical fences are good; however, it must be understood that the use of an electrical fence will not keep every deer or bear out of your crops or apiaries. An occasional deer will get its head through the strands of wire before receiving a shock, and its normal reaction is to go through the fence, regardless. When an electrical fence is properly constructed and maintained, it will be effective in repelling the majority of the deer in the area. An electrical fence will also repel the initial raid of most bear; however, once a bear has entered an apiary and discovered the honey, the electrical fence often loses its repelling power.

Is This the Same Fence Cattlemen Use?

Yes and No. The fence for wildlife differs in many respects from one used to control cattle. The principal difference lies in the high voltage required to control wildlife. The minimum requirement for deer is 2500 volts, while 700 volts will work with cattle.

Can I Build My Own Fence?

Yes. However, a commercial electric controller, manufactured by a reliable company, should always be used, and in no case should a homemade contraption, or the full 110 volt current, be connected to a fence.

Caution in the Use of Electrical Fences?

It is false economy to save the cost of a electrical controller by using a homemade unit, or by connecting a 110-volt alternating current to the fence, or by using a Ford coil. All of these can easily result in the loss of both human life and valuable livestock. It is not possible to make the person using such devices as an electrical fence liable for any damage that such fence may cause. Under no circumstances should any electrical fence be connected to a 110-volt alternating current to the fence, or by using a Ford coil. All of these can easily result in the loss of both human life and valuable livestock.

Electrical fences are good, but will not keep every deer or bear out of the crops.

What Is This Outrigger?

The outrigger is an important part of an electrical fence for deer. It is 24 inches long and placed 30 inches above the ground, outside the line of posts. Deer apparently fear getting between the outrigger wire and the wire on the post. A piece of dry hardwood is recommended for the outrigger, and it should be covered with three applications of orange oil prior to construction.

What About Chemical Repellents?

Investigations have been conducted with many chemical repellents. None have been found that will effectively repel starving deer. Deer repellents are effective at keeping deer away from crops only when other acceptable feeds are available nearby.

Is Chemical Repellent Effective on Bear?

No repellent has been found that will effectively repel bear. Deer repellents can be sprayed on crops by low pressure hand or pack sprayers, or by larger higher-pressure commercial sprayers. Deer repellents can be mixed with insecticides, fungicides and weedkillers, and applied during normal spraying operations.

When Should Repellent Be Applied?

If possible, deer repellents should be applied before the deer damage begins. Where the deer population is heavy, and where they have already begun to feed on crops, it may be necessary to use a more concentrated solution; and apply it more often. All repellents are soluble in water; and rain or heavy dew may wash away the spray. In periods of heavy rain, spray two or three times a month or, if possible, after each rain.

Caution in Using Chemicals

When using chemicals special attention must be taken in the mixing and application of all repellents. All of the recommendations made by the manufacturer must be followed to insure safety for humans.

(Continued on Next Page)
The pictures are similar in appearance to the cache discussed, harmless protect should the beekeeper take preventive measures to install burglar alarms to protect his property, so that belong to the general public. Just as a merchant not necessarily provide a right to the beekeeper has a right to protect his property, such as deal with the detrimental. In the past, were shot on sight, whether near an apiary or not.

What About Bears And Bees?

Good bear country in Florida is also high-quality bee range. This fact, coupled with the fact that bears love honey, sets the stage for trouble. In the past, bears invading bee apiaries were dealt with as drastically as available means allowed. Often the animals were shot on sight, whether near an apiary or not. Some were waylaid with set-guns and poison. While the beekeeper has a right to protect his property, the bear is still an important game animal and provides the sportsmen with many hours of outdoor recreation.

The right to protect individual personal property does not necessarily provide a right to kill or destroy bears that belong to the general public. Just as a merchant installs burglar alarms to protect his property, so should the beekeeper take preventive measures to protect his bee-hives.

What Methods Are Available To Prevent Damage?

Other than the electrical fencing, live trapping, and booby traps, which have already been discussed, there is the bear-proof bee-hive platform.

What Is This Platform?

It is a platform that is designed to hold bee hives and constructed so that a bear cannot climb it or reach the bees. Thus, the beekeeper can do no damage.

How Effective Is This Platform?

Property located and constructed, the platform is 100 percent bearproof.

What Does This Platform Look Like?

It is simply a wooden stand about eight feet high that has an overhanging top of about two feet. Bears are unable to crawl around the two-foot overhang. The structures are similar in appearance to the caches used in the north country where bears threaten stored food and equipment kept at hunting and trapping camps in the back country.

Can An Individual Build Such A Platform?

It is simple. Any man can build such a platform with elementary tools and help. (see illustration.)

Is It Worth The Time And Expense?

Beekeepers who consistently sustain yearly bear damage would certainly benefit economically by constructing such platforms. This type of bear insurance should cost something like $8.50 a year, considerably less than the value of one hive.

So There Is No Excuse For Bear And Deer Damage To Crops And Bees?

With the modern methods for controlling and preventing damage, there no longer appears to be a valid excuse for anyone allowing the depredation of crops and bees by deer or bear. There also is no excuse for the destruction of deer or bear which causes damage to unprotected crops or apiaries. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure in such cases.

What About Damage From Other Wildlife?

As long as there are people living close to wildlife, there will be some damage to personal property by wild animals. Wild animals can not recognize property lines. Such damage may include lawns disrupted by shrews or armadillos, garden patches disturbed by rabbits, fruit trees damaged by squirrels and rodents, or the greater damage to bee hives by bear or to crops by deer. While an individual has the right to protect his personal property, he is also charged with the responsibility of taking every reasonable precaution to prevent such damage to his personal property.

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By Maurice Naggiar

By the end of the first week of the season it was painfully obvious that the duck hunting situation was far from being up to par. Former hotspots—fresh water potholes, sloughs, and marshes—lay deserted, barren flats baking under the fall sun.

There were a few lakes that still held enough water to be attractive to ducks. But after a couple of days of lead dodging, the webfeet evidently decided that running a gauntlet of gunfire from elbow to elbow standing hunters was too much of a hazard. The birds continued to use the lakes but it was after shooting hours had ended in the evening that they returned from their daytime loafing grounds. In the darkness of early morning the winnowing whistle of their wings revealed that the lakes would be vacant of the flocks by legal shooting hours.

It did not take long to find where the flocks were spending the day. All along the coast were rafts of birds riding the calm surface of the Gulf. Sometimes, when the wind stirred them into nervous activity, they traded back and forth between spots of sheltered water in the lee of coastal islands and reefs.

Shooting the islands scattered along the coast sounded like a good idea except for the fact that these low lying mounds of shell, sand, and mud were practically bare of any cover tall enough to hide a field mouse. Build a blind offshore? It was too late to do much along those lines this season. Even if my hunting partner and I did go to the trouble, it would be pretty much a guess as to just what part of the vast stretch of coastal water would make even a fairly likely location.

What we needed was some sort of blind that would serve the purpose well but at the same time would be readily movable in case we made a poor guess as to the location of well-used flyways.

Without any great degree of confidence in the plan, we worked out an idea for a low cost and highly portable blind. An attractive feature of the whole deal was the fact that it would take only an evening to prepare. If it did not give us any shooting, we still would not have lost much—we were not getting any shooting anyway.

The blind we put together consisted of a ten foot length of four foot wide, 2-inch mesh poultry wire to which was sewed an outside cover of burlap grain sacks. Four wooden posts driven into the ground in the selected location served as a frame for the wire and burlap covering. As with most big water shooting, we used as many decoys as we could muster up. The burlap grain sacks used to carry the decoys were put into service to further disguise the blind.

The first trip out we set the blind up on a bare shell and mud reef, put out the decoys, laid out a piece of hardboard for a floor on which to set up folding camp stools and we were in business. By the time we had collected our daily limit of birds, the doubts had started to crumble.

As the season closer rolled around, we were both convinced that, despite the bizarre appearance of the makeshift blind, the ducks did not seem in the least concerned. Since that first season, we have had the opportunity to use the grain sack blind in a variety of locations, fresh water lakes and ponds as well as along the coast. It does the job just as efficiently as any blind I have ever used and it is much more convenient than most.

Photos by Bill Hansen

Conspicuous though the burlap sack blind may appear, it is an effective device for shooting along Florida's coastal waters. It has also done the job well on fresh water ponds, sloughs, and lakes.
declared he was turned around. After fifteen minutes, Cal refused to follow and we started off on a solo jaunt.

"He's got me fouled up now," muttered Cal, fifteen minutes later. "I'm too far west, and I'll have to go through that deep water hole. Hope we don't drown out.

Ahead I saw a tall stand of marsh grass and lilies. Cal must have read by thoughts.

"That's it! It's got a soft bottom," he explained. "I'll have to smash the lilies to get traction. If we get into that clear water, we've had it."

"See that ripple?" he exclaimed continuing. "We scared that water moccasin out of a year's growth. He was at least six feet long."

The water surged over the axle. Higher and higher it crept. I felt something hot hitting my ankle. The motor's fan was throwing water past the hot engine. The tail pipe was under water. It sounded like a motor boat's exhaust. How much could the engine take? Finally the buggy rose slightly. The hot spray ceased. We were again running on normal — for that time of year — ground. There's nothing but water, water and more water, in the cypress country during the rainy season.

We growled a half mile farther when the engine suddenly quit.

"No juice," Cal remarked punchng the starter. "Must have jolted a connection loose. That may be hard to find."

I stepped off the buggy, and almost went over my three-quarter length rubber boots. Beneath the water was mud six to nine inches deep. I hauled myself back on the buggy. It would be a hell of a chore to walk out of this country now.

First of many mishaps in the swamp buggy safari — Stewart's buggy with a broken axle.

Dan Foley took the lead, and immediately Cal

"K. Toss a match! Watch out!"

The gasoline-soaked, palmetto-pine island exploded with a roar.

"There go the ground rattlers," remarked Cal Stone as the blaze cleared our makeshift campsite deep in the Florida Big Cypress.

I'll take them to ground rattlers, I thought. We drove west by highway but some 60 by our present route. Why?

Six of us in three buggies had left Monroe Station heading north into the cypress on a two-day trip. Now we were lost in the Big Cypress. Night had caught us miles from mid-point on our circuitous safari shifting three swamp buggies from Monroe Station—60 miles west of Miami—to Cypress Bend, 23 miles farther west by highway but some 60 by our present route. Why? To ready two hunting camps for the coming sea­son.

Dan Foley's buggy—the third in our party—whined as he reversed and headed back down the old logging road.

"Goin' after another axle?" queried Cal quietly.

"Stewart just grunted yes as he leaned on the wood's jack handle. Dismantling an axle housing is a real job anytime. But even in the swamp it was easy for Ed, who knew every nut and bolt. He'd better for his life often depends upon it."

They'd just completed disassembly when Dan Foley's buggy chugged around the bend. Reassembly went quickly, and in only three hours, we were rolling, a new axe installed with no fuss.

There's a swamp adage that a man who hasn't been lost, and who doesn't get lost, doesn't get into the swamp. We proved it.

Dan Foley took the lead, and immediately Cal

Cal plunged into the water to check the engine's distributor. He tested some wires, but the engine wouldn't grunt. I heard a pair of buggies growing in the distance.

"I'm too far west, and I'll have to go through that deep water hole. Hope we don't drown out."

Ed held up in his ten wheeler. He'd barely stopped, and I added a half inch rubber boots. Beneath the water was mud six to nine inches deep. I hauled myself back on the buggy. It would be a hell of a chore to walk out of this country now.

First of many mishaps in the swamp buggy safari — Stewart's buggy with a broken axle.

"So what?" Cal asked, cutting his motor.

"Broke an axle," laconically remarked Ed Stewart, driver-owner of the 10-wheel tandem.

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Ed's buggy lumbers through the palmetto under a lowering sky as a line squall approaches.

(Continued from preceding Page)
The circumstances surrounding the birth and growth of the baby opossum is one of the most remarkable happenings in the animal world.

In their family circle, with their own domestic affairs, animals possess devotion beyond our imagination.

Babes in the Woods

Perhaps it is devotion and love of children that gives us a common tie with the animals, and endears them to us. They work in strange and wondrous ways performing the miracles of raising families in the wilds, surrounded by armies of enemies. And if nature is a hard taskmaster, she is also a providing angel—for those that apply her endowments.

The feeding of mammal babies, to the casual observer, may appear as one of nature’s most basic and simple arrangements. But in as much as they go everywhere at almost all times, and must raise their families in the process, the care and feeding of infants in the great outdoors can be almost unbelievably involved.

Milk equipment of some animals is capable of double duty. Whether this is brought about through necessity, or an over-strong mother-child attachment would be difficult to say. Among elk it is not uncommon to see two offspring suckling the same cow, the calf and the yearling of the past year.

At times it looks as if nature had a lapse of memory when providing for a start in life for some of her creatures. The Walrus seems particularly to have missed connection the eight ball—with an indispensable “knife and fork,” his characteristic tusks. There is an irony here: A walrus must eat food in small bits such as can pass between his long, closely-set tusks. And to collect this food he must have tusks to scrape it off the bottom of the shallow sea. Now at the time a walrus is free of tusks and could take as large a mouthful as his appetite might desire he’s up to his neck in it (even if he could come by it). In fact, it takes three years for a young walrus to develop tasks—that provide him eating implements, and at the same time limits him. But nature has odd answers to odd problems, and mothers know the answers. For a while he nurses like most other baby mammals. But the milk supply plays out long before the three years it takes him to grow tusks. And for a good part of the time, perhaps as long as two years, he takes his nourishment from his mother’s dung.

Fooding for a growing family is not always the simple process of the mother securing food, eating it and digesting it into milk. If you wanted to decrease the wild population, you might concentrate on the father for the purpose. In spite of his bad reputation—his very name being a symbol for inconstancy—he’s one of the most constant husbands and devoted fathers in the animal kingdom. Basically he’s a traveling man and lover of the hunt. But while the musk is in a family way, and confined to the home taking care of the young family he sticks around close, stands guard against danger, and brings home the groceries. As the pups grow older they are weaned on meat eaten and partly digested by one of the parents and regurgitated for the youngsters.

At the task of propagating, unbelievable “handicaps” are strangely overcome. The duck-billed platypus is a bird-like mammal without any teats. The young do not suck. Yet they are milk fed. Milk is secreted through the skin, and the infants lick it off the base of the hairs on the mother’s belly.

Feeding the young is, of course, only one problem in bringing up the offspring. It must be protected against the elements and against innumerable enemies.

What the expectant mother doesn’t provide for her young from her own body, she procures from the vast maternity shop that is the Outdoors, in order to have a suitable crib waiting. These thoughtful duties of parenthood are too well-known to require attention here—leathers and the softest leathers for bird’s nest, grasses and twigs for dens, and hair for burrow, etc., etc. Few mothers are busier bearing and raising children than the cottontail. For her it’s a life of one brood after another. Yet even the coy mother can always be depended upon to have a fresh, comfortable, meticulously prepared crib when the time comes—all lined with soft fur pulled from her belly. As soon as she feeds the babies she should carry them in her mouth, one at a time, to the crib and covers them with a fur blanket.

Look in on one of these woodland families—you won’t find anything pretentious, but you will probably see something more wondrously simple and adequate for the needs at hand.

In the cold, open country of the far north, musk oxen will face a fierce, whistling blizzard, their heads forming a wall of heavy heads to the storm and a front of wool and hair in the back, behind which the youngsters find protection.

(Continued on Next Page)
You have to be alert to out-fox a fox. But an alert pronghorn can do it. When a hungry fox appears, she grazes supremely calm and indifferent near her hidden fawns. She knows that to panic, or show the least fear or worry would betray her helpless babies. The act, if well carried out, usually foils the fox.

Animal mothers, like any others, get fed up with confining household duties and endless child-care. They too enjoy taking an afternoon off. So they employ baby-sitters. This practice can be observed close to home among cows. One mother cow will often attend a group of calves, while the other mothers graze and relax unnumbered in open spots to suit their care-free moods. Giraffes, naturalists claim, organize communal nurseries, one mother becomes a wet nurse for several baby giraffes. Possibly no parents go farther toward establishing their children in animal society than sheeps. If it is necessary for the youngsters to move outside the colony both parents may assist them in building their first home. Then the elders return to their own home- stead.

It would make a happy ending to be able to say that all animals make good and attentive parents. But there is too much to expect. There are exceptions, just as there are among human beings. But it is pleasant to know that exceptions are rare.

Most apparent lack of devotion is due to natural limitations. And it's hardly fair to blame animals for their justified instinct of self-preservation. At home, in the family circle, left to their own domestic affairs, they possess gentleness and depth of devotion perhaps beyond our imagination. 

In time of danger, baby Grebes hold their mother's feathers for a piggy-back ride down under the water, out of sight. 

### Wildlife Management Areas

This season the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will have open to hunting a total of 3,426,300 acres of land within the Wildlife Management Areas. In addition to regular hunting license, a public hunt area permit is required for those desiring to hunt on the Management Areas.

Available from the offices of the County Judges throughout Florida, the $5.00 permit opens most of the 28 management areas where hunting is permitted this season. Exceptions are as follows: Eglin Air Force Base, $4.00 Air Force Permit, good for the season, in stead of the regular $5.00 public hunt permit; and the Cecil M. Webb Area, where a $5.00 daily permit is required; and the Everglades and Apalachicola Management Areas where NO public hunting permit is required.

Special free permit required for Guano River Area.
FLORIDA WILDLIFE TRIAL SEASON STARTS

By HAL DAVIS

Winners of good bird dogs will have greater opportunities to prove their worth in public the coming season. Seven bird dog field trials with 20 different stakes and a couple bench shows have already been scheduled for the fall and winter months.

The schedule follows:

Pine Woods Field Trial Club—Oct. 29-30—Punta Gorda
Cracker Bird Dog Club—Nov. 4-6—Ocala
Charlotte Co. Sportsmen Club—Nov. 12-13—Punta Gorda
Fort Myers Rod & Gun Club—Jan. 14-15—Mt. Myers
Everglades Field Trial Ass’n—Feb. 17-20—Lake City
Suannee Valley Field Trial Club—Feb. 26-28—Lake City
Florida Puppie Classic—March 4th—Punta Gorda

The opening event is the twelfth annual running of the famous Pineywoods Field Trials Oct. 29-30 at Punta Gorda. This event will feature three stakes only, a Derby, an All-Age and a Shooting Dog contest with trophies for lst, 2nd and 3rd in each event. A new club has been formed at Ocala named the Cracker Bird Dog Club. They have scheduled a pre-tournament gala for Nov. 4, 5 and 6 called the Cracker Meet Dog Championship. A bench show will be held concurrently with the drawing for bracermates Friday night, Nov. 4. The judge will be Bob Menzies, of Clearwater.

Saturday and Sunday will see the running of the championship with nine stakes for the winners of the stakes only, a Derby, an All-Age and a Shooting Dog contest with trophies for lst, 2nd and 3rd in each event. A new club has been formed at Ocala named the Cracker Bird Dog Club. They have scheduled a pre-tournament gala for Nov. 4, 5 and 6 called the Cracker Meet Dog Championship. A bench show will be held concurrently with the drawing for bracermates Friday night, Nov. 4. The judge will be Bob Menzies, of Clearwater.

Florida’s BIG CLUB

A claim this season the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is giving recognition to those hunters who bag trophy bucks to the state. The bagging of a buck weighing 130 pounds or more dressed weight, with horns for membership in the club. Certificates of membership and a colorful shoulder patch for hunting jacket or shirt will be given by the Commission to those who qualify.

Application forms for club membership must be forwarded to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, within ten days after the buck is killed.

The weight must be certified by a wildlife officer, checking station operator, game technician, county judge, or notary public. The deer must have been taken in accordance with state game regulations. No trophy buck under 130 pounds dressed weight (approximately 150 lbs. live weight or dressed weight plus 20%) will be eligible for registration.

FLORIDA WILDFOWL

HIGH SEAT HUNTING

(Continued from Page 15)

Half an hour later, we crossed our tracks of the day before. Gradually we worked eastward, and finally broke into a cypress belt. Now the rains came, as a vicious line squall drenched us. All sense of direction was lost. Slowly we slugged north, sometimes northwest, sometimes northeast by compass.

We began checking out buggy tracks—left from the previous dry hunting season—that headed toward the cypress strand we were paralleling. None were the right ones.

While this spooked from the slender cypress trees, we’d spotted a couple of deer bouncing away with tails waving the day before, and now we startled another pair feeding on the prairie’s edge. Everywhere were deer sign, and on some of the melato islands, wild hog sign. This was Florida’s last frontier—a rugged land that could hurt you and trap you.

Shortly before noon as we moved toward the cypress to check another track Cal began to relax.

“This looks like it,” he muttered. “There should be a套路 through the cypress if this is Deep Lake Strand.”

A few minutes later he exclaimed: “This is it!”

Spotting ahead, we twisted over cypress logs and knives and almost lay a narrow opening—perhaps 12 feet or less wide—heading into a dark cypress tunnel. This was our needle in the haystack. The water was deep, but we wading casually. We paused for Ed on the western edge of Deep Lake Strand. We waited and waited, and finally started back in Half moon. We knew Ed had to overhaul his carburetor. We felt the worst was over. It was except for one ducking, a mallard, Cal took a shot and stuck so badly, Ed couldn’t free him from in front, but finally rescued him behind. It was the trip’s worst bogging.

Three forty-five saw us still slogging over comparatively easy terrain with the winch casually. “Just a few minutes now,” he remarked, although there was nothing to indicate we were miles away from civilization. “I don’t know if I’d known those mosquitoes were so bad. I don’t think I’d have tackled this trip.”

Just 24 hours plus late, minus one buggy and loaded with mosquito bites we reached Rock Island. We waded! nearly a hundred miles in shallow water.

We’d made half the trip. What a half! But it was an experience we’d never forget for days lost in the mud. Are we cured? No, indeed! We’re going to try it again sometimes, only we may be smarter and tackle it during the dry season. It looks like too much swamp during the wet season. It’s a lot of swamp any time!”

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

This Hunter’s Ches. pr was 100% con- tained punishes in umbrella ($44); holding writing desk ($51); spygla ($51); roll of game calls ($54); gun on wood stump ($53); and night scope ($51). This construction seriously, not long ago I was shipped two experimental plandles made from an amazingly strong and light dupont plastic sandwiched between thin pieces of woven cloth.

Probably the same in tree-seat design comfortably, for once it was marketed portable hunter’s stand invented by one J. D., of Detroit Press, Office No. 1,377,063, May 3, 1921.

Besides portability and height, its features include a large umbrella, back type chair, writing desk (for recording data and thoughts of a journalistic hunter), spotlight, viewing telescope, an American flag (a wind indicator), a rack of different game calls and an atomizer for dispensing occasional whiffs of game-attracting scents. This was the beginning of the wrong generation. What with the present day popularity of tree-seats for hunting, he might easily have been two days lost in the lay out any help from Michael Anthony’s generous employer, at that.

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Conservation

Save Our Shorelines, theme of the Izaak Walton League's annual convention in Mobile, Ala., June 25-28, was given meaningful application for sportmen when conservation leaders centered main talks and workshop sessions within the needs for concerted efforts to preserve inland and locally unique shore lines as well as coastal waters.

Of the resolutions adopted at this year's convention, two deal completely with Florida problems, and a third covers a problem of vast concern to ALL people enjoying Florida's great outdoors.

A summary of these three resolutions follows—

St. Johns River Basin

States that a current federal-state proposal for diversion and drainage of the upper St. Johns River Basin in Florida would damage a highly productive habitat for fish and wildlife and impair an equalizing force against salt water intrusion, threatens serious damage to public values in the Indian River and adjacent coastal waters and result at times in reversing natural flow with resultant damage to agriculture and compounded damages from diversion into the overburdened St. Lucie River via its North Fork. Opposes such drainage and diversion measures as would irreparably damage public values of the St. Johns River Basin water resource.

Lake Okeechobee Flood Control

Cites unnatural conditions resulting from improper execution of the original Lake Okeechobee water control concept including damaging drouth in Everglades National Park from lack of water normally provided by Lake Okeechobee and damage by boom waters discharged to the east coast through the St. Lucie River. Declares that proposed construction, diverting overflow from the Caloosahatchee River to Florida's west coast areas, is equally unsound and damaging and, therefore, urges the appropriate federal authorities to explore every possible means whereby a third outlet or safety valve canal on the south side of Lake Okeechobee could be constructed to restore normal and natural water flow to damaged areas and to avoid upsetting the delicate natural resources balance to the west.

Bulkhead and Fill of Shoreline Areas

Cites the fact that long-range values of shoreline resources will be greater if maintained in a natural productive condition for all the people rather than dredged and filled for real estate development and advantage of the few and advocates policies at national, state and local levels that would establish bulkhead lines at mean high water marks beyond which no filling would be permitted, except when it can be proved that it is in the long-term public interest.

NEXT MONTH

SPECIAL 50-PAGE HUNTING SEASON ISSUE FOCUS ABOUT QUAL HUNTING VEHICLES

DO A FAUDE-OUT HUNTING WITH RETRIEVERS

Plus many other features about hunting in Florida. The December issue is scheduled to be mailed November 16. Reserve your copy now.

CAMPING AND COOKING

(Continued from Page 11)

cupper stewing (or roasting) pot. Glaze bottom and sides with fatty bacon or ham, and if you lean toward garlic, a small bud may be rubbed in the same time.

Remove meat from liquid, wiping dry and brown all over. Reduce to simmer, adding 1 cup liquid and as much of the onions and bell pepper residue as can be scraped from marinating pot. Cover and simmer about 3 hours or until meat is very tender. Add liquid as it evaporates. Press down, remove meat, placing on carving board and cover with foil to keep hot. Do not keep in warming oven.

Gravy making isn't hard—it's them flour lumps, buckshot gravy as Daisy Mae calls it. I use pancake flour, blending in a cup with lake warm water. Whatever lumps I get, and there's plenty it seems, disappear when heated. Or strained. Add some marinate liquid, stirring in soy sauce to darken gravy. I prefer this to gravy sauce or darkening the flour in oven. To this add ½ cup sour cream, (no sour cream raisins, 1 small can mushroom stems and pieces, ½ dozen ginger snaps.

Raise heat till liquid bubbles, then lower and stir until thickened. Make enough for leftover, if you want. When heated, remove from heat, pouring marinate liquid for leftover, if any.

Sounds like sauerbraten you say? Could be—I got it from an old Black Forest gamekeeper who cooked one. He made little gravies I shot over there. He uses red cabbage and potato cakes too! I'd say kartupfelklaise, only I don't know how to spell it.

Florida conservation groups, working under the banner of the Florida Wildlife Federation, have instituted a concerted drive to oppose the constitutional amendment which would alter the status of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The amendment is to be voted on before the voters November 8, is one of six proposed amendments appearing on the ballot and is listed as Amendment No. 3.

The basic mailing of the Wildlife Federation is under the title of the Citizens Information Program of the Florida Wildlife Federation and is intended to describe possible results of the proposed amendment if passed. It contained a return postcard with which the recipient could request a citizens' information kit or a club information kit (the latter to be requested by officers of conservation organizations).

The explanation of the proposed amendment begins, "You should vote against proposed Amendment No. 3 at the polls because:"

In brief, the letter states the following reasons why the amendment should be opposed:

"If you vote for this change you won't know what you're getting. You'll be voting for a pig in a poke. But, if you vote against it, you will be voting against any change so that we will keep the sensible program we have now. You know what we have now, and by voting against the change, you will know what we will have tomorrow."

"If you vote for the Amendment No. 3, you will place in the hands of the politicians the $2,500,000 in license money that hunters, fishermen and conservationists pay to our state game fund to operate the Commission that we all hold dear."

"If you want to keep your fish and wildlife out of politics, you must vote AGAINST."

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

November, 1960

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Fishermen And Boats

Although fishermen and boaters are often lumped together as a group by the uninformed, they are often quite divergent in their interests and in their desires for renewal of the nation's waterways, according to the Sports Fishing Institute, which recently conducted a survey of waterfowl hunters and fishermen. The results explained that in many states, a whole series of regulations has been necessary to preserve some areas for fishing to the exclusion of water skiing and other high speed sports. Sportsmen's clubs are urged to take the lead in protection, both of fishermen's rights and the other sportsmen like water skiers. The Institute points out that fishermen don't require nearly as much water per angler as skiers do per skier.

WATERFOWL RESTRICTIONS

WATERFOWL HUNTERS are reminded by Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, that regulations by the national government and the states requires that the one-piece filler be of wood or metal and that it must be made from any material.

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D, DO YOU REMEMBER “Laika”, the little Russian space dog that whirled around the earth back in 1957? This was just another example of the dog's unquestioning service to mankind. And while it remains to be seen whether Laika's saucers on the alter of science was for man's benefit or destruction, her journey into outer space will never be forgotten.

Ever since prehistoric times when they crept into a cave together to escape the elements, man and dog have been friends. It has been an association filled with acts of canine courage, loyalty and devotion, as well as fun and companionship, according to the folks at the Gaines Dog Research Center. Dogs have altered the course of history, assisted in great discoveries, figured in prose and poetry and now have soared to man's attempts to conquer the universe.

The dog's contributions to man's well-being are legion. He has guarded man's home and loved ones, provided “second sight” to the blind, dragged man and his equipment to the Poles, stood sentry duty in war, protected game preserves, found lost persons and bolstered man's sagging morale in times of crisis.

There have been dogs whose service has gone beyond their individual owners or families. Visitors to New York's Central Park may pause at the spot where a dog named Drum, a Missouri hound, killed by a sheep farmer for merely trespassing, occasioned a piece of oratory in the Senate and the rest of the world—read with delight the exploits of F. D. R.'s famous dog, Fala. Man does not always take the dogs' devotion for granted, nor does he always fail to show his appreciation. Grateful masters have erected symbols of their gratitude to the dog. Some of these reminders of the dog's faithfulness are in the form of mausoleums, some are statues and others are penned tributes.

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Incidentally, in July of 1960, a news story came out of Russia that Soviet scientists announced that a rabbit and two dogs were safely returned to earth from a rocket fired 121 miles into the upper atmosphere.

Mailmen are not the only ones who have trouble with dogs on their routes. Meter readers have it too. So in Mineola, N.Y., the lighting company supplies their room with sweet biscuits to help them make friends with the pets in the homes they visit.

In Harlan, Ky., a puppy with a broken leg appeared at the back door of a hospital appealing for help. Naturally, it was taken in, and now has one of the classiest splints in the animal world.

Pontiac, Mich., A little dog wandered out on the ice, felt it cracking under him, got scared and "just sat." Nowhere would he go. When the ice finally became necessary for police and firemen to chomp a hole in the ice, launch a boat, and hack through the ice to save the dog. The dog. Some of these reminders of the dog's faithfulness are in the form of mausoleums, some are statues and others are penned tributes.
BOATING

BY DON CURWEN

A LONG ABOUT THE TIME this article appears, motion picture theaters will be showing a 17-minute wide screen, color "spectacular" short feature film titled "Boats-a-Poppin'." The movie was made by Paramount and filmed in Cypress Gardens in midsummer. It was filmed as a "thrill show"—and it's a real thriller, in a circus sense. The three-dimensional effect is terrific; in the sensational fire wall jump by three outboard-powered boats, you'll cringe in your seat before the crackle of flames and almost feel the impact of the nearest boat landing in your lap.

As a matter of fact, the boat did brush the knee of Cameraman Russ Urba, who was stretched prone on a platform less than 30 feet from the fire wall itself. Urba, a one-time cameraman for the Grantland Rice sports shorts, didn't flinch, kept shooting. The close-up and odd-angle shots featured in the film so impressed the Paramount executive staff that "Boats-a-Poppin'" already has been submitted as a candidate for a Motion Picture Academy Award in the short-subject classification.

Start from finish—precision boat maneuvers at high speed, sensational skiing and jumping, acrobatic clowning and everything else—it's an All-Florida Production. There are no "name" stars or outside actors; Cypress Gardens personnel is employed throughout. Producer and director, for Paramount, is Dick Matt who divides his time between Florida and Illinois as chief photographer for John son Motors, outboard manufacturer which co-operated with Paramount and Cypress Gardens in arranging for the film.

Just remember—it's a thrill show, and isn't what the Safety Council would recommend as a fare for family boating. Extreme precautions were taken to avoid injury, and despite the "close shaves" evidenced in the film, swimming was worked out so efficiently there were no damag ing mishaps . . .

Twas while we were at Cypress Gardens, during part of the filming, that we had an opportunity to check out a newly rigged boat that carried just about everything that could be loaded aboard an outboard craft to insure safety in offshore fishing and cruising.

The boat, a 20-ft. Squall King owned by Dick McNeely, carried the following equipment:

Marine compass; barometer; ship-to-shore radio, Pearce-Simpson Bi- directional; depth sounder; ship-to-shore radio direction-finder; clock; Airguide speedometer; Sea-Trim hy draulic elevators for stability in rough water; high powered binoculars; flares; water dye; an inflatable life raft with carbon dioxide cartridges; and emergency bailing pumps. Otherwise, it conformed with Coast Guard requirements in general equipment—lights, fire extinguisher, horn, life preservers, etc. Another additional to the usual equipment were tachometers to provide constant checks on engine performance—so to communicate with shore and other ships if in trouble, and to have an idea of the boat's speed, at the very outside, is the least period that it should be permitted to remain in the tank before . . .

At the Mercury meeting, we had an opportunity to try out the '61 "Mercury" outboard motors. As a matter of fact, we "raced" the 6- in a blunt-howered and rounded boat—against other writers around a closed course. The motor has a lot of "zip," comes down to trolling speed easily and maintains it smoothly. With the current emissions "big motors" many folk are prone to forget the value of having a small fishing motor along—with either a separate small craft or as an auxiliary engine with a big motor installation.

Also introduced at Chickamauga was the Mercury single-lever throttle and full range gear shift (forward, neutral and reverse) now made available for all Mercury outboards as the lower-horsepower engines. It is an exceedingly smooth and gratifyingly stable control.
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT, Scoutmaster for Troop 8, Eustis, has every reason to be proud of his Boy Scouts this year. John traded a small operation for the Honorary Award for troop activity in a conservation program.

In 1965, the Eustis group, the Eustis Spangler, set up the kitchen to feed their boys. Conservation is the laudable foresters. Assistant Scoutmaster, project was supervised by James H. Birdsall, who started the use of the fish population in a three acre canal. In the early 1960's, the troop was very active for the conservation of the forest and wildlife. He explains that the troop is very proud of the assistance and the Scouts are a very versatile group. As I understand it you need not be an eligible to join.

The pledge used by the Council reads like this: "I promise to observe and to respect the use of forest, field and stream as a privilege instead of a right; to observe and obey the membership laws; to look upon the soil, forest, waters, wildlife and minerals as priceless possessions and clean." The state's more hopeful archers as the problem of attracting help for hunters and campers in the early 1950's.

The new Coulter Flare explodes at around 500 feet into a huge, glowing red ball, visible for more than a mile by ground observers, and several miles over water or from the air. It burns itself out after descent to about 150 to 100 feet. The flare costs $18.50 and has a top opening 5 inches wide. If necessary, up to 1500 dart broadheads can be carried despite the quiver's compactness. There are two outside compartments for storage of small, non-essential tackle items. The larger compartment has zipper closing. The flares are parked in a pocket-size, water-resistant pouch. Price $2.95, from Marsh Couleur Company, Fraser, Michigan.

The more serious archers give a lot of thought to the kind of quiver they will use this season to house their hunting arrows. Most prefer a small, rimmed aluminum quiver to one that accepts a usable number of arrows. It is important to start with that thought of the best quiver, even if only on the face.
QUESTION BOX

By Chuck Schilling

Question: I've been trying to find a good, large map of Florida, showing all the major lakes, and one that is wide enough for accurate reading. Is there such a map available and where? J. Pearson, Orlando, Fla.

Answer: I have a map such as you describe and find it very useful. This one on heavy paper measuring 4 feet by 4 feet. It is called the "Sectional Map of Florida." It is published by the Florida Department of Agriculture, Tallahassee. I think it is fine.

Question: I often read of outboard skippers who seem to get performances and mileage from rigs similar to mine that seem to understand why this shape would work better. I have always heard that weather spoils ocean fishing. Is this just another fiction? Prof. C.A. Spencer, Jr., University of Alabama.

Answer: Not exactly fiction, but not a firm rule either. In the dog days of summer, a cold wave of water (possibly from the ocean's depths) wells up to the beaches in the area between Fort Pierce and Palm Beach. In August, many bathers at Jensen Beach complain about the cold water.

Perhaps this is a "turnover" such as happens in fresh-water lakes, but whatever the cause, the result is excellent sport fishing. I'm not sure this same temperature action takes place elsewhere in Florida, but it is an unusual occurrence in the area I mention.

Question: I had waded fishing Florida's fresh waters for years and was never frightened about making or alligators. I've never heard of any wading fishermen being molested by either. Is there danger of snakes crawling in small boats while fishing or sleeping? Do you know of any instances where this has happened? R. Williams, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

Answer: I have waded, fishing Florida's fresh waters for years and was never frightened about making or alligators. I've never heard of any wading fishermen being molested by either. I think the danger of snakes crawling into a anchored boat is extremely small. I've never heard of it happening. With protection, Florida's wading beds are increasing and are once again holding our make population. I've checked with advice to you to use the same outdoor caution anywhere. I think you will probably do fine without ever seeing a snake.

Question: I have a long-time friend who is in the national magazines announcing and offering a "Secret Method!" for taking game fish. I want to use one of these secrets, but I was asked $15 for their secret. Do you think anything I could learn would be worth $15? B. Thompson, Coral Gables, Fla.

Answer: I'll give you the secret for free. Get a long cast pole and tie 12 inches of heavy line to the end. Tie on a 60-pound and cast up with a homemade cork puck. Cast up in the long line pattern. This cork puck should be about 4 inches long by 2 inches wide and shave the meat from the disc.

Using this rig, splash the cork puck in close to shore, in and around lily pads, up close to sunken logs, docks, etc. Whenever possible, describe a figure 8 with the cork puck on the water. That's the secret.

Question: I found excellent salt-water fishing off the beach at Juno this past summer in spite of the hot weather. I have always heard that weather spoils ocean fishing. Is this just another fiction? Prof. C.A. Spencer, Jr., University of Alabama.

Answer: Not exactly fiction, but not a firm rule either. In the dog days of summer, a cold wave of water (possibly from the ocean's depths) wells up to the beaches in the area between Fort Pierce and Palm Beach. In August, many bathers at Jensen Beach complain about the cold water.

Perhaps this is a "turnover" such as happens in fresh-water lakes, but whatever the cause, the result is excellent sport fishing. I'm not sure this same temperature action takes place elsewhere in Florida, but it is an unusual occurrence in the area I mention.

Question: I have been reading about the new oval shape monofilament lines. I can't seem to understand why this shape would be better. What do you think? D. West, Brooksville, Fl.

Answer: I have not had a chance to try these lines, but I do want to point out that they are designed for use on a casting reel only. The theory is that on a revolving-spool reel, the oval shape will spin faster, hold more weight, thus bring creels on the thumb and cast smoothly. It may be so.

There lines are not untended, however, for use on any fixed-spool reel, either open or closed face-weighing or spooling. With these reels, line twist is always present, and you may recall a ribbon responds to twisting a lot more noticeably than a string.

Question: My friend and I have an argument going about whether or not bass can be caught in a normal manner off their spawning beds. What say you? F.H. Turner, Columbus, Ga.

Answer: It depends on what you call normal. Plenty of bass are taken from spawning beds via the big-shiner, live-bait method. Few if any are taken by artificial lures. These bass hit the shiners because of a built-in compulsion to protect the nest. They seldom feed at this time. The bigger the shiner, the more threat it appears to be, and the better the chances for action.

Many sport lakes, including this writer, feel a spawning bass deserves more consideration than this. If normal means a majority of people do it, I'd say this method is out.

Question: I notice you occasionally recommend aluminum canoes as being the best bet. I am an old canoe man and what I am looking for is a canoe that can be turned over. Can you tell me the right answer? H. Booth, Mims, Fla.

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