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MAY 1961

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The Research Information Center
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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing 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.
A. D. Aldrich Appointed Special Advisory Committee

A. D. Aldrich, Director, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, is one of 15 of the Nation's leading conservationists selected by Chief Richard E. McDade of the U. S. Forest Service to serve on the Advisory Committee on Multiple Use of National Forests. The committee is being set up by the Forest Service to advise on conservation programs vital to the Nation and to achieve even closer relations between the Service and the American people who use and love National Forests. It will provide a two-way flow of information between forest users and the Chief of the U. S. Forest Service.

A lifelong active conservationist, Mr. Aldrich is presently member of the advisory council of the Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission, and a past president of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

In naming the committee, Forest Service Chief Richard E. McDade said, "America's expanding population with its growing need for National Forest resources has increased the need for use of these valuable public lands. This committee can advise me on national policy affecting multiple-use management of National Forests and in this way the need for use of these public lands can be more effectively heard."

"Mr. Aldrich was chosen to serve on the committee because of his impressive record of conservation activities dating from 1921 when he accepted a position with the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. He has been director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission since 1955. He is familiar with the needs of the general public as well as with wildlife resources of the National Forests," said Chief McDade.

At the first meeting of the committee, set for May 2 in Washington, D.C., members will draw lots for committee assignments. Each member will serve three years. Members will serve without compensation.

A Report to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund

All state-owned land in Florida has been inventoried and will be classified for purposes of public use and local development under action taken March 28 by Governor Farris Bryant. Involved is a total of 417,000 acres (more than 632 square miles) of land in 586 parcels in 48 of the 67 counties.

Most of the land, the Governor stated, should be zealously guarded for the use and enjoyment of Floridians today and their offspring to make available for future use.

In the Atlantic Flyway, puddle ducks showed no change and game ducks a moderate increase. (Continued on Page 38)

THE COVER

What are the true facts about Florida bass? Detailed information on Florida bass, including facts and statistics, can be found starting on page 15. Also, Mr. Allen Kelly, author of "Waterfowl and the Flyway," will tell us about the trip through the Mississippi flyway. Additionally, the national headquarters of the Outdoor Writers Association are located near our home city. We are very happy that the Outdoor Writers Association is considering the Mississippi flyway for the future.

Each parcel of state-owned property on the cover is by the author, Allen Kelly.
A lot of good Florida fishermen made wading reasons other than keeping their feet cool. It looks like hard work and sometimes it is a man who rides an outboard boat to his scene of operations and then gets out to walk probably knows what he's doing. For one thing, the shallow-water wade fisherman goes slowly and most of his fish too fast. He also goes quietly with nothing to knock his tackle box against. He's about as nearly out of sight as he can get—generally a good way to be in the water than the boat angler.

Traditionally the method of the fly-fisherman, wading works almost as well for spin- and plug casters and live bait suckers.

Late last February when the bass were moving on the beds around Lake George, I came upon boats anchored around the mouth of a creek where the bottom was firm and grassy. I tried in vain to catch a fish on an artificial and then sat out for a while.

Anyway, the guy who gets out of his boat and walks isn't necessarily "some kind o' nut." Wading is fun and it catches fish.

Long Cast Doe
I read a recent article by one of the country's best writer-fishermen in which he said that narrow-spool baitcasting reels would give you more distance than wide-spool reels. It's a minor thing but I don't agree with him and I think a little explanation might be good.

I've talked about it to some tournament casters—who go a lot deeper into that stuff than I ever have—and they universally agreed that the wide-spool level-wind reel will give you more distance other things being equal. The narrow-spool reel has a somewhat lighter spool and the line doesn't pull as far from one side in going through the guides—but this is more than offset by the fact that the level-wind mechanism must stop and reverse itself more often. This reversal is more frequent and can be a nuisance.

I'm not going to get too technical and get into the details of why, but there are times.

In accuracy casting, the narrow spool gets the nod because it can be made lighter, hence providing quicker starting and lighter thumbing.

Now, before we get into trouble with somebody who really wants to get technical, let's mention the highly-specialized narrow-spool reel used for tournament distance casting. This reel uses a gossamer monofilament line, is "thumbed" by oil and is totally unsuited for any kind of fishing.

There is a lot of discussion about tournament casting and skiah. I have some idea as to the reasons why many of the experts have nothing to do with practical fishing. Skiah is intended to employ practical fishing tackle.

The accuracy events in both are fairly practical. In distance casting, the regular tournament plug equipment is highly specialized (see illustration). Distance "trout fly" casting is not so far-fetched, the competitors using one-handed and monofilament shooting line.

The "salmon fly" event employs heavy two-handed rods and doesn't come very close to any but highly-specialized salmon fishing. As I said before, skiah is something else again, being intended to use real fishing tackle in every event.

Worm Splicing Expert
Buddy Nordmann of DeLand got by with a degree in forestry and then went into the hardware business. He has a morning radio show on fishing and will do anything from fixing an old reel to repairing spinning reels. In a visit to his store the other day, I saw Nordmann and a local fisherman standing glaring at over what appeared to be a major project. No brain surgery ever attracted more intense concentration.

They had a small torch going and as nearly as I could tell, Nordmann was splicing a piece of red plastic worm to a piece of black plastic worm. When the crisis was over, he told me that exactly what he had been doing.

"I'm dealing in red and black worms," Nordmann explained, "and I want just the right amount of red and the right amount of black. I had it cut off that color so I did some splicing.

What's A Fish Worth?
I know something about a guide who doesn't know but I am going to write it down anyway.

Take a time when big bass are hard to catch and this guide has been spending most of the day with a pilgrim who has journeyed far and spent much money. As everyone approaches there is a certain atmosphere in the boat and it gets thicker as the sun nears the tops of the palms.

The atmosphere is not new to the guide who well knows that tourists who hire guides expect to catch big bass—or at least see or feel big bass.

So this guide says he has one last place he plans to go and run over to a shaded shore with a lot of dead trees and the right kind of bottom and the guide directs his customer to this spot. Shiner or his deep runner right in such-and-such a spot.

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So this guide says he has one last place he plans to go and run over to a shaded shore with a lot of dead trees and the right kind of bottom and the guide directs his customer to this spot. Shiner or his deep runner right in such-and-such a spot.
I have already pointed out the widespread belief among the consumer dollars often brings about changes in or improvement of a product. Undoubtedly this is true, and especially so in the firearms manufacturing field.

There was a time when nothing short of an Act of Congress could influence big gun-makers like Winchester, Remington, Marlin, Savage, Smith & Wesson and Colt to beneficially modify existing models or bring out new ones of popular conception. In those days, you bought the same model as your next-door neighbor. Today the source is different. Among the competitors are Etienne—also currently manufacturing shotgun parts for Marlin. In any event, the bolt assembly is well made, simple and strong and ready for functioning.

The finish on the Jefferson Model 458 is shiny jet black, strongly suggestive of the results obtained from the Blu-Black process. The finish is not susceptible to oxidation, as indicated by the price tag of $25.50. The gun fired was the Deluxe model chambered for the .30-06 cartridge. Its general appearance and dimensional measurements fell within the limits established by the DN. Corporation, and its subsidiary, the Kodak Manufacturing Company, North Haven, Connecticut.

I liked the non-glare, serrated front sight. The open-rim and the roll-over cheekpiece, high comb and the 12½ inches length of pull is 13-3/4 inches.

The scariness of the stock was less, automatic ejection guns, in any event, the bolt assembly is well made, simple and strong and ready for functioning.

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BOATING

EN SOMCE PRE-HISTORIC man fashioned the first crude raft to lashing logs together with vines and animal sinew, the human race has began trying to devise new and better boat designs.

That is even more true now than when the primitives were first experimenting and fitting their boats to waterways by an improvised method, went into perfecting the canoe. The Indians did a pretty good job. Modern designers haven't necessarily improved on it, but they've found a way to improve upon the system. A Wisconsin friend of mine owns, in a carefully preserved condition, a birch bark canoe built back in the last century. It doesn't vary appreciably in lines, relative dimensions and framing from the appearance of a modern Grumman or Old Town.

But if the designers acknowledge the Indians' everlasting supremacy in canoes, they're a far from different attitude on today's powered pleasure boats, particularly those in the 14- to 26-ft. range.

Today's boats, they say, aren't nearly as efficient as they should be.

A few years ago the "conventional hull"—the model-bow craft with round "V" or flat-bottom—was the dominant, except in the case of racing hydroplanes. Anything else was a freak. Conventional hulls still predominate by far—but they've been joined on the waterways by an increasing number of new designs that have long since emerged from the "freak" stage. These include the powered catamaran—a modern revival of an age-old design; the adaptation of the hydroplane principle to family runabouts; development of the "dual cathedral" and similar two and three-sectional hulls which, unlike catamarans, fair out into a common aft planing surface. Water-jet driven boats and hydrofoils. The over-all objective is to travel faster at less fuel cost, with more safety, room and comfort, and maneuverability. The difficulty is in accomplishing the objective without sacrificing another.

A boat builder who lived near my home during the few years I spent in the North had an experienced and competent designer. A design went on the drawing board. The boat was built. It was given a rugged test—the test consisting of continuous operation in all kinds of water, rough, choppy and smooth—for maneuverability, comfort, speed and durability. When it began to crack up a new design was drawn. Dimensions were altered, ribs moved, stringers shifted and thicknesses bolstered, dimensions and shapes and fastenings changed in an effort to correct flaws that had developed.

After about six or eight of these time-consuming and costly "trial and error" tests, the thing was finally declared satisfactory and went into production. If boat show time was imminent, pilot models went into production anyway and the testing continued—the additional alterations were incorporated in later models.

This was a conscientious manufacturer with original ideas and he built pretty good boats. There was a considerable number of more individual builders who simply selected a competitor's design and copied it. In many a case, "design" consisted of nothing more complicated than using somebody else's boat as a pattern for the mold or jig.

The trial-and-error system still holds—but it is being displaced in all but its lead stages by long-range preliminary research under laboratory conditions. These tests are devoted to new design concepts, and radical modifications, as well as to improvements on existing proven hulls. This long-range research which means that the boats of two to five years hence are under development, just as are the future cars—is being conducted variously by individual boat and motor manufacturers, and by independent engineering research agencies.

What's to come? Nobody knows for sure. The scientific approach on a long-range basis is comparatively new. At the boat show, Evinrude is displaying an admittedly fanciful creation that includes a helicopter-type rotor propeller. As one wag commented, it offers exceptional safety against folk standing up and falling overboard. They don't dare stand up. If they do, they'll be deposed by the rotor blade.

Whispering aside, the Evinrude boat was, of course, built to attract attention at a show—not for boating. One thing is certain, however: the application of aerodynamic principles will be a factor in determining future boat design, and the employment of an "air lift" system in hull design to reduce the friction drag of water is coming in for a lot of attention.

This was touched on recently in a speech made by this writer at opening of the new factory and research facilities in Texas of the Lone Star Boat Company, which also maintains a production factory in Florida.

"One thing is certain, and of it we can all be happy—the day of trial and error" at consumer expense, when unproven boats were placed on the market (and there has been much of this in the past), is rapidly vanishing. The laboratory technician is taking over in advance of production.

Since developments will be gradual, the boat you now have—or plan to buy—probably won't be outstanding for a long time to come.

But if you insist on being thoroughly safe with a craft that will never become obsolete—buy a canoe. It's the only thing the designers don't plan to change!
FACTS ABOUT FLORIDA BASS

By JIM REED
Information - Education Officer

What Are Black Bass?

Black bass belong to the sunfish family and are the prime target for thousands of freshwater fishermen in Florida. They are the largest freshwater game fish in Florida and, at times, the warmest. Bass not only are a popular sports fish but also a choice delicacy for the table.

There are two groups of black bass in Florida. The true largemouth group includes northern largemouth and Florida largemouth.

The other group includes Suwannee bass, spotted bass (sometimes called southern smallmouth) redeye bass, and possibly other species. The five species named above are the only ones currently recognized by fishery biologists.

What Are The General Differences?
The northern largemouth bass (Micropterus salmoides salmoides) is found in the extreme northern part of Florida and the Florida Panhandle and generally does not grow as large as the Florida largemouth bass.

The Florida largemouth bass (Micropterus salmoides floridanus) is the larger of the largemouth group found throughout Florida.

The Suwannee bass (Micropterus notius) is a small slender bass with a somewhat smaller mouth than the basses in the largemouth group. The Suwannee bass, seldom, if ever, exceeds 12 inches in length and is found only in the Suwannee River system.

The spotted bass (Micropterus punctulatus punctulatus) is a slender bass with spots on the back. The top weight is around four pounds. It is found from the Apalachicola River, westward.

The redeye bass (Micropterus coosae) is the best fighter of the Florida basses, pound for pound. Almost all of them jump one or more times when they are hooked, and a large percent of them throw the fisherman’s lure from their mouth. They are generally bronze colored on the side, grading into an olive background on the back. They are found in the Chipola River and in the Apalachicola River.

How Can Positive Identification Be Made?

Only a trained fishery biologist or ichthyologist can make a positive identification of the species within the groups.

What System Do They Use?

Their key system is based on such characteristics as fins; length of the upper jaw; the number of scales in the cheek, in the lateral line and on different parts of the body; the number of vertebrae in the backbone; and the arrangement of certain internal organs.

What Is The Smallmouth Bass We Read And Hear So Much About In Other States?

It is the northern smallmouth bass (Micropterus dolomieu dolomieu). The smallmouth bass.

Do We Have Them In Florida?

No! Fishery biologists have never identified this species in Florida. Therefore, it is believed that we do not have any. The tales of northern smallmouth bass being caught is probably a result of mistaken identification by untrained people.

Have Northern Smallmouth Bass Ever Been Introduced In Florida?

According to reliable reports, there have been several introductions in different bodies of water. In 1908, a planting of 16,000 smallmouth bass fingerlings was obtained from the Federal Bureau of Fisheries and released in a number of Lake County lakes.

In 1910, a large number of smallmouth fingerlings were obtained from a government hatchery and plant-
except in Lake Seminole in West Florida where 15 black bass are allowed with a limit of 30 bass after the first day of fishing. There is neither size limit nor closed season on bass in Florida.

Why Isn’t There A Closed Season And Size Limit On Bass?
Florida waters are so productive and Florida bass so prolific and the spawning season so erratic and lengthy that closed seasons and size limits do not play any part in bass management.

Does Florida Have Any Bass Hatcheries?
State-owned hatcheries in Winter Haven and at Holt are in operation. Also, bass fingerlings from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hatchery at Wolka are used for stocking purposes.

Where Are The Fingerlings Released?
Mostly in newly dug ponds and renovated waters. Numerous studies tell us it is unsound to indiscriminately dump fingerlings in our lakes, streams and rivers. Re-stocking established waters may be good public relations, but it is poor fish management. It should be done only after the water has been investigated by a trained fisheries biologist.

Do Bass Move About Very Much?
This varies with the lake involved. In a tagging program in the St. Johns River, recoveries of tagged bass were made as far as 60 miles upstream and 123 miles downstream from their point of release. In Lake Apopka, studies revealed very slight movement of bass.

What Is The Largest Black Bass On Record?
The rod and reel record is 22 1/4 pounds, taken in Montgomery Lake, Georgia, in 1932.

What Is The Best Tackle To Use For Bass Fishing?
That is according to the area and individual preference, and naming the best types of tackle would start a terrible argument. Fly tackle, spin cast, spinning and bait casting tackle are all used. If the water is free of logs, weeds and other obstructions, you can use lighter tackle. If you are fishing in lily pads and among trees, you need tackle heavy enough to turn the fish and lead it around the obstructions.

What About Bait?
More large bass are taken on live bait than any other way. Shiners, chubs, and bullhead minnows are the most common live bait. Some fishermen refuse to use live bait, and depend on certain artificial lures.

Every fisherman has his or her favorite bait, but a close examination of their tackle box will show that they have all kinds of wood, plastic and metal plugs in assorted colors; with and without spinners; that wiggle, light up or vibrate; even lures with built-in tastes that smell like worms.

Is A Professional Guide Necessary For Good Fishing?
Not necessary, but certainly recommended if you are fishing strange waters. Any good guide usually knows where there is a big one lurking. This does not mean that you will catch it, but it increases your chances of success.

Where Is The Best Bass Fishing Waters In Florida?
No best. All good!

What Is The Bag Limit And Size Limit On Bass?
The daily bag limit is 10 bass, with a total possession limit of 20 bass after the first day of fishing.

(Continued from Preceding Page.)

sperm penetrates the egg and the sperm nucleus unites with that of the egg.

What Percent Of The Eggs Hatch?
In the wild, usually a large percentage hatch, but the number of young that survive is directly related to the condition of the body of water. Many factors control the hatching and rearing of fishes. Water temperature, silt deposits, predators and many other factors are involved.

What Do Black Bass Eat?
As the eggs hatch, the young absorb the yolk. As they grow and become active, they start to feed on plankton and insects and as their growth continues, they will eat most anything they can catch and swallow. A study of the stomach contents of bass revealed evidence of other fish, and of mice, crabs, crayfish, frogs, birds, snakes, eels, insects, turtles, shrimp, snails, and other animals.

How Fast Do They Grow?
Growth rates vary in different states. Florida has a twelve-month growing season and under normal conditions a Florida largemouth will reach a length of 18 to 12 inches and weigh 12 to 14 ounces at the age of one year. At the end of the second year, the same bass should be 15 to 16 inches in length and weigh two to three pounds.

In rare cases, where the waters are very fertile and conditions of fish populations, etc., are favorable, bass will grow much faster. Some of the phosphate pits in Polk County produce four to six pound bass in two years. On the other hand, if the waters are out of balance and food conditions are poor, the two year old bass may weigh less than one pound.

Fishing licenses are not needed by residents 65 years of age and over, or under 13 years of age, and are not required of cane pole unlicensed fishing in county of residence. All other out of state fisherman must have a Florida fishing license.

May 1961

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

There is no closed season or size limit on Florida bass. Except for Lake Seminole in Northwest Florida, the daily bag limit for bass 10 pounds limit 20 per fisherman.

Does Water Temperature Affect Bass Fishing?
Some work has been done on the relationship of water temperature to fisherman success in several of our Florida lakes and rivers, and there are many indications that temperature affects all freshwater fishing. The extent is not positively known yet, but who knows, a few years from now we might all go fishing with a thermometer as a guide.

Is A License Required To Catch Bass?
Yes, except residents more than 65 years of age and children under fifteen years of age. All other persons taking or attempting to take any fresh water fish must have a valid fishing license. However, no license is required for a resident of the state fishing with not more than three poles or lines for non-commercial purposes in the county of his residence.

Who Are Residents?
Residents of Florida are citizens of the United States who have continuously resided in the state for six months preceding the making of their application for hunting, or fishing license. This definition of a resident only applies when referring to Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission laws.

What Is The Cost Of Fishing Licenses?
Series A—Resident State, fresh water . . . . $2.00
Series B—Non-Resident State, fresh water . . . . $10.50
Series C—Non-Resident, 14 day continuous fishing fresh water . . . . $3.25
Series D—Non-Resident, 3 day continuous fishing fresh water . . . . $1.25

48
Flowered by Walther Hughes
SUWANNEE RIVER

Crooked pathway to the
Gulf

By KEN MUSSON

From Georgia's dark and mysterious Okelenokee Swamp to the sunlight blue of Florida's Gulf Coast, the Suwannee River is one of the most twisting, scenic waterways boatmen would want to travel—the Suwannee River.

A few years ago, while discussing rivers and some of the peaceful vacations possible near them, I found myself thinking of the Suwannee as a choice for a leisurely trip. Recently I made this trip, accompanied by my teenage son, Mike, in a 14-foot aluminum skiff.

We used paddles and a pair of three-horsepower outboards. The two light motors were chosen because they were easy to carry and provided an additional safety factor. Sleeping blankets were sewn over a tent for portability. We cooked over an open fire, and utensils were limited to a small frying pan and a platter.

While problems started at Stephen Foster Park in the southwestern Okelenokee.

The park headquarters is about 15 miles upstream from Fargo, Ga. It is on what is listed on maps of the area as Jones Island, and is near Billy's Lake. It would appear from those maps that a boater could easily go from Billy's Lake to Fargo on the Suwannee.

"You can't make it," insisted George Sirmons, manager of the park. "There are so many places you could get lost, and the river is blocked by too many floating islands."

We motored back along the park road to Douglas Fishing and Hunting Camp. Ray Corbett, the operator of the camp, set an example of friendliness we were to find all along the river.

Helping us into the water with our boat, then giving us a hand while loading it, Corbett told us of one or two others who had made similar trips and what they had encountered.

We pushed off into the narrow, tree-shrouded creek, in less than 200 yards we were in a world which included just the two of us and the river. But at this point the river was more like a huge lake with trees growing out of the water as far as we could see.

Optimistically we both commented, "We should be in Fargo for lunch." It soon became apparent as we alternately paddled and drifted that the Suwannee was not going to carry us swiftly from swamp to Gulf. In fact, it wouldn't carry us anywhere without a little effort on our parts.

Almost suddenly we broke into clear water again and could recognize the current, marked by floating leaves and occasional bubbles of foam picked up as the water passed the trees.

It was mid-afternoon before the suggestion to eat arose.

"Should we eat here in the boat or wait until we get to Fargo and eat in the hotel?" I asked Mike.

"I'm not hungry yet," he replied while trying to pull us through another tangle of vines. "Let's wait until we get to town. It's probably right around the next bend."

Three times that afternoon we lost the river, and three times we were lucky enough to hack our way back to the main current.

As we turned a bend in the river and caught sight of the town, a deluge of rain began falling. We drifted, we soon found our way deeper into the tangle.

"So does it work?" I asked Mike.

"It will keep us away from the other trees as well."

We crawled into our sleeping bags in the boat to curl around our equipment like a couple of caterpillars in cocoons.

"Let's set off a firecracker to celebrate our first day," Mike suggested. He had purchased firecrackers in Fargo.

"All right," I agreed. "If you can find a dry one."

He found a dry one, all right, but his problem was keeping it dry. Every time he tossed one, it hit the water before exploding. After four tries he gave up.

Those firecrackers were trying to tell us it was too early to celebrate.

The Georgia mosquitoes were just too much. They all but carried us out of the boat. And when we squirmed down into the sleeping bags far enough to cover our heads, the heat soon drove us out again.

"I'll try moving awhile," I told Mike. "You catch some shut-eye."

The mosquitoes stopped bothering us while I paddled downstream, but there was no moon to guide us. I was afraid I would miss one of the many turns in the river and wind up way back in the bordering swamp.

So I stopped, put out the anchor in midstream, and tried for sleep again.

I don't know what time it was when the anchor went out, but by 1 a.m. it was raining again. I quickly rolled up my sleeping bag and put it under cover. Mike, with only a few brief naps to his credit, huddled under his raincoat in the bow. I sat it out. My raincoat absorbed water like a starved sponge.

After about an hour, the rain ceased. This time we were able to sleep fitfully until 6 a.m.

Sunrise on the river is well worth any of the hardships the boatman might encounter the day before. The huge old cypress trees seem to be scraping away the night to let in the daylight.

The birds, which zoom overhead regularly during the night, soar by one last time as they head home. The day birds come alive one by one. And the dragonflies hover over the water like tiny helicopters.

We ate a breakfast of cereal and powdered milk. The river is a definite red. Natives say it is caused by the tannic acid in it. It didn't wake (Continued on Next Page)
At our first good landing place, we stopped to cook our first hot meal of the trip.

We were just over ten miles downstream from Fargo and 30 miles from White Springs, home of the Stephen Foster Memorial.

That first cooked meal was no culinary masterpiece, but both of us enjoyed it. Much of the enjoyment came, I suspect, because it gave use something new to do and a real hope that we would be able to camp on solid ground that night.

However, black-eyed peas and coffee hardly constitute a banquet.

A slight drizzle started as we broke camp while washing out the cooking pot, but we were in good spirits and made it a good piece of stream water before the rain came in hard.

Then we pulled next to the bank, under a huge oak to wait it out. Mike broke out a small peg-in-the-hole checker game and we played a game or two of that. Later we donned bathing suits and jumped into the stream for a swim.

The water was slightly chilly, however, and the current was strong at that point, so we didn’t last long at that game.

The rain was long, either, so we soon back on the river.

By this time the banks were well defined. We no longer had to worry about losing our way. With the river contained, the current became stronger. The first white water we encountered was seen that afternoon as it surged through the roots of some trees at a turn.

We were in a cheerful mood that evening as we pulled into a quiet bayou and prepared our camp. As I cooked chili for our supper, Mike cut splints and palmetto fronds to build a lean-to.

We finished eating our fill as night came, and were quickly ready for our sleeping blankets. Our companions, the mosquitoes, had other ideas.

The night was spent alternately brushing away mosquitoes, napping, squirming deeper into the sleeping bag and taking walks to cool off.

“I almost roasted in that tent when I tried to get away from the mosquitoes,” Mike groaned the next dawn.

I didn’t say much. I had left only a small opening in the bag—just enough to breathe through—while sleeping. But it was enough to admit an air force of mosquitoes. They had pulled up my lips to twice their normal size.

We were on the river heading for White Springs by 7 a.m.

Between us and White Springs our map showed open river, except for 400 yards of rough shoals.

At mid-morning we passed the remains of an old bridge, the first landmark we could recognize. Then we saw our first wild rice, an alligator sunning himself on the bank. He ducked into the water before we could make pictures, however.

Now the river was running swiftly. Let’s try these motors again,” I suggested. I wanted something to keep us from rushing right into the shoals when we reached them.

We were cruising along without a care when we made a turn in the river and found ourselves bearing down hard on the roughest water we had seen to date.

The roar was easily heard above the motor, and the foam was stirred up like the head on beer.

I turned the boat upstream, but it continued backwards toward the shoals.

At full throttle we could just hold our own.

We eased over to the bank and tied up. Here the bank rose 50 to 75 feet above the river. From here we checked the river.

“If we stick to the side, we will have easier water,” I suggested.

Mike agreed, but wasn’t too sure it was going to be easy even at that.

“We will put the motors in the boat and distribute the weight as nearly even as possible,” we decided.

Preparations made, we got ready to push off with Mike in the bow, when a low rumble began building to a roar.

Within 20 feet of us, a large section of the bank, over which we had just walked, crumbled into the river. It was a forbidding gesture.

None-the-less, we pushed off and started into the swift stream. Everything was going fine until about half-way through the turbulence Mike’s paddle hit a snag and the bow turned. We pronounced a couple of times and wound up next to the bank.

The boat just rested there. We were in a dead calm, half-way along the Suannee River.

We were both of the same mind. Our hands brushed as we reached for our cameras and started taking pictures of the boiling water.

After we finished, we once again stove the cameras and, at Mike’s suggestion, pushed off into the middle of the shoals to enjoy the roller-coaster ride to the end.

We were still talking over the adventures when we came to White Springs a few miles below.

White Springs is a big stop to those who travel by map. Since it is the first town downstream from Fargo, the optimistic boater expects to restock supplies and fuel there.

To our dismay, we found the town is somewhat set back from the river. Too far to lug a five-gallon can of gasoline. We decided to grab a sandwich at the Stephen Foster Memorial and be on our way.

That afternoon’s travel was some of the best of the trip. The river was bathed in sunlight and picked up colors almost as though it contained a magnate to attract them. It was almost enough to make us want to spend the rest of our vacation time right there.

But by early evening we started looking for a camp site, and as the setting sun gave its first touch of orange to the clouds, we spotted a likely clearing on a high bank.

Palmetto fronds cut and spread on the ground provided a soft cushion, and our bedrolls had dried thoroughly under the day’s warm sun. In short, after a good meal we were both ready for sleep.

But the mosquitoes were still with us. They buzzed and bit enough to worry me right out of the bedroll shortly after dark.

Everything was so peaceful I decided to amble down to the river-side and think things over. Even in the moonlight this was the most beautiful river I had been on.

Then the spell was broken. I leaned down to get a drink from the river and a bass swished out of the water almost next to my face. It startled me wide awake, and I was an even quicker off after I returned to our camp.

By 6:30 the next morning we were on the river with a good night’s sleep and a breakfast of cereal and coffee behind us.

(Continued on Page 32)
**LITTLE LARVAE, LOTS OF FISH**

The offspring of the wasp is a fine natural bait for both bream and catfish.

**BY RUSSELL TINSLEY**

There are times when collecting the bait may produce as much suspense as catching the fish, especially when the bait has the disposition of a short-tempered wasp. For reasons that may seem obvious to anyone who has been painfully stung by a wasp, the use of wasp larvae as a natural bait is often neglected. Yet, there are times when not even the daintiest of earthworms can produce results as good, especially on bream and catfish.

There is a certain appeal about the grub-like larvae that fish can’t resist. But there are many problems when fishing this bait, the foremost one being an ample supply without ending up in the sick bed. The stinger of the wasp holds a mild poison which brings pain and swelling when inserted into human flesh. Several simultaneous stings often cause fever and the victim is apt to find himself flat on his back for a day or two.

Anyone probably can find a wasp larvae supply within a short walk of his home. A favorite spot for a nest is beneath the overhang of a roof, even on houses in the cities. Wasp chew old wood and water into cellu-larvae and wasps deposit an egg in each one.

The common wasp is a member of the same insect order as the bee and ant. Hymenoptera, the order in which all three are classed, means membrane-winged.

Search for wasp nests in sheltered, readily accessible spots. In addition to overhanging roofs, wasps also favor insides of old buildings which are easily entered. Frequently you can find them in trees, especially near water.

Caution is the keynote when robbing the wasps’ home. It is better to remain stone-still after knocking the nest down than run. Wasps usually will ignore a non-moving object, but how they love to attack someone who is fleeing. They will chase the nest robber en masse, their prime targets the unprotected arms and head.

Wasps won’t stick with a downed nest, but rather will abandon it im-
mediately and return to the site to start a new home. Minutes after you’ve knocked a nest down, you can retrieve it without fear of being stung.

The fisherman after wasp nests can steal a page from the beehive raider’s notebook. An experienced api-arist wears a wide-brimmed hat covered with a fine-mesh veil. His clothes fit loosely and his hands are protected with gloves.

Wasp larvae baits will work well on all fish which bite on worms, and this encompasses a sizable number. Panfish, especially brim, are the No. 1 suckers. Next comes catfish with bass a weak third, although at times even largemouths go wild over a succulent larva bait. When after any of the three species with natural bait, however, it pays to have some of the white grubs along, for no one can predict what species of fish will be hitting on any given day.

Fish a wasp larva much as you would a worm. It is best if you tie one to a hook with a piece of white string rather than attempting to run the barb through its body. It has a tissue-thin skin covering a mass of liquid matter. Without a razor-sharp hook point and lots of patience, it is almost impossible to string one of the dainty creatures without bursting it.

Don’t remove a larva from the nest cell until a few moments before you put it on the hook. When exposed to open air for extended periods of time, larvae deteriorate. Carry the nest as is in your tackle box. It makes a handy, clean container for the larvae in addition to keeping them fresh.

A typical wasp larva measures about a quarter to half an inch in length, the perfect size for panfish. But for catfish and bass, try two or three on a hook.

The white larvae seem to be especially effective on cats when the water is slightly murky. Perhaps the white shows better than the natural-colored earthworm.

It surprises me that no more fishermen have discovered the merits of this readily accessible bait. Maybe it is the danger of raiding a nest that discourages all but the intrepid. An angler is flirting with trouble, okay, when he starts tampering with the nasty-tempered wasp, but the rewards more than offset the risks.

On your next catfish or brim jaunt, take a few wasp larvae along. Even if you don’t plan on using larvae exclusively, a nest tucked away in the miscellany of your tackle box is nice to have for an emergency. Never try to second guess fish. Carry a varied assortment of baits and hope that you have among them something that will appeal to fish that day.

At times, wasp larvae fill the bill perfectly.
As I started to leave he said he'd phone when conditions were right. Three weeks later Tom called, said the bass were biting, and that his parties had caught the limit 5 days in a row. He told me that he was guiding Charles Roberts, a local drug merchant, the following Thursday and invited me to go along—I told him I'd be at his house at 6:15 A.M. sharp.

As I braked to a stop in Tom's drive my headlights shone on the river bank 50 feet beyond his house. Flowers, loaded with fishing gear, was going down the steps to his boat house. He soon reappeared and as I walked up said, "Good morning, we'll be ready as soon as Roberts arrives, and the way he loves to fish, that won't be long."

Tom finished loading the equipment in one of his guide boats. These plywood boats, personally designed and built by him, were constructed primarily for the safety and comfort of his guests, and measured 15' 9" long, 4' 9" wide, with 26" sides. The built-in seats face the front, and two live wells, one for bait and one to keep the catch alive, are located in the rear of the seats. These wide boats can easily weather the roughest water.

Roberts drove up a few minutes later. We walked down to the dock and stepped in the boat. Tom cranked the 40 H.P. motor and we headed south (upstream). A recent cold snap had broken during the night and the river was almost obscured by a dense fog. He was running the big motor at half throttle and the three of us were on the lookout for floating hazards which, if hit, could put a sudden end to our trip.

We passed the mouth of Hontoon dead river, turned left and soon made the turn at Blue Springs. The area at which the warm springs waters merges with that of the river was blanketed with a seemingly impenetrable wall of fog and vapor. Tom pointed to the phenomenon, cupped his right hand at his mouth and yelled something that was drowned out by the roar of the motor. I understood and nodded in agreement. These wide boats can easily weather the roughest water.

Tom always uses a net when boating a fish. This can often mean the difference between a catch to show and "the one that got away."

This angling expert knows how to catch the big ones. The small bass go back so that they can grow up to be tackle wreckers.
for this lack of experience, which results in fewer broken lines and more bass caught.

Roberts boated seven more bass in the 2-4 pound class before the wake from a cabin cruiser muddied the water. Tom decided to move to another spot further upstream. A few minutes later we turned into the Wekiva, a swift spring-fed stream that has produced some of the biggest bass caught on this section of the St. Johns.

Our guide pointed ahead at a spot where the narrow stream turned sharply to the east. As he steered the boat to within 30 feet of some thickly packed hyacinths at the mouth of a small creek, Tom turned off the motor, let the anchor out and said, "This is a good place for big fish. The water is deep and we caught several lunkers here last week."

After hooking on a foot long shiner that weighed close to a pound, Tom slit a hyacinth bulb to use for a float. He gently lowered the bait into the dark water and let the current take it to within a few feet of the creek. The king-size shiner swam back and forth popping the float up and down, and then it darted to the surface and swam frantically toward the open water.

Tom pointed and warned Roberts to the ready. Suddenly there was a huge swirl—the float disappeared! Roberts brought the rod tip up hard and the big fish was on! The glass-like water showed the fish as it danced on the surface. Suddenly the line and Roberts went limp as the rod snapped back to its full length. Two large lunkers were on the line. Roberts fought the big fish and he and Roberts caught four more bass, one of which weighed close to 7 pounds.

The best time of the year for big bass, according to Tom, who has made a science out of fishing, is from January through March. "The first few days and weeks after blue-green algae, a microorganism that constitutes the lifeblood of all aquatic life, is released so, as Tom phrased it, "They can grow up into tackle wreckers!"

The bow of the boat dug in as he reduced the throttle and then turned off the motor. I reached for the opened door of the boat house to help guide the boat into its stall. We unloaded and Tom began skinning and filleting the frying size fish—Roberts hefted the two largest bass and moved them out of range of Tom's reach.

A largemouth bass this size gives angling action that literally white-cap the river as they tear into the air. Flowers uses 5/0 hooks for big bass, size 2.0 when he is using menhaden for bait, and hooks the bait through the lower lip and out the upper one. He disagrees with the widely believed theory that a bass should be allowed to run a long distance before the hook is set, and proved conclusively time after time that the best method when using small shiners is to sink the barb the instant the fish starts its run.

The largest fish that Tom's parties have ever caught weighed 18 pounds 2 ounces, but bass in the 8-13 pound range are not uncommon. Tom strictly adheres to the limit regulations, and only bass that can be released so, as Tom phrased it, "They can grow up into tackle wreckers!"

The boat left the Wekiva so Tom full-throated his big motor and we soon passed the entrance to Blue Springs. A short distance downstream (north) he turned the boat toward the west bank. He stopped at the sheer 3 foot bank, tied on to a small cypress and stepped out of the boat.

He cut a branch from a willow and walked about 30 feet downstream. I asked him what he was doing. He said, "We're going to try some stick fishing." He cut into one end of the branch and pushed the opposite end into the soil at a 45 degree angle, then came back to the boat, took Roberts' baited line and walked to the stick. He worked the line into the slit branch, leaving just enough hanging down to keep the shiner on the surface of the water.

When Tom had completed the operation he came back and said, "Carl, you get set with the camera. Charles, you keep your eyes on that shiner. The chances are good that in this deep water a moss-back will see that minnow working as if it's crippled. When he snatchs the line from that branch it'll burn your thumb!"

We sat there watching the wriggling silver bait and talking. Tom told us that he has two types of customers; the winter ones from the east and mid-western states who want only big, bragging bass, and the ones in the warmer months from the southern states who want limit catches regardless of size.

A loud splash-explosion up aheadjarred us out of our lethargy. Roberts nearly fell overboard as the fish tried to take the rod, reel and line with it as it raced toward the middle of the river. He recovered his balance and lifted the tip of his rod up to take the strain off the delicate monofilament. After three trips up in the air and 10 minutes later Roberts worked it to the boat and Tom netted it.

Another of Tom's techniques in finding a good fishing spot is to look for a stretch of the river which has a strong current and a clean sandy bottom. This description exactly identifies the many schooling areas where voracious bass congregate on the bottom waiting for menhaden, sardines and other baits. When these delicacies swim over, the fish rush to the surface and literally white-cap the river as they tear into the air, often brushing the miscued minnows several feet into the air.

Flowers uses 3/0 hooks for big bass, size 2.0 when he is using menhaden for bait, and hooks the bait through the lower lip and out the upper one. He disagrees with the widely believed theory that a bass should be allowed to run a long distance before the hook is set, and proved conclusively time after time that the best method when using small shiners is to sink the barb the instant the fish starts its run.

At the sheer 3 foot bank, tied on to a small cypress he turned the boat toward the west bank. He stopped and as the boat came to a stall. We unloaded and Tom began skinning and filleting the frying size fish—Roberts hefted the two largest bass and moved them out of range of Tom's reach.

A largemouth bass this size gives angling action that will be talked about for a long, long time.

Tom points to one of his Kiloray signs left by a satisfied customer.

There was complete silence, except for Roberts' heavy breathing, as we looked at the 8 pound beauty whose bulging belly was proof that it was in prime condition. Tom lowered it into the live well and it reacted the plywood sides with a last futile try for freedom. A strong west wind began to push some dark clouds toward us so Tom cranked up and pointed the bow in the direction of his boat house.

As we planed along I bent low with my back to the wind. I pulled my wool cap down over my ears and thought of the many priceless fishing tips I had learned from Tom. Although I have fished the St. Johns countless times, he showed me (under oath of secrecy of course) some of his favorite spots at which I had never stopped.

He told me that bass frequent the same areas season after season and emphasized that a plentiful source of food was the primary determining factor. Ideal places to fish, according to the bass master, are in the mouths of creeks and streams where schools of bass enter the river. He also pointed out the importance of watching the gulls and hawks to locate areas plentiful with bait.

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He grinned and said, "These beauties will look mighty good mounted in my den. I can prove then that I'm not lying when I brag about the big one."

Tom showed me his shiner pool where he, of necessity, keeps a large supply of bait. He catches most of his bait with tiny wire hooks baited with bits of dough, and uses small but expensive aromatic baits to prolong the life of these delicate and expensive bass.

I thanked Tom, loaded my gear into the car and started back to town. As I stopped at the paved road I glanced at Tom's fishing guide sign, and thought of Emerson's oft quoted axiom, "Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door."

After seeing Tom's guide sign, I started back through the season and stopped to talk with the St. Johns with this expert, my only comment as I turned on the Peninsula road was, "Amen!"
Pheasant

Every imaginable type of bowhunting equipment was brought to this special pheasant hunt.

Fun

Joviality, wry personal commentary and considerable personal evaluation flavored the hunt, from beginning to end.

When the high seat and caliope style carry-alls lined up in circus parade fashion and loaded enthusiastic hunters, remarks like "Don't feed the animals!" and "Look at the monkeys in the next wagon!" were bandied back and forth. Other amusing remarks and incidents were to come later.

Less than a mile from the ranch house, the caravan of hunters and trailing cages of dogs pulled to a halt. Supervising officials again outlined the plan of the hunt and designated the first areas the hunters and dogs would range in joint effort. Little time was lost in getting started. Within minutes of arrival on the field of first try, the starting whistle sounded and the long line of hunters waved forward. Every man was at a high pitch of expectancy.

When only clouds of grasshoppers were frightened into mass emigration by the advancing line of hunters, wry remarks like, "Don't shoot the lady-hugs!" and "It ain't easy to shoot hoppers!" were heard. The first bird flushed was a vivid, many hued cock pheasant, that winged almost straight away, giving the bowman directly behind the bird and companions on either side a nice but hard-shot. One released arrow came within 18 inches of the feathered target, but no hits were registered. Numerous others were downed. The story was repeated numerous times, as additional birds were flushed.

Suddenly, from down the line came an exultant yell. First bird had been downed! The problem of the hunters was to make the smart birds take flight. They could be seen rapidly running through the high grass ahead of the advancing line of bowmen, but could not be easily flushed into flight. Back and forth, back and forth, the hunters traversed the long field, flushing a few birds and, even more rarely, bagging one.

As if to both challenge and mock the advancing line, rabbits occasionally put in appearance to zigzag ahead of and between hunters and successfully dodge arrows. The bowmen, despite their enthusiasm, found the going rough. Walking through waist high grass and brush over uneven, often rutted ground soon separated the fat, unconditioned neophyte toxophiles from the true bowhunters. After four trips back and forth over a mile-long field, one pheasant hunter confessed he "never realized that Florida is the longest state in the Union until today." "Boy, do my feet hurt!" was another frequent remark.

Some of the hunters failed to flush a single bird ahead of them, but kept their sense of humor by inviting companions to share a pheasant dinner. "You bring the pheasant!" they said.

Several photographers who followed closely behind the ragged line of advancing hunters with high hopes of making some action type pictures likewise had the odds against them. Those birds that flushed were somewhere. Among photographers were not! One striking picture, however, was made just as a cock pheasant spread its wings for take-off flight from almost beneath the feet of an unsuspecting and surprised hunter. It was amazing to both hunters and spectators how the big birds could remain hidden until the last possible moment in the sparse grass that was native to some spots, before rocketing into conspicuous, colorful and noisy flight.

Many a mile was covered afoot before the hunt ended, and hunters and dogs piled (in some cases together) into the ranch vehicles.

Back at the ranch, highlights of the hunt were reviewed and the kills of the lucky hunters inspected. Performatively, there were very few successful bowmen compared to the number. As a matter of fact, only five birds were killed— and all by resident Tampa hunters. Opie K. Ringley and Sam Leonard killed two birds each, and Sonny Arnold bagged one.

The late Joe Penner's once popular humor was brought up to date when one of the successful hunters jokingly inquired of less fortunate, "Wanta buy a pheasant?" And, rather than go home empty-handed, that's exactly what one or two of the luckless one did.

By EDMUND MCCLAURIN

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MAY, 1961
Boys and girls attending the youth camp this year will enjoy the greatest array of information displays concerning conservation ever presented.

The "COUNT DOWN" has been started for a special launching scheduled for dawn, June 4, 1961, at the Youth Conservation Camp in the Ocala National Forest. The launch project will be the First Youth Conservation Education Exposition.

More than fifteen state and federal governmental agencies and institutions will cooperate in the staging of the Exposition. Exhibits and lecturers covering a wide range of conservation topics and programs will be on display in ten huge exhibit tents located on the "show-ring" at the camp.

The Exposition will actually cor-related a vast array of conservation education in resource-use in a manner never before attempted. For the first time, the conservationist will be able to study the entire complicated field of conservation at one spot and at the same time. The Exposition, although designed mainly for study by the more than 850 young campers at the Youth Conservation Camp, will also be open to the general public on weekends throughout the entire summer period.

Participating agencies will display their projects and programs, and the actual tools used in the field by the conservation workers. Visitors will see hyacinth-spray airboats, firefighting tools, engineering equipment, mapping techniques, water analysis procedures, and many similar items.

The list of participating agencies includes:
- United States Forest Service
- Forestry Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture
- Soil and Water Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture
- United States Corps of Engineers
- United States Geological Survey, Florida Forest Service
- Florida State Board of Conservation
- Florida Park Service
- Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District
- Florida State Board of Health
- School of Forestry, University of Florida
- Rangers School, University of Florida
- Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
- Florida State Museum, University of Florida
- Central Florida Museum of Orlando

Other agencies are also expected to participate in the Exposition.

Proper management of the land for man's use and the preservation of wildlife will be demonstrated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service.

All exhibits and programming will be correlated by the Youth Conservation Section of the Information and Education Division, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The various exhibits will include maps, charts, pictures, models and miniatures, scenic murals, motion films, automatic slide shows, working equipment, and specialized displays of great and small conservation programs.

All participating agencies and expositions will endeavor to present their informational programs to the young campers and the visiting general public throughout the Exposition dates from June 4 to August 5, 1961.

The Youth Conservation campers will be exposed to the conservation concepts advanced by the various participating conservation agencies. In addition to recreation and fun at the camp, the campers are required to study conservation in the field and at the Exposition tents.

Some of the agencies and institutions will occupy the entire exhibit area of the special large squad tents. Others will use smaller exhibits in a portion of the tent.

The Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District, for instance, will display their informational programs to the young campers and the visiting general public throughout the Exposition.
(Continued from preceding page) stance, will use the Exposition as an opportunity to introduce a new literature leaflet which sets forth the programs and projects of the FCD. The FCD exhibits and leaflets will highlight the importance of proper control and conservation of water as a vital natural resource.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will display the work of its equipment and tools used in fisheries management, game management and bycatch control. A special auto-slide projector will be used to give a continual running pantomimic account of the importance of wildlife and conservation.

The Florida Game Forest will exhibit the importance of wise forestry practices, and the various tools and techniques used in fire-control and re-forestation and improvement.

The State Board of Conservation will highlight marine resources, and the importance of wise use practices and wise regulations.

So far as known, the Florida Exposition will be the first of its kind to be held anywhere. It is expected to set a new trend in conservation education techniques for our youth.

By coincidence, the Exposition will be held during the Tenth Anniversary. Year of the summer encampments of the Youth Conservation Camp sponsored by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Youth Conservation Club League of Florida, Inc.

Included among the exhibits will be the new scale model of the soon-to-be-built South Florida Youth Conservation Camp. The model was created by the South Florida Youth Camp Planning and Construction Committee in cooperation with the Palm Beach, County Girls Junior Conservation Club.

The Exposition exhibits and informational materials will also be used by the many youth camp counselors from all parts of Florida, who will be attending the Camp counselors' "Conservation in Camping" Workshop June 6-8. The Workshop is a cooperative educational project of the Florida Section of the American Camping Association, the Florida Forest Service and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The workshop counselor-participants will be able to carry the Exposition messages back to their individual camps and to the thousands of campers in Florida.

So those agencies and institutions who participate in staging the First Youth Conservation Education Exposition, and those who visit the Exposition, will be taking part in a multiple-use educational project featuring wise multiple-use of all of our natural resources.

No admission will be charged, since the Exposition is a cooperative educational project.

The Exposition will be open to all interested citizens and conservation-minded individuals.

All state conservation activities are concerned with the protection of our natural resources for the future.
Force lands. Products of the film are the National Wildlife Federation and Reptile Trophy Company in cooperation with the Air Force.

Commission on Legislation
A summary of how the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission stands on proposed conservation legislation was announced recently by A. D. Aldrich, director. The following are some of the high spots of the recommendations. They do not refer to specific bills but are general opinions on subjects often considered by conservation organizations.

1. The Commission favors a universal fresh water fishing license which would not exempt persons fishing with pole and line in their home counties as was done in the past. The Commission would like to see trotline fishermen specifically required to have licenses as the trot-line question has not been standing in the past. Some proposals set license fees lower if the fishing is to be done within the home county only. The Florida Wildlife Federation has favored the universal license in each legislature of recent years.

2. A request has been made for a special legislative appropriation for fish management, principally for control of rough fish. The new request is for slightly less than was appropriated during the 1959 session.

3. A request for $32,000 for the control of noxious vegetation would be considerably more than the amount appropriated for 1959-1960. The half of the money requested would be used in a cooperative federal-state program. The money would amount to about $12,000,000, including state appropriation for county programs and $100,000 from the state game fund.

4. A special legislative appropriation for public hunting lands would enable the Commission to acquire about 60,000 additional acres of land, which might eventually be expanded to cover disposal of radioactive waste.

5. A proposal for legislation which would enable the federal government to buy land in Florida for waterfowl management. Under present laws, Florida is not able to use duck stamps funds. There is a trend toward more control by the states in federally-owned wildlife refuges and the Commission believes government expenditures for wetlands is desirable.

6. The Commission favors changes in the current boating law which would make some sort of enforcement provisions, allowing the Conservation Department to handle boating regulation on salt water. The Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission has favored such legislation for some time.

7. A proposal to buy land in Florida for public use and enjoyment and natural history preserves.

8. Immediate initiation of a program of land development in which the limited resources of the state would be used in a cooperative manner such as sportman's club houses which are used for conservation purposes.

9. Anti-pollution legislation is considered desirable by the Commission which would, in all probability support the Water Resources Department and the State Board of Health. In such a situation which might eventually be expanded to cover disposal of radioactive waste.

10. A commercial alligator hunter's license is considered desirable. With proper management, the value of Florida's alligator hide industry could be greatly enhanced.

11. A request for a commercial frog dealer's license has been made in view of new research recently completed by the Commission.

12. A clarification is needed in respect to wildlife exhibitor's licenses and what effect such a clarification would have on the boating provisions of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Department of Conservation, the Park Service and the Forest Service.

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The sale of the lands unquestionably superior to the public good, I would urge a hardheaded, businesslike appraisal by each member of this Board to be sure that the full value of each parcel is obtained. If dredging and filling a piece of submerged land more than doubles its value and allows the developer an overly-large margin of profit, it is indicative of me that either our sale price is unrealistic or we should consider some dredging and filling of our own land, if not feasible.

The same review of the best service of public interest should hold true in our consideration of lease agreements. I believe our present policies in this area to be sound, but an open mind will benefit from constant review that they may adequately reflect the ever-increasing value of Florida land.

This program, that initiated today, will lay the foundation for benefits tomorrow and for generations to come.

Sewanee River
We were still well above Ellaville, which would give us about 120 miles to go before reaching the mouth, where we were due Monday. This was Friday. We wouldn't make it in a week of paddling.

Mike pulled the cord and we buzzed along under kicker power. But we had left only the gasoline in each motor and enough for one refill in the extra supply.

Rounding a bend, we noticed a group of boys swimming near some boats on the far side of the river.

Mike turned that way and we were soon being given a helping hand to our campground.

They were Leon Elswanger, Wendell Eugene Jenkins, Bradford Hudson, Donald Lee and Dennis Beagling, as free a group of young men as a pair of river travelers would want to meet.

Ellaville, they informed us, was closed.

"There's nothing there any more," one commented. "We went down that way last night and everything was closed."

But they would be glad to give us a hand. They were, the said pretty, part of the property of the world's smallest Sheriff's Boys Ranch. If we would walk back to the ranch house with him we could see if they could get us some gasoline. After looking over the ranch and riding on one of the tractors, I had the impression, Mike was sorry he wasn't eligible for a place at the ranch.

Our next stop was one of the most unusual along the river. Little Creek from the world's shortest river, is a spring which bursts out of the river bank from between a couple of rocks. It then flows a few feet or yards, depending on how high the Suwannee is to the river.

There was a place of river upstream and down from this spring combine to form an interesting scene. First is a small creek, crystal clear, in which we found three or four varieties of fish. Where this creek met the Suwannee, the river's dark waters flow by with hardly a nod to the little stream. As we came out of the red Suwannee into the clear creek, spoke quickly and scot to their same hide-a-way.

At the state wayside park, a restful place for a picnic.

Then is the junction of the Suwannee and the Withlacoochee Rivers. From that point on the Suwannee becomes muddy.

It was fortunate that we obtained gasoline at the ranch. As the boys had reported, everything was closed at Ellaville today, even at Dowling Park, 15 miles downstream, there was no place to buy gasoline.

That evening we took over an abandoned shack on the river's bank because it looked like rain was holding our way. Mike wasn't sure he liked the idea of sleeping with the spiders and other inhabitants of a little one-room hut. But when the first sprinkle started he quickly joined me there.

By noon the next day we were inBradford, 60 miles up the river. We found a (Continued from Next Page)
FISHING

(Continued from Page 7)

and the customer does. There is a big, murky swirl and the customer leaps back a little too hard and the unappetizing mudfish he has hooked makes a mighty splash and goes down through some old branches and stuff and pretty soon the line breaks.

Now, the pilgrim turns to the guide and the topic is open and his eyes are sticking clear out into the weather and he generally says, “D-D-did you see that?”

And the guide looks right back at the customer and nods wordlessly and says, “Yeah. I looked at it.”

That discovery dampened his desire to get out and try to walk on one of these “islands.”

There’s a snake in that bunch.”

But most of all, Fowler likes to sit off to one large mass of hills, watch the fog rise and wait for the sun to come up. He had been pulling the barge-like tug about for three months and is now hitting the river for the last time. Before that his father used to ferry across the river for the farmers and hunters back in the 1920s.

He has been pulling the barge-like ferry across the river for the past ten years. Before that his father used to ferry across the river for the farmers and hunters back in the 1920s.

We were in Fannin Springs shortly after noon, and spent about an hour looking over things there and eating.

“We were in Fannin Springs shortly after noon, and spent about an hour looking over things there and eating.”

Then we started the final leg of our trip, the last 30 miles of the river.

To this point the typical Florida palmetto tree is along the shore. But a few miles south of Fannin Springs the Indian war bonnets of ferns start forming up.

By mid-morning we were passing Manatee Springs, the site of a state park built around another of Florida’s clear-water springs.

Island of floating bayscapes were building as we passed Fowler’s Bluff and Vista near the mouth. This close to the Gulf, the river is affected strongly by tides. As the tide starts out, chunks of the masses of these water完整且结构清晰的文本。
A tremendous stride in conservation education has been taken in Florida. It is the First Annual Camp Counselors Conservation in Camps Workshop, date, June 6-June 9, 1961.

Place for operation of the Workshop this summer will be at the Youth Conservation Camp, Lake Eaton, Ocala National Forest, Florida.

It is a co-operative educational project of the Florida Section, American Camping Association, Florida, Forest Service, and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Program will include basic conservation concepts, soil resources, water resources, forest resources and game and fish resources.

Purpose: The purpose of the workshop is to prepare summer camp counselors in the field of conservation. The 1961 session will be a pilot course limited to a small number of registrants. Those attending will be certified as "Camp Conservation Counselors."

Participants: Priority will be given to persons who hold leadership positions in summer camps for children, or in school camping programs. However, teachers who are teaching resource use (conservation) education should find the workshop helpful and will be accepted if space permits. Participants must be 18 years old.

Dates: The session will start at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 6, and will conclude at 3:00 p.m., Friday, June 9. On Tuesday, the evening meal will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Cost: An all inclusive fee of $12.00 will be charged. This covers all meals from Tuesday evening through Friday noon, lodging for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and health and accident insurance. The fee, paid in advance with the registration form, will be refunded only if cancellation is made before May 28. Deadline for registration is May 12.

Instructors: Instruction activity will be conducted by specialists drawn from Florida's State Conservation agencies and Florida State University.

Workshop will be staffed by counselors who have already successfully completed a fourteen week encampment at the YCC. They will be available to counsel and direct the students in the field of conservation.

May is the time when parents start thumbing the various brochures and information sheets about the various types of camps found around the country. We can attest to this by the volume of mail we receive and the stepped-up pace of requests during May at our headquarters office in Ocala. We suggest to you parents that you do not put off sending in your application. Last year we found ourselves deeply concerned about our young campers who were canceled because of maximum attendance for the scheduled week they desired. Remember, too, that our girls this year will have only one week. This year we are taking the two weeks assigned for girls and we are using the divisional age system. The first week will be for girls ages 9-12. Starting date will be June 11 until June 17. The second week will be assigned to the older girls ages 13-16. Don't forget the date June 18-24.

Again this year there will be only a one two-week period for boys ages 9-12. The assigned dates for boys will be July 8. Last year we found it impossible to fulfill all of the late requests for applications for our two week encampment. Don't wait, write today.

Other single weeks for boys, ages 8-12 are these: July 9-15, July 16-22, July 23-29.

Our older boys are again scheduled for a single week. Ages included in the week of July 23-29 are 13-16.

It's a one week encampment for that growing son of yours. Let him have a time to develop a greater appreciation of outdoors.

Health Forms

Something new will be added this year. Each application for reservation will be accompanied by a Camper's Health Examination Form. The health form has been developed and approved by the American Camping Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. With a history on each youthful camper the registered nurse will have better control over isolated cases as to infections, kind of medications or drugs to be used, etc. The doctor will also be able to determine any allergies by reading the health history, and will be in a position to diagnose more specifically.

Don't forget, parents, we are approved and certified by the American Camping Association.

Junior Conservation Program

At present we are revising the Junior Conservation Program and the Merit Point System of Conservation Projects.

The system uses projects with a given number of points that can possibly be earned. A total of 122 projects were completed after four revisions.

Ranks earned by accumulation of points are six in number: Ranger, Forester, Chief Ranger, Chief Forester, Junior Conservationist, and Junior Wildlife Officer. Points needed to earn each rank varies, 10,000 for Ranger; 30,000 for Forester; 45,000, Chief Ranger; 60,000, Chief Forester; 75,000, Junior Conservationist; 100,000 for Junior Wildlife Officer.

The new revision calls for certain specified projects to be completed by each rank and all promotions to be by progressive stages.

Rank of Ranger must complete 15 projects with 18 optional projects to select from. Points remain the same.

Rank of Forester: 22 projects and 8 optionals to select from. Rank of Chief Ranger: 17 projects and 9 optionals; Chief Forester: 12 projects and 6 optionals; Junior Conservationist: 12 projects and 8 optionals; Junior Wildlife Officer: 17 projects and 4 optionals.

To complete the revision a newly processed certification form has been completed for the program, and will be used to certify the ranks and accumulated points. Certification forms will be sent out to Senior Advisors and Counselors.

Certificates for the various ranks will also be introduced and will be presented in addition to the present use of insignia and badges.

The new program will be placed in effect July 1, 1961.

Workshop

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MAY 1961
over last year. Game ducks as a group showed a very slight increase. Mallards, black ducks, and pintail showed no change, small decrease, and small increase respectively. Can- vasbacks and redhead both showed good increases. Both scap and ring- necks showed slight decreases.

Within Florida, all waterfowl except geese increased in relation to the 1960 survey. This decrease in geese may have been more apparent than real and due to unfavorable weather during the survey. Special Canada goose counts in November and December indicated a statewide goose population on a par with 1960.

Numbers of observed waterfowl in Florida during the 1960 and 1961 surveys were as follows:

1961 | 1960
--- | ---
All Ducks | 629,100 | 290,800
Geese | 8,200 | 11,000
Coot | 153,900 | 150,000
Total Waterfowl | 782,200 | 552,000

Contrary to the Flyway trend, the scaup population in Florida was up. The Florida duck population was slightly better than in 1960 though the very popular ringneck was less abundant.

The Florida duck population was somewhat better than expected. In 1960-61, the scaup population in Florida was up. The very popular ringneck was less abundant.

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To·al Waterfowl

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<tr>
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At the same time, there was little relative apparent between season length and average number of times hunted. There was a noticeable correlation between number of ducks bagged and total number of hunters in all of this material, it must be borne in mind that the data pertain to the whole Flyway.

ALLIGATOR REGULATIONS EXPLAINED

The so-called baby "alligators" are not Florida alligators at all and South American Caiman, a south ern cousin.

Florida law makes it illegal to molest, catch, buy, sell, ship or have in possession any alligator or crocodile or black caiman under six feet in length at any time or any place in Florida without a special permit. "Baby Alligator" means an alligator less than one-half the size of the largest of those used in writing "Baby Alligator."

South American Caiman is generally imported from Central America and can be identified by their tan color with dark spots and lines beneath the words "Baby Alligator" in letters not less than one-half the size of the largest of those used in writing "Baby Alligator."

Regional Manager Retires

D. C. Land retired from service with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission March 31, 1961, after 26 years of employment. Land, who has served as Central Florida Regional Manager at Ocala since October 1, 1935, was first employed as a Wildlife Officer October 1, 1934. He was promoted to the position of Assistant Chief Wildlife Officer August 1, 1950, and later promoted to Area Supervisor July 1, 1951.

Florida alligators in Florida without a special permit.

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Land is a native of Mayo, Florida. He will retire under the State Retirement System age-65 provision.
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