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

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

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

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

1 pound or larger

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

Wallace Hughes, Art Director
C. L. Satterfield, Circulation

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EDITORIAL STAFF CHANGES ANNOUNCED

Starting with this issue, the regular monthly Fishing department will be authored by Charles Waterman. Effective with the December 1960 issue, Chuck Schilling’s resigning as Editorial Assistant and Chuck Schilling is now the new Fishing Department editor. The steady flow of mail concerning Mr. Schilling’s decision to vacate the editorial chair for a career in angling has proven that the pastime is far from dead. Members, however, continue to be interested in current fishing conditions and trends. The Florida Wildlife editors will continue to provide information pertinent to the angling public.

This brings us to the topic of the new Fishing Department editor, Chuck Schilling. Chuck Schilling is an important member of the Florida Wildlife staff and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the department. He has authored numerous articles on various fishing topics and has been a contributing editor to Fishing World magazine.

The Fishing Department is a valuable resource for anglers in Florida, providing up-to-date information on fishing locations, techniques, and species. The department is a valuable resource for anglers in Florida, providing up-to-date information on fishing locations, techniques, and species. It is closely monitored by anglers and is considered a reliable source of information.

The Fishing Department editor, Chuck Schilling, will continue to provide valuable information to anglers in Florida. He will work closely with the editorial staff to ensure that the Fishing Department remains a valuable resource for anglers in the state. The Fishing Department will continue to provide valuable information to anglers in Florida.
The plastic bottom jobs can be dropped into the open pockets, then cranked back to the surface to cross the next grass patch. The "tongueheads" should be worked so they barely cause a trace of wake on the surface. They are hard work because they get hung up a lot. I firmly believe in this little thread of surface wake. It has produced too many times to be taken lightly.

The surface plug should be worked slowly on calm days and more briskly when there is wind disturbance. On very windy days, I have caught fish by yanking a surface Mirrourlure from one wave to the next.

I would never give up on any grass fishing expedition until I had tried all three of the lure types described. Grass flat fish are in shallow water, and hence easily spoiled. If caps or paddle are used, they should be operated as quietly as possible. When plastic worms or live bait are used, I think the drift method is best. Live bait can also be fished through pretty heavy grass if you go slowly enough.

Drifts should be worked out carefully so that you're not fishing the same water repeatedly and if you see a boat going at high speed across the flats, make a mental note of where it was. Fishing won't be any good there for a while.

If two or three of you are casting from the same boat, give a little attention to the way you're covering the water. If you get careless, you may cast over some spots a dozen times and never get the others that are just as good. If one fellow catches all the fish, it may be that he's getting first chance at all of the water, as he's more likely to simply cast where he's already been. The drift can be arranged so the others get some fishing too.

Hasty Words Regretted

An old friend, Art Hutt of Eustis, recently wrote a piece about Lake Apopka's fishing comeback. It appeared in Field & Stream and is one of a rash of articles about how the lake has improved since the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commision started a subsidizing program there more than three years ago. Everybody is getting into the act by saying nice things about Lake Apopka.

I'm glad the big lake is coming back but I hope no one remembers the column I wrote when the mangement program first started. After interviewing some of the fish people on the scene, I decided the plan was a shot in the dark and possibly a waste of money and effort.

So I wrote a nasty little column, bearing in mind the fine right out with my neck but filling the between-lines space with hints that this big poisoning program was pretty wild and deep for this kind of indication so don't accept it as being positive. Once you see some swimmers you'll have to decide for yourself whether they're bass or not.

Saving Face

Being one of the crude old fishermen who don't have windshields and tops on their fishing boats—but being civilized to the point that I often used fairly speedy outboard motors, I found I had a complex problem. In fact, wearing a visor for a hundred miles or so against a brisk wind in a bright sun I sometimes found nearly all of my complexion hardened by a large sore spot. Since facing backward proved to be dangerous, I borrowed an idea from the sports car types and got me a plain grinner's mask, a kind of economy imitation of the plastic face shields used by the racing lads. This thing takes up very little space in the boat and enables you to breeze along at top speed in the face of a heavy rain. Besides that, it has a sort of outer space look that really charms the dockside yokels.

Boat Boots

Low canvas sneakers are pretty much standard equipment for those fishing from boats. They have a lot of advantages but beware along country roads.

I've gone to something quite different. I wear an old pair of those Wellington boots with loose tops. (Maybe I'd call them "moose") I had non-skid rubber soles put on mine and it seems impossible to wear them out. Before I started wearing them, I sported an itchy red insect band between my sneaker tops on my Wellingtons. The usual one is that there's less room in a pointed bow. They are hard work and they're loose enough for good air circulation in hot weather. That welt-foot business has long been a peeve of mine. A quick shower comes up with my feet wet as it does in canvas shoes, that they protect your ankles from anchors and oars and that they're loose enough for good air circulation in hot weather. That wet-foot business has long been a peeve of mine. A quick shower comes up with my feet wet as it does in canvas shoes, and only my canvas-covered feet stick out. The shower passes and I'm nice and dry—except my feet and they're wet the rest of the day. The boots put a stop to that.

Need A Long Boat?

For the fisherman, the measured length of a skiff isn't always what it seems. A 16-footer sometimes has a lot more room in it than a 14-footer. I've spent many a day with one guy on a 16-footer and another on a 14-footer. With experienced fly-fishermen, a 14-to-16-foot boat is plenty far a double operation. I once counted the tangles that two efficient fly-casters got into on a 3-day trip of casting from the same 15-footer. The total—

Temper Tamer

When I start fly-casting from a boat, I generally throw my shooting line in loose coils on the bottom. Among the things I have caught in these coils I attempted to feed these to anchors, boat seats, my friend's hats, pilers, rod tips, red buttons, treble-hooked casting lures, tackle-boxes, our handles and my own feet. Sometimes I make boat bottom catches on as many as four successive casts. Each time I get such a snarl, a cast is ruined, my temper is frayed and valuable fishing time is lost. After a couple of hours, I sometimes revert to the "dology," a piece of light tarpaulin I generally have somewhere in my gear. Once it is spread over the deck, I have a clean and tidy place to throw my loose lines—but since it takes about twelve seconds to spread it out, I seldom bother.

Believe me, such a piece of material is a good investment, if simply because it reduces the mortality rate of fly lines.

Ten To One

By the time this is printed, a "Ten To One" Society may be going full tilt as an adjunct of Miami's famous Rod and Reel Club. Whether it was ever organized or not, it's an in...
**Muzzle Flashes**

by Edmund McLaurin

**DESPITE THE FACT THAT I try to give M14 as much basic technical information as possible in my narrative style texts, readers invariably write me asking for specific information. It is a rare incoming mail that doesn’t contain at least two or three letters.

Not only does mail come direct and by referral from the editorial offices of Florida WILDLIFE, but contemporary outdoor writers in other subject fields habitually offer gun enthusiasts to me for help or information. In a month, the volume of mail handled on a courtesy basis is considerable. Almost all of the letters ask one or more questions.

The following are typical examples, gleaned from a stack of recent letters and replies.

**Question:** Can you give me basic information about the new M14 Springfield rifle?

**Answer:** I believe I can. The M14 Springfield is a clip-magazine-loading, fast-firing shoulder weapon, chambered for the 7.62mm NATO (the sporting 308 Winchester) cartridge. It is chambered for our NATO allies. It replaces four weapons now in official use by the U. S. Army: the M1 rifle, M2 carbine, Browning automatic rifle, and the M1A1 submachine gun. While the Western-Churches rifles are chambered for the same “White Flyer” cartridge of 135 grains for approximately 4.00. Buy them locally, because problem, as volume buying means trap and Skeet shooting tournament not to be had from reloading shotshells and rifle ammunition.

**Question:** What is a drilling?

**Answer:** A drilling is a combination rifle and shotgun highly popular for hunting since the days of .30-06 class, are inherent dependability, having a single action or a double barreled in combination with automatic loading pistols. Use of silencers is now illegal in some states; consequently, they are not even commercially available.

**Question:** Who invented the silencer?

**Answer:** The silencer was developed by Hiram Percy Maxim and others that drove bullets faster and others that drove bullets below the speed of sound. On rifles of the .30-06 class, the .50-50 was used for hunting big game, although the .300-06 and .308-06 had been chambered for most large game. With the advent of the .300-06, the .30-06 was no longer considered a “hot” cartridge.

**Question:** Who manufactured and loaded the first repeating, pump action shotgun?

**Answer:** The so-called “clay pigeon” or “clay bird,” used in huge quantities by the nation’s trapshooting enthusiasts, are composed of a mixture of river silt and pitch. To meet official specifications, the round discs must be larger than 4-5/16 inches across and 1-1/8 inches in height. Their individual weight must be within five per cent of 3.5 ounces.

**Question:** What is the mechanism for actuating the target you can make from river silt and pitch, and cylinder. Best results were obtained in combination with auto-loading pistols. Use of silencers is now illegal in this country; consequently, they are not even commercially available.

**Question:** Where guns are used at intervals, a heavy grease is inconvenient and messy to remove. For such weapons I use Silicone Gun Spray, Anderson. When I have to remove heavy grease from a gun’s mechanism and exterior I use mineral spirits, simply brush and a wiping cloth to best advantage.

**ADDITIONAL DONATIONS FOR KEY DEER PRESERVATION**

**DONATIONS OF 341 acres of land and $22,400 in funds for the preservation of America’s dolphin-like key deer herd were announced today by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Leffler. The National Key Deer Foundation, through its secretary, C. R. Gutermuth, presented the Fish and Wildlife Service with six parcels of land totaling 340.96 acres on Big Pine and Wolfe Key in the National Key Deer Refuge, Monroe County, Florida. The foundation also donated the sum of $17,400 to be used in the purchase of other lands for the refuge. Congressman Charles E. Bennett of Florida, sponsor of the bill establishing the permanent refuge, contributed $5,000 to be used for the acquisition of refuge lands.

The nearest thing to a drilling produced in America is the Savage Model 110, a semi-automatic combination rifle and shotgun, caliber 22 rimfire and 410 gauge respectively.

**Question:** What oils, greases or products do you recommend for safe storage of firearms between seasons?

**Answer:** First, make sure that you have the right combination of sights for the job and is otherwise mechanically dependable.

**Question:** What about the new M14 breakage in transit is often terrific while the Western-Winchester clays sale and club outlets don't have that safer transportation.

**Answer:** First, make sure that you have the right combination of sights for the job and is otherwise mechanically dependable.

**Question:** What is the mechanism for actuating the target you can make from river silt and pitch, and cylinder. Best results were obtained in combination with auto-loading pistols. Use of silencers is now illegal in this country; consequently, they are not even commercially available.

**Question:** Where guns are used at intervals, a heavy grease is inconvenient and messy to remove. For such weapons I use Silicone Gun Spray, Anderson. When I have to remove heavy grease from a gun’s mechanism and exterior I use mineral spirits, simply brush and a wiping cloth to best advantage.
Ohio, the day will be put to good use. For the many things done for them.

We understand this year that in some of these areas, assistance will be given to the Youth Conservation Club League of Florida.

The second important announcement is the dates for National Wildlife Week which is to be held during March 19-25, 1961. The theme for this year will be "Multiple Use—Balanced Conservation Planning for the Future." Saturday, March 25, of course, will be proclaimed by Governor Farris Benjamin as Conservation Day.

Tag Day will also be held on that date. On a statewide basis, Junior Conservation Clubs will tag the citizens of Florida, reminding them that conservation cannot wait and that conservation planning for the future.

The third important announcement comes from our Adult Advisory Council and its chairman, Howard McBride. We are most happy to advise that Mr. Harry Woods, Agricultural Supervisor of the Future Farmers of America in the Department of Education, has accepted an appointment to the Council. Mr. Ward, chairman of the Forestry Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture has also indicated his interest in becoming part of the Council. Other appointments made by Howard McBride are as follows: Courtnay Roberts of the Gainesville Police Department, Ross Stephenson, president of the N. W. Florida Conservation Club; Miss Helen Ward, secretary to the Soil Conservation Service; Tom Hearndon of the Forestry Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture; and Louis Musler of the Florida Outdoor Writers’ Association.

Tom Ward, president of the Youth Conservation Club League, has named the new delegates and alternates to the League. The delegates for the Bartow Girls Junior Conservation Club is Alice Preston. Her alternate is Jan Loyd. The Bartow Boys Junior Conservation Club will be represented by Mary Lee Albritton, delegate, and Carlton Cooley as alternate. The Deane Mather Club of Ocala will be represented by Jimmy Worley as delegate or Carlton Cooley as alternate.

The Bartow Girls Junior Conservation Club sponsored a float in the Halloween Festival Parade in Bartow this year.

The survival Team of the Deane Mathe Club assisted the U. S. Navy in looking for the pilot of the Navy jet after its explosion over the Okla­waha River. They are to be congratulated for their work.

The Don Carroll Junior Conservation Club has been temporarily suspended until spring.

The Deane Mather Club of Ocala will have David Schwartz as alternate. The Deane Mather Club of Ocala will have Matt Fultz as delegate and Dave Schwartz as alternate. The Deane Mather Club of Ocala will have Matt Fultz as alternate.

Wildlife Is Wealth

When a typical Florida family drives out to a nearby lake for a Saturday of fishing, or when a father and son and their dog set out for an afternoon of hunting, they have lots of company. Probably more than the average citizen of any other great modern nation, the average Florida citizen enjoys sport fishing, hunting, and the great outdoors.

Fishing and hunting have always been part of America. When colonists first came to this continent, the fish and game meant the difference between life and death. Then, men fished and hunted to feed their families. Today, long after they have ceased to be the basis of subsistence, fishing and hunting continue as an important part of our standard of living by providing recreation for thousands of Florida’s sportsmen.

What Is Wildlife?

Wildlife is one of our many valuable natural resources. The term “wildlife” includes all species of undomesticated animals born to the wilderness. Included are wild mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fresh and salt water fish, and invertebrates.

Of What Value Is Wildlife?

Wildlife has many tangible and intangible values: aesthetic, recreational, financial, educational, and others. Wildlife is a part of our American heritage.

What Wildlife Is Found In Florida?

There are many types, species, sub-species, and kinds of wildlife found in Florida. Fresh and saltwater fish; game animals; and non-game animals, game birds, non-game birds, and song birds, reptiles, amphibians (Continued on Next Page.)
Who Benefits From Wildlife?

Every man, woman, and child benefits, either directly or indirectly from wildlife resources. Songbirds, for instance, help keep insect populations in balance to prevent plague outbreaks. Reptiles help keep small rodent populations in balance.

Where Is Wildlife Found?

Everywhere! It is not uncommon to hear a quail whistle in the busy Lincoln Road district of Miami Beach. Deer are often seen along our highways, and even in sight of the missile launching area of Eglin Air Force Base. City dwellers may unknowingly have bob-cats and raccoons feed from their garbage cans.

Who Manages This Valuable Resource?

Fresh water fish and wildlife is managed by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Florida's resources are managed by the State Board of Conservation.

Bow Is Wildlife Managed In Florida?

Wildlife is managed through a program that embraces protection, investigation and research, as well as sound progressive wildlife development and management to improve wildlife habitats and conditions.

What Is The Status Of Wildlife In Florida?

Some species are decreasing and on the verge of extinction; others are on the increase. Florida contains the largest wild turkey population east of the Mississippi River, with an estimated 75,000 wild turkeys. Florida's deer population has tripled in the past 10 years from an estimated 36,574 deer in 1949 to 97,225 in 1959.

Some species of Florida wildlife are in danger of becoming extinct. The Everglades Kite is losing its battle for survival due to a food shortage. The Florida panther, now fully protected by law, is the only wild panther left east of the Mississippi River. The egret, and other plume birds which once faced extinction due to market hunting, are now protected by law and the populations are increasing. The Bald Eagle, the Key Deer and other wildlife species are in danger due to advancing civilization and reduced wildlife habitat.

Florida is the last stronghold of many species of wildlife. As wilderness areas disappear, so does wildlife.

Which Species Is Decreasing?

Many species of wildlife are in danger of becoming extinct. The Everglades Kite is losing its battle for survival due to a food shortage. The Florida panther, now fully protected by law, is the only wild panther left east of the Mississippi River. The egret, and other plume birds which once faced extinction due to market hunting, are now protected by law and the populations are increasing. The Bald Eagle, the Key Deer and other wildlife species are in danger due to advancing civilization and reduced wildlife habitat.

Florida is the last stronghold of many species of wildlife. As wilderness areas disappear, so does wildlife.

Do Snakes And Alligators Have Any Value?

Both snakes and alligators are valuable. The sale of alligator hides amounts to an estimated $350,000.00 annually. Many reptile exhibitors receive their livelihood from the display and sale of reptiles and their by-products. Alligators and snakes also serve the important function of maintaining the balance of nature.

Who Fishes In Florida?

Just about everyone. An analysis of fishing licenses for 1958-59 season indicates 349,158 residents and 172,012 non-residents purchased licenses to fish in Florida's fresh waters.

The citizens of Florida are exempt from licenses, since they fish with cane poles in their home counties and need no licenses. 100% of the residents over 64 years of age are also exempt, as well as all children under 15 years of age. No license is required for sport fishing in Florida's salt waters.

What About Bunting?

The same national-wide survey indicates that one in every 4 Florida citizens age 12 and over either fish or hunt.
Fish like to move from one kind of water into another, and most of them are caught along channels which hump weeds and eddies along the bottom and go around lakes feeling for cool spots with their hands wouldn't be caught dead just sliding along a shoreline firing a plug into pockets.

A Wildlife Officer told me the other day that there aren't many bass fishermen left. "—real bass fishermen, that is," he said.

He isn't quite right. There are a lot of bass fishermen and good ones that catch fish—but I know what he meant. The old school of shoreline rakers seems to have gotten lost in the shuffle somewhere. Their loss may not be important in the overall picture. Some of the more up-to-date anglers who hump worms and eels along the bottom and go around lakes feeling for cool spots with their hands wouldn't be caught dead just sliding along a shoreline firing a plug into pockets.

This may be the long way around to make a point but bass are still found along the edge of something—whether it's the shoreline or not. It may be the edge of the bonnets, or the weed bed, or the current, or the cool water or the muddy water or the drop-off or the sand bar—but fish like to be where they can move from one kind of water into another and most of them are caught on the edge of something or other.

Some of the really shallow shorelines take a beating from boats these days. After a 5-pound bass has been rolled in over appetite eleven times and his hangout has turned muddy as a Filipino rice paddie, he is going away from there.

Maybe he won't go far. If you happen to be fishing that dingy shoreline, pay a little extra attention to the area where the mud stops and the deep, clean water starts—maybe 15 or 20 feet out. Probably he won't be there either—but he might.

More than likely he will hunt a deep area with suitable cover and that spells bonnets in a lot of Florida lakes. So try the edge of the bonnets.

One of the stranger sights I have seen was a 40-foot cruiser anchored about 300 yards off a cove in a deep lake. A guy in a yachting cap was casting with a spinning reel from the stern without result. I inquired about him at the dock and learned he had been doing the same thing for a week. Someone told him to fish close to shore and he figured he was close enough. He hadn't caught any fish but for a while I thought maybe he knew something I didn't.

It takes skill to lay a plug or bug into the pockets and against the logs—a form of skill that not many people want to bother with any more. They prefer open water. But when they make a good catch out there, the chances are they're fishing the edge of something, be it bar or current or bottom obstruction.

It's a safe rule to look for any area where one kind of water changes into another kind. One of my earliest angling triumphs occurred on a bass fishing trip with a well-known guide of that time. We were plug casting down a river and he was guiding the boat with a paddle. He had caught a nice string of fish and, for some reason, I couldn't score.

Then we came to a spot where a muddy creek emptied into the clear river. I threw a big old jointed Pikie minnow to the muddy streak and three or four bass tried to divide it among them. I got four dandies out of that little streak of mud while the famous guide was fighting the current and couldn't cast.

I was thirteen years old and I was ahead when the float ended. Since then, I've been beaten so many times I don't keep score but it was important to me then—and I'll still row clear across a river to throw at a muddy streak. The old tubular steel rod I used that time has long since rusted away and I don't know what became of my old Shakespeare "Precision" reel.

I sometimes get carried away by what I see above the water and don't stop to think that the fish aren't interested in sitting on the bank.

Several years ago I was fishing the shoreline of a river and spent an hour or two demonstrating my ability to throw close to the bank, which was lined with logs, weeds and brush. Then, when I hung up, I rowed over and found my surface plug had been operating over less than four inches of water—not room for a good bass unless he lived on the side like a flounder. The true edge of the river at normal water was several feet further out. I had been giving the same hitter with that surface plug in water too shallow to fish and had been yanking it over the good water to get ready for another (Continued on Next Page)
ready to grab anything that drifts by.

shoreline spot is where the current location gives a fish the opportunity out in the current. Fish, like people, aren’t anxious to go at top speed all there is some current, the ideal

tions too. The current piles water up

fun and often productive. Here you

where it divides to move around the pocket there.

obstruction, often forming a quiet

depth water. Sometimes you hear a

have obstructions that furnish shade.

fish banging things ‘way back in that there but it has been my experience

the bonnets or spat­

since

my hands.

of wading birds, a busy raccoon and

minnows in a rapidly draining puddle. The herons were hopping around among the snook and every now and then a fish would swim against one of the birds’ squawk and go on grabbing min­

fishy into the ditch.

At the edge of a canal in the saw­
grass country, I once saw three kinds of wading birds, a busy raccoon and a drove of snook, all competing for grass country, I once saw three kinds

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FEBRUARY, 1967.
Our plans for a few days hunting on two Florida preserves turned into a line.

**WRITER’S HOLIDAY**

By EDMUND McLaurin

When it was waiting in line at the Post Office to mail some Florida resort material to friends in distant states that I planned to run into Red Marston, outdoor columnist for the St. Petersburg Times.

While Red and I chat at length on the phone every few days to discuss various conservation programs, it is his own working periods, but he says, “I’ll phone them,” I volunteered. “We’ll all meet at my home Sunday night. Anyone coming late can join us at Ike Riggs’.”

As easy was easily reached and endorsed the idea enthusiastically, but Bobby Hicks proved hard to contact. I put through two calls to Tampa, but failed to reach him. I did, however, leave an informative message. Later, Bobby called to say he could not go.

We found everything about the Riggs’ place impressively big scale—vast acreage notably free of palmetto clumps and rattlesnakes, abundant birds, plenty of trained hunting dogs, skilled guides, modern Jeeps and high-seated vehicles, the best of overnight accommodations and sumptuous table fare. Even the owner-operators proved big! Riggs, Sr., is 6 feet, 5 inches, his son, 6 feet, 8 inches, guaranteed accurate measurement!

Any dog that ranges hard, evincing plenty of enthusiasm as well as seriousness for his job is a joy to the Southern quail hunter. Riggs takes special pride in his high type of trained bird dogs. He keeps an average of 31 working. One male dog is so proud of his blood strain that if he overhears any chance remark reflecting on the maternal side of his ancestry, he will immediately stop hunting and go sit in one of the Jeeps, apparently burning with indignation!

As he slowly drove the Jeep behind two scent-seeking dogs, Riggs, Jr., cited some interesting facts about quail and the problems associated with raising birds for preserves.

Constant replacement of free flying birds is necessary, he explained— not only because of covey reductions from hunter kills, but also because, in the wild, quail are subject to a variety of natural hazards, with resultant losses.

Skunks, crows, raccoons, opossums, snakes and natural catastrophes of fire and flood take heavy tolls and relatively few eggs laid in the wild eventually become mature, propagating birds. In farming areas, cultivating and harvesting machinery inadvertently destroy many nests.

Most sportsmen, Riggs added wryly, maintain the mistaken belief that a quail raiser has only to catch out eggs, then feed birds until they reach maturity and release stage, thereby building up a huge wild state quail population on his acreage.

Riggs explained that a preserve operator can expect a permanent resident wild quail population of an average of only one quail per acre, regardless of the amount of natural growing or artificially introduced.
Four birds flushed in as many different directions. John killed two, handling his Cutts compensator-equipped Browning autoloader with obvious familiarity. The dogs found the birds without any trouble.

Red was making pictures with his Rollei, but we urged John to shoot next. His gun was an L. C. Smith Field Grade 12 gauge double, with improved cylinder boring in one barrel and modified choke boiling in the other. Already the dogs were on point, one dog picturesquely honoring the other's find with staunch support and respect.

The single bird that broke cover caught Red by surprise, and he missed his first shot, but grounded his target far from the gun on his second try, after a seemingly long and deliberate aim. John and I whistled and whooped in acclaim at the score. When Red, not knowing the bird flushed, made sure I was clear of his line of fire, I dove for my camera and quietly moved in behind Red, ready to shoot the picture at the climactic moment. However, the action that developed was totally unexpected. Fortunately, I had fast reflexes.

I knocked down two more singles, then a double. Meanwhile, John and Red were alternately adding birds to the day's bag. There were plenty of birds to shoot, and the dogs proved eager to locate them for us. We were allowed eight birds per man.

Where there are two or more hunters to a party, the minimum charge for each hunter is $25.00. This entitles the hunting party to a guide, a dog, a Jeep and a very good chance of each member of the party bagging eight birds. For a hunter by himself, constituting a party of one, the going rate is $25.00 plus $5.00 equipment and service fee.

For each quail bagged over the minimum, the hunter is charged $2.50 a bird—that is, after he has bagged his allotted eight birds. He may shoot as many additional birds as he likes, at $2.50 per bird.

The minimum charge applies to either a morning or afternoon hunt, and is the same whether dogs are furnished by the preserve or by the patron. Shells can be purchased at sporting goods store prices, if needed. These rates and shooting conditions are fairly uniform among the preserves currently being operated.

We took time out to count birds. Red and I had our limit, but John lacked one. His eighth bird was bagged less than fifteen minutes later.

We had enjoyed an action-packed morning, with good shooting assured by an abundance of birds and the assistance of two excellent dogs. Therefore, we realized, lies one of the advantages of patronizing a paid shooting preserve. The quail were already there to shoot; we had only to find them—then enjoy every type of going away shot imaginable!

After lunch we moved on to the Dixie Lily Shooting Preserve, at Williston, to spend the night and next day to try for ducks and pheasants.

The big ranch was established by Cecil Webb in 1952 as a privately owned and operated shooting preserve and as experimental acreage for scientific raising of wild game species. It was opened to the public for the first time in the Fall of 1960, on a pay-as-you-go basis, until the close of its present season, April 30, 1961. All birds—quail, dove, pheasants, ducks and wild turkey—are scientifically bred to provide a real challenge to the hunter, once released in the wild state.

Bud Smith, the ranch's likeable manager, made us feel at home the moment we drove through the gate. He lost little time in seating us at a table piled high with Southern
With slack out, and then I wondered why Sig was so excited.

Sometimes at my dual lure. One had

Naturally I snapped up my rod

"Strike. Strike hard!"

But it could also get very messy if something went wrong. Into my mind flashed memories of some nasty airboating accidents in recent years—and they'd been in the sawgrass country. We were heading for the cypress.

During the loading operations, I quizzed Sig about his take off point.

"Not quite, but almost," he laughingly replied. "One or two other airboaters have tried following me, but they didn't do so good. Tore the boats up real bad having off cypress knees and trees. Guess I'm the only one using it now."

We pushed the airboat around to head in the direction we were going, and hopped aboard. These blow boats can take any reverse, and are steered by a rudder which de­flects the propeller's air blast. If your engine stops, you've had it. You'll stop against the nearest available object—acceptable or other­wise.

The cold wind whistled past our ears as Sig gunned the airboat to planning speed and began snake­hopping down the twisting cypress trail. In seconds, we were weeping like our last friend had just died, and we narrowed our eyes to slits as the wind increased.

Through the blur caused by my weeping, wind blown eyes, I could... (Continued on Next Page)
Sig Walker pilots his airboat in the treacherous terrain of southwest Florida.

We righted quickly and prepared to drop our spinning plugs near the mangroves. There was still a chilly nip in the air, although it was well after 10 a.m. I felt the water. Brr, nice mountain trout water. This was certainly the most unorthodox bass fishing expedition I'd ever been on.

My first few casts were dismal failures—mainly because my numbed fingers wouldn't finger the line properly, and I couldn't reach the mangroves properly.

Finally I got the range. This cast landed neatly beneath the mangrove. Frogback or not, I wouldn't have been surprised to have a snook boil out at it. Then, wham! A water busting strike. I arched my rod and set the hook, and the fish went to work.

He tail danced three times, fortunately and neatly away from the mangroves. Even though the water was cool, I latched onto it for a moment and then slipped out of it. Sig had slowed and brought into a hidden channel, and easing back on the throttle coasted through a dark semi-tunnel onto a tranquil lake.

Sig looked back and nodded. So this was it—one of his bass holes, I just sat and stared. This was supposed to be bass country? Where were the heads? The sunken legs? The reeds and grass they love? Who'd ever heard of bass hiding under those mangroves? If I'd ever seen snook country, this was it.

But I'd come to fish for bass, and I was going to fish for bass.
**Aquatic Vegetation:** Maiden Cane, White Water Lily, St. John’s Wort, Cut Grass, Bladder Wort, Pickerel Weed.

**Bottom Type:** Mud and silt.

**Accessibility and Availability:** Approximately 4½ miles of unimproved sand road. Landing also unimproved and rough.

**Fishing History:** As in most cases it was exceptional before the dry period. Bluegills and warmouth were very plentiful.

**Best Fishing Areas:** No special areas. All parts produce ample fish.

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**DUNFORD POND**

This splendid lake is widely recognized as one of the best all-around lakes in Northwest Florida. Its reputation for good fishing and beauty has spread to Alabama and Georgia for anglers from these two states equal and at times outnumber resident fishermen. Heavily mossed cypress trees with swollen trunks form watery islands here and there throughout the lake. These islands combined with numerous grass beds, not only add to the already attractive scenery, but provide an unusually large fishing area for the amount of water.

One of the glowing phases in Dunford Pond’s reputation is its winter fishing. In December, January, and February when catches in most other lakes drop off, Dunford Pond is in full swing. The old reliable earthworms are once again found concentrated in cooler water.

**Date of Survey:** 1958.

**Size:** 204 acres.

**Location:** Washington County, Florida. Approximately 5 miles south of Vernon, Florida.

**Water Color:** Highly stained.

**Aquatic Vegetation:** White Water Lily, Maiden Cane, Bladder Wort, St. John’s Wort. Bottom Type: Sand around shore, mud and vegetable matter in deeper areas.

**Depth:** The north end of Dunford is shallow with an

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**PINE LOG CREEK**

Page after page could be written describing the numerous moods of Pine Log Creek, for its inky water assumes many forms on the often interrupted course to join the Choctawhatchee. Shallow runs, open lake, and quiet swamps all have their place in Pine Log, but of these, lakes appear to dominate the situation. They also dominate the fishing with cypress swamps running a close second. The shallow edges around snags and tree tops where bass, bluegills, warmouth, and crappie concentrate; are considered choice spots.

When chilly weather moves in, live shiners are used to catch the abundant black crappies. Tasty warmouth take bream, while bass and pickerel bite artificial lures and live shiners.

Pine Log Creek assumes many forms—shallow runs, open lakes and quiet swamps—on its course to the Choctawhatchee River. Dunford Pond is recognized as one of the best all-around lakes in northwest Florida, widely known for good fishing and scenic beauty.

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**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**February, 1961**

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**CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT**

**Game Fish**

Name
- Largemouth Bass
- Chain Pickerel (Jackfish)
- Bluegill
- Warmouth
- Dollar Sunfish

Relative Abundance
- Abundant
- Common

**Non-Game Fish**

Name
- Chain Pickerel (Jackfish)
- Bluegill
- Dollar Sunfish

Relative Abundance
- Abundant
- Common

---

**WAGES POND**

Large populations of Largemouth Bass and Speckled Perch lurk around the inlets and grass beds of Dunford Pond.

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**CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT**

**Game Fish**

Name
- Largemouth Bass
- Chain Pickerel (Jackfish)
- Bluegill
- Warmouth
- Dollar Sunfish

Relative Abundance
- Abundant
- Common

---

**DUNFORD POND**

This splendid lake is widely recognized as one of the best all-around lakes in Northwest Florida. Its reputation for good fishing and beauty has spread to Alabama and Georgia for anglers from these two states equal and at times outnumber resident fishermen. Heavily mossed cypress trees with swollen trunks form watery islands here and there throughout the lake. These islands combined with numerous grass beds, not only add to the already attractive scenery, but provide an unusually large fishing area for the amount of water.

One of the glowing phases in Dunford Pond’s reputation is its winter fishing. In December, January, and February when catches in most other lakes drop off, Dunford Pond is in full swing. The old reliable earthworms are once again used to bring in full strings of bluegill and warmouth.

**Date of Survey:** 1958.

**Size:** 204 acres.

**Location:** Washington County, Florida. Approximately 5 miles south of Vernon, Florida.

**Water Color:** Highly stained.

**Aquatic Vegetation:** White Water Lily, Maiden Cane, Bladder Wort, St. John’s Wort. Bottom Type: Sand around shore, mud and vegetable matter in deeper areas.

**Depth:** The north end of Dunford is shallow with an
HICKS POND

Although the dry period ended a few years back, this lake is still struggling to regain its place among the respected fishing lakes in the area. The process is slowed because Hicks Pond has no direct water supply. While still lacking the water it should have, Hicks Pond has acquired a fresh and varied population of fish. Samples revealed ample numbers of bream, bass, and pickerel. The most striking find was the large number of chain pickerel present. These cold water fighters are always hungry and willing to accept an offering of live or artificial bait.

We feel that although it has lost much of the natural beauty offered by a well filled body of water, this lake is coming into its own once again to promise much sport and table fish for fishermen frequenting its waters.

Date of Survey: 1958.
Size: 312 acres.
Location: Washington County, Florida. Approximately 5 miles south of Vernon, Florida.
Water Color: Colored.
Aquatic Vegetation: White Water Lily, St. John's Wort, Cut Grass, Maiden Cane.
Bottom Type: Sand.
Depth: It is still shallow in most areas. The north shore is the deepest part with depths reaching 16 feet.

ACCESSIBILITY AND AVAILABILITY: Approximately 4 miles of sand road. Three miles of which are ungraded. Landings are too shallow to launch big boats.

Fishing History: Subject to moderate fluctuation during normal times. Short dry spells cause a drop in water level. It is still far below the normal standing level.

Fishing History: Very good before going dry. It has been improving steadily as the water returned.

Best Fishing Areas: No real hot areas. The north shore is deeper and probably produces more fish.

CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT

Game Fish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relative Abundance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain Pickerel (Jackfish)</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>Extremely Abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warmouth</td>
<td>Extremely Abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar Sunfish</td>
<td>Extremely Abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Crippe</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Game Fish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relative Abundance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Cat (Butter Cat)</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Chubscrucker (Pond Sucker)</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most striking find at Hicks Pond was the large numbers of Chain Pickerel, large fish at left and two smaller ones second from right. Bream and Bream are also present in ample numbers.

GRUNT 'EM UP

By MAURICE NAGGIAR

ATARA WORMS ARE GREAT FISH BAIT.

There is not much chance of an argument on that score. Bream often go berserk over a succulent fresh water shrimp. The 'gator flea and the cricket are frequently red hot producers. But like a great many other devotees of the bluegill, shell-cracker, stumpknocker, and other warm water scrapers, if I should be restricted to only one kind of bait, the lovely earthworm would be my choice.

Once upon a time whenever I got fish hungry I would grab up a worm digging shovel and head for the edge of the swamp or into a nearby bayhead or hammock. Every fishing trip was preceded by an hour or so of earthworm hunting. It worked, obviously expecting some interest. But that was before I learned about the art of grunting 'em up. It happened one day when I was ramming around in the big Apalachicola swamp of northwestern Florida.

I ran the bateau up against the bank, climbed out, and stood watching the show in bewilderment. Back and forth in slow, measured cadence, "Cappy" rubbed the flat side of an axe over a dry hardwood stake driven into the soil.

The technique is simplicity itself. Select a spot where you know worms are to be found. Drive the stake into the ground until only four or five inches remain above the surface. Take the axe or hatchet in hand and long, even strokes work the flat side of the blade back and forth. Within three or four minutes, the worms will begin to show on the surface. Keep up the "grunting" for another couple of minutes, then begin picking up your bait.

If you do it alone but if you have a partner along, he can pick up worms while you continue playing the tune. After you have "grunted" out one spot, move on fifty yards or so and begin the process again. The range of the "grunter" varies with the conditions but a circular area of 20 feet in diameter will probably hit the average. It works every place I have ever tried it and that is quite a few.

Maybe, like "Cappy," when you have listened to a few minutes of that infernal screeching, their will to resist capture is just plain crushed and they give up, hoping for a more peaceful demise.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
FEBRUARY, 1961
 MANAGEMENT

FOR

MALLARDS

The mallards turned to the sound of the call, circled once as they heard the come-on call—and glided downward.

By JIM FLOYD

The early flight of waterfowl soon mingled with flocks of crows, heading for a nearby cornfield. The harmonious sounds of morning and the sounds of guns mixed with the occasional honking of the captive geese on the refuge island as they called to their cousins in the lake.

To the hunters, it was the end of waiting and the start of hunting. To the biologist, it was the end of working and the start of harvest.

MPTNGS OF WNTING AND PLANNING were in the past, and the promised moment had arrived as the check station attendant unlocked the door of the check station. The hunters left the warmth of a fire they had built hours ago and lined up in the doorway of the Station. Removing their gloves and unbuttoning jackets, the hunters extended hunting licenses and management area permits as they anxiously awaited their turn to be checked in for the opening day of the duck season on the Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area.

A half hour after opening, the station was deserted except for the station attendant and a wildlife biologist and his assistant, who were busy making a rapid tabulation of the morning’s hunters. From the check station, the headlights of the hunters’ vehicles could be seen across the fields and appeared as so many brilliant fingers feeling their way through the darkness.

Bill Tolbert and his shooting companion, Ed Pipkin, had left the graded road and by winding through the woods arrived at an open body of water, where they hastily removed a prone gun from the top of their car. Later, having loaded the boat with decoys, guns and shells and hiding the car under the nearby branches of a liveoak, they lifted pushpole and paddle to slip silently through a mass of water-laiden and bonnets to a preselected location where they would hunt.

To the hunters, it was the golden moment; the decoys were out; the blind was a good one; the ducks were in and using this location; Rebel, the labrador, whined softly in anticipation of his first shot. The hunters could not have explained or described the emotions they felt as they waited for the legal shooting time, but they could say that it was a good feeling, a healthy feeling.

The predawn stillness was broken by the high-pitched whistle of widgeon, followed by the soul-stirring wisp-wisp-wisp of wings as they passed overhead.

Ed Pipkin, a Pensacola City duck hunter, extends two of his four ducks to Game Management Specialist Glynn Ivey for snape-check.

Ed Pipkin, a Pensacola City duck hunter, extends two of his four ducks to Game Management Specialist Glynn Ivey for snape-check.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FEBRUARY, 1961
The wildlife biologists have found a number of by-products resulting from the management of waterfowl on the various management areas in Florida, and thus have learned again the age-old fundamental truth that each one of our natural resources—soil, water, and wildlife—are all interrelated and bound up with one another to maintain the balance of nature. Waterfowl management areas invariably attract other wildlife. The Apalach area affords top-notch quail hunting, due in part to a successful controlled burning program conducted on the area and the food-planting program for game. The Guano Management Area affords some of the best fresh water fishing to be found anywhere in its general vicinity.

The Apalach area is a wildlife management area of approximately 1,400 acres, located three miles north of Sneads on the west side of the Jim Woodruff Reservoir in Jackson County. This area is primarily a waterfowl management area; and, at first glance, even the uninitiated can visualize the sky filled with a vast multitude of waterfowl, as approximately two-thirds of the surface acreage of this area is water.

The eastern portion of the area is largely open water created by the Jim Woodruff Reservoir. Much of this open water is actually flooded timberland and provides excellent cover and resting areas for the migratory waterfowl. This same flooded timbered area affords some top-notch hunting for the hunter who is adept at silently paddling or poling a boat through the stands of dead timber.

The western half of the area is largely land area; however, the topography here is broken by shallow water arms and sloughs from the larger lake as well as numerous ponds, depressions and potholes. While the eastern portion of the area contains the largest water areas, it is these ponds, potholes and sloughs that receive maximum mallard management.

An intricate system of connecting ditches and dams between the various ponds and sloughs allows the water level of the individual bodies of water to be raised and lowered through a series of control structures and water pumping stations. A desirable pond is selected, the water lowered, and the shore line planted with small grains such as millet, smartweed and chicory. After a growing season and prior to the arrival of the migratory waterfowl, the water structures are opened and the planted areas flooded as water pours through a control valve or is pumped into the planted areas thereby providing additional water and the necessary food.

To complete the basic essentials of wildlife management, each waterfowl management area has in addition to the regular hunting rules and regulations, special regulations to govern the controlled hunting. These regulations are rigidly enforced and designed to provide an ample harvest of the waterfowl, at the same time allowing a maximum of undisturbed movement.

The Apalach area provided an open season starting December 3rd through January 8th. Hunting was permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays with the area closed to hunting at all other times. Certain areas on the Apalach were set aside as refuge areas and closed to hunting at all times.

The Guano River Wildlife Management Area, located south of Jacksonville and north of St. Augustine alongside Highway A1A, is one of Florida's newest wildlife management areas. The Guano area, like the Apalach, is primarily a waterfowl management area.

Created by a dam and control structure on the Guano River, the area is actually a lake ten miles long and approximately two miles wide including the flooded low lands. These flooded low lands average in depth from six inches to two feet and provide excellent feeding areas for both diving ducks and dabblers.

Bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, the Guano area provides the first resting and feeding areas to be found in Florida by waterfowl migrating along the Atlantic Coast Line. The Guano area is to the waterfowl a refreshing bit of wilderness and water with abundant food and cover after many miles of endless sand dunes, surf, and housing developments.

The Guano area has a unique water central structure that allows for the retention of the sweet fresh waters of the Guano River but also provides for the intake of the salty brackish waters from the ocean. This brackish water is essential to the growth of the wide-grain grass which covers the bottom of the lower portion of the impoundment. The Guano is unusual in so far as reservoirs go in that it provides excellent marine or salt water fishing on the lower portion and top-notch fresh water fishing on the northern portion.

The Guano will be open to hunters for the first time this year on a limited basis and under controlled measures. The area will open December 3rd through January 8th with hunting permitted from one half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The area will be open to one hundred hunters per day.

Hunting will be permitted only on that portion of the area known as the Guano River Impoundment except that certain areas of the impoundment designated as refuge will be closed. These refuge areas are established in order to provide the waterfowl with an area of escape from the pressure of the guns. The fortunate one hundred hunters per day that hunt this area must make application for their special waterfowl hunting permit months in advance.

Special regulations in effect at the waterfowl management areas are sometimes confusing to the average hunter. Why all the checking in and checking out, why the punching in and punching out, why does the check at the check station want the wings and entrails of the various ducks killed? The truth of the matter is that while the wings and entrails might not mean much to the hunter, these items contain a wealth of information for the biologist. The wings, for instance, identify the species and age of the duck; the entrails indicate the diet of the duck. The punching in and punching out of numerous reports indicate hunting pressure, hunting success and man hours of hunting. While it is confusing, conflicting, time consuming and beyond the comprehension of the average hunter, it is important but essential for the continuation and successful operation of management for waterfowl.
WILDLIFE IS WEALTH (Continued from Page 31) that one in every four Florida citizens age 12 and over either fishes or hunts.

What Are Fishing Licenses Worth?

In cash receipts, the sale of fresh-water fishing licenses both resident and non-resident amounted to $820,296.50 in 1958-59. This, however, does not end the license cycle as Florida augments Federal money for fish management and fish restoration in direct proportion to the number of fishing licenses sold and the total geographical area of the state.

What Are Hunting Licenses Worth?

Total revenue from hunting licenses in 1958-59 was $816,533.50 for 161,172 license buyers. There is Federal Aid to game management in Florida.

What Is Federal Aid?

Federal Aid, in the form of Dingle-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson money, is the result of a federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and fishing tackle. This money is earmarked for return to the various states for use in fish and game management programs. This return of Federal tax money is in proportion to the number of licensed hunters and fisher­men and geographical area of the state.

What About Duck Stamp Money?

In order to hunt ducks and geese you are required to obtain a Federal Duck Stamp. This stamp must be attached to your hunting license, and costs the hunter three dollars. The money received from the sale of duck stamps is earmarked for the purpose of water­fowl breeding and wintering grounds. Unfortunately, this money cannot be spent in Florida for wintering grounds as there is a law in Florida which prohibits the Federal Government from purchasing lands in Florida.

How Much Does A Hunter Spend?

The nation-wide survey indicates that the typical hunter spent $91.98 and hunted a total of eight and one half days. This is probably higher in Florida, as the typical hunter spends more than eight and one half days in the fields.

How Much Does A Fisherman Spend?

The same survey indicates that the typical fisherman spent $79.49 and fished a total of nine and one half days. This also is probably higher in Florida due to availability of good fishing waters.

How Much Does This Fishing And Hunting Amount To?

Using these percentages, and basing the amount only on the licensed fishermen and hunters, Florida fishing and hunting is valued at around $600,000.00 annually. This does not include the unlicensed fisherman, the salt water fishermen, and the hunter and fishermen exempt from license requirements.

What Is This Money Spent For?

Fishing and hunting licenses, hunting permits, water­fowl stamps, guns and fishing tackle, boats, motors, transportation, clothing, lodging, guides and decoys and other specialized equipment, dogs and dog care, and many other items.

How Much Is A Deer Worth?

If you had to buy a live deer from a legal source, a buck deer would cost about $225.00. A brace of quail shot in a commercial preserve cost $5.00. Alligator hides bring a market price of $2.50 to $3.50 per foot. A bobcat sells for $15.00, or more. A hunter spends about $400.00 to take one bear, or about $178 to har­vest one deer. No one can place a dollar-cost on the aesthetic values of just seeing a beautiful buck deer in the early morning, or hearing the strike of a black bass in the late evening.

What Is The Conclusion?

The conclusion is simple: Wildlife is Wealth. It is the wealth of our state and our nation. Therefore, it is the duty of everyone to guard against its waste by conserving and wisely using all valuable natural re­sources.

MOST OF US ARE INCLINED TO TAKE IT AS EASY AS POSSIBLE AND EN­JOY LIFE WITH THE LEAST EXPENDITURE OF ENERGY. AND, THE VAST MAJORITY OF US APPLY THIS SAME PHILOSOPHY IN CARING FOR OUR SPORTING DOGS. THIS, OF COURSE, IS NEITHER FAIR TO THE DOGS NOR OURSELVES. WE MAY KEEP IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION BY SWIMMING, GOLFING, FISHING OR SOME OTHER FORM OF EXERCISE—BUT WE ARE NOT TREATING OUR DOGS RIGHT WHEN WE LEAVE THEM IN THE KENNEL TO LAZE AROUND AND LET THEIR MUSCLES GROW FLabby.

There is no reason for this because there are many enjoyable pastimes our dogs can share with us, with physical and mental profit to both.

The average hunting dog needs something to do “year-round,” just as his owner does. Make it a point to have a regular schedule in which you can brush up your pointing dog, spaniel, or retriever, in his retriev­ing department. A lesson of this type, four or five times a week, can go a long way toward making him the polished retriever he should be.

Short periods of this work can be made into a sort of game toward which he will look forward with pleasure—and he’ll be getting his much needed exercise through this medium.

If you have access to a good lake, pond, or stream, your retriever will enjoy a daily swim and it will be fun for you to enjoy it with him. Spaniels like water work very much and even your pointing dogs and hounds enjoy the pleasures of a playfull swim or a romp in the shal­lows. All this will help in keeping their muscles hardened against the day when they will again be called to turn in a good job ahead in serious hunting.

Make each hour of your fun-fest pay off in pleasure and profit for both you and your dog. You’ll find it great fun.

What A Judge Wants

Often dog judges are asked to address kennel club meetings on “What a Judge Wants of A Dog in the Show Ring.”

The organization of those speeches, and the details that fill them, vary as widely as the judges who make them and the audiences to which they are addressed. But an over-all analysis finds that the gist of them all holds down finally to this:

The judge wants every dog that enters his ring to be (a) a typically represented specimen of its breed; (b) in prime physical condition; and (c) amiable, alert, and well-be­haved.

These are exactly the same re­quirements that any responsible one-dog owner wants his household guardian or family pet to fulfill, whether there is any chance that the dog will ever see a show or not. Even if the family dog is a cross­bred so it cannot fulfill the judge’s requirement “(a),” this dog’s own­ers want it to be a pleasure to the beholder’s eye; to be healthy, clean, alert and muscularly sound with its coat in prime condition; and its be­havior not the sort that disgraces the family it lives with.

Ordinary daily care and attention—almost exactly similar to that which the needed care. And as a result they are neither a credit to their owners, their breed nor them­selves.

Unfortunately, a dog can’t care for himself.

Have you ever noticed that newspaper items about dogs seem some­times to run in cycles. For some time there may seem to be a run of reports on dog heroes. Then every world hero’s dog is unable to find a job. And another cycle arrives. The dog in America will seem to be—well, the day when they will again be useful, perhaps as a pet, or as a dog in a kennel. And then perhaps my news clips will all seem to be reporting long treks by lost dogs returning home.

Here are a few items that can be classified as miscellaneous. For instance:

As the football season was closing, a dog in Baltimore, Md., took out after the ball carrier in a high school game, tripped him, and pre­vented him from scoring a touchdown.

In Lakewood, Calif., Prince limped home, walked into the living room and took his favorite spot by the door. While there he lay down, rolled over and went to sleep. Which would not have been newsworthy except that Prince had been gone for two years, and a veterinarian who examined him said he appeared to have walked “hundreds of miles.”

By GEORGE CROWLEY

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FEBRUARY, 1961
include with this all-purpose tarpaulin about 30 feet of 1½" manila or similar size line. Few individuals using this type shelter pack any pins—despite the near-featherweight aluminum type available. Plenty of ways and means to secure this without putting pins—or even a pole for that matter.

The fastenings you add (if you modify your own) should always be sewn with heavy thread and through double canvas. Tie strap loops or grommet straps should also have an additional canvas sewn double underneath. Check double threads along your outside seams, and the axe while us kids watched him take out the one my grandmother had selected to grace our table.

Selected? You bet! I can still see her standing on the stoo of the summer kitchen, hands under her apron shouting directions to grandma.

"Not him, we'll save him for the next fight—" Starch fingers or wax for feathers not to stick to fingers. Mark down: One lemon rind, not sugary one. Grate medium and sprinkle bird inside and out. Rub with salt, pepper, and a pinch of thyme. Take some good sour apples and some apricots if good and dry and grate. Two big cups bread crumbs, rye bread with seeds and hard crusts best. Put in big bowl all above with 1 cup sweet butter.

The goose should be scalded. Dip fast, three times. Pull out quick, and first take the feathers. Down feathers be sure not to rip. Starch fingers or wax for feathers not to stick to fingers. Mark down: One lemon rind, not sugary one. Grate medium and sprinkle bird inside and out. Rub with salt, pepper, and a pinch of thyme. Take some good sour apples and some apricots if good and dry and grate. Two big cups bread crumbs, rye bread with seeds and hard crusts best. Put in big bowl all above with 1 cup sweet butter.

...and poke down wood away from oven side. Baste always with grease until about done and don't splatter. Draw no grease until about done and then scoop in white cup and strain. Save neck grease for colds.

Wildlife Balance Wheel

(Continued from Page 10)
FLORIDA CLUB NEWS
(Continued from Page 3)

September. Between 500 and 600 students are involved.

Joe Carter, a veteran of hunting safety instruction, is the faculty di­ rector for the program, which is being conducted as part of the physical education program. The program is unusual in that its institutions have endeavored the training with such a group.

Hunting safety classes in Florida are mainly the work of conservation groups and gun clubs in cooperation with the National Rifle Association. The Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission acts as administrator of the safety program and provides accident figures for the NRA.

There is no compulsory hunter safety training in Florida as a pre­ requisite to the purchase of a hunting license. Hunter safety instruc­ tors must pass an NRA examination and are then certified annually. All instructors serve without pay. Ins­ truction materials and guides are provided by the NRA at nominal cost.

Hunter safety training is compulsory for juvenile purchasers of hunt­ ing licenses in a number of states.

Wildlife Federation Changes

Several changes in the operating procedure of the Florida Wildlife Federation were announced following a recent executive meeting held in St. Cloud.

President Hubert W. Robertson announced that the state office of the Federation has been moved from 112 West Indiana DeLand to his residence at 1960 S.W. 4th Street, Ft. Lauderdale.

The office for the Awards & Scholarship Fund is being retained at De­ Land although the executive meet­ ing voted to provide funds to maintain the DeLand office.

President Robertson has been named as representative to the Na­ tional Wildlife Federation convention with Herb Alley as alternate.

Joe Carter of the Southwest Miami High School faculty, examines some of the materials to be used in the school's new hunter safety program.

Federation Newsletter

A mimeographed newsletter for clubs and conservation agencies is being prepared by President Hubert W. Robertson of the Florida Wild­ life Federation. It made its first ap­ pearance in December. Mr. Robert­ son explained that the "paper" will carry club news, matters of interest to conservationists and the policies of the Federation.

National Federation Changes

Louis S. Clapper has been named chief of the Division of Conserva­ tion Education of the National Wild­ life Federation. Clapper has been a member of the staff since 1958 and has served as editor for Conservation News, the Conservation Report and press releases.

F. H. (Pete) Farrar of Atmore, Al­ a., continues as Southeastern Field Representative and his territory in­ cludes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

Conservation Adviser Ernest F. Swift will continue to perform spe­ cial assignments. Amounts of reorganization were made by Ex­ ecutive Director Thomas L. Kim­ ball.

GAME MANAGEMENT NOTES
(Continued from Page 4)

amount of rooting done while feed­ ing, the armadillo has been accused of doing more damage to ground nesting habits than any other animal. This is evidenced by the Game Management Di­ vision and the Biological Department of the University of Florida will re­ solve this problem. Time and sample of armadillos is being collected each month throughout its range and the stomach contents thoroughly ana­ lyzed. The resultant information will accurately reveal the armadillo's food habits on a year round basis in all important habitat types. At the same time, other studies utilizing trapping and marking will give val­ uable information on population densities, range, rate of movement, and population composition. Only with such knowledge can adequate management measures be devised and put into effect.

Brown top millet has received con­ siderable use during the past year as a food plant for waterfowl, dove, quail, and turkey. It serves this purpose excellently, but as is the case of oats, its production must be properly managed to provide maxi­ mum benefits. Wildlife biologists of the Game Management Division have worked out necessary prac­ tices. Field trials must be made in locations which can be flooded to depths of three to 15 inches after the seed are mature. During the growing season the planting area should be kept dry. This procedure gives the greatest production and utilization. In the case of dove, it is most important that ample bare ground be main­ tained between the rows of millet so that the birds can feed freely. This can be achieved by two or three cultivations during the growing pe­ riod to prevent weed growth and by making the planting about 90 days prior to expected migration dates. Quail and turkey do not till the ground. They may use plantings as do dove, and prefer scattered pilots and strips.

I WAS AT AN IMPROMPTU BULL-SESSION, during the Florida Boating Federation meeting at Vero Beach in mid-November, that the talk turned to eradication methods for some of the pests that are becoming more or less common on the water- ways.

The folk were inclined to favor an open season with no bag limit on such undesirable species as the Rock Sandpiper, Belted Thrasher, Dim­ Witted Boat Buzzzer, Knot-headed Ski Splasher and Tippy Bottle-Bird. They were a trifle more lenient to­ ward the Stilettoed Ramps Bug and the Channel-blocking Fishcatch­ er, feeling that these were somewhat less damaging and that their num­ bers could be curbed by increased attention to their breeding grounds. These same pests and some of their companions, including the Addle-pated Dock Charger and the Waterfowl Litter Bug, are the tar­ gets of a newly-produced film made by the Outboard Boating Club of America which is due to be released to clubs and other organizations sometime early in '61.

The OBC 16-mm. color-and-sound movie, titled "Upon These Wa­ ters..." shows boating bad man­ ners at their worst—filmed last sum­ mer at Tennessee's Lake Chicka­ mauga with the assistance of Chat­ tanooga boating organizations, it demonstrates that boating is not the sport for those who put profit above safety and boat-handling campaigns, of course, that they're mostly viewed by the people—particularly those in organized clubs—who al­ ready are safety-conscious, rather than by the waterborne pests. In some parts of the country the organ­ ized boaters have worked out a co-operative campaign with enforce­ ment agencies to combine water safety training with an intensified search. The obvious victims are the boaters who are killed by the waterborne pests. In some parts of the country the organ­ ized boaters have worked out a co-operative campaign with enforce­ ment agencies to combine water safety training with an intensified search. The obvious victims are the boaters who are killed by the waterborne pests. In some parts of the country the organ­ ized boaters have worked out a co-operative campaign with enforce­ ment agencies to combine water safety training with an intensified search.

This situation is true in Florida, and one of the materials being given considerable discussion at the Florida Boating Federation meeting.

Trevor Morris of the West Palm Beach Boating Clubs, retiring pres­ ident of the year-old organiza­ tion, told the federation that its of­ ficers had submitted a request to amend the state's boating code in taxation of boating to the Florida Legislature's Interim Committee on Taxation. A key point in this pro­posal is a request to exempt boating equipment from federal personal property taxes, applying to it the single license/registration fee system that now is in effect for motor vehicles.

Similar action already has been taken in Colorado and Minnesota, among other states.

The federation delegates, repre­ senting boating organizations in some 20 Florida cities, elected offi­ cers for the coming year and turned over to its board of directors the task of drafting specific plans for a broad state-wide organizational campaign and legislative program.
When we discovered this, we were in big business, and in less than an hour had two limits ranging from one to three pounds. We felt Flushing was good, but like all anglers we weren’t satisfied.

During our pause for lunch, I queried Sig:

"This looks like good snook country, I said.

"Yeah," he replied. "Want to look for some?"

"Why not," I answered. "You've proven your point--now how about some snook?"

"We'll try," he said, "Get set and we'll head for a different pothole."

However, the fishing gods weren't in our favor at all, as we couldn't raise a snook, probably because of the cold water and the weather, which Sig claimed had even slowed down the bass fishing. If two limits in about an hour is slow-down fishing, I certainly want to get back when the action’s hot.

And I got my snook wish the next time—with although I didn’t land anything but bass myself. But Sig and Art—the third man that trip—each latched one, weighing six pounds, and the other, which rounded out our nice string of bass. And that unorthodox bass fishing took in the same waters I landed a two-pound bass, who acted like a snook.

There’s no doubt that air boat bassing the Everglades country is some of the most unorthodox fishing you can do. And it’s also some of the hottest if you don’t mind spoiling your fishing trip with danger.

At this rate, I can see a future of Sig needing an angling partner, as he can count on me, and I’ll count on the bass and snook fishing and unorthodox fishing skills—that’s air-boat fishing.

One of us was lucky and had numerous chances to shoot; others of the party had not yet fired a shot, so Jim requested the hot guns to resume shooting preserves, and his two dogs, carefully maintained a moving line that kept all members of the party safely behind gun muzzles. If any man got ahead of the group, the entire line halted until the over-eager hunter could be signaled and returned to ranks. We also strictly observed zones of fire.

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Air boating for bass is said to be the technique to be the best of all, with the birds flushed in the late afternoon, the night before the hunting day, and the next morning, we set out for a potential shooting.
trigging idea for competitive fishermen addicted to dainty tackle.

Luke Gorb-m told me of the idea.

Don't remember if it was original with him or not. Luke said the idea is to catch a fish that weighs ten times the test of the line used and thus gain membership in what would prove to be a pretty exclusive group.

I wasn't very impressed until I did a little mental arithmetic and began to think in terms of a 10-pound bass on 1-pound line—a 100-pound tarpon on 10-pound line—a 2-pound speckled perch on a-wupp—couldn't even cast with that.

I've never scored against those odds and I'll bet you haven't either.

Let Him Die?

Habit can be foolishly powerful and our feelings toward fish and game can be hard to explain. For example, I was once involved in a near-auto accident out in Nevada because the driver of our car made a violent swerve to miss a jack-rabbit.

The snapper to the story is that I was fishing in a creek over-populated by gars. I went to the water. Even though the water isdom of thinning it out, I didn't care for that one because I don't like to fish that way—and I'm not very good at it.

Another is the jig used in fresh water all over the country. It's still a jig, even though called a multitude of names in various sections. Of course, it's an old timer to salt water.

Perhaps a partial explanation of these new baits is that they have been primarily used on spinning tackle—and spinning is a post-World War II habit. And spinning is here to stay if you haven't already guessed it.

Even in the less flamboyant world of fresh water trout by fishing there have been some innovations that stayed. One is the "Mudder Minnow" (a pattern, not a trade name) that has been spectacularly successfull for several years. It is made of deer hair and some other odds and ends, looks like nothing and a little like everything and is fished both wet and dry. I caught a 4-pound brown trout in Montana's Madison on one. I also found it would catch Florida bass and bream although it seemed no better than a lot of other bugs and flies in that field.

Push Pole Aerobatics

Like the bash pilot who constant-ly has an emergency landing spot in mind, the operator of a push-pole should do a little advance planning. You can get hurt with a doggone push-pole. I've seen a couple of bad falls by pushers and one of them occurred over eight inches of water with a rock bottom—in the Keys.

Most common causes are the pole slipping on hard bottom or sticking on soft bottom. In both cases a wetting is better than a bruising or breaking. If you feel you're going, it's probably better to jump into the water than fall into it. Palling across the gunwale can cause serious injury and certainly falling on a rock covered by scant inches of water is just as bad.

A fisherman who is casting while a companion poles should remember that a boat often travels with abrupt movements when being poled. He should have room for his feet if he's standing and should be in a position where he won't fall on something too damaging if he does lose his balance.

Shad Variety

I'm not going into detail about the trolling rigs for shad as I've covered them in the past and you can get a first-hand look at them at any fishing camp from which you launch your expedition. They work so well that most shad-seekers simply troll and let it go at that. However, they miss a good bet in not casting for shad with spinning equipment. After locating a concentration of fish by trolling, you can frequently have a lot of fun casting—and sometimes that method is doubly productive because you aren't wasting time trolling and turning over unproductive water. There is one disadvantage. There's often so much trolling traffic you get in the way with your casting.
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