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MARCH 1962

V. 15 NO. 10
Florida Wildlife's Fishing Citation

In 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 use 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.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION
The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data and the fishing tackle used. The Fish must be caught on the prescribed fishing tackle, and the individual must have ownership or use of the prescribed tackle. All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The fish must be caught or seen on the prescribed fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

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 the specified 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.

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

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MARCH, 1962
**Clubs and Conservation**

**Florida Forest Hazard**

Dangers: Severe conditions in south Florida have combined to form a new forest hazard. The villain, according to Florida Forestry-Reporter, is the round-headed borer, larval stage of the buprestis. Thousands of trees growing on usually wet sites are nearly starved to death by lack of water, and offer little resistance to the borer's attack. According to the Reporter, these trees which have grown on slightly higher ground and have developed deeper root systems are able to stand up against the attacks in much better shape.

The round-headed borer's victim, is salvaged before it is killed, the wood is downgrade. A mid-winter aerial survey checked the conditions. Those counties threatened by the outbreak were listed as Lee, Hendry, Glades, Charlotte and Collier.

**Conservation Awards**

Mrs. Virginia Williamson Forrest of Stuart has been named Florida conservationist of the year for her years of distinguished service.

Declining numbers of the national bird within the continental limits of the United States have led to a conservation effort on the part of numerous groups. One of the largest concentrations of the eagles in Florida and Mrs. Forrest has worked for several years as leader in the "save-the-eagle" effort. Through the efforts of her and her associates, studies have been made by the Audubon Society and government agencies.

The state governor's award for service was made at a banquet in Tallahassee in Florida. It is the fifth year of the "governor's award program," which is intended to recognize leaders in the conservation field all over the state. Administered by the Florida Wildlife Federation, the program is financed by the Sears & Roebuck Foundation and several other states have inaugurated similar programs patterned after the Florida program.

Dr. H. R. Wilber retired this year as chairman of the awards committee, having served as its head since the organization's inception. He was presented with a diamond lapel button in recognition of his current work. Dr. Wilber is president of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

In selection of this year's slate of award winners there was one tie with duplicate awards going to two ninemates in the junior conservationist of the year classification. John William Lockhart of St. Augustine and Murdock Leroy Gillis of Ponce De Leon in Holmes County. It was the first tie in the history of the selection committee. In case of a tie vote by the committee members, the chairman customarily casts the deciding vote but this time Chairman Wilber declined to break the tie.

The outdoor writer of the year is Bill Blodgett of the Tampa Times. Governor of Ocala was the winner in the state adult guidance division. The Baldwin Future Farmers of America chapter was the state winning club in public relations. Their advisor is R. E. Jones of Baldwin.

In soil conservation, W. E. Berquist of Sarasota was named the state winner. Regional winners were V. E. Whitehurst, Jr., of Williston, Ralph Carter of Chipley, W. E. Owens of Indian Town and T. Noble Brown of Webster.

A. D. McCall of Milton was the winner in forestry and regional winners were Bill R. Oeslager of Tampa, Edward G. Geiger of Jacksonville, Chesley Perry of Ft. Myers, and Joe Carrol of Apopka.

Wayne Ride of Palmetto received the state award for saltwater conservation. Regional award winners were Fred Morrow, Jr., Jacksonville; Dr. Winston Mushel of the Oceanographic Institute, Florida State University; Frank Egleston of Miami and Felix Salvador of St. Augustine.

Nalp Towpkins of Tampa's WEDU Television was state winner in the conservation education classification. State Wide winners were James B. Estes of Brooksville, Geneva Stone of Walnut Hill, Mrs. Raymond Wheeler of West Palm Beach and William Ketcher of St. Cloud.

In the field of game and freshwater fish conservation, Ken Friedman of Jacksonville received the state award. Regional awards went to F. R. Berquist in the first region, Paul Kreager of St. Marks, Richard M. Stanley, Collier County Judge and Tommy Needham of Ocala.

Winners received gold lapel buttons and cash awards.

**Ask For Refuge Fee**

A 2-dollar annual admission pass to National Wildlife Refuges has been approved by the National Audubon Society, according to its president, Carl W. Buchheister.

The primary purpose of the suggested enactment is to provide the refuge with additional needed funds and the money received would supplement the present duck stamp funds which are used to purchase needed ways.

However, there are other considerations to the proposal, as Buchheister says: "This kind of fee system can be a useful tool in preventing too much public use of a refuge when too (Continued on page 37)

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**The Cover**

The Wood Duck is one of the most beautiful of Florida's native wild. The male often shows off a dash of pink in a large primary. It may take a nay other native sixty or more years to become endangered, as shown on pages 20 and 21.

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**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

MARCH, 1962

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**WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL**

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**By Norman Stenstrom**

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**An important date this month**

is the 1962 National Convention of the American Fishing

Association, March 6-15, 1962. Here's news for anglers for the convention will be at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, New York. The meeting will be held on March 11-15. The Fishing Commission is an affiliate member of the National through its Florida section. From the preview of the program it looks like it will be the best yet.**

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**Conservation in Camping Workshop**

Even though this Workshop has been set for June 7-9, 1962 at the Youth Conservation Camp. Details are in the planning process and more information will be available next month. Last year was our first in this effort.

**Camp Counselors Training Workshop**

Our regular pre-camp training period for our staff will be held this year June 16-18, 1962. Our training program prepares our counselors and specialists in all phases of the camp operation. It is also a time when the camp staff, including our staff of the instructors, can be obtained during the week, the better understanding can be given our youthful charges.

**Something New**

Camping experiences this year will differ from those used in other years. We are now preparing a new brochure which will include a year-long application. Each year the Camp Director has an opportunity, to learn more about his areas. The more preparation that can be obtained during the year, the better understanding can be given our youthful charges.

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**State Board of Adult Advisers**

At the last meeting of the State Board of Adult Advisers for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Junior Conservation Program, the following business was discussed and approved. (It was later accepted by the State League Board of Directors in toto.)

Rank and Insignia: A member shall wear the highest rank only. Local patch size, shape, and color. A state insignia will be worn on each sleeve. Local patch will be worn under the state patch on the right sleeve. State patches will be furnished by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

In order to attain the rank of Ranger, a member must have the Conservation. Pledge, must have all dues paid, must have a uniform; must start a conservation library—(F-1 in project book); must have a conservation scrapbook—(F-2); must work on one club project, and must pass a test prepared by the adviser. No points are needed for this rank and upon completion of the necessary work, the member receives 5,000 points. Other ranks remain as before, except the Junior Wildlife Officer: 90,000 points.

Prior to the State Camp: Points will be awarded as the following manner: Self improvement projects—1,000 possible; local club projects 1,000 possible; state projects 1,000 possible. Each leadership committee will receive 100 possible; Committee chairman—2,000 possible; and officers 1,000 possible. Point system book now in use will be used only as a guide for setting up projects.

It was suggested that club officers be selected from members having attained the rank of Ranger and 15,000 points; state officers from those having at least a Forester, and all members get certificates of highest rank. Monthly point tabulations repeated. Board of Ad- visers selects yearly award winners. Certificate of request for ranks (Continued on page 34)
BY CHARLES WATERMAN

IF YOU WOULD PAY more attention to the ways in which fish strike, you'd have much better luck than you miss them—real fish, official-sounding alkynes like mine. Take a bass for example. He has several distinct ways of taking nourishment. Laidest and most storied of the bass strikes is the one in which he comes fast after a surface bait, is partly out of the water for the last few inches—or maybe a couple of feet—and brings his open mouth down on your quiver with a loud pop. The plop combined with the splash is what causes men to fish while their families starve. I like to call it the falling horse strike. Then, there's the one where he comes up to it and actually sinks it under or bites it gently as quiet as a burglar in a bedroom. Impossible to tell how big he is.

Then, there's the one where he sneaks up close and just opens his mouth and grabs. Sounds like a big cork coming out of a bottle. You hear that one a lot when fishing small surface stuff like spinners and flying bugs. Snook do that, a lot, too. So do salt water trout.

Also, there's the indirect approach in which he cuts a circle around the bait, leaving a big swirl behind him, takes—and maybe he won't take at all. That's a fooler but we all try to judge fish by the size of the swirl. Of course, if he bends 'er hard and makes a sharp turn it's a small swirl. If he swings wide, the swirl is big, especially if he goes fast.

A common strike when fish are lying under some kind of cover is the home-run in which he comes out, passes the lure around, and takes it on the way back to his pad. This can happen pretty quickly and I have often felt the fish hung on to a baits with one fin and just leaned out for it. It makes a swift turn. Some species of bass do this. The others just skip the bottom and start back up to the water line as if they had noticed many jack crevalle go up and around and whisk it on the surface. In other words, they have no back, even when they're in water. They don't make a hard strike before it returns. Makes it a very hard strike, whether noisy or not.

Of course, a gentle strike is likely to be from the rear, simply pushing your bait toward you rather than jerking your line.

When he takes it from the rear and comes running on you, suddenly discover you have several large hands, none of which are much help.

Of course, the exact opposite is experienced when he is going full bore away from you and plasters it without slowing down. It's worse if you're not feeling fast. Even a rusty bass can shake your teeth that way. I recall one occasion when I had such a strike, and before I could get on the game, our fish had dived down into submerged vegetation and I couldn't pull him out. I knew I had a real lunker.

With prayerful exhortation to my companion to handle the oars with finesse, I approached the spot and gazed wearily with a landing net. Unluckily I came up with a load of grass and my fish—all ten inches of him. The anglerman indulged in vulgar merriment.

The advent of plastic worms and other slowly-fished artificial baits has led many a caster into the ways of the big bass fisherman who waits for a bass to "turn the bait" and take off again. Modifications of this procedure are often used with floating lures when the fish take gently and you want for the pertinacity nibbler to get a good hook before unhinging him. This takes sell control—generally more than I have.

Light lures are frequently battled out of the way by an over-eager fish's bow wave—something few fishermen consider when they "bait up" and go home. The fish makes a sincere effort but the thing is lighter than he expected and he just bruises under or past it. Actually, the splash may be simply his tail hitting the surface after he takes of his big mouth coming down on the lure as he "turns" on it. His actual speed of arrival generally isn't very high.

Bluefish, makreel and kings sometimes hunt it so high gear and the same goes for dolphins. Salt water trout have quite a change of pace in my experience.

Of course it depends on conditions and strikes, like other things pertaining to fishing, can't put down in the book without footnotes.

The "knock" at setting the hook on some kinds of fishing is often inexplicable. We'd roll hard back or—well, at least lift the rod tip seems to come to you eventually but it's hard to pass on the information. I've been on both ends of that one.

I once stood in a cold fresh water trout stream and missed dry fly strikes all afternoon while a fellow I had always considered a very meager fisherman cast to me and played fish while I jerked and missed.

I once watched two good fly fishermen wading along a group of 15-inch bass and using identical flies. Both had strikes on every cast. At one hour, one caught and released 26 fish over the other never connected with a single fish. Sometimes I surprise myself but I've been wrong many a time when a mudfish hit and I took him for a big bass. I have a small mind.

A big surprise of this kind is the one of the reasons why a lot of guides want their customers to troll. That way the fish generally hooks himself.

Stop and think about all the things that can happen and you may feel better than ever. Might be of special interest to those with aversion to fishing, crawling, things said to be "bad for business."

New Manufacturer

Some time back we ran a picture in this column showing our 16-foot boat with a small, aluminum-framed Alpine tent mounted in it. I got that tent from the Bemis Bag people in St. Louis. I now have a letter from Robert L. Doih, manager of Campers Paradise in Miami saying the tent I told about is no longer manufactured by Bemis. Now, it's made by the Eureka Tent and Annex Co., Binghamton, N. Y. Mr. Doih goes on to say that the tent is popular with canoeists and other boatmen who want a light package in a quality tent. They sell it at Campers Paradise, 7915 N. 27th Ave., Miami.

Closed Face Reels

I am neither for nor against closed-face spinning reels. I have used some good ones and some lousy ones and some in between. The subject has come up and I'm going to say what I've said before.

They are a fairly complex mechanism. In order to meet price competition, most manufacturers make them less durable than other models.

If a closed-face reel was built as ruggedly as a Plunger Sur- prize, I think it would cost more than $100 and closed-face reel users wouldn't buy it.

A closed-face reel requires a little attention—cleaning and occasional examination. Most fisherman, while doing so, have a small mind.

Stop and think about all the

Camping

Something a little different is the Brantton Camping Trailer. It's a 10-foot collapsible tent-house with a swinging that folds down against its solid wood floor. Then, above the folded tent is a regular boat cradle and the whole thing is on wheels. So-o-o when you get to where you want to fish you just slide the boat off and set up your "house" with rigid aluminum tubing. The camp is high and dry with zipper windows and plastic screens. Less the boat, they say, it will cost slight-
MUSCLE FLASHES

BY EDMUND MCLARIN

WHETHER or not we like the process, all things human change. Where once we could pick up a gun, stuff ammunition in pockets and go in almost any direction and find a place to enjoy a little informal practice shooting, finding a safe location today—like finding accessible hunting land—is becoming increasingly difficult.

For more than 15 years I did most of my informal rifle, pistol and aerial target practice in a remote area that has since given permanent home to one of Florida's longest bay bridges. Although framed on three sides by civilization, there was nothing but wilderness tideland for some seven miles in the other direction. Shooting in that direction, whether at ground level or at aerial targets, was safe. In all, I fired at least half a million rounds of assorted ammunition, from .22 caps on up to and including .450 Gibbs, and shotgun shells of 28 gauge down through shoulder-shooting .08 gauge.

Today, I practice where I can find a safe location—preferably one that permits firing into a high sandbank free from rocks and other objects that might catch bullets and ricochet dangerously. While a couple of local rifle and pistol club ranges are available for practice, they devote most of their activity to formal target shooting, with little provision for ballistic experimental studies and none at all for firing at breakable or aerial targets.

Seemingly, industrial expansion has gobbled up many former range sites or made remaining ones dangerous to use, considering the extreme range of modern ammunition.

Greatly needed are designated, improved locations where shooters can go to sight-in big game rifles, enjoy informal .22 caliber shooting or receive or give basic instruction in firearms safety.

Governments and county commissions should recognize this need and include shooting ranges in planned recreational areas. Until then, however, the needed initiative will have to be supplied by interested sportmen, practicing independently or in joint cooperation with civic authorities.

A public-use range that is both popular and widely discussed favorably is the Magnum Rifle and Pistol Range located at Pinecrest, Florida, 40 miles west of Miami on the "Old Loop" road. The range is located in the middle of high hammock land surrounded by pine and cypress timber. It is an area that has long been considered as offering good hunting for deer, turkey, wild boar and bear. During season, hunting information is provided as a free public service.

Operated by shooter and owner Bill Hayes of Hialeah, the supervised range is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, at low cost personal participation. Illuminated targets and firing line are provided for night shooting—in case some reader of these lines wonders about the 24 hours continuous operation statement.

The range charge of $2.50 per day includes unlimited use of rifle, pistol and trap shooting facilities during a 24 hour period.

The managed range is not just another commercial shooting gallery, but a real practice range where the often-cited "handgunner, rifleman or shotgun enthusiast can practice at times convenient to him. The shooter is privileged to fire any caliber gun he is big enough to carry, and there is nothing down-range but the Everglades for many miles. Immediate foreground backstop are high fill, created by drag-line operations.

Fifteen individual firing points are available—9 rifle and 6 pistol—not counting numbered firing lines for trap shooting. All firing points are equipped with standard National Rifle Association bench rests for use by both right and left-handed shooters. Firing points are covered and protected from wind and weather.

Rifles of any caliber may be fired over clear ranges up to 150 yards, and pistols on ranges of 50 to 75 feet in length.

The Magnum Range at Pinecrest also has a remote-controlled running deer target that travels at a rate of approximately ten feet per second, moving between two range boundary marker flags forty feet apart. A shooter has a maximum of four seconds to get off a shot at a deer target emerging from natural habitat, before it again disappears.

Shooting range is 100 yards. Ammunition of all calibers (both factory loaded and custom) can be had from range-house stock, along with all types of targets.

There are modern restrooms, and a canteen that serves sandwiches, soft drinks and snacks. Nearby are camp sites on high ground and with good drinking water.

As might be expected, neighboring resident shooters have already formed competitive groups, and the Magnum Range will serve as a subsidiary club offering additional range privileges. Under the club plan, each shooter pays a flat fee for membership—including a year's use of range facilities, individual membership in the NRA, a subscription to "The American Rifleman," discount prices on ammunition consumed, and free use of four .22 Micards, four .22 rifles, four .45 caliber Auto pistols, and 150 free rounds of practice ammunition per year, through club affiliation with the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, War Dept., Washington.

As cities and towns expand and burst their long recognized geographical boundaries, it's going to be more and more difficult to find safe locations for undisturbed target practice. More public-use ranges, like the one at Pinecrest, should be activated without delay. Hunters, particularly, have a need to which they can go and properly sight-in rifles.

He spent almost all of his active leisure time hunting, camping or field testing firearms, not only throughout the United States but in many foreign countries. From these experiences, many of his delightful, instructive writings developed. His "Wilderness Hunting and Wildlife," "Telescopic Rifle Sights," "The Hunting Rifle" and "Small Arms Design and Ballistics" were probably his most popular book titles.

Back about 1940, Colonel Whelen was commercially affiliated with the Parker-Whelen Company, 1415 Washington, D. C., sharing executive position with Clement A. Parker and Lynn B. Elmore, two names also familiar to yesteryear shooters.

The firm dealt in firearms and accessories, and at the time had one of the largest stocks of American made arms, particularly. Its 170-page catalog was not only prudently illustrated with photographs of clarity and detail, but contained a wealth of technical information written in the readable style of Colonel Whelen. Sections devoted to modern firearms categories were prefaced by non-commercial texts, to give shooters basic technical information and help them judge gun models, rifle calibers and shotgun gauges best suited to their needs. In addition, there were sections on rifle marksmanship, pistol competition, upland game and small game hunting, trap and skeet shooting, small bore and big game rifles, telescopic sights and gun care. Try to find a remaining copy of the First Edition of the catalog, if you can, for its value as a technical reference text. I couldn't take twenty dollars for my dog-eared copy.

Probably because of his military experiences and experiences-connected technical research, and early hunting years, Colonel Whelen long favored the .39-66 as an all-around rifle caliber—as it is. But in late years, his friends and readers noted a gradual predilection preference for the .270 caliber, although he never disinterested the .39-66 as an ideal hunting rifle caliber. In a review of Colonel Whelen's magazine articles, this will show he mentioned the superb accuracy he obtained from certain .270 caliber rifles and matched calibers. At his suggestion, I purchased my first .270.

(Continued on page 9)
TO INSURE WATERFOWL FOR THE FUTURE
BY CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS WHICH BENEFIT MAN AND WILDLIFE

The average citizen can do much to preserve and perpetuate waterfowl. The weight of your help can swing the balance.

National Wildlife Federation

MARCH 18-24 1962

Ranger Rick says—
"WETLANDS are essential to MAN and WILDLIFE!"

**THE WEALTH OF YOUR HELP CAN SWING THE BALANCE**

**CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS**

Preservation of Wetlands

Although important new wetlands of value to waterfowl have been and are being created, both by governmental agencies and private concern or by trusts, it must be feared that preserving those areas already existing. This can be accomplished by: 1. Outright acquisition or leasing of wetlands suitable for waterfowl; and, 2. Preventing the unnecessary drainage of wetlands.

Acquisition of Wetlands

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the Department of the Interior has estimated that a minimum of 12,500,000 acres of U.S. wetlands are needed to maintain waterfowl populations at a significant level. Of this total, 5,500,000 acres are already under Federal or state control, leaving a remainder of 7,000,000 acres to be acquired. Of this balance, some 4,500,000 acres would be acquired by the Federal Government and 2,500,000 acres by state wildlife agencies.

The Federal acquisition program of 4,500,000 acres calls for 3,720,000 acres to be financed with Migratory Duck Hunting Stamps, or "Duck Stamps." The other 780,000 acres would be added as parts of Federal water development projects. Action by the Congress in 1961 authorizes an emergency Federal loan of $105 million, to be repaid from Duck Stamp receipts, which in seven years could result in the preservation of 1,750,000 acres of critical wetland production areas and 1,021,000 acres for refuges, of 2,771,000 acres in all. The balance then would be set aside as funds permit.

Plans for state wildlife agencies to acquire wetlands are more indefinite and are dependent to a considerable degree upon income available. The Soil Conservation Service estimates there once were approximately 127 million acres of wetlands in the U.S. By 1956, due to drainage and filling, only 74,439,000 acres remained and, of these, some 22,500,000 were of significant value to waterfowl. When normal water areas are lost under drought conditions, the nesting situation becomes even more precarious.

Drainage of wetlands exists in many parts of the United States but is most acute in the nesting, or production, areas of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana. This is the prairie pothole country which produces the most significant portion of U.S.-reared ducks.

Game managers take an annual inventory of the populations and know what the waterfowl breeding potential may be when the birds travel north in the spring. When the birds arrive at traditional nesting areas of the north central U.S. and the prairie provinces of Canada, they gather on the larger bodies of water. They then disperse to smaller water areas to establish nesting territories. During this period, these factors become evident. If drainage is happening at traditional nesting areas, many ducks are unable to establish nesting territory and remain on the larger water areas where potential productivity of nesting territories is established on less desirable potholes which dry up early in the season, with the result that the ducks and their nest becomes vulnerable to predators, or ducklings may be lost as they travel across land to reach more stable water areas. Drought, therefore, further reduces the available nesting territory.

Subsidies for Drainage of Wetlands

The U.S. has been subsidized by the Federal Government, supposedly as an agricultural soil and water conservation practice. Many areas being drained particularly in the pothole country of the upper Midwest, are those which the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife seeks to buy or lease. Thus, the sportman-taxpayer finds himself contributing tax dollars to compete against his Duck Stamp funds for wetlands. This is an inconsistency to which President John F. Kennedy referred in a resource message to the Congress in 1961 when he said: "I am also hopeful that consistent and coordinated Federal leadership can expand our fish and wildlife opportunities without the present conflicts of agencies and interests. One department paying to have wetlands drained for agricultural purposes while another is purchasing such lands for wildlife and waterfowl refuges..."

Ultimate primary objective of wetlands drainage, of course, is to make additional land available for agricultural purposes and improve the economic condition of the farmer.

All conscientious citizens should be concerned about the present plight of the farmer. Ways and means must be discovered that will give him adequate income for his production from the land. However, with overproduction and the storage of natural crops, it is inconsistent for the Federal Government to finance the drainage of wetlands as a way of increasing the produc

(Continued on Page 37)

What They Need

Most species of wild ducks and geese nest in the northern United States and Canada. They need water during the pre-nesting, nesting, and post-nesting period, and after the young are hatched. They need food, such as farm-grown grains and nuts, and aquatic vegetation, such as arrowhead. They also need large, open areas, not congested with clover, dandelions, or weeds. Ducks and geese are important because of their numbers, their beauty, the sport they provide, and, with many other wild creatures, their major problems relate to man's influence on their habitat. Ducks and geese are particularly important to man because they can be preserved by proper and judicious management. Ducks and geese are aesthetic and economic assets to man, and as such, their preservation and development should be given top priority. Ducks and geese are important because of their numbers, the sport they provide, and the fact that they can be preserved by proper and judicious management. Ducks and geese are important assets to man, and their preservation and development should be given top priority. Ducks and geese have a unique place in the economy of the United States, and their preservation and development should be given top priority. Ducks and geese are important assets to man, and their preservation and development should be given top priority.

Man's Influence on Waterfowl

Man's influence on waterfowl is profound and can be either beneficial or detrimental. Unfortunately, injurious practices presently are eliminating those of an advantageous character.

Ducks and geese which reach maturity face a continual stream of adverse influences from man. Unfortunately, they may slough upon water polluted by petroleum products, acids, radioactive materials, or disease-ridden wastes. They may feed in fields or upon waters contaminated by poisonous chemicals placed there to control insects, weeds, or plant diseases. During the fall and much of the winter they run against barriers of hunters and illegal poachers from the Arctic Circle to Mexico and Central America who use every conceivable way to capture them. Natural predators and disease take a toll. All of these problems, however, even when considered collectively rather than individually, probably are not as significant as those influences of man which are reducing the basic habitat requirements of water-related food-and-cover. Hunting pressures are significant principally when populations reach a critical stage. The greatest difficulty rests with maintaining an unspecked environment. Give these valuable birds a home on the water with proper food and cover and Mother Nature will produce the bounteous crop.

Essentially, Man Must Provide the Wetlands Necessary for Maintaining and Perpetuating Flights of Migratory Waterfowl.

Such a procedure involves restoring and protecting areas in the northern U.S. and Canada, resting locations along migration routes, and wintering areas in the southern U.S. and Latin America. Many complications, some of an international nature, constitute roadblocks.

Florida Wildlife

March, 1962
The Invisible Fisherman of the Oklawaha

By CHARLES WATERMAN

for the Oklawaha at sunrise.
Bob drove to where Highway No. 42 crosses the river. That is downstream from Lake Griffin and we put the boat in at Nelson’s fishing camp there. I went through the motions of helping Bob launch his boat but every time I touched anything he would yank it away from me—which was what I expected anyway and didn’t hurt my feelings at all.

We headed downstream from Nelson’s at 30 miles an hour with Bob talking pretty steadily but he was back behind me running the boat and I couldn’t hear much of what he said.

Once we hit something under the water. Quite a jolt.
“Good thing those big gar don’t live crossways of the river,” Bob said, “or they’d wreck us!”

I hadn’t thought of that before but I guess it is good that gar face upstream when they doze near the surface.

The water was glassy smooth and the channel had been dredged straight. On one side we had bonnets and a cypress swamp and on the other side we had bonnets and sawgrass. The river was a hundred feet wide with a few herons carefully spaced for decorative purposes.

Chortling happily at the prospect of fishing all day with a pen to row for him, Bob got his gear together so fast I just hunched my shoulders on the middle seat and let him buzz around me.

He has a casting deck in the bow of his moulded-plywood boat and he hopped up on that carrying an enormous, 4-story, wooden tackle box.

His tackle box is almost frightening. It is an institution. Some day I am going to suggest that he attach his motor to it and dispense with the boat. I strongly suspect that he sometimes gets inside his box to stay out of the rain although I have never witnessed that.

His rod was a short spinning job he made up himself. His reel was a little below-the-hand spinning pencil sharpener type and with it he uses a fingering device to improve his accuracy. The plug was a little surface dingus with a spinner on the tail and he makes that too. Come to think of it, he also built the boat and the tackle box. I think he buys his clothes.

_Told him I would row all day and I did._

On the way to the river we heard on the car radio that the barometer was up. This was on top of conflicting weather forecasts. A cold front was wandering around and no one seemed to know exactly where.

“Boy, we’ll murder ‘em,” said Bob Budd, “unless it gets cold or rains or if it stays cloudy all day or if they’ve quit hitting on top.”

I absorbed this information and didn’t hurt my feelings at all.

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"I am making myself invisible," explained Bob as he leaned away from the moulded-plywood boat and he hopped up on that carrying an enormous, 4-story, wooden tackle box.

Now don’t do away. Maybe you don’t approve of that tackle. I can’t say that I do either. Now let me tell you a thing or two:

Bob Budd lives in Jeffersonville, Indiana, and fishes every winter in Florida. He has been national casting champion more than once and has made repeated invasions of Europe with the U.S. international casting team. He made up that fingering device to sell and people aren’t very anxious to buy it. To prove it works, he has been winning casting tournaments with it.

People do want to buy the plug he makes and calls Budd’s Bug. Now that is all the free advertising I am going to give him and I put it in here simply to explain what was going on. The last time I wrote something about his plug, people kept asking me where they could buy it.

That is very bad because Budd is hard enough to get along with as it is. When people keep writing to me about his plug he is well-nigh impossible.

I started rowing the boat very slowly along the bonnets, keeping about 25 feet away. Bob cast ahead of the boat for a total of about 30 feet.

He’d drop the little plug (slightly more than 1/4-inch) about six inches from the pads each time.

“IT won’t do to hit the pads with it,” Bob said. “I know all that stuff about dropping a bait on a bonnet and then jerking it off. I’ve been pulling that stunt for 30 years. But here, for some reason, that scares them away. I tried it hundreds of time and then gave up.”

“These fish are slow takers—I mean REALLY slow takers. No splash at all, hardly—but generally you can see ‘em coming. They move the bonnets a little and push a little wave—not much, just a little. You have to wait till they get a good hold on the plug—takes a little self-control. I’ll show you.”

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The little plug landed again six inches from the pads.

Continued on next page
I noticed that Bob was listing. He was leaning more and more to starboard, away from the bulge as if it might throw off a couple of buckets of atomic fallout at any moment. "What-" I said, "What in heavens name are you doing?"

"I", said Bob with dignity, "am making myself invisible. Didn't you ever see a man make himself invisible before?"

I never had and so I took a picture of it because I think everyone is entitled to see a man make himself invisible just once. However, apparently he was too slow about it because the bass never struck.

I got a little hypnotized and quit rowing. The boat stopped and it wasn't until I saw Bob had made the third cast by the same bonnet that I got going again.

When Bob is fishing by himself he says people in other places have a habit of talking to him when they "talk 'em up." You would think they had never heard anybody talking up fish before, Bob says.

"Boy, feel that Florida sun! Cooks the old cypress limb dry. I'd be happy to see him out in the sun. But he knows he's gotta go home earlier than I do. Come on! I'll turn you loose. Catfish, and sometimes you can't expect it to last forever?"

Tied up at a little back dock, I waited until he was ready to eat it and sometimes you can't so there is a 10-pound bass we can fish for next time.

But Bob blamed the wind, the barometer, the sun, the temperature, the time of year (just before Christmas), the birds that stalked along the edges, the time of day, the solar tables and his own judgement.

"Like I say, it takes self-control. You wait until he's ready to eat it and sometimes you can't so there is a 10-pound bass we can fish for next time.

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A cypress limb scratched the sun on its way down and a couple of wild ducks came whistling up the Oklawaha to have a look. When Bob saw something was sloshing around back in the swamp—couldn't tell what.

A big formation of curlews (Continued on Page 38)
Are There Free Licenses?

State law prohibits the issuing of free licenses to any person, regardless of affiliation or status. There is no such thing as a free hunting, fishing or trapping license.

How About Commercial Licenses?

Persons who are engaged in the commercial aspects of wildlife or fresh-water fish must possess the proper commercial licenses, when such licenses are established by law. There are no exemptions of any type—residency, age, or other exemption—from the provisions of the commercial licenses.

Who Sets the Licenses?

The Florida Legislature set all fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses, fees and penalties for violations of game and fish laws.

Who Sells Licenses?

All licenses to fish or hunt are issued by the County Judges, or their duly authorized sub-agents. Commercial licenses, and hunting licenses for aliens, are issued by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

What About Aliens?

Aliens are persons who are not citizens of the United States. Fishing licenses for aliens are the same licenses and fees as charged other non-residents of the state, and alien fishing licenses are obtained from the County Judges, or agents. Hunting licenses for aliens to take wild game and birds are issued at a cost of $50.00, and such alien hunting licenses are issued by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

What About Permits?

Permits govern special privileges involving aspects of wildlife or fresh-water fish. One class of permits may be purchased, while other types of permits are issued free of charge.

What Permits Are Sold?

The Florida Legislature has only one permit. This permit is to allow persons to hunt on lands owned, managed, or leased by the state. Persons over 65 years of age are exempt from payment of the cost, but must attest to their age before their County Judge. Such permits include the Public Hunting Area Permit, which allows hunting on the Florida Wildlife Management Areas, and permits which allow participation in special archery hunts, dove field hunts, controlled bear hunts, and similar operations.

What About Free Permits?

Some permits are issued free of charge, and serve as a means of controlling persons involved with specialized aspects of wildlife or fresh-water fish. These include permits for scientific collecting, importation or exportation of fish or wildlife, possession of game animals or fish, running of field trials, propagation of game, or to take game or fish by methods other than ordinary hunting methods. Such permits are issued only by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and are authorized by the Director.

What About Judges' Fees?

Florida law allows County Judges to add a fee to cover expenses of issuing licenses. These fees are usually included in printed listings of licenses and costs. The fees are 25c for licenses costing $1.00 or less, and 50c for licenses costing more than $1.00. Sub-agents may charge as added fee of 25c, over and above the Judges' fees. By special acts of the Florida Legislature, an additional fee of 50c is added to all fishing licenses issued in Orange County, and to licenses issued for fishing in the Dead Lakes, Northwest Florida. The additional fees are earmarked by law for fisheries improvement and development work in Orange County and the Dead Lakes.

When Do Licenses Expire?

Each license is dated by the Judge or agent as of the date issued. Pre-dating or post-dating of licenses is unlawful. Annual hunting licenses carry an expiration date as of the month of closing of the latest hunting season. Other licenses expire the following June 30, except in the cases of short-term licenses which are for a stated term of days beginning with the date of purchase—such as a five-day or ten-day license.

Mail Order Licenses?

Yes, if you live outside of Florida, it is possible to purchase a fishing or hunting license by mail. It is recommended that you first obtain the proper fishing or hunting summary from the County Judges or Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. You must furnish data necessary to completing the license, attach payment for the license, and mail to the County Judge at the county seat in the county where you intend to fish or hunt.

I Lost My License?

If you have lost your original license, a duplicate license may be obtained by attesting to the facts to the County Judge in the county where you purchased your original licenses. The duplicate is issued for a fee of 25c to cover costs of issuing.

What Do Licenses Cost?

Information about licenses, and the rules and regulations applying to each, may be obtained from the County Judge, authorized sub-agent, or the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. According to your interests, ask for: "Fishing Summary," "Hunting and Trapping Summary," "Wildlife Management Area Summary." The "Summary of Commercial Licenses" may be obtained directly from the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Can Fish Be Sold?

Legally taken non-game fish—garfish, carp, mudfish, catfish—may be sold by properly licensed fish dealers. No game fish—no bass, pickerel, panfish or other fresh-water game fish—may be bought or sold under any conditions. Restaurants may cook game fish for the licensed fishermen who caught such fish, but may charge a fee only for cooking such fish, and may not charge any fee for, or attempt to sell, such fish back to the fisherman or the public.

Can Game Be Sold?

No native or migratory game animal or bird may be bought or sold, except those that are pen-raised on a licensed game farm. Restaurants may cook game for the licensed hunters who took such game, but may charge a fee only for cooking such game, and may not charge any fee for, or attempt to sell, such fish back to the fisherman or the public.

(Continued on next page)
Fishing by Trot-Line?

Except in certain designated areas, trot-lines of more than 25 hooks must be used to take non-game fish for personal use, if you possess a valid fishing license by reason of age. If you sell the fish, you are classified as a commercial fisherman and must have a dealer’s license—there are no age exemptions. If the trot-line has more than 25 hooks, it is classed as a commercial fishing device, and requires a regular fishing license, plus a retail fishing dealer’s license. Boats used for commercial fishing must be licensed. If the operator of the fishing device is under 15 years of age, or a resident 15 years of age or more, he is exempt from the fishing license, but must possess the dealer’s license. Any gamefish taken on any trot-line must be returned unharmed to the water.

How About Basket Fishing?

A catfish basket, or similar fishing device, is classified as a commercial fishing device, and the same regulations given above for trot-lines apply. Wire traps or slat baskets, pound nets, lift nets, hoop nets and minnow seines are all classed as commercial fishing devices. Such devices may be operated in specific areas under special permit from the Commission, if the operator possesses proper fishing and commercial licenses. The devices must be marked with the license number and the name of the licensee.

Can I Sell Catfish?

Catfish, or other non-game fish, may be sold only by persons possessing a proper retail or wholesale fresh-water fish dealer’s license.

Can I Sell Minnows?

If you sell or ship bait minnows, you must possess the proper wholesale or retail fish dealer’s license.

Can I Import Minnows?

The minnow hatchery located outside of the state, but shipped into the state, is required to possess a non-resident wholesale fresh-water fish dealer’s license. Such hatcheries must be inspected by fisheries biologists of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Minnow hatchery trucks are subject to inspection for diseased or parasitized fish, and such vehicles must be clearly marked with name and address of owner, and his license number in letters at least five inches high.

Are Fish Traps Non-Commercial?

Non-game fish may be taken for personal use by any person who possesses a valid fishing license by the use of not more than one slat basket or one wire trap in certain districts of Florida. Such a basket or trap must be constructed to meet specifications set forth by the Commission. Fish taken for personal use cannot be sold.

What About Boat Licenses?

Boats used for commercial purposes—that is, rented to fishermen or hunters, or used to catch fish commercially—must be licensed as boats are licensed by size. When operating in fresh water, such commercial boat licenses are obtained from the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Salt-water commercial fishing boats must be licensed by the State Board of Conservation Salt Water Fisheries Division. Regulations applying to pleasure boats are enforced by the County Sheriffs, and licenses for such boats are issued by the respective County Tax Collectors. Information about operation of pleasure boats is obtained by contacting the office of the County Tax Collector or Sheriff, or the State Board of Conservation.

Are Hunting Preserves Licensed?

Yes, all hunting preserves and game farms are licensed and regulated by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Strict specifications for construction and operation have been established and must be met before a license will be issued.

Is There a Trapper’s License?

Anyone who takes a fur-bearing animal for commercial purposes must possess a valid trapping license.
MORE HOUSING FOR WOOD DUCKS

By WALLACE HUGHES

Sometime during late February or early April, one male and female Wood Duck builds a nest in a tree near to set up housekeeping. While the male Wood Duck waits closely on a limb nearby, the female inspects a nest site, a natural cavity in a large tree. The nest site selected, the female lines the floor of the cavity with down plucked from her breast and begins egg laying. She lays an average of 8 to 12 eggs. After the eggs are laid and incubation begins, the male dens his nest, leaving her the sole duty of hatchling the eggs and caring for the young. Incubation lasts 28-30 days.

UNUSUAL FOR DUCKS, the Wood Duck nests in holes in trees. Most important limiting factor in the woodpecker's choice is the shortage of nesting places. Found throughout Florida the year around, this most beautiful of all waterfowl, will readily nest in properly built, artificial nests in form of man-made boxes. Conservation-minded individuals or groups can perform a useful work by building nest boxes for Wood Ducks.

After hatching and an aunt on their down is dry, usually about twenty-four hours, the young leave the nest. Guided by the mother, the baby Woodies, one after another, leap from the entrance of the nest to the ground or water below, whichever it may be. Some nest holes are as high as sixty feet up, and regardless of the height or type of landing place, the youngsters accomplish the leap without injury. Some nest holes are located on high as near a mile from water, in which case the young follow the mother to the nearest body of water.

After many years of study and experiment, the Game Regulations of the Florida Natural History Survey, Dobson, Blaue, designed and built the ideal artificial Wood Duck nest. (1) It is made of galvanized metal pipe, metal cone attached with metal screens, and wood duck bottom. The interior is lined roughly with a layer of automotive undercoating to aid the young ducks in climbing to the entrance hole. (2) Shafts the jack of the metal box with a 2 x 3 inch brass tapered metal nails in screws, with nuts, stability, when the box is attached to a tree trunk. (3) The entrance hole conforms to the back of the female Wood Duck and also makes it普通话-proof. Measurements should be exact as shown. (4) Illustrates a recommended nest box made of cypress lumber. A strip of hardware cloth nailed below the entrance hole, on the inside, helps the young climb out. The pyramid-shaped roof should have an overhang of 8 inches from front, 7 inches at the sides, and 1 inches of back, and should be covered smoothly with sheet metal. (5) Shoves method of attaching nest to box. Lip under at bottom and hook and eye fastener on inside of box. Area around entrance hole should be covered with a piece of sheet metal to prevent damage by Redcoats. Cover the entire box with sheet metal will also make it proof against small animals getting into the box. (6) Shoves method of securing box to tree trunk or pole. Use 4 to 6 inch long screw. Screw down tightly with speed handle socket wrench. After the box is completely assembled, fill on the bottom with a 3 inch layer of sawdust, wood chips or shavings.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MARCH, 1962
Florida Boating Adventure

PART 2

By ELGIN WHITE

From Palatka southward to Welaka, Lake George, Salt Springs and Sanford . . . .

THE ST. JOHNS RIVER

(Continued on next page)
The Oklawaha River—once an old relic heading to Silver Springs 60 miles over...

(Continued from preceding page)

Dunn's Creek and Welaka for an overnight rest. The repair job cost us nothing and we were given a hearty "good luck" by the mechanic and his son.

The trip back through Dunn's Creek was uneventful, except for the steep climbs that were a threat our way by the fishermen in the small boats. I could swear that one of those fishermen was in exactly the same pose he was in when we went through two hours earlier. We weren't sure if he was living or dead until we glanced at the stringer of a nine-foot fishing boat. This fellow was living, all right!

On returning to the waters of the St. Johns, we were greeted by a rather strange sight. There, right smack in the middle of the river, was a house on stilts. It appeared to be a rather large house for its kind, perhaps three rooms, and the structure was completely equipped with a sanitary "out back" facility. The house, long a part of the house which came from the front, was a drop shot which we went by.

"I can't figure the 'facility' in the back by itself," mused Gene.

"It's called this fellow likes his privacy even from himself," answered Clark.

We moved on past the "house of stilts" (located at Buffalo Point, or Beacon 34 on Chart 867) and turned into a swing railroad bridge with a vertical clearance of just six and one-half feet. Clark gave three blasts on the horn, and we crept down to idling speed to await the opening of the bridge.

The wait was to be longer than anticipated. A long freight train appeared out of nowhere, and if there's one mode of transportation that will take precedent over a boat, it's a train. Irresistible force vs. immovable object.

With nothing more to do than hit-and-miss while the long freight lumbered across, we counted the cars. Counting the five engines, the train numbered 192 freight cars and a caboose.

Comstock, who sells beef caps for a living, consoled us, "It was an order of bottle caps on this boatway.

The train finally struggled out of sight, and we continued on to our first night stop—Welaka.

This part of the St. Johns, with nearby Oklawaha River, is perhaps the most beautiful spot on the entire river. The lodges and fishing camps around Welaka call the small town the "Bass Capital of the World," and it's a fisherman's paradise and a boatman's heaven. You can't get much better than that.

We pulled in at Sportsman's Lodge, and were greeted by host Carl Shirk. This transplanted "Yankee" has been here but a few short months, but has already adopted the language and is as neat as a pin. Though Mother Nature endowed him, and the end result has made Welaka a truly a sportsman's paradise.

We got up early the next morning for the run up the Oklawaha in Jack's outboard. Clark wanted to check "Corky II" and declined to ride along with Jack and Ruth in the "Betsy Jo." Shirk agreed to take Johnna and me in one of his boatman's riverside fishing boats to try some new waters, bringing lumber from a loading dock at Silvertop. There is no warning when such an opportunity might come along, though it is rare. Shirk told of one incident not too long ago when a group of "cowboys" heading west towards Silver Springs ran into a herd of aqua sports heading east. They met at a sharp bend on the Oklawaha, and pandemonium reigned supreme. Boats took to the bank, like rats deserting a sinking ship, and the confusion was a sight to behold. Luckily, no one was injured, but there were some white faces and some palpitating hearts when the buzz of engines had died into a drowned-out murmur.

We kept a weather eye peeled for such a troupe of cowboys, but fortunately only chanced to meet one. This speedster came tearing through the waters like a rocket and passed us as if we were backing up. He didn't bat an eye as he passed, nor did we ... ours were closed!

The magnificent, Colonial type structure, complete with a modern marina, rental boats, a swimming pool, and a newly added "Tall Tales House," where the lovers of good food and the connoisseur of food to pass by the waters like a rocket and passed us as if we were backing up. He didn't bat an eye as he passed, nor did we... ours were closed!

The fascinating beauty of the Oklawaha enchanted us, and we deep surprised to learn from Carl that back around the turn of the century 80-foot stern wheelers used to ply these same waters, bringing lumber from a loading dock at Silver Springs all the way up to Jacksonville.

As we set sail, we noted that the world under the hilly and wooded shores of the Oklawaha is perhaps awere.

The entrance to the Oklawaha is not easy to find. When we got to Beacon 32 (chart 867), we made a hard turn to starboard and followed a set of stick markers into the channel of the Oklawaha. If you make this jaunt, be sure you turn to starboard before you get to the marker. There is what appears to be another entrance just past 52, but that's a mirage ... the whole area is full of snags and shallows.

Once we got into the waters of the Oklawaha, we turned into another world. The deep running water gurgled along banks of lush greenery that was etched in water hyacinths. The gnarled roots of trees that seemed to belong to another century 80-foot stem wheelers used to ply these same waters, bringing lumber from a loading dock at Silver Springs, some 60 miles distant, but time would not allow it. We gudly crept around and passed out our way back to Welaka and the lodge. As I noticed the narrow beauty of the Oklawaha, I was indeed surprised to learn from Carl that back around the turn of the century 80-foot stern wheelers used to ply these same waters, bringing lumber from a loading dock at Silver Springs. The Oklawaha is so twisting that

other lodges in the area are as complete as Sportman's, Andersen's, which is just about 500 yards south of Shirk's place, is another piscatorial palace that makes modern fishing just plain easy. And about five miles north of Sportman's is a newly established campsite called Shell Harbor, with modern cabins, a complete marina, and as snug a harbor for boats of all sizes that you would ever find.

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Lodges, camps, motels, and dock facilities completely line the St. Johns along the 80-foot stem wheelers used to ply these same waters, bringing lumber from a loading dock at Silver Springs, some 60 miles distant, but time would not allow it. We gudly crept around and passed out our way back to Welaka and the lodge. As I noticed the narrow beauty of the Oklawaha, I was indeed surprised to learn from Carl that back around the turn of the century 80-foot stern wheelers used to ply these same waters, bringing lumber from a loading dock at Silver Springs. The Oklawaha is so twisting that

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Hunters trained in safe gun handling are not likely to cause accidents.

We Must Face The Facts

Undeniably, in deer hunting being at the right place at the right time constitutes a considerable measure of one’s seasonal hunting luck. This is particularly true of the first hours of Opening Day.

For that important date of the 1961-62 season, I had long planned to hunt a section of the Osceola National Forest practically inaccessible except by slow, determined walking. But a maze of merging and crossing deer tracks off Forest roads No. 88 and 75, discovered during a scouting trip the afternoon before Opening Day, caused me to change my plans. I was in the newly chosen area and settled down long before daylight.

However, a legion of other hunters evidently had the same idea. When daylight came, the area was densely populated... the smart deer had simply moved out as the nosy herd moved in.

Shortly after daylight another hunter entered the woods and took a position some sixty yards from me. He was accompanied by his wife and two small children, although he was obviously the only hunter in the family. Aside from the noise resulting from their restlessness and inability to refrain from loud talking, no harm was done—especially to the deer.

Later the same day, and on other days of the deer season, I encountered family units, armed 100% with either shotguns or high power rifles. Especially numerous were youngsters of anywhere from ten to fifteen years of age. Also represented were many licensed young hunters between the ages of sixteen and nineteen.

Here again, there was nothing either illegal or morally wrong. Undoubtedly, a father takes pride in hunting with son, as does a young husband with his wife.

But as these young—and mostly inexperienced—hunters lined Florid’s forest roads and took stands in deep woods, the stage was being set for tragedies that would bring lifetime sorrow to many.

The curtain was not long in rising on a modern, statewide version of the Battle of the Big Horn.

In his haste to down his first deer, a youngster shot his father fatally as the latter came back along a trail to join the boy for lunch.

In another instance a father and son saw something move in the brush. Wisely, the father advocated withholding gunfire until the target could be positively identified. But the anxiety and imagination of the 13-year-old proved of stronger influence... "Shoot, daddy! It’s a deer!" the boy whispered excitedly. The father did—and killed a young boy about the same age as his own son.

Near Inverness, a teenager hunter put a shotgun slug through his brother’s chest when he mistakenly concluded that the rustling heard in nearby brush was a deer. Another fatality was added to the hunting tragedies Florida records every hunting season.

Two personal, though less gruesome, episodes also merit mention. I had taken a stand of early morning on the side of a ridge overlooking a valley of scrub and palmetto. About ten o’clock a teenage hunter entered the sector and took position fifty yards from my spot, facing me. I was wearing a bright red cap, and although motionless, felt sure the hunter saw me. After about an hour, I moved over so slightly—and immediately found myself under fire from a 30-06 Garand! Three shots zipped overhead and plowed back from trees before my loud yelling brought a halt to the barrage! Even then, the young hunter was seemingly reluctant to lower his rifle, after his startling discovery that I was not a deer. He later told me that he believed the first sound movement was a deer, and that my yelling didn’t tie in at all—so he just kept on shooting.

A companion and I were riding one of the boundary roads of the Citrus Game Management Area during one of the special gun hunts of the 1961 season, when a rifle crackled and a bullet ricocheted off a tree just ahead of the car. Almost simultaneously a fleeing doe slipped under the boundary fence’s lowest strand of barbed wire, leaving a tuft of hair in confirmation, as a youngster with rifle rushed toward the fence. Hunting on privately owned adjacent acreage, he had jumped the doe from her hiding place in the waist high grass, and had fired without waiting to determine whether or not the animal was legal game, and without consideration for the approaching car which he admitted he had seen coming along the fence... 

This is not another firearms safety article, instead it is intended to be frank recognition of two growing problems, their contributory causes and—hopefully—possible solution.

The first problem stems directly from our own expanding population. There are more hunters afield—specifically, more young, inexperienced hunters—than ever before, and the number swells each year. Whereas, once a man might hunt all day without seeing a rival, today there is seemingly standing room only in many popular hunting areas.

As more and more privately owned acreage is posted against public hunting—Problem No. 2—concentrations on remaining up-suited land and Game Commission-managed public hunting areas become greater and more evident. Unless some workable solutions can be advanced and successfully adopted, the two-phase situation is sure to become worse as we approach the 1970 census...

American boys evidently inherit a love for guns and for hunting.

As a long-time Boy Scout leader and as a National Rifle Association firearms instructor, I work directly with youngsters. I like them, and believe I recall enough of my own youth to really understand their ambitions and emotional reactions. I know that a serious, properly trained youngster can usually be depended upon when given clearly understood responsibility.

This last season, more than four million boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 17 carried guns in pursuit of game. There’ll be more afield next season, simply because each year there are more families hunting. In fact, many households are putting every able-bodied gun-toting afield, to increase chances of bringing home meat, especially venison. In the future, hunting will very likely be a matter of putting unneeded meat on the table, or earning the right to (Continued on next page)
The issues of public hunting on privately owned land depend greatly on landowners recognizing responsible hunters... But under what logical plan?

The law means exactly what it says, and there is no provision whereby a parent can legally give a youngster a high power rifle, then leave him on a deer stand to hunt on his own! The lawyers who take legal action on behalf of gun accident victims or families suffering as a result of a careless act by a young, untrained hunter have a strong case when, the described law is cited.

Game Commissions, generally dependent on hunting license revenue to finance operations, are facing a serious situation—and not one of their making, at that. It is highly probable that an unchecked rising casualty rate will cause many persons to give up hunting as simply being too risky sport. As True Magazine once comment-ed, "If hunters' own estimates of their chances of being shot at do not eventually keep them out of the woods, increasing protests and pressures of dependent loved ones will." And many old-timers are giving up their beloved guns, and no longer purchasing hunting licenses. Others continue to hunt, but finally tune to take their chances in certain hunter-congested areas. A typical example is a good friend, a deer hunter of known enthusiasm, who irrevocably refuses to accompany me on hunts to the Ocala National Forest. Only the first nine days of the deer hunting season! He bluntly says half the deer hunters out the first week are trigger happy, and that many of the highly competitive remaining half react entirely too slowly in identifying his red hunting cap as human attire, even when the other hunter's weapon is scope-equipped. His opinions were not formed lightly. Aside from the fact that many of the young, inexperienced hunters also may be suffering from uncor rected vision from the degree of vision needed to properly identify objects quickly, there is the added danger threat from the 8 per cent of hunters of all ages and experience who are color blind. For them, the safety red worn by another hunter holds no meaning.

Because of the magnification and definition it gives to targets, a scope sight undoubtedly helps reduce the possibility of shooting another hunter "by mistake." However, all too frequently scopes are used as substitutes for binoculars to locate companions on nearby stands or study their movements. Being "glassed" isn't funny at all to another hunter. It is potentially dangerous, what's more, sights are for game only. For other sights—especially if there is doubt—a hunter should use a good viewing-especially if there is doubt—a hunter should use a good

Numerous Florida trap shooting ranges offer opportunity for learning basic shotgun handling. Many now sponsor special Hunter Safety courses.

(Continued on preceding page)


**Hang a bright light from a handy bridge and you're all set to catch...**

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**CRAPPIES AT NIGHT**

By ART HUTT

Suspended a foot above the water, the gasoline lantern cast a harsh light onto the ripples below. A trail of minnows, hurled to a liquid death, traced an irregular line across the water, disappearing into the downwind darkness. Directly below the lantern, a school of small minnows milled about, enamored of the lantern's glare. Farther down the bridge, other lanterns gave off their fire-fly twinkle.

Then, my plastic float bounced nervously in the stark light. Slowly and purposefully, it gracefully sank from view. Jolted from the hypnosis of bright light and moving water, I tightened the line and felt the gratifying resistance of a crappie. In a moment, the silvery fish was mine, unceremoniously hoisted some fifteen feet onto the concrete bridge. A wet burlap sack took over from there. Here and there, other fish flashed along the length of the bridge as they were reeled upward.

Bright-light, night-fishing for crappies, not yet peaked in popularity, has a compelling appeal for the expert and the amateur. For the bisee sophisticate, it offers fishing under a different set of rules and conditions. It adds to his repertoire of experiences and knowledge.

A beginner needs no special talent to coax a crappie to his hook. Ideally this fishing dovetails into a day-worker's schedule, letting him have his crappie and eat it, too.

And, while night-time fishing does not exclude the use of a boat, that set of anglers who do not particularly want to be on the water at night have no special fears of fishing over it from a steady, dry bridge or dock. For them, it is made to order.

The magnetic effect of a bright light on many species of fish is no mystery. Actually, it is not the lure of the light alone that attracts them. It usually takes only minutes for a school of minnows to collect.

And where there is an abundance of bait, there is typically an abundance of larger fish to prey upon them. A bailed hook in the immediate area is bound to attach itself to something eventually. A bass, perhaps. Or possibly a bluegill. But most often a crappie.

Crappies seem especially light-prone. From first-hand experience I know this method of fishing for them also works in Ohio, and Tennessee; in fact, most likely in all the states in which this fish occurs, which includes the majority of states east of the Mississippi and quite a number west of it. I'd guess, however, that the sport is at its best in Florida where it can be practiced the year around in reasonable comfort.

Regarding tackle and techniques, neither are very complex. If a complexity exists, it lies in how far you want to go into the accessories.

In the basics, though, we get along fine with a spinning or casting rig. About the only requirement is that it be sturdy enough to manhandle a two-pound crappie some fifteen feet skyward without undue strain on the gear. We like the clip-on, red-and-white float as its shiny, white, top surface is easy to keep track of. Terminal tackle consists of a split shot and a No. 4 hook. And the minnow, of course. We hang our single-burner gas lantern on a ski-towing rope, much stronger than needed but used because it is handy. The rest of our equipment consists of a flashlight, a wet burlap bag to keep the fish fresh, and the bucket of minnows. We haven't worried about getting that five-pound bass or catfish aboard on light monofilament. We'll have to cross that one when we get to it.

And, of course, you adjust your equipment to the height over the water you are fishing. Your problems are lessened when you are on a low dock, increased when you are on a high bridge.

Frequently it takes some experimenting to keep your minnow swimming at the same depth as the crappies. As a general rule, start close to the bottom and work up. When you connect, stay with it.

Lake Shipp at Winter Haven is one of the better bodies of water where you can night-fish. The L-dock at Eustis is frequently a hotspot.

But best, in my opinion, is the Howey Bridge.
Could undoubtedly specialization adds to the pleasure of fun. Minim equipment, accessories used here and there means a bracket to hold some eight to fifteen pounds of water some eight to fifteen feet in depth. A four-foot raised walkway and a low railing are safety features. On a good night, fifteen to twenty-five lanterns light the water beneath it; twice that number of hopeful anglers peer over its edge.

Although we fish it successfully with our minimum equipment, accessories used here by others would well set a pattern for night forays elsewhere. Undoubtedly, specialization adds to the pleasure and to the take.

I'll admit there have been times when we've smelled with envy the aroma of frying coffee bubbling on the camp stove of the group next to us. I've yet to smell fresh-frying fish but I know it's going to happen some night. Chairs, heaters, extra lanterns, containers for fish—all a part of the refined bridge fisherman's outfit.

A man and wife from Plant City have gear worth description. When we fish and our lanterns hang directly below the bridge, we've noted how neck-straining and downright awkward it is to keep our bobbers in view. Some kind of arm to hold the lantern, we've noted how neck-straining and downright awkward it is to keep our bobber in view. Some kind of arm to hold the lantern is needed to bring it down to the parking lot at the end of the bridge once it is unloaded. A little risky, perhaps, but if carefully timed, safe enough.

Speaking of risk, there is some danger involved fishing so close to whizzing cars and trucks, such as on the Howey Bridge, yet the danger is so obvious that the awareness of it makes it safe in itself.

Practically any body of water, if it has them in it at all, can produce crappies at night. Still uncommonly, territories are wide open, with a list of hotspots yet to be discovered. If you have a favorite hunting daytime spot, give it a look at night, from boat or bridge.

Just maybe you'll never have it so good!

Florida Wildlife

March, 1962

Put yourself in this chair for convenient fishing. Complete with everything— the works!

**WE MUST FACE FACTS**

(Continued from Page 29)

should take to the field with his Dad or with friends. It is instilled sense of responsibility, through pre-hunting season training, that counts.

Statistics show that accidents among young hunters who have partici­pated in a serious, embracive course of firearms instruction are few. Trained hunters, conscious of the cardinal rules of safe gun handling and the need for positive target identification before trigger is pulled, are not the ones who shoot at game or movements in the brush, or otherwise release wild shots. It is the untrained young hunter who is apt to show lack of maturity and good sense.

For some time the Florida Game Commission has been cognizant of the growing problems of loss of public hunting acreage and the alarming number of accidents involving young people as principals. Every effort has been made to open new hunting areas to compensate for land losses caused by industrial expansion and other factors. At the same time, responsibility, as is sponsored and encouraged a statewide public service hunting safety program, in cooperation with the National Rifle Association and other responsible groups. Only recently, likeable Jim Reed, Game Commission field official, has undertaken expansion of the firearms qualification program during coming months. However viewed, it is obvious that the Florida Game Commission is doing all it can to preserve hunting as a wholesome, recreational sport.

What can be done additionally? Game Commission officials, land tract owners or lessees, and representatives of the Florida Federation of Sportsmen's and the Florida Outdoor Writers Association should sit in session at some central meeting point with the idea of formulating what we shall take some of the presently posted Florida land open to public hunting. Certain owners or lessees of large land tracts have expressed willingness to coop­erate, provided some way can be found to protect their investments against fire loss and or vandalism. Perhaps the very successful farmer-hunter relationship plan en­joyed in California can be experimented with in Florida. In that state, privately owned land is opened to public hunting in return for assured proper supervision and indemnification against property damage and livestock losses. The responsible hunter is a recognized, and a governing Board of Sportsmen, as well as policing within ranks, protects both the plan and coopera­tion-against legal actions. To pay money, group insurance is carried, each hunter paying a pro­portionate fee and carrying an identification card (matched to hunting license data) showing his enrollment in the plan. To date, less than half a dozen claims have had to be paid to cooperating landowners. Of the number paid, practically all have been well recouped in a measure by the governing Board, acting directly against irresponsible or careless individuals jeopardizing the program.

The Firearms and Hunting Safety Program in Florida should be stepped up by expansion so that it reaches the most persons, where most needed, and embraces every available volunteer leader among the many thousands of organized sportmen's groups.

Worthy of study is the firearms education program, successfully op­erated in the State of New Hamp­shire. There, firearms instruc­tion has been carried right into high schools throughout the state. Under the plan, trained Game Commission personnel qualified at least one teacher in each high school as an NRA Instructor, following comple­tion of a training course. Each of these trained teachers, in turn, has since conducted classes in safe gun handling. Present courses consist of a minimum of four hours of theory and demonstration, especially in re­spect hunting safety.

The only opposition has been the occasional unfounded claim of some mothers that "the schools are trying to make a soldier of my boy." However, personal attendance by par­ents during class instruction hours has served to put the program in its true light. In fact, interest on the adult level has been so great that three of New Hampshire's high schools have had to start separate classes especially for interested parents.

Although operating only a short time, the farmer-hunter education plan has been gratifyingly successful. Beneficial results are also being reflected by a remarkable re­duction in that state's firearms accidents.

The hunting season in Florida is now over—but there is no closed season, on farmer-sportsmen relations and for firearms education. The time to prepare for better and safety hunting in the next Fall is now and in the months between. The problems of finding a place to hunt, then enjoying safe hunting can be solved. A part of the plan is to take all-out effort, much of it volunteer. Won't you help? Unless growing problems are frankly faced, the same as we have lost ground and enjoyed it—may become a memory.
ELECTROLYSIS HAS BEEN A bugaboo to boaters, particularly those operating in salt water; even since electrical equipment was introduced on watercraft. Because of the generally prevailing differences between inboard and outboard boats, it has, until recently, been primarily a problem to cope with in inboard installation.

With the rapidly increasing use of electronic equipment on outboard craft however, and especially under saltwater conditions, it is of increasing concern to outboard owners.

Electrolysis is “chemical decomposition by the action of an electric current.” It can occur in either fresh or salt water, but is much more severe in its destructive effects in salt water, where it occurs more rapidly. It compounds the ill effects of salt-water corrosion, and may occur where construction otherwise is virtually impervious to saltwater effects. It strikes at that part of the outboard which is in the water during engine operation—the lower unit and in particular the gearcase. (Outboards otherwise are manufacturable with-metallic components that resist normal saltwater corrosion.)

I had been encountering increasing reports of this problem, particularly in the larger, well-equipped outboard craft used for offshore fishing. Not being a chemical or electrical engineer, I was glad of a recent opportunity to discuss it with experts in the field—engineers of Evinrude motors, who had been making some intensive studies along this line.

Conditions that create electrolysis often occur with the installation of radio, depth sounders, direction finders and the like. They also may stem from electric motors used to operate outboard motors and bilge pumps.

In most instances, the engineers found, electrolysis was caused either by lack of a ground plate (to eliminate the current flow) or by improper hookup of the plate.

The ground plate is a metallic plate— it may be of various shapes—affixed to the bottom of the boat in a position where it remains continuously in the water. In hookup recommended by Evinrude engineers, it is connected by direct wire to the negative pole of the battery. It’s as simple as that (see illustration.)

Grounding plates are normally available through marine hardware or radio dealers. For installation on the outboard boat, you will require one with a minimum rated area equal to 12 square feet of exposed area. (This doesn’t mean the ground plate itself covers a 12-ft. area—they are not large—but that it is rated to provide that degree of grounding protection. If this sounds confusing, just ask for plate so rated and don’t worry with the technical explanation. Grounding plates providing the required protection may be as small as 2.3/4” in diameter and 1/4” thick.

Emphasis was placed on hooking the ground plate directly to the negative pole of the battery, and not to the ground of the electrical equipment being used. This direct connection prevents voltage drop between the engine and ground plate.

More new product disclosures came with opening of the New York National Motor Boat Show in January. Noteworthy among these was announcement by Mercury that it is offering inboard/outboard (“outdrive”) package units—engines and stern drive—in four sizes, ranging from 110 to 310 horsepower. They employ conventional 4-cylinder marine engines in conjunction with the Mercruiser stern drive. The stern drive unit for 110-140 h.p. engines (drive only, for use with 4-cylinder engines of other manufacture) was announced last year. To this, the firm now adds a second, larger stern drive ranging up to the 310-h.p. capacity.

The four “package” combinations—which will be sold both through marine dealers and as original equipment through boat builders—are:

- Mercruiser Marine 4, 110 h.p., 4 cylinders in line
- Mercruiser Marine 6, 140-h.p., 6 cylinders in line.
- Mercruiser Marine 8 in two power sizes, 225 and 310-h.p., employing V-8 engines

The Mercury announcement takes the “outdrive” into a new big-

ger field, placing it in competition—for public favor—with the conventional fixed-propeller system, in the inboard-type hulls running up to considerable size. The obvious advantage is, of course, that the owner of—say—a 30-foot inboard hull could equip it with a 4-cycle marine engine having tiltable propeller and drive unit which could clear shallows.

In another development involving “outdrive” units, OMC Boats has disclosed that its “OMC Deluxe 17” (the boat-and-motor package described in the February issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE) can be obtained with a direct-fuel-injection engine.

Direct fuel injection is employed in many foreign sports. It involves injecting fuel directly into each cylinder—in this case, the 4-cylinder, two-cycle, 80 h.p. OMC engine. The announcement quotes OMC engineers as reporting that direct fuel injection materially reduces gasoline consumption while providing better acceleration and smoother performance.

The “OMC Utility 17,” the same 3-point hull as the Deluxe but with less opulent equipment and accessories and selling for appreciably less, will have the conventional carburetor engine as standard equipment. Basically, both engines are an inboard-mount adaptation of the V-75 powerhead sold by Johnson and Evinrude in the outboard versions.

Scott came up with a batch of new developments, including 10-m.p.h. with two people is made possible by the Flying Scott Custom motor and unique engine life allowing the use of a “surfacing” racing type propeller ... at high speeds. The boat rides on two widely separated spindles ... a special feature is a hydraulic device that raises or lowers the motor for maximum thrust efficiency;

... a full complement of instruments on sports car dashboard ... tachometer, speedometer, water pressure indicator, fuel temperature indicator, fuel level gauge, ammeter, choke, starter, motor-light switch, and light switch ... both foot throttle and hand throttle ... front bucket seats, torsion mounted ... soft ride ...

There’s an additional list of luxury features. It’ll sell for around $3,950.

The Scott diesel engine is designed primarily as a workhorse unit where heavy-load, continuous operation is required—such as in commercial fishing, work and delivery boats. As to its advantages, the release says;

“Fuel consumption of the Scott diesel is about half that of a comparable gasoline powered motor, yet under heavy load the thrust (Continued on next page).
The National Cootie Club has awarded Mrs. Ruth Wheeler, a First Place Citation for outstanding club Cootie (community service) Program.

The citation was presented by Mrs. Alice Blinn, Past Grand Greyback of Florida, and state president.

When presented with the award, Mrs. Wheeler stated that she was proud of her husband, but more proud to know that other organizations are recognizing the fact that such a program is being done for our youth of today.

The Sailfish Cootie Club has donated money toward the South Florida Youth Camp and further donations are planned. The Cooties are known for their community services and hospital work for veterans.

Mileage, hours, type of work, and achievements are rated for the awards.

Mrs. Wheeler feels that “if the youth of today is trained and led in the right direction, we will not have need of the Courts and Jails to curb their cravings. More than anything else, we are in need of people to understand and guide rather than to judge and condemn. The fault is not with the youth, but with the adults that call themselves parents and loved ones. It is her prayer for the year that more people will open their hearts to the youth and help rather than hinder.”

The National Cootie Club awarded Mrs. Ruth Wheeler, right, a First Place Citation for outstanding club Cootie Community Service Program. The presentation was made by Mrs. Alice Blinn, state president. Both ladies are members of Sailfish Cootie Club No. 263, West Palm Beach.

BOATING

(Continued from preceding page)

is equal to a conventional outboard of twice the horsepower. Scott engineers say the diesel can be operated for about 40 per cent of the existing costs of a 15-hp. gasoline-powered model.*

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MARCH, 1962

The Rod-Rak works perfect and can be installed in any model station wagon.

all and found it highly satisfactory (see picture). Only disadvantage is that some flyrods are too long for some automobiles and that isn’t the fault of Home Industries, Box 22055, Fort Lauderdale, who make the handy gizmo.

Rud Rack

Last year I told of the Rod Rak, a gadget that is attached to the roof of an automobile to support fishing rods and keep them out of the way. Since then, I’ve used one in a carry-NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

(Continued from page 11)

and underground—a factor which may be of increasing importance as the expanding human population exerts more and more demands on a limited water resource. Furbearers and other forms of wildlife also are dependent upon wetlands. Drainage of natural wetland areas should be attempted only when known benefits will result. Many farmers have drained wetland areas at considerable cost only to find the soil unsuited for agricultural production. Others have lost considerable sums through promotional schemes involving drainage of low-cost marshes for impractical residential or industrial sites.

In short, the proposal, would charge the “watcher” for indulging in his recreation the same as license fees and wildfowl stamps charge the hunter for his shooting and the fisherman for his angling. It would be, said some Florida conservationists, another necessary movement in the trend toward paid hunting and fishing. Sports fishermen would be charged the fee for fishing on refuge areas.

Segs Buchheister, “A certain number of citizens make special recreational use of the refuges because the refuges make wild animals accessible, available and visible. It seems only fair that these citizens make an extra contribution to the establishment and maintenance of the refuge system.”

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CLUBS & CONSERVATION

(Continued from page 15)

many trampling feet and too many automobiles would damage the habitat.

The newly established state park is located in central Florida and one of its attractions is the nearby trails that lead through the marsh and woods. The trails are marked with signs that direct visitors to the various points of interest. The park is open daily from dawn until dusk and admission is free.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MARCH, 1962

The Rod-Rak works perfect and can be installed in any model station wagon.
INVISIBLE FISHERMAN
(Continued from Page 15)
came along to boat when they spotted the boat. A hundred yards up the stream they were back in line again. The fish had pretty well turned off. It was the best time of day but about the only things that showed interest in Bud's Bug were a few undersized gar who snapped and slashed, showing plainly they were not bass. It was like this the other day.
BOATING ADVENTURE
(Continued from Page 25)
die wheelers used the St. Johns as a main artery of commerce. In fact, the old timers used to discharge and pick up passengers at this place, where many Southern balls were held. The owner of the mansion is buried in the front yard, as per his request, and the estate is still maintained in all its floral beauty.
The next morning we entered into the third and final day of the run towards the river's beginning. The trip across big Lake George was uneventful. This is a lot of water, and it is wide enough that when you enter at marker 73 it looks as if you're heading into the Atlantic Ocean. Before leaving Lake George, however, there was one more side jaunt we wanted to make.
Just as we reached red marker "2" (Chart 688), we cut hard to starboard and headed towards a small inlet that leads into Salt Springs. Clark pulled "Corky II" up short and anchored, because there was little room for the cruiser to negotiate the small channel leading into Salt Springs. We decided to go on in with the "Beatty Jo."
This warm boil of clear water is one of thousands of such springs that bubble up from Mother Earth in Florida, and its mineral qualities attract swimmers in large numbers throughout the year. Salt Springs (named because the minerals in the water give it a salty taste) is also one of Florida's best spots for famous blue stone crabs. We pulled up at the dock at Carroll's fish camp, and there the old timer who runs the place (in addition to serving as a deputy game warden in Ocala National Forest) showed us a box full of the delicacies. We didn't tarry too long at the springs, because we wanted to get to Sanford before dark, and it was still a good run through big Lake George and the upper reaches of the river.
The St. Johns narrowed even more as we left Lake George and began another beautiful, winding trip towards Sanford. This section of the river is dotted with fishing camps, and the scenic qualities of the shore line were as beautiful as the narrows of Dunn's Creek, Cross Creek, and the Oklawaha. We encountered another swing bridge at Astor, a small but popular fishing village on the river about five miles upstream from Lake George, and still another swing bridge at Beacon 116 (Chart 688). We left the St. Johns' small garb at this point and entered Lake Monroe. A quick run across the lake brought us into the municipal pier at Sanford.
This, in essence, was the end of the trip. You could move a little farther south up river, but the St. Johns begins to meander into marshes and tributaries as it reaches its headwater in Lake Hell 'n Blazes, the birthplace of the mighty stream. There is no way to get to the intracoastal waterway from Sanford, so we replenished supplies on "Corky II" and prepared for the 156-mile return to Jacksonville.
The trip back took us the entire next day, but there were no stops and we got back to Goodby's Lake in good time.
This was really a fascinating excursion. The St. Johns is certainly a river of diversity, both in the scenic beauty along the banks, and in the change in the stream itself from a twisting creek-like size to the mammoth artery that nurses stream, aircraft carriers, cruisers, and battleships to the Atlantic Ocean.
Try it sometime. It'll take between three and five days, but you'll find every mile of the journey well worth the time and effort. And besides, you can be one of the few who can tell the grandchildren about going "down north" and "up south!"
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