This Florida Wildlife Magazine Digital Preservation Project is developed with financial assistance provided by the: William H. Flowers, Jr. Foundation and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. through the Conserve Wildlife Tag grant program.

1962
V. 15 NO. 11

Scanned by:
The Research Information Center of the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FLORIDA WILDLIFE’S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation showing recorded data 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

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) ____________________

Address ___________________________

City __________________ State ________

Species ____________________________

Weight __________ Length __________

Type of Tackle ______________________

Boat or Lure Used __________________

Where Caught ________________________

Date Caught _________________________

Catch Witnessed By _________________

Registered, Weighed By ______________

County ____________________________

(Signature of Applicant)

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS ........................................ 8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL ........................................ 4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAK) ......................................... 1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER ........................................ 2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE ........................................ 2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST ........................................ 1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

In This Issue

Florida Flyrod Charles Waterman 12

More Fishing Fred Jones 16

Caledonias Art Hutt 20

Underwater Treasure Stanley Olsen 24

Skillful Sport Fishing Edmund McLaurin 28

Florida’s Vacation Lands ........ 35

Departments

Clubs & Conservation 4

Wildlife Balance Wheel 5

Fishing 6

Test and Tells 34

Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh-Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Under cover of the U.S. Postal Service, this material is mailed with care and in sealed wrappers. Florida Wildlife cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage of mailed application in the mail. Material in this publication will be entered as second class matter at Tallahassee, Fla., under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912. Copyright 1962. FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION. Printed in U.S.A.

ROSE A. Satterfield, Circulation

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Editor

VOLUME 15 NO. 11 APRIL, 1962

Published monthly by the FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION Tallahassee, Florida

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

BILK HANSEN, Editor

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Tallahassee, Fla.Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office at Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy 25c.

Copyright 1962, by Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

AGENCY STAFF

LEGISLATIVE STAFF

COMMISSIONERS

R. L. BROWN, Chairman, Dale City

ROBERT H. HOKSON, Deland Division

CHARLES W. MOORE, Gainesville.

W. T. MOORE, Miami

O. C. SCOTT, Orange Beach

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

A. D. ALLISON, Governor

O. EARLE PFEIT, Assistant Director

JOE MCKINNON, Administrative Assistant

JOHN WOODS

Chief, Fish Management Division

R. E. WALLACE

Chief, Game Management Division

ROBERT A. DARNIE

Chief, Information-Education

WILLIAM D. DUBEY

Chief, Aviation Division

3500 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

Orlando, Florida

STEPHEN MCMILLIAN

Chief, Communications Division

Federal Publications Building

New Smyrna Beach

northern Region

M. T. WRIGHT, Regional Manager, 2520 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

State Office, E. A. 1121 Old Main, Panama City, Florida

West Florida Region

CHARLES CLOVEY, Regional Manager

Fort Myers, pine 1142

Lake City, Florida

Central Region

J. W. BROWN, Regional Manager

2526 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

Gainesville, Florida

Southern Region

J. O. BROWN, Regional Manager

2526 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

Miami, Florida

Everglades Region

LOUIS J. KAUFMAN, Regional Manager

2526 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

Orlando, Florida

Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida. This material is produced with dedication and care, and it is mailed with care and in sealed wrappers. Florida Wildlife cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage of mailed application in the mail. Material in this publication will be entered as second class matter at Tallahassee, Florida, under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912. Copyright 1962. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Printed in U.S.A.
A T THE RECENT GOVERNOR'S BAN­
quet which is the climax each year for the Sears Foundation Awards, the Florida Fish Commission, I was most pleased to see three people who have worked so diligently for our cause in conservation and whose programs receive awards. In the presentation of awards the Youth Conservation Program, as sponsored by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, received second state and one national award.

Ralph Tompkins, an instructor with the Educational TV station WEDU in Tampa received a state award in the category, Educator with outstanding Conservation Teaching Program (District #1). In the special Governor's category—Adult Guidance of Junior Conservation Efforts—George Hall received a state award for District #5. Gene is from Ocala and adviser to the Deane Mather Junior Conservation Club. Gene received a regional award. Also in the educator class for Outstanding Conservation Teaching, Mr. Raymundo of West Palm Beach, adviser to the Palm Beach County Girls Junior Conservation Club (District #4) received a regional award.

Special Notice to Parents

Sometime near the end of April approximately 300 notices of collisions will be mailed to those who are on our present mailing list. May we urge you to return the application as soon as possible so that your child may be registered in time. Most of our subscriptions received by the 15th of April will be available for the summer session.

WILD LIFE BALANCE WHEEL

This new South Dade Optimist Club is off to a good start. Mr. Harry Rost, their advisor, writes that they had a display in two windows of Raymond’s Shopping Center during March. For any of you boys in the South Dade area interested in outdoors, nature, and natural resources, why not contact Harry Rost at 9800 Jamaica Drive, Miami 37, Florida or Mr. R. Thomas, 9820 Haisan Drive, Miami. Boys of the newly formed Junior Conservation Club sponsored by the South Dade Optimist Club elected Richard Sanntmyer, president at their first meeting. Other officers are Jim Deas, vice-president; Warren Smith, secretary, Harry Rost, treasurer, and Joe Kelley, board member.

The group meets at 7 p.m. every Friday in the select shopping center. Membership is open to all boys from 12 to 18 years of age.

Nassau—Callahan Club

A new club has been organized in Callahan and is known as the Northeast Florida Junior Conservation Club. The club will be in the NE Florida Sportman’s Club house at Boggy Creek. Members reported by Reporter Bud Vickers are: Kent Lampe, Tommy Dodson, Roger Pettman, Hal Lancaster, Larry Williams, Gary Kinsey, Jon Harrison, Warren Lovett, and Buddy Vickers. Adviser for the club is Harold Watson.

Florida Foundation for Future Scientists

The State Science Fair will be held April 4, 5, & 6 at the Pensacola Junior College, Pensacola. Mr. R. A. Dahle and this writer will attend the Science Fair which is sponsored by the Foundation for Future Science projects to be exhibited at the Youth Conservation Camp as part of the Foundation Education Training Program.

The Florida Outdoor Writers have expressed a desire to offer prize money for the winner, second, and third place winners to be judged by the Florida Outdoor Writers. Ocala headquarters is now accepting applications for summer counseling positions. If you are qualified and interested, write me at 1551 Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala.
Then he started finding bass on the edges of the mass of gar. When a gar locates a warm spot in a canal, it's just as warm for a bass.

When he gets a steering wheel mounted near enough the motor to have a steering handle that a wheel and remote controls take up space in a boat they want as open as possible.

One of the best systems of all, used by a lot of guides, commercial fishermen and others not addicted to fancy boats is to have a steering wheel mounted near enough the motor to have a steering handle that the attended gearshift can be reached. I like that setup myself.

Many of my travels in narrow creeks where there are sharp turns and numerous obstacles. There, I can unhook the steering wheel and get quite familiar with the water while submerging the entire steering handle. When it picks up trash in the prop, I get to it with a hand and get quite familiar with the water while submerging the entire steering handle. When it picks up trash in the prop, I get to it with a hand and could rate nothing but a fishing tron fisherman generally gets remote controls for throttle and gearshift, sometimes moving his seat up or forward in the boat.

Steering wheel mounted near the motor is a simplified setup used by many fishing guides. Shown here by Jimmy Addicott of Everglades.

Would rate nothing but Merriman on a floppy boat adequate it helps me in a lifelong long battle with obstacles and it might be well to mention that it is often the folks extras that cause trouble on hard-used boats.

Test strengths of fishing lines are frequently greater than the manufacturer's claim, much to the disgust of contest fishermen who find their big fish entry in a given classification to be ineligible because the line tested more than the printing on the spool said.

On the other hand, loss of line strength after use is generally greater than the fisherman expects. Water, sun and abrasion sometimes makes a 10-pound line out of 20-pound line before the confident angler has even thought about it.

A hot cigarette ash on the spool reel of a spinning reel is something to have bad dreams about. In fact, smoldering tobacco is not recommended as treatment for any line. I believe it was Kip Farrington, the famous big game angler, who stated that smoking should not be allowed in the cockpit of a big game fishing craft.

"Something new, anything better," he said. "Shut up," he said. I'm looking for bass."

Nothing but gar," I said. "Come on. Let's go."

"Shut up," he said. I'm looking for bass."

I got started at it by casting flitting, a limb and hit it. I once had some riotous fishing on the spool said. I get to it with a hand and get quite familiar with the water while submerging the entire steering handle. When it picks up trash in the prop, I get to it with a hand and get quite familiar with the water while submerging the entire steering handle. When it picks up trash in the prop, I get to it with a hand and could rate nothing but a fishing tron fisherman generally gets remote controls for throttle and gearshift, sometimes moving his seat up or forward in the boat.

...
One of the most fascinating of our modern machines to watch in operation is a Linotype, the work horse of the printing industry. Equally intriguing, but far less complicated, is one of the new Hollywood automatic shotgun shell reloading tools, product of Hollywood Gun Shop, Hollywood 28, California. Designer Lyle S. Corcoran first demonstrated the tool at the Grand American (trapshoot), in Ohio, but at the time withheld commercial distribution until minor "bugs," common to first model mechanical products, could be worked out of the new addition to the already famous Hollywood ammunition reloading tool line.

First faults were not basic, but involved little things like temporary jamming of the tool when oversize primers and bullets were used during shotshell component feeding operations. Corcoran corrected these Production-quality problems by retaining certain minor parts and making feeding tubes and other components to almost micrometer accurate tolerances. Until then, he wisely withheld the new Hollywood tool from the commercial market. The result is an almost entirely automatic shotshell reloading tool that is a marvel.

Once component part reservoirs are loaded with primers, powder, shot and wads, and the first shell is seen through the successive reloading stages, operation thereafter is automatic. The tool's operation has been simplified to such an extent that the reloading ready-to-use shells drop into receiving box or basket like drops of water from a fast-leafing faucet.

The Lealman Rod and Gun Club, St. Petersburg, was one of the first Florida clubs to get delivery of the new Hollywood reloading tools. Previously it had used an earlier model of same, on which many thousands of 12 gauge shotshell reloads were turned out. But the Linotype tool, if you will, is a reloads tool turned out by the Hollywood tool, either. The only noticeable difference is the number of operations to be carried out in an average reloading session. Now the age of five night a week. New, the same production is achieved in two night working sessions, 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Operator Ernie Thomas, who does all of the shotshell reloading for the Lealman club's large membership, and for other local trapshoots the club sponsors, says he has loaded some 18,000 shells on the new tool in about thirteen weeks, working leisurely two night sessions per week. That's very good production.

I closely examined, as well as patterned, some of Thomas's reloads, and found them every bit the equal of factory loads in appearance and in performance. In fact, several factor y shells and reloads can be deliberately mixed, handed to the average shooter and he probably cannot tell you which are the unfired factory shells and which are the reloads. Feeling shell case with the big trapshooter's fingertips for possible unevenness of shell tube and crimp, sometimes found among mass production reloads. won't tell you which are the reloads turned out by the Hollywood tool, either. The only noticeable difference is the number of operations to be carried out in an average reloading session.

If kept protected against rust formation, I don't see why the new tool wouldn't last a lifetime, no matter how hard used. Dies might have to be replaced once or twice, but only if the tool has produced many, many thousands of reloads.

The one drawback relative to individual purchase of a Hollywood automatic model reloading tool is its cost—several hundred dollars. For a club, the price tag is not a retarding factor, because economic mass production will soon amortize the purchase price, but to the average individual, the tool's cost may temporarily delay acquisition. For some, I cannot now afford the new automatic model; however, intend to get one when I can. I find that everyone who sees the Hollywood automatic in operation seems highly impressed. I've never known an outdoor writer who is also a Wall Street wizard, so I am merely venturing a guess when I say one of the modern automatic shotshell reloading tools might be a profitable investment if operated commercially. Trapshooting clubs and other active shooting groups have shown interest. There is economy in mass production reloading.

Now, why can't a fellow with a little capital lease an easily set-up reloadable range, put up a reloadable range, set up a trapshooting layout and operate with a few shotshell reloading tools? The answer lies in account books. Finally, the owner-operator would have to be an especially careful, conscientious reloader, since every shell reload and sold to a patron for range or private consumption would have legal liability strings attached.

For the shooter who wishes to reload only for himself, and who will be satisfied with a finished-shoot production rate of 125 to 200 reloads per hour, I recommend consideration of the less expensive Senior Turret model in the Hollywood line. Besides accepting shotshell loading dies, the versatile tool will reload rifle and pistol ammunition and swage all calibers. The tool, when fitted with the correct dies. The Senior is probably the most popular model of the currently available Hollywood tools. Serious reloaders have used the dependable Senior Turret model for many years with excellent results. The Hollywood line of reloading tools can be reliably regarded as being among the few really quality brands.

Successful reloading of sporting ammunition is much like competing in a slow-fire formal rifle tournament where, if you take pains to make each shot at perfect as possible, the final score will usually take care of itself.
I dropped in at the Jacksonville district headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers this spring to check on the status of various projects, plans and proposals that will affect boating in Florida.

There are two major authorized projects to the south, a coastal waterway; an inland channel from Apalachee Bay west to Carrabelle, and a 9-foot channel, 100 feet wide, in sheltered waters from the mouth of the Calosahatchee River to the Anclote River north of Clearwater.

“Authorization” means that the project has received congressional authorization for construction—when and if funds are appropriated for the actual work. Some “authorized” projects—a great many, in fact—are never carried out. This may be due to changing conditions that alter their advisability, it may be due to local apathy or opposition; it may be due to inability to make satisfactory arrangements for rights of way, relocations of bridges and roads and the like.

In the case of the 9-foot channel from Calosahatchee to the Anclote River, very little work has been done on the 190-mile stretch. Connecting channels of 9 feet or more have been provided in Charleston Harbor from Port Boca Grande to Punta Gorda, in Manatee River from Tampa Bay to Bradenton, and in Anclote River to Tarpon Springs. Casey's Pass, at Venice, is jetty-protected and dredged to an 8-foot depth. The outside route in the GuH. The outside route is used by all craft from Venice south to Charlotte Harbor.

How rapidly work will progress will, of course, depend on Congress—; if funds are appropriated in major amounts, the Army Engineers are equipped to proceed.

There is, however, one bottleneck which must be resolved. That is the problem of what to do about highway locations and bridges, particularly in the Venice area. The proposed inland route would run on the eastern side of Venice, following stream beds—and Venice thus would be an island between the inland waterway and the Gulf of Mexico. This would require the construction of drawbridges, and involve other costs attendant on relocation of roads, power lines, etc. Up to date, no agreement has been reached with Venice officials on the route of waterway, and on arrangements for road and bridge locations, etc. The Corps of Engineers cannot proceed until a satisfactory solution is worked out with local interests.

The inland route on the Florida panhandle coast, from Apalachee Bay to Carrabelle, also awaits funds from Congress. This is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Engineers' Mobile (Ala.) district office. Also under the Mobile office is construction—which late this year will open up a 268-mile trip northward up the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee rivers from the city of Apalachicola to Columbus, Ga. At present, a 9-foot channel is provided to Bainbridge, Ga. and other points immediately upstream of Chattahoochee, Fla. site of Jim Woodruff lock and dam (Lake Seminole). The two upstream reservoirs, Fort Gaines and Walter George, both with lockage, will be filling with water during this year. Opening of lockage is expected in late autumn.

The proposed cross-Florida barge canal is again undergoing a study as to its economic practicality. For years there have been projects to provide a barge channel of some type from the St. Johns River, watershed head to the Gulf of Mexico—a water route across Florida.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

APRIL, 1962

BOATING

BY DON CULLMORE
FLORIDA FLYFISHING

By CHARLES WATERMAN

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

April, 1962

High-bred flyrod is a trademark of the Florida Keys flyfishermen. This fish took a shrimp fly near Moya's Fish Camp on Key Largo.

A LOT OF PEOPLE TALK ABOUT FLYRODS and fly fishing with something else. Even so, the fly fishermen are a closer fraternity than other kinds of anglers. They think they are the best fishermen of all and maybe they are. In some parts of the country they catch more fish than anybody else. In some parts of Florida they take repeated beatings from spin-fishermen, plug-casters, bait fishermen or trolls but their real dyed-in-the-wool flyfisherman will tell you that if seafood is all he wants he'll go to a fish market and he accepts the fact that there are certain places and times where the flyrod comes off a poor second or third.

Whether you live with a flyrod in your hand or scorn the feathered throwers you'll have to admit that fly-fishing is the classical method and is recognized as the last word in fishing techniques—whether it is or not.

High-bred flyrod is a trademark of the Florida Keys flyfishermen. This fish took a shrimp fly near Moya's Fish Camp on Key Largo.

Some of the world's best flyfishermen are Floridians but compared to many northern states, the percentage of flyfishermen in Florida is minute indeed.

Many a northerner has packed his flyrod away when he moved to Florida. This is due mainly to ignorance of the fly-fishing possibilities Florida offers and, believe me, ignorance is knee-deep here where flyfishing is concerned.

All over the state there are flyfishermen engaging in limited activities, apparently unaware that they are only flicking the surface of local fishing opportunities.

One of the best flyfishermen for bass that I know lives in Florida where he fishes bass only. He has never fished for snook, tarpon, ladyfish, bonefish, barracuda, shad, jack crevalle, dolphin, mangrove snappers, saltwater trout or redfish with a flyrod—and after he finishes what you're probably missing, how to get into the fly-fishing art if you've never tried it—and how to get a lot more mileage out of your fly tackle if you're limiting it to one minor phase of Florida fly fishing. As you fish a fly in Florida waters you might keep an ear cocked for the shouted comments of passing outboarders (few who travel by outboard have learned that the fuel is of the same type on flies—as quite a few hardy souls have done—and you could probably learn to throw a 100-foot cast with no great difficulty but neither is essential to flyrod fun and neither will make you a top-flight fly-fisherman—some of the best have done neither and don't care to.

If you wanted to do all of the flyrod fishing in the whole damned state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state. If you wanted to do all of the flyrod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot rod fishing in the whole danged state with only one rod is a rarity—if only because he likes to try something new.

You can catch 100-pound tarpon on flies—as quite a few hardy souls have done—and you could probably learn to throw a 100-foot cast with no great difficulty but neither is essential to flyrod fun and neither will make you a top-flight fly-fisherman—some of the best have done neither and don't care to.

If you wanted to do all of the flyrod fishing in the whole danged state with one rod, I'd recommend an 8¥1∕2-foot that uses GBF line. That's one of the best flyrods for fly fishing with flies is intriguing business, often requires a lot of skill and sometimes makes you apt to shower you with parts when a bonefish heads for the horizon. So, if you have one rod only, make it a good single-action job and don't be afraid to get a big one.

Most of this business of matching fly size to rod weight for fish appears only and has no practical purpose. I am not belittling the bigmouth bass by including him among those that can be taken with the automatic reel—but we all know he isn't addicted to long runs and that's where the big reel with plenty of backing comes in handy. The Gloucester is one of the heavy big part forward, which means it is better for long distance casting than a level line and operates well with big bugs and streamers. It should be matched to the rod by someone who knows fly tackle. It is expensive but worth it.

Now with that rod you can sub- (Continued on next page)
When I fish for running shiners, I don't use a huge rod. A 7-foot Ten K with the right size reel will do fine. The Ten K is a fantastic fishing line. It is durable, it has excellent drag, and it is made from the finest material. A Ten K is the perfect rod for running shiners. I have been using a Ten K for over 20 years, and it has never let me down.

When it comes to fishing for running shiners, I always use a Ten K. It is light, yet strong enough to handle any shiner that comes my way. The Ten K is the perfect rod for running shiners. I have been using a Ten K for over 20 years, and it has never let me down. It is easy to handle, and it is a pleasure to use.

When it comes to fishing for running shiners, I always use a Ten K. It is light, yet strong enough to handle any shiner that comes my way. The Ten K is the perfect rod for running shiners. I have been using a Ten K for over 20 years, and it has never let me down. It is easy to handle, and it is a pleasure to use.

When it comes to fishing for running shiners, I always use a Ten K. It is light, yet strong enough to handle any shiner that comes my way. The Ten K is the perfect rod for running shiners. I have been using a Ten K for over 20 years, and it has never let me down. It is easy to handle, and it is a pleasure to use.

When it comes to fishing for running shiners, I always use a Ten K. It is light, yet strong enough to handle any shiner that comes my way. The Ten K is the perfect rod for running shiners. I have been using a Ten K for over 20 years, and it has never let me down. It is easy to handle, and it is a pleasure to use.
Once considered wasteland, an old mine area has been developed into a special fishing park.

By FRED JONES

 Mines + Management = MORE

POLK AND EAST HILLSBOROUGH counties produce 72% of the phosphate mined in the United States and one-third of all that mined in the world. These mines produce employment directly for more than 6,000 people the year round, and indirectly furnish work for many more thousands. They contribute millions of dollars to the state's economy annually.

But of more importance to us, possibly, is the fact that these mines have produced some of the best bass fishing in the country ever since the first pit was dug back in the late 1800's. Probably because of the high dissolved mineral content of the water, the mine fish grow large and rapidly. Under natural conditions, with no direct help from man or industry, the phosphate mines have become nationally famous spots for big fish. All fresh water species native to Central Florida—and oddly enough, produce some salt water species.

But a new day is dawning now for mine fishing. No longer will the fishing, as in the past, depend on the vagaries of nature. Man and industry are stepping in with a huge reclamation program designed to do away with the ugly wastelands left behind the mining operations, and to make them over into beautiful residential sections, fertile acres of fruit and pastures, and some of the most productive, unusual and attractive recreational areas in the country.

But of more importance to us, possibly, is the fact that these mines have produced some of the best bass fishing in the country ever since the first pit was dug back in the late 1800's. Probably because of the high dissolved mineral content of the water, the mine fish grow large and rapidly. Under natural conditions, with no direct help from man or industry, the phosphate mines have become nationally famous spots for big fish—All fresh water species native to Central Florida—and oddly enough, produce some salt water species.

But a new day is dawning now for mine fishing. No longer will the fishing, as in the past, depend on the vagaries of nature. Man and industry are stepping in with a huge reclamation program designed to do away with the ugly wastelands left behind the mining operations, and to make them over into beautiful residential sections, fertile acres of fruit and pastures, and some of the most productive, unusual and attractive recreational areas in the country.

By FRED JONES

PHOTOS BY JIM HARDIE

FISHING

Family fishing excursions have become popular in the park, and all-day outings are a way of weekend life.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Fisheries Management Division has already opened to the public its first section of the 500-acre Pleasant Grove Fish Management Area located in eastern Hillsborough County.

The newest and largest of these recreational reclamation projects is the Saddle Creek Park Area which straddles U. S. Highway 92 just east of the City of Lakeland. This 740-acre park, easily accessible to hundreds of thousands of Central Floridians, is unique in many ways. In the near future, I predict, it will also become unique in another way—it will become, I believe, the most famous managed fishing area in the United States.

The Park is unique in that it is the first tract of its kind to become public property through outright gift from the industry to the County. Arthur Crago, Manager for the American Cyanamid Company, saw a long-time dream come true when, on December 22, 1961, he presented the deed to the town to Aldine Combee, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. The only strings attached to this valuable gift were that "it is to be developed for the use of all the public as a fishing and recreational area."

It is also unique in that it was a "wasteland" even before the mining operations started. Much of the phosphate in Polk and Hillsborough counties lies under already valuable land—groves, vegetable and pasture lands. The tearing up and making into a wasteeland of this formerly productive ground sometimes caused much resentment against the industry.

(Continued on next page)
The fish in the pools do not suffer the detrimental effects on their feeding and growth that come with extremes in temperatures. This, combined with the dissolved minerals resulting from mining, fisheries biologists agree, are factors contributing to the rapid growth and huge size of mine pool fish.

For the fishermen, too, the pools have many advantages. The high overburden ridges furnish protection from high winds and rough waters in bad weather. The steeply sloping banks are ideal for the cane pole or bank fisherman.

Nature, without any help from man, has, through the years, produced some amazing fishing in the phosphate mining area. It is common, and general, knowledge that a newly mined pit will become a good fishing "hole" only a year or two after mining is completed. The fishing is generally best from the third to the seventh year. After the seventh year, generally, fishing begins to decline, although the average size of the bass in some "old" pits sometimes runs very high.

Fisheries biologists can easily explain all this. Nature by itself usually produces these results. The pools become overstocked, in some cases with undesirable fish, thereby reducing the numbers of the more desirable species. Or, a pool may become overstocked with a desirable species, resulting in large numbers of fish of very small average size.

One of the "big mysteries" of phosphate pools and their fish populations is how they get started in the first place. Many hours of study have been spent on this mystery, and thousands of hours of argument have resulted. There are many theories—but no positive proof of any one.

The average depth of the pools and lack of shallow areas contributes to a more even year round water temperature than is the case with the comparatively shallow natural lakes and streams in the state. Thus the fish can do even better when she has the help of man. Since I have used the word "phenomenal" to describe the fish production of nature working on her own, I obviously have no need to exaggerate the results when she has cooperation from man. But rest assured that I am looking forward to those results eagerly.

Nature's means of stocking these pits is pretty obvious—and sometimes startling! For example, there are pits in the Brewster (South Polk County) area from which tarpon have been caught—by bass fishermen using cane poles even! Some of these pits, from which I have seen tarpon taken, is connected with the Alafia River, and thus to the Gulf, through a tiny shallow creek. The tarpon fry obviously came up the river and into the pit through the tiny stream, and then didn't get back out in time. (They got too big to navigate the little stream before they tried it.) Some of the pits are undoubtedly connected by underground streams. Once while I was watching a mining operation there was a sudden gush of water in the bottom of the pit—the workmen had broken through into an underground stream—and right on the face of that "fountain" of water was a bass that must have weighed at least five or six pounds!

However, these stream and underground connections will suffice as an explanation of the stocking of only a very few of the thousands of pits that become excellent fishing. You can take your pick of the many theories. I have my own beliefs on the subject but will not go into them here for someone would be sure to argue with me on it and anyway that is a different story. And be that as it may, the fact remains that they have become stocked throughout the years.

If all this "natural" stuff is true, you could well ask why then all the hullabaloo about man's management?

The answer is simple. It has been proven time and time again, here in Florida as well as in other states.

Neither they, nor I, expect to see any phenomenal results of their cooperation with nature within the next week or ten days! For the best management of these many pools requires much study, planning and work. There are many pools and each will be treated as an individual. Some may be used to produce bass and bluegills. Others might be better utilized for the production of speckled perch (crappie), channel catfish, or other species.

Fishing in Saddle Creek Park is good—I might even say "excellent"—now. It will take some time for the results of management to become obvious. Fish, after all, do require some time in which to reproduce and grow.

But like Bill, Mel, and the rest of the boys, I expect to see results in the not-too-distant future. I look for the fishing in Saddle Creek Park, and in the Pleasant Grove Fish Management Area, to not follow the small "three-to-seven-year" phosphate pit trend. I look for bigger and bigger, and better and better, fishing each succeeding year. It will, I confidently predict, be even better when my grandchildren have raised their own boat paddlers! I predict that these reclaimed mined and managed areas will, from this year on, ever increasingly produce bass, bluegills, speckled perch, catfish, and rest and recreation and enjoyment for ever increasing thousands of people.

And who knows? A few years from now the management boys, with the help of nature and the pits, may be giving us inland fishermen some most exotic fishing.

For with the pools in Saddle Creek Park capable of being connected, at the proper times, with Saddle Creek, the Peace River and the Gulf, it is possible that they'll have pools in the Park stocked with fighting tarpon, snook and stripped bass.

It's all possible. Personally I can hardly wait to see!
Some say it's love, others say it's hate—but the fact remains—bass will readily clobber

**CALEDONIAS**

By ART HUDD

TO START A FULL-SCALE disagreement in a circle of old-time Florida anglers try asking their opinion on the best live bait for bass. They'll rise to the question like a hungry bluegill to a helpless May fly. Each will have his favorite and his reasons.

When the smoke clears away, though, chances are there will be some semblance of agreement. In third place will be a bluegill; second will go to a shiner; tied for first place will be the eel (see April 1961 Florida Wildlife—"The Siren's Call").

Its equal will be the caledonia. And rightly so, for if you don't know or haven't fished with this bait you've missed out on a good thing.

Taxonomically, this first-rate bass bait is listed as the caledonia, Fundulus seminolus. Through popular usage the "in" has been dropped, and such colloquialisms as "bullhead" and "sandroller" added.

The latter handle is particularly descriptive as the caledonia is found throughout peninsular Florida in swamps, rivers, and lakes—preferring a sandy-bottom where it feeds and spawns. In its efforts to accomplish either or both, the fish sometimes stirs up tiny clouds of sand—hence "sandroller."

In appearance, the caledonia can best be described as "a beautiful little fish." Its ground color is a pearlish olive-green, giving the fish a transparent look. The majority of scales have dark margins; in total, they create a speckled appearance. There is no obvious lateral line. A cigar-shaped body barely exceeding 8 inches, a long and pointed head, and a small and terminal mouth are other distinguishing features.

What's the big appeal of caledonias? Relying strictly upon observation, there appear to be several plausible theories. One angler suggests that bass love them as they are especially palatable. A bass grabs onto a tasty caledonia just as you or I would select a tender sizzling steak for dinner. In addition to this taste-appeal, the same angler suggests that caledonias are also easy for fish to digest.

Just as one angler says bass love them, another angler says the bass hate 'em—and for good reason. Spawning bass and caledonias inhabit the same nearshore waters. After mama bass lays her eggs, papa stands guard. And guard he must, for a nest full of eggs and emerging fry spells banquet to a crowd of cruising caledonias. So you might say that bass and caledonias are just natural enemies.

In fact, taking advantage of their general predatory nature, at the Southern Fish Culturists in Leesburg, Jack Dequaine introduced six of them into a large pond in which he was raising black mollies for aquarium use. The mollies had reproduced so well that they needed a severe thinning out. The caledonias went to work on the eggs and the fry, and the remaining mollies quickly grew to salable size.

I think, too, that this bait has the old "come on" because it is friskier—and stays frisky—on your hook. It is not uncommon for a terrified caledonia to break water, hotly pursued by an open-mouth bass—a sight that is automatically cataloged in an angler's memory to be pulled out again and again in idle moments.

In addition to being hardy on the hook, caledonias don't tear off easily, thanks to their flat and tough mouth. In normal usage, hook them there for best results. Generally a float and a light sinker are used, but there are conditions where a freely circulating caledonia on a spinning line can raise havoc with a bass's curiosity.

A little gimmick that sometimes pays off with spinning gear is to hook the caledonia through the back, just aft of his dorsal fin. Don't get down too close to

(Continued on next page)
the shallow sand beaches. Wade out and work back, keeping the float side high out of the water else the skittering caledonias will easily hurdle it. Seine in the evening or after dark for the biggest catches (there's no sense in taking more than you need though). Best time for quantity catches by any method is in the spring and early summer, although caledonias are usually present in some numbers near shore all year around.

Or, you can hook-and-line for them. More often than not, it is no trick to get enough for a day's bass fishing in a matter of a half hour or so.

An old pro at caleonia fishing is Byron Morgan of Eustis. An Ohioan, retired from a busy life of selling real estate, being a merchant, personnel director, and referee (3,000 football and basketball games to his credit), "By" haunts the lakeshores and docks, bait and bass fishing. His philosophy on fishing is to let the bait do the work so he can settle back and enjoy his surroundings. The bass he catches are of secondary importance.

For caleonias he uses a bamboo pole about 9-feet long, equipped with light line monofilament (heavy sewing thread works well, too). His float is a fragment of a larger cork, his weight a BB-sized shot, and his bait do the work so he can settle back and enjoy his surroundings. The bass he catches are of secondary importance.

For his quarry feeds on or near the bottom, he keeps the bait moving in short jerks. And it is important to keep the point of the hook covered. These little fish are alert enough to know that something's amiss otherwise. After every nibble, check it or you'll just be wasting your time.

It is important to keep the point of the hook covered. Little fish darting out of the water and bass. Last year I watched such action frequently be fishes from shore in water about a foot deep, at other times he works off a dock.

But he keeps the bait moving in short jerks. The caleonias seem to go for it this way. When they run with, or pull the float under, By lifts the pole and adds another one to the bucket—usually.

While caleonias are not especially noted for their ability to take big fish, Byron recalls a 10-pounder he caught on a 2½-inch caleonia. My best, to date, has been a five-pounder. The merit of these baits, however, lies in their ability to attract a lot of fish of all sizes. Big perch, like them, too, and an occasional catfish or pickerel or turtle will show an intense interest. Salt-water trout are especially fond of them, and surprising, the caleonia appears to be able to withstand, at least temporarily, the sudden switch from the sweet to the salt.

So, whether bass love 'em, or hate 'em, caleonias are still a topnotch bait.

When you are cruising around the lake shore this spring, watch for activity way back in the weeds where there's a sandy bottom and some openings. When you see little fish darting out of the water and big swirls behind, that will be a sign of just one thing—caleonias and bass. Last year I watched such action for a good fifteen minutes. In an area the size of a ping-pong table, the water boiled, the little fish scurried. Unhappily our shellcracker poles were unsuited to the task; unfortunately the commotion was completely ringed by a protective screen of dead bushes. Our spinning rods were useless.

But it was fun anyway.

So, whether bass love 'em, or hate 'em, caleonias are still a topnotch bait.
It is amazing what underwater explorers can find in Florida waters. Along with some of the better fossils and pre-Columbian artifacts can be found car batteries, frying pans and rifle clips.

A reference list of published articles relating to underwater historic sites located in the coral gardens of the Florida Keys would fill many pages. By direct contrast virtually nothing has been written concerning the untouched wealth of scientific specimens that are to be found buried in the submerged sandbars and limestone pockets of the north Florida rivers. This lack of publicity is due in part to the fact that some sites are being systematically worked by educational institutions and the carrying away of objects in the immediate vicinity of these sites would cause gaps in our knowledge of the overall picture of the area under investigation; some of these tracts are also rightly protected by law. However, isolated fossils and cultural materials are oftentimes dislodged from their original resting place and are carried considerable distances downstream to be redeposited in a gravel bar or depression in the river bottom. Salvage of this material by careful divers, whether they be professional archaeologists or paleontologists or interested amateurs, saves it from being destroyed by further water action. In some cases known to the writer the better specimens in museum collections have been collected and donated by well-trained amateurs, with an appreciation of their cultural value.

When most people think of exploring for underwater archaeological or paleontological sites they conjure up a vision of a large well-fitted power cruiser, equipped with pumps, dredges, compressors, perhaps a few motor launches and certainly a large crew of workers, the total costing a small fortune and therefore beyond the means of all but a few. Valuable reconnaissance, and in many instances, the recovery of scientifically valuable material can be carried on in Florida's streams with no more equipment than a moderately priced aqua-lung and its accessories plus a vehicle to get the interested divers within access of the site of operations. A boat is not essential in many instances.

I have been diving in Florida's inland waters since 1947 and have found that good collecting areas can't be completely gleaned by hand. Every worthwhile appearing object that is visible at any one time on the bottom can be gathered and removed only to have the next rise in water, whether it be due to an unusual tide in coastal rivers or high waters due to rain in the interior, uncover and expose a fresh lot of specimens.

(Continued on next page)
Four pumged sponge diver stevedore's hook. The site 'lilile 'bottom matrix a Loch«:tive area offers little and --.,ed hooks of past fishermen. Mfillae fishing plugs and lure I .._ recently learned that there are collectors of laQ recently learned that there are collectors of lllltamohile batteries, frying pans, and 
CIII 
tldad.s have been recovered from river Geologically speaking Florida is composed pri­marily of limestone, clay, and sand 
J>iaing for material not 
1 material; complete clay pipes anddelicate mammal skulls have been recovered bythis method. 

Diving for material not exposed on the bottom in 

while occupied as a scuba diver in north Florida fresh water streams. The same holds true for sharks in fresh water although there is a reliable record of a shark being sighted 126 miles up the Suwannee River at Bradford. Without a doubt the most potential danger to the diver is in not being aware of his own limitations or being unfamiliar with the equipment being used. Buying a tank and its accessories does not make one a qualified diver any more than the purchase of an airplane makes the purchaser a pilot. All users of scuba equipment should be checked out by a qualified instructor and they must then adhere to the accepted safety practices that are learned.

Many of Florida's rivers emerge from spring caverns, some of which are many feet deep, and the temptation to enter and explore such a cavern is considerable as is testified to by the many drownings to date. I know of no instance of a scuba diver drowning in open shallow water while engaged in diving in the streams of north Florida. Numerous deaths (four within the last 30 days at the time of this writing) have occurred in dark silt floored spring and sinkhole caverns, and were not due to faulty equipment but rather to the judgment of the divers.

Diving in sinkholes and spring eyes has little re­ward particularly when there are hundreds of miles of sunlit, shallow, winding submarine paths that are as yet unexplored.

This is not the place for a lengthy discussion on underwater safety practices but one closing thought is worth recording. Rivers of Florida are naturally the highways of the motorboat enthusiast and it can not be too strongly stated that a red and white divers safety flag is a must while exploring the bottoms of navigable streams. Much still needs to be done in educating both the boating and diving enthusiast in the observ­ance of safe water practices, but flying a divers flag and surfacing near it is much safer than ignoring this now accepted safety device. On the other hand no com­ments need be made regarding the hot rod speedster who was using the flag of a diving crew as a buoy for a racing turn.

In many areas there is a sharp break between pro­fessional archaeologists and paleontologists and the interested amateur. There is no reason why the two groups should not benefit through a mutual under­standing and exchange of ideas and work more closely together.
SKILLFUL SPORT FISHING

Flyrod angling waters are never far from the Florida resident. A properly presented bug-weight lure will provide fine sport fishing fun.

By EDMUND McLAURIN

One of the most beautiful and fascinating outdoor sport scenes is a skilled fly fisherman working a scenic water area with his bug-weight artificial.

In the Sunshine State, the fly caster can find thrilling, year-round angling in some 166 fresh water rivers and more than 30,000 lakes and ponds, without fighting for elbow room.

In addition, there’s plenty of fish to be caught. Florida waters abound in black bass, speckled perch, redbreast, shellecrackers, warmouth perch and numerous other fresh water species. The state’s tidal shore line, made up of 8,426 miles of winds, wandering bays, bayous and similar waters, is well populated with hundreds of species of salt water gamesters, many of which will rise to a cast fly.

You need only the right tackle—fishing equipment that has seen development to a high state of perfection.

As I once wrote for the technical editions of THE FISHERMAN’S HANDBOOK, fly fishing and fly fishing tackle have ancient and interesting history.

About the beginning of the Christian era, an unknown but enterprising angler added to his unpretentious fishing equipment a simple, revolving spool with attached handle crank, to store hard-to-handle line. He had a practical idea, as evidenced by today’s single-action fly casting reels which operate without deviation from the basic principle of that first, crude model.

Essentially, a single-action fly reel consists of a wide-diameter, narrow—groove spool with smooth sides and a winding crank. The narrow spool with its wide, smooth sides reduces possible tangle of the spooled line, and helps to make line recovery quick and sure. Reel side plates are parallel and without spaces in which wound line might possibly enter between the spool and frame to possibly foul the operation of the reel. Single-action reel spools revolve once for every turn of the handle, and generally are light in weight.

Early models on the American scene were the Mills, the Leonard and the original Orvis.

The best of modern versions are completely rustproof and have anodized aluminum frames, spools and head plates. Other modern features include a roller-bearing line guide; dual friction-reducing end bearings; ventilated end plates for more rapid line drying; line guards of chrome, adjusted for either right or left hand; and slotted-screw take-downs for easy cleaning and oiling.

Automatic fly reels serve the same purpose as single-action models, but the automatic spring tension, not the angler’s revolving hand, does the job of winding line.

The first automatic fly reel on the market was the Martin, introduced in 1884.

A popularity poll among expert fly fishermen will show that most of them prefer a single-action reel to an automatic.

Both types are mounted below the rod grip, and if selected by weight in proportion to the rod used, do far more for the angler than store his line conversely, by giving him good rod balance.

Fly reels should be kept clean and free from sand. Being located below the rod grip, they tend to pick up sand whenever the assembled outfit is set down.

Depending on the type of fishing to be done, and the rod action desired, assembled fly rods usually are somewhere between 7½ and 9½ feet in length, and weigh from 3 to 6 ounces without attached reels.

Bethabara, greenheart, split bamboo, hickory and ash were favored materials for early models. Glassfiber, split bamboo and steel are today’s favorite three.

Big line guides are a definite advantage, because they develop less friction.

A beginner should select his first outfit carefully, giving long, serious thought to selection and matching of components. Once a balanced outfit is assembled, he should master it; thereafter will come full enjoyment.

Without doubt, the correct line, matched to rod action, is the most important component of the fly rod; reel and line combination, for it is the weight of the cast line, not the lure, that bows the rod and brings forth its inherent action.

Consider, too, that it is the weight and profile of the line along its most active 30 to 40 ft. length that largely determines performance and creates rod action.

You can get a fly line with choice of profile that puts weight forward within a double-taper, or of level distribution and, of course, in the particular weight best suited to the stiffness or action of your rod, as well as with built-in floating or sinking quality.

A beginner who chooses the wrong line for his rod is apt to lose his enthusiasm for fly fishing fast! Preferably, he should start with a double-taper profile line of correct weight for his rod’s built-in action.

For a long time, line sizes carried alphabetical designations that were often confusing and hard to remember. Recently, however, the Associated Fishing Tackle Manufacturers adopted a uniform fly line marking code that enables both dealer and consumer to readily recognize a packaged line in respect to its profile, weight and floating quality. The hoped-for result should be less confusion in correct fly line selection.

Many experts advocate gripping the fly rod with thumb on top of the handle (Continued on next page)
of evening and present your lure with minimum activation after the cast. It is never a mistake to let your cast but lie perfectly still on the water for 60 seconds or more. Watch your floating lure closely for a strike, and when it comes, set the hook instantly.

For variety, try a small McGinty or Gray Hackle, fished unhesitatingly and switched to the minimum of life-motion at spaced intervals.

On windy or chilly days, try tiny subsurface lures—especially a yellow or black imitation. Size No. 8 or 10, with contrasting white legs.

When Florida fresh water fish are obviously feeding on live flies and various insects, but pass up even the most life-like artifacts, try catching some of the live specimens. Use an embalm and toughen captive baits by coating them with quick-drying clear fingernail polish.

If you have trouble catching live insect bait, set up a Lilly's trap over a pan of fish cleanings. You'll soon have flies, wasps and hornets in abundance! You can keep them caged and use as needed. Or make a small plastic bubble on the end of your main leader, and attach two very light drop leaders about 18 inches long, fitted with very small-wire stub fly hooks with turned-down eyes. Add weight, pinch a tiny split shot sinker eight inches ahead of hook to make the bait sinks and to keep the drop leaders away from the main leader.

Others use a single hook and squeeze a small blob of sticky chewing gum on hook shank to hold a live insect securely for casting.

For speckled perch, stick largely to the regular run of bass and panfish lures is never a mistake experimentally, the experts like-wise confide.

When trolling, run an erratic, rather than a straight, course. The result will be that your bait will swing in arcs, drop back, pick up speed and perform in other fish-tantalizing ways.

It's a coin-toss decision as to which type of fly fishing—bass-bugging or panfish—will give the beginner the most sport from Flori da's fresh waters. He will probably possess growing enthusiasm for both and ultimately wind up with special-casted tackle for each.

Salt water fly casting waters are never far from a Florida resident angler. They offer their own types of fishing thrills.

Usually, however, more durable tackle is required for salt water fly fishing, with all hardware—including ferrules and reel-seats—preferably rustless, stainless steel. A popular outfit is a ninte, medium action, hollow glass rod, with one stripping guide and seven snake guides, combined with what old-timers called a GRB torpedo taper line but which is now known as a WF8 sinking line under the new line system classification.

The line is cast on a fly line with 150-200 yards of 18 pound test braided nylon quilling line and a long, limp leader up front.

(Continued on page 38)

Photos by Wallace Hughes

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

APRIL, 1962

31

30
The first beagle field trials were held in 1800 at Hyannis, Mass., and Salem, N.H. The popularity of these trials has spread to almost every State where the cottontail rabbit is found. Beagles are divided into two classes for bench shows and field trials. Competition is held in the 15-inch and under and the 13-inch and under classes. Beagles over 15 inches in height are not permitted in competitions. Dogs usually are run in braces or pairs, according to a schedule resulting from a drawing for positions. Once a rabbit is "tallyho," or flushed, the dogs are put on the trail and judged for nose, drive, mouth, speed and other working qualities. Beagles win points in AKC sanctioned competitions and upon reaching a special total are declared, Field Trail Champions. Rabbits are rarely caught and killed in trials. Professional handlers make regular circuits to show dogs in their charge.

Beagles work on hunts much as in a trial. When a rabbit has been sighted, the dogs are placed on the trail. Then they drive the rabbit in a circle and back to within range of the hunter's gun. The rabbit usually is running well ahead of the beagles.

The beagle is ideally adapted to the sport. A diminutive size permits it to work in rough, briar-infested terrain. It has enough speed and determination to keep the rabbit well. A keen nose allows satisfactory work on even a comparative par in unfamiliar positions. A dark drooping ear gives the hunter well-informed on the chase. A generally excellent disposition adds to the pleasure of a hunt with a beagle. They have a cocky, self-sure attitude which combines ruggedness with daintiness. Although dignified, the beagle is very friendly.

Beagles somewhat resemble miniature foxhounds with a close, hard coat of medium length and a relatively short, high-set tail. The legs are fairly short but powerful. The head is that of a hound with moderately long drooping ears, large, soft brown or white ears and medium-length, beagle ears usually are white, tan and black.

**Doggy Doings**

Hanover, N.H.—"Cindy," a three-year-old boxer is a dog with a problem—fire addiction.

Not content with chasing cats, stalking the mailman or barking at the moon, "Cindy" is a genuine fire eater.

Her owner, Sam Truman, doesn't worry. He says she suffered a few burns at the outset but can now stuff out a blazing newspaper without too much worry. Cigaretes pose no problem and she has been seen puffing until she blows out a cigarette lighter.

Newport, R.I. A poundmaster Johnnie Cockrill picked up a homeless red mongrel dog at Christmas time and put it in the pound to be destroyed if it wasn't claimed.

As Cockrill was starting to drive away in his truck, the pooch clambered over the fence and jumped in beside him—and now the dog is his constant companion.

Of the dog's death sentence, Cockrill says: "I'm a sentimental guy—I can't go through with it this time."

**MUZZLE FLASHES**

(Continued from page 9)

**BOATING**

(Continued from page 11)

they now are. Barge traffic would pass through the present reservoir. From Inglis lock on, however, there would be a new cut to the Gulf of Mexico south of the Withlacoochee River—traffic would cross, but not follow the lower Withlacoochee.

To provide adequate depth, the channel would be dredged some five miles out in the Gulf. Total distance, from the Atlantic ocean (the mouth of the St. Johns River near Jacksonville) to the Gulf of Mexico, would be about 190 miles.

The Army Engineers have never taken a very optimistic view toward the economic justification of the placing any hope of the large canal. Their last study, published in 1939, estimated that benefits from savings in transportation costs would amount to $1.05 for every $1.00 of construction and operation costs.

The Department of Agriculture, however, hopes the benefit may be increased through making use of the canal for agricultural purposes. A number of such uses are being proposed.
In the May 1961 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE product report was made by WPWTST on certain of the Coleman lamps and cooking stoves.

Since then, the manufacturer has come out with a small, compact, cow-burner combination cooking and heating unit that merits reader attention.

1. The Sportster, a miniature stove, approximately five inches tall and five inches in diameter, that can be carried in one hand, yet incorporates the rugged dependability of larger Coleman-brand stoves.
2. The new Coleman stove, an American-made product, is obviously going to be a serious rival to the Swedish-import Heat-Pal unit, reported on in the October 1961 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE—will and will still aff for less than the last price of the Heat-Pal.

The Coleman Sportster can be used as a companion unit to a regular camp stove, or used separately for fast meals, hot coffee, heating duckblinds, emergency home cooking, and making slow stews.

It is a dependable, one-burner Coleman lamp that tends to hold cooking heat well, will suffice for the cooking and heating unit that most sportsman can depend on. One tank filling lasts a long time.

The Sportster is designed especially for fast meals, hot coffee, and cooking and heating unit that most sportsmen can depend on. One tank filling lasts a long time.

‘The lid, when combined with the detachable handle, becomes a 6-inch frying pan, and the bottom section of the storage case can be utilized as a two-quart saucepan.

This extra component is $3.00.

It considers the new Coleman Sportster one of the most compact and useful cooking-heating units a sportsman can own. Dealers should keep the units in stock—if they do not already.

The lid, when combined with the detachable handle, becomes a 6-inch frying pan, and the bottom section of the storage case can be utilized as a two-quart saucepan. This extra component is $3.00.

In the May 1961 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE product report was made by WPWTST on certain of the Coleman lamps and cooking stoves. Since then, the manufacturer has come out with a small, compact, cow-burner combination cooking and heating unit that merits reader attention.

1. The Sportster, a miniature stove, approximately five inches tall and five inches in diameter, that can be carried in one hand, yet incorporates the rugged dependability of larger Coleman-brand stoves.
2. The new Coleman stove, an American-made product, is obviously going to be a serious rival to the Swedish-import Heat-Pal unit, reported on in the October 1961 issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE—will and will still aff for less than the last price of the Heat-Pal.

The Coleman Sportster can be used as a companion unit to a regular camp stove, or used separately for fast meals, hot coffee, heating duckblinds, emergency home cooking, and making slow stews. It is a dependable, one-burner Coleman lamp that tends to hold cooking heat well, will suffice for the cooking and heating unit that most sportsmen can depend on. One tank filling lasts a long time.

2. During the hunting season just ended many hunters used scope sights for the first time. For most the choice was voluntary, for those with weak or aging eyesight, the change to a scope-sighted firearm was literally a court of last resort. Whatever the reason for a scope sight installation, the results should have been better than average.

But putting a scope sight on a firearm originally stocked for metallic sights, with its raising stock-comb height to correspond with the new sighting plane, caused a lot of misting and general dissatisfaction.

If a scope sight is to be used to its maximum potential efficiency, it is necessary that the shooter’s eye instantly find both the scope’s field of view and the optical point of aim, in respect to natural alignment of aiming eye, reticle and target. The combination of the scope and field of view with the optical point of aim will suffice for the cutting-edge stock.

Further, when a scope equipped firearm is shot, the comb of the stock should support the shooter’s face, and tend to keep the aiming eye in proper sighting plane.

When scope height and gunstock comb are correct for the shooter, his aiming eye, the scope reticule and the scope’s field of view find almost coincidence. If the shooter’s face is to be raised, after the gun is shouldered, to obtain this natural alignment, then he is apt to miss because his unsupported face and aiming eye tend to bob around.

WPWTST recommends that scope sight users experiencing the described trouble obtain a Monte Carlo style, face-on cheek pad, to bring gunstock comb to proper height and provide proper eye alignment. An installed pad will also help to cushion the shooter’s face from jarring punishment where gun recoil is heavy.

One cheek pad, made of molded rubber covered with thin leather, and also leather lined, are available in different heights of rise, and can be had to fit almost any gunstock. It is surprising how much difference even 1/2 inch rise can make in obtaining better gunstock fit if a scope equipped rifle originally utilizing low comb is converted.catalog number 200, retail price $1.95.

The problem is finding a pad of high quality and/or of correct height. Very few sporting goods stores regularly stock them. However, WPWTST has found a source of supply for pads of the described type and composition. Two types are considered by Buddy Schaeckel Product, 3220 Sovereign Row, Dallas, Texas, if interested WPWTST finds both AMOCO and SIMOLINE unlined uncoated excellent as stove and lantern fuel will suffice for the cooking of several meals.

Buner plate is mushroom shaped with strong rod grid that tends to hold cooking perfectly flat on top of the stove.

Cat hing lifti ng is Major $0.70, retail price $9.95.

TwoMisc erables, available separately, add to the versatility of The Sportster.

The first converts it into a heating stove of classic style, with a handle that carries like a Coleman lantern. The conversion provides the Sportster to be used as a self-feeding heating unit for small cabins, boats, tents. The drum accessory is $1.95.

The second accessory is an aluminum carrying case, with detachable handle, that doubles as stove holding and cooking utensil carrying case.

The lid, when combined with the detachable handle, becomes a 6-inch frying pan, and the bottom section of the storage case can be utilized as a two-quart saucepan. This extra component is $3.00.

It considers the new Coleman Sportster one of the most compact and useful cooking-heating units a sportsman can own. Dealers should keep the units in stock—if they do not already.
FISHING
(Continued from page 1)
I miss all of the times when the fish were taking. I've had it happen hundreds of times and probably you have too but Ed's situation was especially interesting because it is not only that you have learned the stretch the fish was packing with big DLQV. The sun had struck the water just right and he had seen them. So there was no doubt the fish were there. Ed just started casting over them and kept it up. He kept it up for a week while I was keeping track of him and he caught a lot of big DLOV—fishing most of the time over only a hundred yards of canal. A lot of that time, 15 minutes out of every four hours was the story. Some of those fish must have seen Ed's plug from every angle a couple of thousand times.
Many successful fishing days are "made" during the past period and I sometimes think I just happened to find the right spot or just happened to find the right lure. That can be part of it, of course, but the quick start and quick stop are probably much more common than we realize.
In bass fishing, it is too common to attract much attention among the old timers. In smoke and tarp fish ing, I've found it true for years and I've seen it in bream fishing too. I'm not so sure about speckled perch because I'm the only one that has ever had much experience there.
Up north, it happens with other species. Last October I fished all afternoon on the Yellowstone River in Montana and caught not one single fish. In my streamer-type job known as the "muddler minnow" on a fly rod. Most of that time had been devoted to one hole and I knew it was full of brown trout. At 6 p.m., that evening, I hooked and landed a 3-pound trout in that same hole. Between then and 6:15, I caught two more 3-pounders, which means I spent nearly all the time playing fish. After that, I had not another single strike.

Ed Towell of Kensington, and a big canal snook. They struck fifteen minutes out of every four hours.

CLUBS & CONSERVATION
(Continued from page 4)

State Fish?
At a recent meeting of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association, the president, George Crowley, suggested that a good youth project would be one of a state mammal. Crowley pointed out the fact that the state has a tree, flower, bird, song, river, so why not a mammal?
While some of the members murmured that the alligator handles that chore, unofficially at least, Paul Main, the Jacksonville columnist, wanted to know why not a state fish?
That's where the discussion stopped.

Another Noah's Ark?
With the sobering suggestion that it may soon be time for another Noah's Ark, the Conservation News, publication of the National Wildlife Federation, set out that in case of atomic disaster it might be impossible for wildlife to see mankind through as it has in other emergencies.
So far, says the News, there has been little study as to the effect of atomic fallout on wild animals and the suitability of surviving wild animals for food only be guessed.
Aubudon Award
Dr. Clarence Cottam, director of the Welder Wildlife Foundation at Clinton, Texas, has been awarded the ninth Audubon Medal for his "distinguished service in conservation" and particularly for his long career as wildlife biologist and administrator of research programs. He served 25 years in the U.S. Biological Survey and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Audubon citation referred to Dr. Cottam's outspoken public criticism of pesticide-spraying programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jay N. (Ding) Darling received the medal in 1960.

FLORIDA FLYROD
(Continued from page 15)
When fish strikes are too frequent your problem is relatively simple. A leader rough enough to keep the length of your rod will serve for nearly all Florida fishing although strong point fly fishing might prefer something longer.
Tapered leaders, used by only a few fishermen, are a tremendous advantage in setting. Next to the fly line, I use a section of about 30-pound test monofilament and for heavy fishing I taper it down with progressively lighter sections to a 12-pound tip. These sections are spliced together with blood-knots (see any dope sheet on fishing knots) and have advantages over the ready-made, tapered one-piece leaders.
The advantages are that the one you make up yourself generally has a better relationship to the fly line which is all to the good, the knots actually help in "turning over" the leader—and when you make your own you can adjust its weight and balance with ease.
When you fire a series of casts that end up around your neck or simply won't turn over, it's about eight to fifteen feet of leader to blame. A little cutting and splicing should solve your problem. Roughly, it's like this:
If the leader won't turn over and create a long line for your kind of casting. This generally happens with a bug. You can remedy it by shortening the fishing end of the leader and making the taper more abrupt.
If the fly slips hard on the water and the butt end of your leader "bounces" as the fly or bug hits your leader is too short.
Don't be afraid of long leaders. When properly balanced, a rod can cast with ease providing the line isn't too bulky or heavy. Nevertheless, one of about rod length will be satisfactory for nearly all Florida fishermen. Numerous three and 4-foot leaders on local flyrods. Your handlers are headpopping themselves. I stress this because it's too often neglected and doggedly important.

You frequently hear, "It was windy so we couldn't use flies." Seldom indeed is it so windy you can't use a flyrod if you figure the right directions to cast. If you're right-handed, the worst wind is from the right and there may be more of it up where your line is working than there is down where you're standing.
I'd say that up to a 30-mile wind you can get by pretty well if you're satisfied with medium and short casts. In high winds, shorten your leader and throw the loop of your line and leader a little harder than usual, keeping it "light," more of a cracking a whip. A sideswipe can put your line "under the wind."
At risk of being tarred and feathered by a handy-gartered oaf or nearly all flyfishermen, I shall now devote a couple of paragraphs to setting the hook. Volumes have been written about it. The methods outlined have included advanced physics, superhuman intuition and "lightning reflexes."
Actually, it goes like this: When our rod pointed nearly toward your fly with only a little angle to it. Try to keep most of the slack taken up when these. Never keep getting the rod higher and higher in working your fly toward you. Eventually, you can end up with it back over your shoulder, and it has no place to go. When a fish strikes, you look like a paper hanger grabbing for a falling paste pot.
When working streamers or other underwater gadgets, you should strip the line in with your left hand (if you're right-handed). With such a moving lure you have a light line and when the fish takes you simply lift the rod tip. If using a big hook and short leaders, I give a pretty hard pull when I feel him—not exactly a jerk but a prompt, hard lift with the rod tip.
It is with the bug that most folks have their hooking troubles. Generally, they try to do the job with a twenty-some small bass in a row, on a bug, mainly because he had a slack leader when he started his "jigging."
The explosive strikes are generally hardest to hook—mainly because the hard-driving fish may have the bug out of his own way. Remember that a living creature making as much fuss as your bug would considerably beat your bug and not so readily removed by a bow wake.
With this in mind, lift the rod tip promptly and take up slack at the same time with your left hand. The rest is automatic. When you get the knack, you won't be able to explain it any better than I have so be charitable to the poor jerk who jerks.
They can rave about the wonders of fly fishing and why it is the most satisfying method of all but I'm sure the real reason for flyfishing getting that way is that flyfishing you still have to do something yourself that no one can do without a little trouble.
It isn't difficult but it still isn't a push-button form of entertainment. I guess a lot of flyfishermen have the same attitude that sports car drivers have when they prefer a stick shift to automatic.
As the guy said, "I don't want some guy in Detroit shifting gears for me."
You have to do a little of it for yourself.
A smart trick that Florida salt water fly fishermen can employ to advantage is to splice monofilament just behind the torpedo-head of a fly line so that "cast drag" is reduced immediately after the heavy end of the line starts the cast, thus giving the line almost frictionless back ing at the exact point where most needed—just behind the torpedo-head.

A most effective salt water lure for the Florida fly caster, and especially for the taking of trout (weak fish), is an all-white sinking fly. Let it sink slowly, then yank and twitch it enticingly. The lure and method are almost sure-fire for trout, although they may also come from other species. In fishing a white fly in salt water, you never know to what fish species the lure will appeal!

To avoid knots in a braided fly line when it is attached to the leader, many Florida anglers find the John Root method very practical. A common straight pin is run up the center of the line for about one-half inch and then carried through the hole made by the pin point and drawn through the end of the line. The upper end of the leader is then tied around the line at point of entry with a slip-knot to finish the job. This makes a neat assembly but should not be used unless the leader is intended to be left attached to the fly line when not fishing...

Because a fly rod is quite limber, hooks must be very sharp, and set in a sharp, positive motion. In a fish well hooked, don't worry too much about its gaining line slack; there's little chance that the fish can shake the light lure loose. Your greatest danger is putting too much strain on your leader, causing it to tear out or snap off. Used right, a small, fine leader will catch a lot more fish than a thick, heavy one...

Expert V. E. Hall suggests you perfect your hook-setting technique by swatting your rod downward, using a snap of the wrist, instead of the ordinary rear back method. He says this drives the rod tip upward, hooking the striking fish faster and without danger of breaking a fine leader. Won't cost you anything to try his technique!

Fortunately, fly fishing tackle originally purchased for specific use—say, trout or fishing in distant states—finds practical use in Florida. The fly caster who comes to Florida for his fishing does not necessarily have to replace his trout or salmon rod and supply of lures with other types in order to catch fish.

For example, a salmon rod and salmon dry fly will take Florida black bass. Fly sizes Nos. 2, 4 and 6, with yellow or red bodies, and teal or speckled mallard wings, used with low water or strong salmon hooks can be successfully used. Selections from among the various foreign-water popping bugs and streamer flies also work well in Florida waters.

Fly fishing experts are often likely to be "tackle purists;" they tend to prefer and recommend certain components and lures. However, they will help the beginner avoid some of the pitfalls of first attempt fly casting.

Expert Al McClane, for instance, urges beginners to keep back cast high, and to stop the rod at vertical or at one or two o'clock on the back cast, keeping in mind that the back cast takes just as much power as the forward cast and that you can not complete a decent forward cast unless the back cast straightens out behind you. He recommends advance stripping of extra line from the reel, and releasing it as the line goes out on the forward cast, just before it straightens out—for maximum distance.

For fishing small streams and canals with over-hanging brush, use the side or horizontal cast to place baits where you want them. The side cast is easy to learn. Basically, it involves keeping rod and line low and parallel with the water, plus considerable line speed once the cast is started. Imagine an orthodox overhead cast turned on one side and speeded up, when making your first side cast tries.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**Know Your Florida Fishes**

**FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION**

**Know Your Florida Fishes**

**MUDFISH**

**ALIGATOR GAR**

**ALLIGATOR GAR**

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**FLORIDA FISH COMMISSION**

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**MUDFISH**

**ALIGATOR GAR**

**ALLIGATOR GAR**

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**
SUBSCRIBE NOW TO
Florida Wildlife
The Florida Magazine for ALL Sportsmen

12 Big Issues of Hunting and Fishing for only $2.00
TWO YEARS, 24 ISSUES, $3.75
THREE YEARS, 36 ISSUES, $5.25

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Tallahassee, Florida
Enter or extend my subscription for _______ year(s) for FLORIDA WILDLIFE.
☐ Check, ☐ Cash, ☐ Money Order herewith.
Mailing Address:
Name ____________________________
Street No. ____________________________
City ____________________________ State _______
Signed ____________________________