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 exact 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

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inserted data in, ______ County.

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________________

(Signature of Applicant)________________

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES

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

CHAIN PICKEREL……………………………………… 4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)……………………………………. 1 1/2 pounds or larger

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

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

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

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

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

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Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Tallahassee, Florida
A plaque expressing deep appreciation for Commission's turkey trapping program was recently awarded Mr. A. D. Boyd, operator of turkey hunting, Turkey Specialties, Pinellas County, for his outstanding work in trapping turkeys. Mr. Boyd is one of the state's leading turkey hunters, and the program was highly praised by the Florida Wildlife Commission for its success.

We Goofed

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This is the time I've tried to write this and I am getting damned tired of it. It's about free-spool casting reels and every time I think I've seen all of them somebody brings out a new one and I hope I am fairly representative.

A free-spool casting reel is simply one that casts without the handle turning. This is a great advantage in heavy surf reels but has only recently attracted attention in lighter fishing. Tournament casters have used free-spoolers for years.

Lovers of the baitcasting outfit feel this burst of new equipment is an indication their sport is coming back after languishing in the shadows of spin-fishing for a decade.

I have used three of the free-spoolers—Garcia's Ambassador, the Pfleuger Supreme and a South Bend entry, which is a near-duplicate of the Shakespeare. Heddon has one up with the Heritage, one that I haven't had my hands on as yet. All of them are good merchandise and the top line of each firm is fairly expensive, listing at a little less than $50. As I was writing that, the new spring tackle was introduced and there must be at least 15 free-spoolers among the unmentionables—some of them at less than $15.

Free-spooling enables the manufacturer to produce a heavily-built reel that is fast, easy to cast and it's spool may be husky enough for heavy fish. This means you can cast light lures if you employ the proper rod.

To use the free-spool feature, it is necessary to press a button before each cast. Find that some of them have been flipping the bail on spinning reels for all these years.

The Pfleuger is a combination reel. That is, you can cast it without free-spool if you want to. Then you have a "medium" speed reel. If you want to press the button on the reel handle, you can cast anyway.

Now, if you forget to press the button on the others I have used, nothing happens except that you nearly fill your plug out of the boat. Your companions then laugh uproariously for some reason I have never understood.

The Swedish-built Ambassador has been around for a number of years. It is a precisely made reel, complex construction, and has a unique system of spool control, undoubtedly the most accurate adjustment of any for different casting weights and casting styles. I find I can do a pretty fair job of casting a sixteen-ounce lure with it if I use light line and a soft rod. This is the reel used in baitcasting for large-game fish and other fast-runners where fine drag mechanism is a necessity. I doubt if any casting reel can beat the Ambassador drag. The spool release is on the reel body. This one is a little more difficult to palm than oval-shaped reels.

The South Bend and Shakespeare models resemble the direct-drive reels already popular except that there is some weight added by the free-spooling mechanism which sits alongside and aglue on the handle side. They look and feel rugged and the release button is located on the handle. The direct-drives have all been favorites of minis, the light, aluminum ones are wonderful for bass. Constant use against heavy fish may warp them and the ones with brass plates are better then the addition of slip-clutch handles. There are too many models for me to go into detail but they are essentially the same except for weight.

The plain Pfleuger Supreme has probably caught more prize-winning heavy fish than any other baitcaster. Its feel is a hoot for punishment. For bass fishing, I prefer somewhat a little faster. (When I say "fast" I mean a light, quick-starting spool.) Now that the Supreme can be had with free-spool it's fast enough for anybody.

The new Heddon is made by a firm with an old reputation for good tackle and is the manufacturer states that it is a "true" free-spool reel, nothing but the spool turns—no trouble. So it should be very fast and good for very light lures.

All of these reels are made to be used with monofilament when desired. That is, the spools fit close enough that the fine stuff won't come off the ends and they are strong enough to withstand the pressure of tight nylon.

Although my friends have patiently tried to explain to me the reason for the holding release on free-spool reels they don't get through.

For 99 per cent of my baitcasting, braided line is far superior to monofilament. I have a strong feeling that monofilament looks best on spinning reels.

For accuracy, good, soft braded allows much more delicate thumb control. Snap cast or snap cast is virtually impossible with any of the mono I have tried and for most of us that's the most sensitive feature. The backlashes I have had with monofilament are far more awesome than anything I could ever produce with braided line, even if I went away and left the reel running. When I baitcast with mono, I lob high and often wide.

I will concede some advantages to line. It is often tough to cast in heavy waters, doesn't cut easily and in some light is least visi-

ble to fish. When fishing for long-runners, it offers less drag on the water and hence less strain on the snapped through the guides and outfit.

If you want to use very, very landed in a floating coil on the water fine line and very, very small lures, 50 feet away.

It fills the bill. But in this case, most of us turn to spinning. I could see the bass was making off with the lure, line paying off from the bottom of the floating coil while I rowed frantically toward the spot and Jack lay on his stomach in the bow of the boat wishing he could get his hands on that line.

Then the line stopped running away and we figured the bass was gone. But Jack scooped up the trailer was made from the running gears of an old buggy with wooden spokes and steel rims.

Pulled, of course, by a Model T Ford, the buggy worked all right except when the wheels got dried out and the spokes loosened up. Then the rig sounded like a xylophone and you had to be mighty careful or you'd be dragging a boat without wheels. Then, you soaked the whole wheel in water until she swelled up and ran as quietly as a buggy wheel is supposed to.

Launching was executed about the way you figure, like man-power and colorful language.

While demonstrating my vast knowledge of the old days. I'll comment about tackle.

I had pretty good baitcasting tackle in 1922 although level wind reels were just becoming popular. Rods were mostly of the swamped steel variety and had poor action by modern standards. Guides were a side in the better models. There wasn't much wrong with the reels except that they were pretty slow with heavy freewheels.

At that time, there was undoubtedly much better tackle than I even saw as I wasn't in very plush fishing circles.

(Continued on page 36)
Muzzle Flashes

BY EDMUND MC LAURIN

WHAT WITH LIVING and sports participation costs going up and up, I—like many other handgun aficionados—have to take up the hobby of reloading a major portion of my sporting arms ammunition, in order to do much shooting as I like.

Rim-fire .22 caliber ammunition is still fairly inexpensive—and it is also impractical to reload—but there is considerable saving to be had from reloading shotshells and center fire ammunition.

Consider that 100 rounds of commercial, ready-to-use 0.30-06 caliber ammunition costs me approximately $22.75 over retail store counters and that a similar number of 12 gauge shotshells requires me to hand over $31.40, both costs plus state sales tax.

Then reflect on the fact that I can home reload one hundred .30-06 caliber shotshells for $12.95, and a hundred 12 gauge shotshells for $51.17, and you will quickly understand why I reload in order to keep my large calibers warm from hibernation.

Another advantage of reloading is that the bullet can be loaded to the shooter's specifications and styles not available in commercial ammunition. The Williams Gun Sight Company makes can be had from suppliers that the shooter can load bullet and style, and conduct extensive range firing tests.

Another advantage of reloading is that there is no need to reload .22 caliber ammunition, with wadcutter style, for example, only select, uniform tolerances, accuracy generally improved. Also, since the fired cases have been fire-formed in the chamber to case neck resizing, a trace of soap in the reloading tool is to roll each case neck or graphite is usually sufficient, while neatsfoot oil serves admirably in the reloading tool is to roll each case neck.

Handgun ammunition of the makes the bullet is the recognized and dangerous leakage of high pressure gas back through the gun's action and into the chamber and consequently the bullet must be resized and dangerous leakage of high pressure gas back through the gun's action and into the chamber, the bullet is the recognized and dangerous leakage of high pressure gas back through the gun's action and into the chamber if the bullet is resized and dangerous leakage of high pressure gas back through the gun's action and into the chamber.

Most of the different bullet styles that can be had in various calibers are of standard trade dimensions, the extra weight is obviously incorporated in the structure of case head and rim, where the bullet walls are thicker than those in same caliber cartridges of rival manufacture. For the handgun ammunition reloading this means added safety and case life.

Availability of ready-made Norma bullets with desirably soft lead core, high with exposed powders and propellants, world wide for being a nation of riflemen, and Norma ammunition is a development of that nationality's finest ballistics experts. Norma ammunition is distributed in this country by Norma Precision, Inc., South Lansign, New York, and affiliated retail outlets.

Speer. The Williams Gun Sight Company, for example, only select, uniform tolerances, accuracy generally improved. Also, since the fired cases have been fire-formed in the chamber to case neck resizing, a trace of soap in the reloading tool is to roll each case neck or graphite is usually sufficient, while neatsfoot oil serves admirably in the reloading tool.

Handgun ammunition of the name brand, long-time favorite of Olympic shoot­ ers, for example, only select, uniform brass is used to form each cartridge case, and some 22-25 different and intricate operations are tied in with production.

Norma uses brass alloying about 72% copper and 28% zinc. During manufacture the brass is specially heat treated to retain necessary case softness or flexibility, for in firing the case must first expand and seal against the chamber walls, then contract and regain its shape so that the empty case can be easily extracted.

If it is to be reloaded, the empty case must withstand necessary re­ shaping. Factory tools of specific de­ sign are used to work the brass material to proper strength and fi­ xidity, and to shape the cartridge case to standard caliber dimensions, thereby creating the special Magnum calibers.

One advantage of the extra strength embodied in Norma cart­ ridges is realized in the fire­ forming of non-standard "wildcat" calibers, the creation of cartridges for now obsolete calibers and reloading of the empties thereafter.

Through fire-forming and combined resizing operations, Roy Wea­ therby creates the special Magnum caliber cartridges for his now world famous line of high velocity big game rifles. Special ready-to-use rifle ammunition carries price tags of $6.60 to $17.50 per box of 20 rounds, fired cases in reloadable condition are literally gold to a Weatherby rifle owner.

In similar fashion, the home re­ loader can fire-form and/or resize cartridges for, say, twelve to twenty re­ loads from, say, twelve to twenty re­ loads from a single case. Only an ex­ pert who knows how, and has the time and interest to handle the re­ loading chores, can easily handle the necks of cases—operation necessary after cases have been reload and fired so many times that they became brit­ ter, and require attempt long­ repeated reloading of the same cases.

Salvaged military brass, particu­ larly, is not recommended for use, and may give a lot of trouble—especially when fired in...
BOATING

BY DON CULLIMORE

It's go for a cruise—over some water that, so far as first-hand view is concerned, is almost unknown despite the fact that it's within comparatively few miles of a good many hundreds of thousands of Florida folk.

We're going on the upper St. John's—wild and virtually inaccessible (except by water) region that lies above where Elgin White and Clark Comstock ended up their St. Johns at Sanford in Lake Monroe ("Florida Boating Adventure," Palma Waldrup, Feb­ruary and March, 1962). That was an appropriate terminus for an in­board craft of the size and draft of Clark's 2½-ft. "Corky II." For the outboardie, who can maneuver tight turns, tilt his propeller up over shallow­ly and beach without difficulty, there's another hundred miles of river.

For the first 20 miles upstream from Lake Harney, there are day­markers, and a clearly defined main channel that's present except under abnormal drought conditions. This is the stretch that's noted for its winter and early spring seedling fishing. The markers end at Lake Harney; so does a path that's usually kept broken by trafficking fishing craft. Lake Harney, it's country that's little changed by civilization. Sure, there's cattle grazing on its edges; a few fences are visible, and in scattered areas, however, like to catch it on the rise pays. Fishing the bars in the first flush of ice from in case of accident or motor failure... tell one of the camp operators when you expect to be back and if not, to come looking for you.

If there's enough water, we'll first head upstream to Hell'n Blazes—just to be able to say we've been to the river. It makes a good braggin' point on those dreary days when we're swapping yarns in­doors.

Before we start, however, let's look over the equipment picture... Depending on water conditions, it can be made with a husky outboard boat with the big horsepower engines. Best bet, however, is a 1½ or 2½-foot boat with a hand-held motor of from 10 to 18 h.p. It'll draw less water, be more quickly maneuverable, and if you hit bars and shallows (which you will) it's more easily tiltable. A spare motor—say 5 to 6 h.p.—is a good thing to have along. Add spare props, drive pins and the necessary tools. Add a snake bite kit, plenty of repellant and insect repellent and rain gear. The point isn't that you may need these any more here than you would any other place—but if you do need 'em, my lad, you really need 'em.

In the 50-mile run to Lake Harney, the only bridge crossings are the aforementioned Highway US-192; Florida 520 and Florida 50—it's a long way along that lake's east shore; and Lone Cabbage at the Highway 15 crossing. You can long talk about the impact of a north-bound wind and current and may ride right down the lake's southern end, egress which you'll have to find if you want to get out. (Remember—you can't walk back!)

Here, and from here on down to Harney, it's country that's little changed by civilization. Sure, there's cattle grazing on its edges; a few fences are visible, and in scattered places canals have been dug and barraging levees thrown up for agricultural purposes. But there's none of this cottage, camp, and road stuff (or even visible farmhouses). If you meet any one, chances are it's a solitary fishing boat.

For this is fishing water; when the river is low, conditions are best, for the fish are concentrated. When the stream is up, it spreads broadly out over slow sloping banks and the fish disperse. A detachment in the area, however, like to catch it on the early rise when the river's flow is just pouring over bars into the pothole lakes that flank it. Fishing the bars in the first flush of the rise pays.

One more item: A set of charts SJ-1, 2, 3, and 4, published by the Nautical Mapping Service of Orlando (P.O. Box 7397, 50¢ each). These are usually purchasable at the fish camps near the bridges.

Otherwise: A sharp sense of direction comes in handy; a compass can come in useful to a limited extent.

It's a narrow stream, but with pretty well-defined channel, up to Sawgrass Lake. There, you'll pick your way through the lily pads on a path that's usually kept broken by trafficking fishing craft. Hell'n Blazes is easy to reach (if the water depth is adequate—last autumn, due to lack of late summer and fall rains, it wasn't!) but once there you'll have to watch for its bag of tricks. This swamp­girl small lakes—two miles long and less than a half-mile broad.—has a batch of floating islands that can perform most disconcertingly at times. In other words, your land­mark is more interesting and also easier to lose.

Next camps, below Lake Washing­ton Resort, are Pursueit Lodge mid­way along that lake's east shore; and Lone Cabbage at the Highway 15 crossing where the waters narrow to river size again. Below here, the river runs wild in a tortuous course with a multiplicity of confusing sloughs and minor lakes... from here on, your navigation charts are a "must," and require common-sense interpretation, or you'll find yourself up a dead-end sluice. Finally, past the Cheney Highway crossing (Route 520), there's "Puzzle Lake"—not a lake in the accepted sense of the word, but definitely a puzzle. It's all a land of low, lush banks, scrub trees, reeds and some saw­grass, and threads of water wander­ing in all directions. There'll be fast currents, dead pools, split channels and run-around sloughs that look like the river... If its fishing, and solitude, and wilderness and wild­life and the challenge of a tricky stream you like, here's a trip you can long talk about.

Admittedly, it's hardly what you'd recommend for a family outing... or for the chap who likes armchair comfort and effortless cruising. Strictly a man's trip! Perhaps...
Facts About FLORIDA BEAR

By RICHARD F. HARLOW

Game Management Division

There are 15 races of the black bear in North America. The American black bear (Ursus americanus) has the widest range and is the best known. In most instances the race differences would be apparent only to mammalogists. Some forms are, however, quite noticeable such as the Kermode bear of British Columbia which is purt white, the Glacier bear at Glacier Bay which has a blue-gray pelt, the cinnamon bear common in the Rocky Mountains whose coat is yellowish-brown, and the uniformly colored black Florida bear (Ursus americanus floridanus).

How Big Is the Florida Black Bear?

Florida bear are considered by many mammalogists to be one of the largest of the 18 races. It is theorized that bear in Florida continue to grow throughout the year where food conditions are ideal. Black bear in colder regions go into a semi-torpid state depending on the types of range occurring. Weights are not the only means, however, of comparing size differences in animals. Skulls when grouped for a particular species and separated by sex illustrate more constant and definite species differences, if any are present, than the more variable characteristic weight. A length and breadth comparison of Florida, Virginia and Alaskan black bear skulls (both sexes) showed the Florida bears averaging the largest with the Virginia bears next, and the Alaskan black bear skulls the smallest.

What Is the Home Range of the Florida Black Bear?

Bears are neither grazers nor browsers therefore require extensive range to furnish an adequate supply of food. The size of the area necessary to fulfill the needs of a bear is determined by the quantity of year-round food available to the animal. Difficulties involved in determining "home range" include seasonally limited movements influenced by food availability changes; the shy, retiring nature of bears; and the usually small populations of bear over large areas.

Few sportsmen, who spend their vacations in the woods, ever see one even where they are considered numerous. Scientifically trained observers are severely handicapped in their attempts to obtain reliable information on either the number of bears in an area or the size of a bear's home range since it is necessary to have an intimate knowledge of the area and unlimited time. Recent trapping and tagging programs in operation in states where bears are numerous and the animal has a high economic status are revealing valuable information on the size of the black bear's home range. Present estimates of a black bear's home range vary from 10 to 15 miles.

The Black Bear is a plantigrade mammal, meaning it walks flat-footed on the sole with the heel touching the ground. The track made by the hind foot resembles the human footprint. Hind track made by a full grown bear measures about seven inches long. While the bear has five toes on each foot, sometimes only four will show in the tracks.

What Is Good Florida Bear Range?

A mixture of vegetation types apparently affords the largest home range (Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page)

the most desirable range. Bears are most often found in river swamps, scrub oak areas, cypress swamps, large loblolly pines, and pine flatlands. Where all these types are found in one area is where bears are most numerous. Sizable areas of dense river swamps, difficult to penetrate, have been instrumental in preventing the Florida black bear from becoming exterminated.

What Do Florida Bear Eat?
Florida bear have a remarkably varied diet as do all black bears. They are considered omnivorous, meaning they eat both animal and vegetable food. Because of their large size they need an abundance of food to keep them alive and in good health. They also require an extensive range to furnish an adequate supply of food. A partial list of animal matter they eat includes ants; all types of wild and honey bees, yellow jackets, termites, wasps, grubs, beetles, walking sticks, eggs, armadillo, mice, lizards, small snakes, fish, and occasionally wild hogs.

Vegetable matter includes all species of acorn mast, saw palmetto and scrub palmetto mast, berries, fleshy stalks and buds of the cabbage palm, gallberries, black gum berries, scrub rosemary fruits, huckleberries, blueberries, blackberries and roots.

What About the Mating Season?
Female black bears do not breed until they are two years of age and bear young only in alternate years. The young are born usually in January or February. Based on fourteen observations of live cubs with the mother, the average litter size of Florida bears is 1.9 and ranges from 1 to 4. The figure 1.9, which is the number of cubs that survive after birth, may possibly be less than those born.

The limited number of Florida observations may possibly indicate a lower reproductive capacity than actually exists. The accepted gestation period ranges from 7-7.5 months indicating that the mating period occurs around June or July. The cubs usually travel with the mother throughout the first year and into the second year until she again seeks a mate. Males and females display a considerable amount of affection during the mating season. In less than one month, however, the honeymoon is over and the sexes go their separate ways. Males will fight fiercely for possession of females during the mating season.

What Is the Size of a New-Born Cub?
At birth cubs are tiny weighing from 6 to 10 ounces and measuring around 8 or 9 inches in length. They are born, naked, blind, and toothless. After the first 40 days of life they grow black downy coats, open their eyes and cut their first teeth. At that time they weigh about two pounds and measure a foot in length.

The weight of a new-born cub is about 1/200th of the mother's, small enough in proportion to their mother's size than any mammal except the opossum. The belief among hunters that a pregnant bear has never been killed is explained by the fact that the embryos are so small they might not be noticed in the uterus.

How Many Bear in Florida?
An intensive county by county census of the bear population is in order but presently such figures are not available so other means of deriving an estimate are necessary. In his tireless quest for food one bear will leave enough sign to give the impression that the woods are full of bears. Since bears are seldom seen in the woods yet signs indicating their presence may be numerous, an estimate of their numbers requires a considerable amount of "guesstimation."

A statewide population figure obtained by multiplying the total legal and illegal kill by ten, places the number of bear at around 1,000. The illegal kill in Florida is estimated to approximately equal the legal kill. The annual average legal harvest over the past five years ranged in the fifties. This apparently constant figure suggests that the black bear is presently holding his own.

How Many Black Bear in the Other Southeastern States?
In an effort to compare the population status of Florida bear with black bear from the twelve other southeastern states a 1960 questionnaire inquiring us to the estimated number of bear and their economic importance was mailed to each game division. North Carolina listed the largest estimated bear population with 15,000, Virginia second with 13,000, Florida third with between 800 and 1,000, Georgia with 500, Alabama 200, Tennessee 250, Arkansas 150, South Carolina 100, Mississippi 20, Kentucky and Maryland both 0.

Do Florida Bears Hibernate?
It is questionable whether bears, even those in the north, are true hibernators if the definition is restricted to mammals whose winter sleep is a deep and pro...
are almost impenetrable. Those dogs with either aire-

If food is scarce they go into cover early, but if

Dogs are usually used when hunting bear. The type of dog used may range from a pack

COMPARISON OF BLACK BEAR WITH GRIZZLY AND ALASKA BROWN BEAR

1. ALASKA BROWN BEAR (Ursus middendorfii) — Inhabits the mainland and islands of Alaska. Coloring is like the Grizzly, with

2. GRIZZLY BEAR (Ursus horribilis) — Inhabits the mountains of western North America. Has hump on shoulder, and long claws, up to four inches long. Coloring is yellowish to dark brown, with white tips to the hairs. Length of head and body is 6-7 feet. Height at the shoulders is 3-3½ feet. Weight between 325 and 825 pounds.

3. BLACK BEAR (Ursus americanus) — Distributed throughout most of North America. No hump on shoulders. Claws short. Head and body are black. muzzle is brown. Brown, blue and nearly white color phases of black bear are found in western North America. Length of head and body: 5-½ to 6½ feet. Height at shoulders: 2-3½ to 4 feet. Up to 600 pounds.

Animals reported killed during the 1960-61 hunting season could conceivably have had an economic value of $1,000 per animal. Virginia considers the economic value of each bear at $1,500.

To the detriment of the bear, good bear country in Florida is also high quality bee range. An abundant variety of mast bearing plants are found in swamps and hammocks. Bee yards unprotected from bears receive severe damage since honey is a favorite bear food. Because an occasional bear destroys hives all bears are persecuted by many beekeepers whenever the opportunity arises.

At relatively little expense it is possible to pro-
tect apiaries by means of electrical fences or bear-
proof bee hive platforms. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will, on request, mail plans for building platforms to all interested beekeepers. Two hundred dollars damage to bee hives in one raid by a

In the final analysis the survival of such a large animal will depend primarily upon the wishes of the average Florida citizen and sportsman. We should stop condemning the bear on sight, and work together to protect him except in the comparatively rare cases where he is seriously damaging property or livestock. Except for the Florida panther, the bear is the most impressive wild animal in Florida and deserves the fullest protection as an interesting and spectacular species of Florida wildlife.
are almost impenetrable. Those dogs with either aire-

IS now found principally in very rough country where

of any bear-dog is that he be rugged, since the bear

com·entional pack of hounds. One prime requirement

which contain strike dogs, trail dogs, and fighting dogs,

ply is low. The females may remain inactive over

longer periods since they may have cubs to care for.

How Are Bears Hunted in Florida?

Dogs usually are used for bear hunting. Some hunt­
er use highly specialized combination packs of dogs

which contain strike dogs, trail dogs, and fighting dogs,

but this is the exception. Most hunters depend on a

conventional pack of hounds. One prime requirement

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bear hunters in Florida spends an average of $236.32 per hunter. The money

spent was as follows—

If the estimated 230 Florida bear hunters spent an

average of $236 this would total $54,280. The fifty bear

reported killed during the 1960-61 hunting season could

conceivably have had an economic value of $1,000 per

animal. Virginia considers the economic value of each

black bear at $1,500.

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proof bee hive platforms. The Florida Game and Fresh

Water Fish Commission will, on request, mail plans for

building platforms to all interested beekeepers. Two

hundred dollars damage to bee hives in one raid by a

bear can be prevented by a bear-proof bee hive plat­

form at a cost of about $170. These platforms have

adequate space for 50 hives and are serviceable for

fifteen years.

An animal with estimated value of $1,000 is deserv­

ing of protection from illegal killing. Occasionally a

bear makes off with a pig or even a cow or calf, but

these instances are rare and all bears should not be

condemned for the depredations of a few.

How Is the Black Bear Managed in Florida?

Management consists primarily of protection against

illegal hunting and restocking where practicable. Hunt­
ing regulations permit the taking of only one bear per

hunter and bears less than 100 pounds are considered

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hunter and bears less than 100 pounds are considered

condemned for the depredations of a few.
Here's more than $200 worth of fly fishing equipment! The reel is a Seasmaster made in Miami—the rod an Orvis ShootingSalt.

Custom tackle construction is usually a labor of love—and you won't find these items listed in the cut-rate ads!

**BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK**

**A Norma Electric Reel** costs you $1800. But then, that includes a set of wrenches and an instruction sheet.

The purpose of this information is to get your attention as I am not selling electric reels. But the Norma is an example of the top-drawer fishing tackle manufactured and sold in Florida. It appears that the country's finest salt water reels are made on the Treasure Coast of Florida. It is possible that the country's best salt water reels are made in Florida.

The folks who spend the most money for fishing tackle are largely in two categories—deep-sea anglers and fly-fishermen—but there are some others who like good gear too.

When you get down to it, I guess there's no reason why the owner of a $2000 overweight fishing boat should confine himself to seven bucks worth of tackle. And the $1800 electric reel, the Norma, sold by Fin-Nor of Miami, wouldn't look out of place on a $100,000 yacht or even on a dinky little old $30,000 sports fisherman.

As, so we carefully justify these expenditures we come around to the spin-fisherman who spends all of his free time angling. A few years of this makes a $100 SeaMaster spinning reel appear pretty reasonably priced. And a fly-fisherman who buys a $100 Orvis (not made in Florida) or a $30 Pal-rod (which certainly is made in Florida) isn't necessarily a fast man with a dollar because it's good merchandise and he can use it for many years.

Mostly, the construction of real custom fishing tackle is a labor of love and I don't think many folks have retired young as a result of that kind of business. The more custom tackle the more heavy duty spinning reels or $1000 fly reels. Nevertheless, he seems to get a kick out of producing them.

His spinning reel takes 500 yards of 10-pound test monofilament, weighs 24 ounces and is intended for offshore activities with the real heavyweights in mind. I strongly suspect that Captain Mack would go into hiding if a manufacturing defect were located in one of those reels. Like most people who make top-quality merchandise, he wants it used by people who will appreciate it.

There is one production spinning reel that costs more than a dollar. It's the Alcedo heavy duty, an imported salt water model and the Mark V, termed a "deep sea or surf spin reel, but holds 600 yards of 20-pound test line.

The smaller Alcados are perhaps better known to light tackle fishermen as quality products in the upper price brackets.

Alcedo reels are imported by the fishing tackle division of Continental Arms Corporation, New York. Careful examination of any of these heavy duty spinning reels will show why they cost considerable folding money. There's a lot of strain in a lot of places when you rattle really heavy fish with spinning reels. The spools must withstand the pressures of heavy monofilament that's packed on tightly. The handles on these reels give the fisherman a lot of leverage and the gears must provide for fast line takeup. Then, of course, when you buy that kind of a reel you expect a finish that isn't going to peel off in the first high wind. There isn't much surf fishing here of the sort they do in New England.

Probably more of the finer heavy duty spinning outfits are used offshore and from jetties and piers than from the beach.

Some years back, I stopped in at St. Petersburg to have a look at the Zwarg fly reel. It is a direct descend­ant of the famous vom Hofe reels and costs slightly more than a hundred bucks. The folks who produced it made a lot of other things and were awfully nice to me but they certainly didn't make me talk. They had none made up at the time. Now and then, their fly reel appears in high class tackle catalogs but I doubt if they show much profit in making them.

The Zwarg reel, like the vom Hofe, is a beautifully made thing, somewhat complicated by modern standards, with a well-nigh perfect drag mechanism. The Orto Zwarg name also appears on deep water reels. Frankly, I don't know if you can buy one now or not. There was a complicated arrangement involving the vom Hofe concern and I never did fully understand it. Anyway, not all of the vom Hofe line was built here.

The Bogdan fly reel is similar to the Zwarg in appearance and sells for about the same price. It appears in the Orto catalog.

Probably the best known of the top-ranking Florida tackle is that put out by the Tycoon-Fin-Nov Corporation. They make spinning reels in (Continued on next page)
and which often sport engraving, carving the general with a fighting harness and seat for certain sports. There are also some fine English makes. Among the best-known of the custom flyrod builders in this country are Powell and Leonard. There are several others and I am not going to try to name them because I might leave out some and I'm not absolutely sure of which ones are still being made.

However, a couple of American-made bamboo rods are so unique in construction they cannot be passed by. 

First, there is the Orvis, built in Manchester, Vermont. These folks make fly, spinning and baitcasting rods and sell a lot of other high class tackle. Their line of fine rods has the distinction of being readily available. They're a pretty large outfit and keep a stock of rods on hand. Orvis rods are impregnated. That is, the Tonkin bamboo is "filled" with bakelite resin, thus becoming tough.

Orvis has things going their way here because, even if he believes it's tough, the owner of a hundred-buck stick probably won't test it.

Second, I have watched fishermen pick up a high grade roll or reel and state flatly that it isn't worth the asking price. Well, I don't know. I'd certainly hate to build a big Fin-Nor reel starting from scratch for any thing like the price they ask and the same goes for Captain Mack's reels.

Now when we come to rods, as far as I know all of the top grade ones made in Florida are constructed of glass. I spent quite a while prowling around the Spinnmaster showroom in Miami and I looked at a lot of their experimental jobs. All kinds of action can be built into any kind of a fishing rod if someone knows his business. Using duplicate glass blanks, a rodmaker can come up with a variety of wonderful things as well as a few weird ones too.

Of late, the custom rod makers have been stirred up by something called "progressive taper," which simply means that the rod's glass walls are of varying thicknesses, the thickness being controlled in manufacture. Some of the builders probably had never heard of this business because eccentric customers keep wanting the "stiff part" or the "soft part" of a rod in a special place.

Many of the standard, off-the-shelf rod models started out as custom jobs were found satisfactory for numerous anglers and then became stock items at a lower price. I got hold of a wonderful experimental rod from Henry Orr of Spinnmaster. It was so good I hope he put it into production even though that would take mine out of the exclusive class.

The most expensive of spinning, casting and fly rods are not made in Florida. They're built of bamboo and it is the flyrods that are in most demand. Despite the take-over of hollow glass in most fields, there are many fly-fishermen who insist on split bamboo.

Although there are some wonderful bamboo made for salt water fishing, most salt water fly anglers are using glass. In addition to the relative cheapness of hollow glass, I believe this choice is due largely to the light weight of hollow glass rods. Most salt water rods are pretty powerful sticks and their actual scale thickness being controlled in manufacture. The Winston rods are beautiful and thousands of hours Dating, most salt water fly anglers are using glass. In addition to the relative cheapness of hollow glass, I believe this choice is due largely to the light weight of hollow glass rods. Most salt water rods are pretty powerful sticks and their actual scale thickness being controlled in manufacture. The Winston rods are beautiful and thousands of hours

The Winston rods are beautiful and thousands of hours

(Continued from preceding page)

The Tycoon is a custom flyrod for heavy salt water rods sold around the world. The Orvis rods cost clear up to $190 for a 2-hand salmon rod but a good flyrod brings around $100 with casting and spinning rods listed at around $50 to $60. I don't audit the Orvis books but I am guessing that there is far more interest in their flyrods than in their other numbers. I think the quality shows up best in flyrods.

A representative of a glass rod firm once told me that imregnated bamboo is harder to break, crush and scratch than anything he had ever sold. Orvis has things going their way here because, even if he believes it's tough, the owner of a hundred-buck stick probably won't test it.

That bamboo comes from China, which makes its acquisition a little touchy these days. The Orvis catalog simply states they have enough to last them for 20 years at their present rate of production. They say it is "pre-war grade" but don't mention whether it has been kicking around all that time or not.

Quite different but just as amazing in the results achieved is the Winston rod made in San Francisco. This bamboo job is hollow, giving great strength with little weight.

The Winston rods are beautiful tools for any fishing but they have gained their reputation as distance-casting sticks. The first two of the Winstons ever made set new world records at a national tournament. Not seen so often in the East, they are beloved by long-casting steelhead seekers on the West Coast and are prized by many celebrities.

The process by which the Winstons are made was originated by the late Lew Stoner. All of them are now personally made by Doug Merick who has been in the business a long time.
A Florida Boating Adventure

CRUISE INTO HISTORY

By ELGIN WHITE

IF THE OLD SPANISH conquistadores had cruised the sparkling waters between Apalachicola and Pensacola in a high powered outboard boat, they probably would have never gone on to the Mississippi. They would have found their Utopia right there, and pitched a permanent camp somewhere along those snow white beaches. However, a man named DeSoto had wandered, and he moved his crew on. But they had the foresight, as did another Spaniard named Tristan de Luna, to build a fort or settlement here and there along the way, and for that we are eternally grateful.

Not only did those fortifications help keep Indians away, but as the year 1611 came along, it gave us an excuse to cruise those waters, visit the sites of the forts, and come back home with a keen sense of historical accomplishment. Thus we move into the narrative of our "Cruise Into History." To make the cruise, I needed three things: Desire, company, and a couple of boats. I had the desire. Bill Ray of Silver Springs furnished the boats, and the Curtis Gentry family of Mobile, Alabama (in the winter) and Destin, Florida (in the summer) provided the company.

I needed one other thing. I needed a top flight shutter bug to record the momentous journey. Didn't have to reach across the hall from my office to get Johnny Johnson, one of Florida's most talented photographers. Johnny will go on a boat trip to west from Apalachicola to Pensacola, with a stop-over at Destin. In that year it was 57 miles to Curtis' summer cottage in Destin, and from there it was 38 miles to Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island.

I cast a leery glance at the three six gallon tanks aboard each boat. Curtis noticed the quizzical furrows on my brow and soothed, "We can make it to Panama City with a little gas to spare if we run about three-quarter throttle." I knew Curtis was an engineer, with a Mobile Paper Co., but said that made him an expert! Then Buddy advised me that the Gentrys also run a fishing tackle shop, a charter boat, and have three other water craft at Destin. I figured we were in the hands of experts.

Actually, we needed to have no fear about gas, as there is fuel available at White City, in the intracoastal past Lake Wimico, and at Port St. Joe. But I'm just a worrier, anyhow.

We pulled out of Apalach's excellent launching pad around 3 a.m. on a Monday morning to begin the intracoastal trek to Panama City. We poked along close to shore after we passed under the bridge leading to East Point. Buddy advised me to get some good shots as we passed the famous Apalachicola shrimp fleet.

Curtis got a cruising guide chart put out by the Standard Oil Co. This is just one of several fine cruising guides put out by various oil firms. We checked the chart carefully for mijeast directions, and found it was 34.6 miles from the municipal launching ramp at Apalach to the new marina at Panama City. From there it was 57 miles to Curtis' summer cottage in Destin, and from there it was 38 miles to Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island.

The body of water beyond Wimico is called Searcy Creek. This is really one of the prettiest stretches of water along this run. The banks are lined with tropic greenery, interspersed with limestom rock, tall pine trees, bushy palmethos, and snow white sand dunes.

We encountered an unusual barge-bridge. This bridge is composed of an old barge, reconditioned and repainted, which reached across the canal from dock to dock. When a boat arrives, the tender closes both accesses, climbs aboard the barge, cranks up a powerful winch, and the barge swings wide on a cable that is dropped into the deep, slowing clear passage for the boat. If you have never seen a bridge like this one, you're in for a treat. It is rudimentary, but highly effective. Just pass the bridge a deep cut canal leads off to port into one of Florida's oldest towns, Port St. Joe. Back in the early 1890's, St. Joseph was one of Florida's largest ports. It seemed destined for greatness, but was all but wiped out in 1841 when a

Near White City (a gas stop if necessary) we encountered an unusual barge-bridge. This structure is composed of an old barge, reconditioned and repainted, which reached across the canal from dock to dock. When a boat arrives, the tender closes both accesses, climbs aboard the barge, cranks up a powerful winch, and the barge swings wide on a cable that is dropped into the deep, slowing clear passage for the boat. If you have never seen a bridge like this one, you're in for a treat. It is rudimentary, but highly effective. Just pass the bridge a deep cut canal leads off to port into one of Florida's oldest towns, Port St. Joe. Back in the early 1890's, St. Joseph was one of Florida's largest ports. It seemed destined for greatness, but was all but wiped out in 1841 when a

(Continued on next page)
We were fully expecting a

Our boat. and eased it close to the
glass.

leading Gentry's family cruiser where John­
ny snapped a picture of the other
waters of East Bay were quite

to the entrance of East Bay, which
would take us into Panama City. By
water. However, we found this idyll


Palmettos. pines. and relics of a
once promising future.

was

municipal marina, be­
fore heading west to

Destin.

Ocular the welder's torch.

... destroyed, so we slowed down to
a mere crawl. The rain was pounding
down so hard we could barely see
in front of us. But it was fortunate
we could see, even if just a little.
Looming out of the rain was a tug
and fuel barge, one of many we
passed on this trip. Nothing is more
errie to a boatman than to be in
mist, rain, or fog and see the ghostly
shape of a large vessel emerge
directly in front of him.

However, this fellow was as cau-
tous as we were, and we passed
slowly in the rain with plenty of
room for all.

When we reached the bay, it was
drenched, so we slowed down to

a mere crawl. The rain was pounding
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When we reached the bay, it was

for anything you might consider use-
ful, you can make arrangements to
buy any and all parts.

We gassed up while in Panama
City, then headed west toward Des-
tin. Again we were watching another
line squall moving in, but were
going to them. These quick
rain storms are typical of tropical
Florida, and though a nuisance to
photographers, fishermen, and boat-
men, they are a boon to farmers and
those of us who suffer from summer
heat. These line squalls keep Flori-
da's summer weather cool indeed.

We again entered the intracoastal
waterway from West Bay out of
Panama City, and the canal along
here begins to take on the appear-
ance of a white Christmas. The
whole beach area of Florida's "Mir-
icle Strip" is magnificent in brilliant
white sand.

had best wear dark (and really
dark) sunglasses, for the reflection
up with us. We were soundly


The calm waters of the Intracoastal
waterway give an almost perfect re-
flection of the Gentry boat.
FAMILY FUN

By EDMUND McLaurin

After deciding on direction of travel and planned camping site destination, the first problem is to assemble the camping gear consistent with actual needs. Begin by making a list of "essential" items as suggested by everyone in the family, then edit it carefully and mutually agree to discard items of improbable or limited use. Even so, you will end up with a long list of equipment to assemble. Check off the list and pack for travel.

Take care that all family members select proper and sufficient clothing, especially comfortable footwear. Camping-out fun hinges heavily on individual comfort. Rain? It won't bother you at all if you are prepared for it.

A successful camp-out, but space will not permit inclusion here. Just keep in mind that no camping trip can be perfect in all its many facets; be reconciled to occasional, temporary discomfort and make the best of it. Half the fun of camping out is the experience shared and the knowledge gained.

If you want to take a really serious approach to your summer camping, look up "Forty Winks Afafeld" in the May, 1959, issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, and "Dry or Drenched" in the August, 1959, issue, or get Kephart's "Camping and Woodcraft" and the late Townsend Whelen's "On Your Own in the Wilderness" from your local library. This summer, plan at least one overnight family camp-out.

Between hunting seasons is the ideal time to polish up family members' marksmanship.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

MAY, 1962
Archery as a family sport packs plenty of appeal and many opportunities for fun-filled competition. Numerous, convenient ranges state-wide make participation easy.

In addition to formal target shooting over measured ranges, many of the Florida clubs maintain special field courses, with animal figure targets set up at unknown ranges, to permit the serious bowhunter to keep in practice between hunting seasons...

Boating opens up new and ever interesting horizons...

With its thousands of lakes and rivers, Florida boasts numbers worth joining. Two popular annual events are the Eureka-Leesburg cruise of the Jacksonville Outboard Club, and the Clearwater-Venice boat club of Florida West Coast clubs. Family fishing can take many forms, but for all-around, inexpensively, sport one cannot beat old-fashioned cane pole fishing with bobber-float and worms or other natural baits. Tackle therefore can be quickly assembled or rented almost anywhere, and there are legions of good places to fish.

Millions of fresh water panfish are taken by Florida sportsmen every year. Areas that have earned fame by reason of their varied and plentiful panfish populations are such places as the waters of the Wacissa, Aucilla, Santa Fe, Ochlockonee, St. Johns, Ocklawaha, Kissimmee, and St. John's rivers, of Taylor, Jefferson and Madison counties, the Oklawaha near the Eureka Bridge, Marion County; Blue Lake; Lake Eady, Crooked Lake; Fasonoakee Lake; Lake Apopka; Lake Harris; Lake Deacon; innumerable lakes around Eustis, Tavares and Mt. Dora; Lake Asby; Lake Okeechobee; the St. Johns river, Suwannee, Chipra, St. Lucie, Crystal, Withlacoochee, Chipola, Chassawhitcha, Homosassa, Chocowhatchee, and Wakulla rivers; Ochessee Pond in Jackson county; the Dead Lakes region of Gulf and Calhoun counties, and Finshooting Creek on Highway 27. Hundreds of other unnamed or locally named lakes and ponds contribute liberally to Florida's fishing fun.

No special angling skills are needed to catch Florida panfish, but experts agree there is more to cane pole fishing than just baiting a hook with a worm.

Location of the float or bobber is important to success. Before rigging your float, suspend a sinker from your line to determine the depth of the water. Then rig poles to keep baits just off the bottom.

Naturally, the size and style of hook used should match the average size of the particular fish you're trying to catch. Many anglers make the mistake of using too large a hook.

For bream, long Shanked Carlsile pattern hooks in size 6 are popular, while for speckled perch a No. 4 size is often preferred. For crappies, certain proponents will have no other hook than a No. 8 Sproat. For general use, many successful Florida pan-fishermen like a No. 10 or a thin-shanked Wright & McGill Aberdeen style in either size 6 or 8.

Instead of placing the hook at the extreme end of the line, some canny pole fishermen like to attach a Dipsey sinker at that point; then, between the sinker and bobber, they vertically string several short leaded chunks of hook and bait, trot-line fashion.

Worms are a popular bait and a natural food for many species of fresh water fish. You can always find worms in graveyards or you can buy them from roadside commercial vendors. Worms, because most freshly dug native worms are opaque, slinky and sluggish of action, and are apt to be unattractive to a fish.

If you dig your own, collect your worms in advance of planned fishing and put them in clean sand or wet moss to assure their bodies. Feed them mixed corn meal, powdered milk and coffee grounds.

A Florida pan-fisherman who catches a lot of fish, carries with him a small block of wood with hollowed-out oval central of about 9x2x2½ inches. He hakts his hook with one or more worms and places the baited hook in the block's hollowed out section. Next, he covers both bait and hook with frank mud. He then carefully removes the formed mudball from its mold and gently lowers it close to lake or stream bank. As he twists the pole ever so slightly, the mudball slowly disintegrates and exposes the worms. The trick usually works. Sometimes, however, evidently, they wash the dissolving mudball or a bit of dissolved bank earth containing worm life. Worms don't always catch panfish, however. Florida's crystal-clear waters make for too easy pre-meal inspection by the fish. Too, panfish often stay near shore for several days at a time. A varied menu—worms, fish eggs, crickets, beetles, roaches, large ants and even bits of spam—should be tried. Try different servings until you find the particular dish the fish prefer.

To give specific examples, for bluegills try small minnows, night-crawlers, roaches and crickets fished close to the surface at first, and then try the next.
60,000 Fishermen Tried Their Luck At Lake Parker
On Opening Day And Found—

FISHING WAS GOOD!

Saturdny, February 3, 1962, is a day that will long
be remembered by thousands of fishermen, and
will be recorded in the books as one unique in the
history of fisheries management.

For on that date, 2,180-acre Lake Parker in the
northeastern part of the City of Lakeland, was opened
to fishing. It will remain in the memory of thousands
of fishermen and go down in the books because of
the "firsts" and records established on that opening
day. To say that the event was a huge success would
be the understatement of the year.

Let's take a look at some of the things that oc­
curred. First, there was the huge crowd. Probably
in its history, Lake Parker never saw more than 400
or 500 fishermen on its waters on any one day. On
that opening day it has been estimated that 6,000
anglers tried their luck.'

By 9 a.m. on that Saturday morning there were 382
boats on the surface of the lake—and they came and
went all day long!

Fishermen started fishing the lake at 12:01 a.m.
The first fisheries biologist to go to work at the lake
that morning, at 6 a.m. found people already going
home with limit strings!

So there were lots of fishermen—what about fish?
And here again many people were surprised. For
among the hundreds of people I saw and talked to
only—two—Jimmy Musso, about whom I'll have more later,
and myself, were the only ones who hadn't caught a
fish?

Another surprise—more bass were caught than any
other species. And I saw more people who had
their limit of bass than I saw people who hadn't caught
their limits. According to the opening day check the
bass averaged 3.5 pounds each, which is pretty good
when one considers that the lake was stocked only
the year before with fingerlings. The largest bass
officially weighed in that day was just under 3 pounds,
but I personally saw a four pounder weighed unoffi­
cially by that night 33 tags had been reported! Over
the weekend—Saturday and Sunday—34 tags were
registered!

That figure becomes more impressive when you
consider that it was the largest percentage of tags
ever returned in any equal time period in any tag­
ning project, to my knowledge. The return of tags
each day was the largest return of Schlitz tags ever
made in any one day even when fishermen were re­
turning tags from most of the state!

From that one lake on those first two days almost
as many tags (only four less) were returned as had
been registered in the entire Southwest Florida Zone
in the contest in the first four weeks of its opera­
tion! (From fresh waters).

The total value of that first weekend's tags later
proved to be $1,475.00.

But perhaps all these items are even more amaz­
ing when one considers the past history of Lake
Parker. Back in 1885 when the City of Lakeland was
incorporated, the big lake to the northeast was con­
sidered good fishing.

The history of Polk County shows that the lake
contributed considerably to the new city's economy.
Not only were its waters used to float logs to, and
aid in the operation of, a sawmill on the south shores,
but also some of the residents made all or part of
their living by selling the catches they made in its
waters.

(Continued on next page)
However, as the years went by the catches and fishing dwindled away. Probably the final blow came when the lake became a Superbowl site. At one time in the 1940's it was estimated that more than 500 acres of the noxious plants were to be found on its surface.

After World War II efforts began to be made to bring the lake back into production. The first task was to rid the lake of hyacinths, and that was a job in itself. I could write a whole story about that, for I am proud to say I had a hand in it, but suffice it to say here that it even included obtaining a major change in the form of the city's government! (The lake is in the city limits.)

Following the successful end of the campaign to rid the lake of hyacinths, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission started a series of renovating programs. At various times various programs were tried as fisheries management techniques were developed. These programs met with varying success.

Just when the fishermen might once again be on the point of producing some good sports fishing a mysterious ailment struck and the fish populations practically disappeared a year or so after fish once again began but since catfish made up the bulk of the populations, commercial rather than sports fishing flourished.

During the fall of 1960 the lake was treated with chemicals, primarily from the catfishermen and a few bait dealers. But following a straw vote this time the residents went through a distressing period as the men of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Fish Management Division knew how to produce good fishing. They have proved that beyond all question.

One bait selling establishment which had opposed the program originally because they felt it would "kill their business" for a year or so at least, was sold out on opening morning by 8:30 even though they had stocked up heavily. Two bait shops that I checked, out of the dozen or more in the area, had sold some 20,000 shiners and minnows, and thousands of worms at 9:00 on opening morning—and their business held up again on through the day and weekend.

In fact, their business since that first day has been flourishing beyond their wildest hopes. There is every reason to believe they will continue to prosper now! But just when they may be, their joy does not exceed that of the sports fishermen of the area. Perhaps the feeling of the sports fishermen in the area can best be exemplified by the exclamation one of them made as his stringer was checked on that first day.

"For the first time in my life," he said, "I feel good about the money I spend for licenses to hunt and fish."

For the first time in my life, he said, "I feel good about the money I spend for licenses to hunt and fish."

The retriever, when used on waterfowl, is the only class of hunting dog which does not aid its master in locating and killing game. The retriever's value comes only after the game has been killed or wounded.

A good retriever, in addition to being a delight to watch operate, will cut at least one-half the number of birds or ducks which otherwise would have been lost. Although he doesn't realize it—it's all fun for him—he is one of our finest conservationists.

It is likely that there are fewer waterfowl retrievers in Florida than of any other major breed of hunting dogs. Two factors largely are responsible for the relative scarcity of good retrievers. First, except in North Florida, the hunting of ducks and geese in recent years has been of a marginal nature with sufficient use of a good retriever a problematical proposition. Second, the scarcity of retriever field trials hold activity and interest to a minimum.

The value of a trained retriever, however, cannot be questioned. A good retriever will mean more game for the bag with fewer birds being killed. A survey shows that about one in every three to four downed ducks is lost, crippled or killed and good retrievers could bring in many of these birds.

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Of the relatively few retrievers in use in Florida, the Labrador probably is the most popular at the present time. Chesapeake Bay and Golden retrievers, however, have their devotees who are quick to point out the advantages of those breeds.

The Labrador, a hardy and active dog, has a short coat which is of special value when used in the cold overheads, where cockleburr are frequent. Most Labradors are black although people who object to the color on the grounds that it is too easily seen can obtain yellows and blacks.

It is generally believed that in the 16th century, fishermen from Devon, England, took dogs to the Newfoundland colony. There the dogs were trained and bred, and when re-introduced to England in about 1835 they met an immediate popularity. The modern Labrador stems largely from two standout dogs. Peter of Farkally and Flapper. Until the Labrador came along to challenge for supremacy, the Chesapeake Bay Retriever was considered the best of all hunting and waterfowl dogs. The Chesapeake supposedly will take more punishment from heavy seas and cold weather than other breeds but often is difficult to handle due to a fighting disposition. Powerful, the Chesapeake is not a handsome dog but he ranks as high in usefulness. A dense, oily coat makes this dog well adapted to his work. The Chesapeake is distinguished by a brown to dead grass to yellow color, yellow eyes and a long, strong tail.

Golden retrievers have an interesting modern history. Sir Dudley Majorbanks in 1860 observed the intelligent tricks of a small, Russian sheep tracking dogs in a circus. He bought the lot and established what probably was the first modern breed of retriever animal. It is known that one crate was made with a bloodhound.

The Golden has come forth rapidly since 1900. It is rated as wise and obedient with a good nose and swift stamina.

The Irish Water Spaniel, one of the first retrievers brought to U. S., has waned in popularity despite an excellent reputation. The Irish Spaniel had it's heyday back when waterfowl were hunted on the marshes. A good dog was most important in this rugged work. Justin McCarthy, of Ireland, is credited with developing the modern breed.

The big Irish Spaniel moves fast on land and can be used to hunt rabbits and upland game birds. It is a large, red-coated coat with long hair on the face. The Irish Spaniel is a very obedient, and happy dog.

Get yourself a good retriever—and you'll never regret it.
WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL

A. No. The South Florida Youth Camp will not be completed this summer. There will be, however, survival courses for boys chosen by the Chief of the Conservation Education Extension Section.

Q: What age must my child be to attend the camp?
A: Boys—Ages 8-14; Girls—Ages 9-13
Q: Do you have any weeks for the older boys 15 and 16, and girls 14, 15, and 16?
A: We have not planned any special week for boys and girls of this age group. However, if they so desire, the boys may attend the camp session assigned to the boys of the age group 11-14, and the girls may attend during the week designated for girls.
Q: Can my son who is 7½ attend camp? Can my daughter who is 8½ attend the camp?
A: If your child has his eighth birthday, or the girl has her ninth birthday during the months of June, July, and August, they may attend the camp.
Q: How long can my child stay at camp?
A: Our schedule is set up only for a two-week period.
Q: Where will my child sleep?
A: The campers will be assigned to a cabin or tent. The director usually assigns them to their quarters according to the camper's arrival.
Q: Is there a laundry at camp?
A: No. Campers are requested to bring a sufficient amount of clothing for the amount of time they plan to remain at camp.
Q: Can my child be placed in the same cabin or tent with his friend?
A: Yes, if it is possible. However, this is left to the discretion of the director.
Q: How long are the periods of discussion and instruction?
A: Length of time for most periods of instruction lasts approximately 25 minutes.
Q: What is really taught at the Youth Conservation Camp?
A: Aside from recreational activities, interests are created in nature, conservation, and campfire. Waterfront activities are also taught by specialized instructors. This, of course, includes swimming, boating, canoeing, and fishing.
Q: Who are the instructors?
A: Our instructors are usually selected from universities in Florida or the southeast. They have been carefully screened and selected for their specialization.
Q: How large is the staff?
A: The full complement for the staff is 25.
Q: Do you have a registered nurse at camp?
A: Yes, at all times.
Q: Is my child covered by insurance?
A: Yes, your child is covered by Camp Guard Insurance from the time he leaves home until his return.
Q: What about hospitalization?
A: This is included in our insurance policy. There is no extra cost as it is included in the registration fee.
Q: Can brothers remain together?
A: Yes, if there is a problem of clothing or some luggage available, or if an older brother is assigned by his parents to the task of taking care of his younger brother. However, we dislike to place boys in the cabins or tents according to their ages.
Q: What makes this camp so different?
A: The motivating force in operating the Youth Conservation Camp is to instruct our young campers in the wise-use and conservation of our natural resources.
Q: What are the areas covered in the conservation field?
Q: What are the standards of the Youth Conservation Camp?
A: The high American Camping Association standards are complied with in the camper-counselor ratio, programming, sanitation, safety, etc.
Q: Does the camp teach arts and crafts?
A: The camp program does not include the teaching of arts and crafts.
Q: How often is the camp counseling?
A: The camp counselor is opened twice a day—aftemoon and the last night.
Q: What recreational activities are included in the program?
A: During free periods, campers may play volley-ball, horse shoes, ping pong, softball, etc.
Q: If my child attends the two week camping session, will he be able to attend services on Sunday?
A: Yes. If the camper is Roman Catholic, he will be taken into Ocala for services. Likewise for Protestants and those of the Jewish faith.
Q: When can a child go to swimming?
A: Yes. The waterfront is open all day. The last night, however, they may be taken to swimming.
Q: Will my child be taught to swim?
A: Yes, the day of arrival the camper will be given a swimming test.
Q: What type of supervision is offered?
A: All cabins and tents have counselors assigned to them and they are responsible to the director.
Q: How do I receive an application?
A: By writing to the Youth Conservation Camp, 2320 E. Silver Springs Boulevard, Ocala, Florida.
Q: Do Boy Scouts get special rates?
A: No, but they are cordially invited to attend the camp at the regular fees.
Q: Do Girl Scouts get any special rates?
A: No, but they are most welcome to attend the camp.
Q: How much money does my child need for the canteen?
A: Approximately $5.00.
Q: How will I get my child to camp?
A: By car, bus, or train. The director is in charge of transportation for the child.
Q: What type of vehicles must I take my child to camp?
A: From Ocala take State Road 40 east for approximately 11 miles until you come to Nubly Shady's, then turn north on U.S. 1 at Daytona Beach take 92 to DeLand and 17 to Barberville. Take 40 from Barberville and at Junction 19 take 314 to camp, or continue on 40 toward Ocala and turn right at 314.
Q: Can my son or daughter take any type of wildlife from the camp?
A: We are trying to teach conservation, therefore, we do not allow any type of wildlife to be taken home.
Q: Should my child bring an ax, gun, or knife?
A: None of these articles will the camper be allowed to have.
Q: Is the waterfront covered by adequate staff?
A: Yes; the waterfront director is assisted by life guards.
Q: Do you have canoes and or boats?
A: Yes, we have four 17 canoes and two boats.
Q: Are campers allowed to fish while at the camp?
A: Yes, but a camper must clean all the fish that he or she catches.
Q: Does the camp have a rifle range?
A: Yes.
Q: Do you have any horses?
A: No.
Q: What about TV for the cabins?
A: We do not have any television sets at camp.
Q: Does the camp have a die­tician?
A: Yes.
Q: What type of meals does the kitchen prepare?
A: Well balanced meals are served at the camp.
Q: Does the camp have field sports?
A: Yes. Softball, Volleyball, etc.

CAMPS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO CABIN OR TENTS BY THE CAMP DIRECTORS.
MUSCLE FLASHES

(Continued from page 9)

hunting rifles of semi-automatic type. I
For one reason, I was astounded at
an empty old 'cardboard' case brought
to me by a well-meaning friend. For
thinking of me, I certainly was grateful.
I mean—the greater my re-

tance to accept and use these
gifts. I have no way of knowing how
owing the powder loads were
loaded and fired, the powder pres-
sure to which they have been sub-
icted—or even their exact composition.
After a couple of experiences, I long-
ago learned to stick to new or once-
fired cases of original purchase.

In seeking maximum velocity, some inexperienced reloaders are tem-
pinged to increase powder loads
slightly above recommended pro-
cedures in the standard reloading
manuals. Instead of a desired in-
crease in bullet velocity, they in-
variably get highly dangerous in-
FISHING

(Continued from page 7)

Because norma ammunition components are
popular with home reloaders and technically tested in various
cases of original purchase.

CLUBS & CONSERVATION

(Continued from page 5)

resigned March 3. He had been re-
lected to the presidency at this
year's annual Audubon convention.

General Gerhardt's outstanding
army career included service in both
World Wars. He chose Winter Park
as his home when he retired in 1952.
He has been active there in commu-
nity projects.

Storer will continue on the board
of directors and as a member of the
executive committee.

Reslected at the annual business
meeting were Miss Lisa von Barow-
sky of Brooksville and Kenneth D.
Morrison of Lake Wales, vice presi-
dents; Mrs. W. H. Hendrickson of
Winter Haven, secretary, and Irwin
W. Fritz of Orlando, treasurer. How-
ard R. Blaukent was chosen to serve
as a member of the executive com-
nitee.

Two new members were elected to
the board of directors: Mrs. Wilbur
Forrest of Stuart, who has achieved
recognition in bald eagle work.
Alfred G. Kay of Palm Beach, prom-
inent in the field of conservation
education.

Golden Eagle Crisis

Wholesale market hunting of the
golden eagle, especially in Texas,
leads the species toward extinc-
tion, according to a release by the
National Audubon Society.

The golden eagle situation is at-
trading special attention because of
the work being done in behalf of its
relative the bald eagle, of which
Florida is one of the last stronghold.

Golden eagles very closely resem-
ble the bald eagle until the latter
bird is four years old when the white
head and tail first appear. Many im-
mature bald eagles are shot by mis-

Professional hunters in West Texas
got paid twice for their job, accord-
ing to the Audubon Society. Boun-
ties are paid by ranchers who say
the eagles are a menace to


FLORIDA WILDLIFE

May, 1962
BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK
(Continued from page 20)

Says Merrick's friend, "When a Winston rod is not made in just a few models, easily catalogued. Each is made for an individual purchaser, fitted exactly to his needs, likes and abilities."

In some cases it has taken more than one man years to produce a Winston rod. Lew Stoner used to tell some prospective purchasers they didn't need one of his masterpieces and he'd either send them away or sell them a less expensive model "off the shelf."

I was in the Winston place only once, many years ago. A little abashed in the presence of such rod-making greatness, I shyly presented my old bamboo (origin unknown) for rewinding and repair.

For a moment, I feared I might be struck down by the master's indignation, but they fixed my rod for me. My old bamboo didn't have many years of service. A little used to tell some of my masterpieces and I have been tying my own big fishing editor about..."

Somehow to the distress of the lovers of tradition, some simpler, comparatively crude flies are catching Atlantic salmon—but there will still be demand for the old traditional patterns.

For reasons of economy and because it's sometimes fun, my wife and I have been tying our own big streamers for some time. Consequently, I was a little shaken when I ran out recently and bought a couple down on the Keys. They cost $3.50 each, were intended for tarpon and probably weren't overpriced considering the materials and labor that went into them. I had no idea we were tying gadgets worth more than a buck apiece.

While the fly fisherman seems to run to extravagance where tackle is concerned, the baitcasters are comparatively niggardly in their expenditures. A Pflueger Supreme plugcasting reel with free spool lists for $47.50 top-grade 130-pound test dacron line that went into them. They don't use many of them however except for tournament work, when the reels employed are generally heavily customized. Some of those individual reels would cost a pretty penny simply because their owners are pleased with them.

The cost of some other fishing accessories would jar the uninitiated. A Pflueger Supreme plugcasting reel with free spool lists for $47.50 to $50.00 and probably weren't overpriced considering the materials and labor that went into them. I had no idea we were tying gadgets worth more than a buck apiece.

The imported Swedish Ambassadore is another fairly high-priced job as are the Shakespeare President and Heddon Heritage but, considering what a baitcasting reel consists of, they're comparatively inexpensive, costing less than half what you pay for precision-built fly or spinning reels.

One reason is that the baitcasting reels are mass produced and it's quite probable that a really nice job would go begging for customers. Baitcasters somehow just don't spend their cash in that direction although many of them have several hundred dollars worth of unused plugs lying around the place.

The only really expensive baitcasting reels I know of are in the antique classification, the Meek and Blue Grass reels of fine workmanship and dignified appearance being quite an attraction for collectors. They don't use many of them however except for tournament work, when the reels employed are generally heavily customized. Some of those individual reels would cost a pretty penny simply because their owners are pleased with them.

The cost of some other fishing accessories would jar the uninitiated who never stopped to think about it. For example, if you took one of the biggest Fin-Nor blue water reels mentioned earlier and filled it with top-grade 130-pound test dacron line, you'd be fooling with something like $80 worth of string. And the fellow who wound that stuff on is the same guy who might spend $55 for a roomy aluminum rod case.

It is quite possible that I have seemed to poke a little fun at some of the more lavishly priced items but I'd be the last to say they aren't worth the full price to those who use them. Most of us are comparatively extravagant along some particular line.

For example, some of those who make their own tackle might be amazed at the $50.00 even at a dollar for the fishing editor about..."

"What did you want me to do the fishing about--?"

Some of the very carefully built ones that are traditional with salmon fishermen. Some of the standard salmon patterns are made with meticulous attention to detail and with "married" feathers—that is, individual feather strands are interlaced. They cost up to $3 each. Thus a boxful costs roughly the same as a fair used car.

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