APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION
The Edor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Date 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 _______________________
Bait or Lure Used _______________________
Where Caught In ______________________Count y ________________________
Date Caught ______________________ Catch Witnessed By ______________________
Registered, Weighed By ______________________
(Signature of Applicant) ______________________

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SPECIES

Largemouth Bass

6 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.

Cut Out and Save this Application Blank

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BILL HANSEN, Editor

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

A. D. ALDICE, Director

G. EAGLE PRICE, Assistant Director

JOEL WILKINSON, Administrative Assistant

JOHN WOODS

Chief, Game Management Division

H. E. WALLACE

Chief, Game Management Division

ROBERT A. DARNEN

Chief, Information-Education

WILLIAM DINDUS

Chief, Aviation Division

208 E. River Springs Rd., Ocala, Florida

RENEE McCULLOCH

Chief, Communications Division

Federal Communications Bldg., New Smyrna Beach

John Woods

Chief, Game Management Division

Robert A. Darden

Chief, Information-Education

William Dindus

Chief, Aviation Division

Northwest Region

Charles Clymer, Regional Manager

State Route 430

Lake City, Florida

Central Region

James E. Bickel, Regional Manager

256 Airport Drive

Ocala, Florida

Southern Region

E. E. Thompson, Regional Manager

200 Lakeview Drive

Lake Worth, Florida

Eustis Region

Lowell H. Bailey, Regional Manager

1120 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

Ocala, Florida

ADDRESSES

Jacksonville

427 E. 2nd Street

Jacksonville, Florida

 roadside Guide to Florida Wildlife by Wallace Hughes, 1962

Wildlife Watch, Vol. 1, No. 9

Department of Natural Resources

Tallahassee, Florida

ORANGE COUNTY

2202 Lakeland Drive

Lake Worth, Florida

Lake County

228 Airport Drive

Ocala, Florida

NORTHWEST REG.

2365 13th Street

Gainesville, Florida

SOUTHERN REG.

200 Lakeview Drive

Lake Worth, Florida

EUSTIS REGION

1264 Madison Ave.

Ocala, Florida

JANUARY, 1962

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Tallahassee, Florida
Congressional movers during late 1961 brightened the hopes of numerous conservation leaders. The Corps, which is working on the project of numerous conservation leaders, is now working on the project to develop conserva- tion projects. In addition to the conservation benefits, programs point out that it would be helpful in combating juvenile delinquency and would provide a worthwhile youth training program.

Audubon Aims

Outstanding aims of the National Audubon Society were pointed out by President Carl W. Buchheister in a speech at the Society's annual con- vention in Atlantic City. They are: Passage of the Wilderness Bill; Protection of the golden eagle through legislation; Creation of additional national seashore recreation areas; Elimination of federal subsidies for drainage of waterfowl marshes in the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Also proposed by Buchheister is a "conservation stamp" to be issued annually and sold at post offices, the funds to go for conservation prac- tices.

Water Access

A second annual conference on "Opening the Way to Water" will be held March 6 and 7 during the Chicago National Boat Show, sponsored jointly by the Outboard Boating Club of America and the Sport Fishing Institute, according to the Outboard Boating Club of America. In addition to the simple problem of access, there will be a study of obstacles to access, the management of access areas and the relationship of water to the number of access points. There will be more than 100 experts present from all levels of government.

JWI, asks Life Jacket Rule

Meeting in Islamorada in December, the Florida State Council of the Izaak Walton League of America re- solved to support a movement re- quiring that life-saving devices be color-coded international orange for improved visibility.

Boating groups and writers recently launched a movement that would make an "orange" life jacket effective nationally. It is reported that many currently used life-saving devices are extremely difficult to see in the air or from other water craft.

The Waltonians also passed a resolution expressing complete endorse- ment of the excellent aims and purposes of the South Florida Wetlands Conservation Camp sponsored by the State of Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Florida Youth Conservation Club League and the Wild Life Conservation League of West Palm Beach." The group offered its support in future completion of the project.

Artificial callers are permissible, although most calling contests use only their throat. Judges nor- mally do not face contests—but face the other way where their judg- ment will not be affected by personal- ities. One of the annual contest- ants is 100-year-old Billy Bowlegs, Seminole from Brighton Indian Reservation.

Seminole now boasts of activ- ities for each member of the family. In addition to the above-named contests there are boat races, bait cast- ing, horse, beauty, and other contests, fireworks, and a public street dance. A well-known TV or motion picture star usually enters.

Many persons flock to the event to see the numerous Seminoles for the first time, or to enjoy an outdoor barbecue dinner (which has also gained fame on its own). The Seminoles are attended to welcome the visitors and sell their manufactured products—such as belts, bolts and other souvenirs.

"Day of the Bass" also honors the Black Bass with a parade of boats and hands from many Everglades.

By Dave Webb

Celebration of Chalo Nitka brings off the bass of men each year in this fishcatchers' haven. Chalo Nitka means "Day of the Bass" in Seminole language and the name fits like a hand on a well-used fishing rod handle.

Hundreds of Florida Crackers, Yankees, and Seminole Indians have gathered in Moore Haven annually since 1949 to big-eye monster Black Bass caught in the surrounding Everglades waters and enjoy various entertainment connected with the event.

Bass on display are the result of a six-week fishing journey which proceeds Chalo Nitka. Any fisher- man, resident or tourist, may partici- pate in the tournament by entering their largest bass-catch during the period, January 11 to February 22. You don't have to catch your fish in Glades County, but you must fish out of one of the camps of the area for a week. You get your boat in county waters.

A "King and Queen of Bass" is chosen from the man and woman entering the largest bass in the fishing contest. In addition, there are weekly prizes for the person catching the largest bass during the six weeks. The king and queen must be present to receive crown and trophy—or the title is bestowed upon the person with the next largest bass entry.

There is a "Small Fry Fishing Contest" for Chalo Nitka boys for boys and girls, 12 years of age and under. Incidentally, the adult fishing tour- nament spans two full moons which includes the time of the area's best bass fishing during January and February.

Interested persons can also enter the NATIONAL TURKEY and QUAIL CALLING CONTESTS held on Chalo Nitka. The contest has grown each year too, and the best of area-callers, includ- ing Seminole Indians, are drawn to the challenge.

Outstanding callers from other areas and states are always home to try their talents in the turkey and quail contests.

Competition with wildlife-minded Seminoles seems unfair to the aver- age person—but, evidently, it is not— for in 1961, Tom Gaskin, a local business man, called his fourth annual first-place quail at the tur- key calling division while compet- ing against some eight Indians!

The tiny Key Deer, about the size of a big dog, was once nearly extinct. Living in a small area in the Florida Keys, fully protected, this variety of white-tail weight range is 20 to 28 pounds.

The Key Deer from a Painting by Wallace Nutting
Over at the Ocala National Forest Youth Conservation Camp, we are planning two two-week periods for boys this year. In the past we have had but one. The girls will have a chance to subscribe to one of their one-week's stay or for both. Dates and schedules have not been worked on as yet. Watch this column for notice.

With the opening of our camp this summer, we will celebrate our Eleventh Annual Encampment.

Have you heard of the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists? If you haven't you will hear more about them after we see their progress. The executive-secretary is Dr. Luther Arnold with office at Norman Hall, University of Florida.

It is the plan of the Conservation Education Extension Section to work closely with this foundation. Our principal interest in the program and its development is state science fairs is in the conservation subject. The Game Commission will coordinate their interests with these of the foundation.

For the new year, 1962, we propose to introduce an extended science exhibit, and to have these conservation projects on display at the Youth Conservation Camp during the annual encampment.

Science Fair at Pensacola

This year the Science State Fair will be held at Pensacola, April 5, 6, and 7 at the Junior College.

A team of us in this department will judge the merits of these exhibits relating to conservation, and we will extend an invitation to the exhibitor to place his or her exhibit for display at the Youth Conservation Camp.

These exhibits will be judged at the camp. Prizes will be presented to the first three places. Prize money will be solicited. So far, the Florida Junior Conservation Club has contributed $190.00.

1963 will offer greater inducement for our young scientists interested in conservation.

Stuart Youth Camp

There is another club in the League that is strengthening its membership and pushing ahead in spite of obstacles. The following summary of the club was received over my desk the other day—here it is.

Looking Forward, The Stuart Junior Conservation Club

"This club, which has been active since 1954, is still rolling along strongly. One of its most recent activities was a camping trip to Mile Lake in St. Lucie County. On this trip the boys enjoyed fishing, shooting, and hiking.

The club is now under the sponsorship of the Stuart Civitans Club and has advisers: Phil Sameck, Cotton Groat, James McMahon, Bob Grotton, John Collins, Jr. (former state league president), and Dr. Luther Arnold, University of Florida. The club is also working on an experimental sea-turtle hatchery project.

A long-range, large-scale quail restocking program which the club will spearhead is in the early stages of consideration.

The officers and advisers of the club try to present a well-rounded slate of activities for the year which would not only interest every member but the community as well. The club has been operating for seven years and wish more adult assistance that it has ever had and many new ideas. The Stuart Junior Conservation Club is looking forward to a very active and eventful year." (By—Bob Route)
Fishing
BY CHARLES WATERMAN

Both marlin fishermen and bonefishermen have fun. Which have the most I wouldn't know.

This is about competitive fishing for records—and maybe a little insight into the way a record-hunter ticks. We'll say a word or two about his tackle as well.

A fisherman who fished for records is the direct opposite of the guy who hates competition in his fishing. A record-hunter is likely to be one of the most skillful fishermen you'll ever see. He is also likely to draw a lot of publicity and a great deal of public admiration, all of which is well-deserved.

Maybe he will specialize on a certain kind of fish and maybe he will play the field. More than likely he will shake his head sadly when he learns of an "accidental record," set by someone who wasn't specifically aiming for a prize. Believe me, most of the record fish and near-record fish caught are brought in by someone who didn't know they were looking for that kind of fish and maybe he isn't well-deserved. As you know, there are many records kept all over the country. There are International Game Fish Association records, records compiled by sporting publications (Field & Stream winners are often considered "official"), club records compiled by anglers who also take advantage of the most practical leader that the rules allow. If he is seeking a fish in the "all-tackle" or "open class" you can bet things are pretty sturdy.

Generally, not always we use the most practical bait allowed in the competition, whether it's artificial or natural.

I am pointing out that this guy is a specialist. If he's one of the real record-chasers, the chances are that he is meticulously honest about his efforts. Otherwise it would be fun for him. I hasten to add that any time he sees a loophole in the rules, he's generally through it like a mongoose. That's part of the game for big records.

All of this record hunting and competitive fishing has led to some strange tackle modifications. Probably it is known up very much in fly-casting. Lately, they've been catching quite a few tarpon over 100 pounds on flyrods. A hundred and forty something is the biggest I've heard of so far.

Catching a 140-pound tarpon on a flyrod is a great fishing achievement but for the bream fisherman who shakes his head in disbelief, let's look at the tackle used.

Generally, these big fish are caught on rods around nine feet long and 11/4-ounce weight around seven or eight ounces. If you think of a little automatic reel or the trout models generally associated with flyrods you are in the wrong category. The reel is a big, single-screw job with a capacity of a couple of hundred yards of 14-pound test backing and it may have coils upward of a hundred bucks. Not necessarily the best way to catch those big fish.

There are several big-game fly reels that can be had for under 50 dollars. The line is heavy to match the big fish. The leader tapers from about 40-pound monofilament down to 12 to meet the heavy tackle regulations.

But there generally isn't much of that "under 12" leader—maybe only a couple of inches, in fact, and don't kid yourself that those big fish are going to munch on that light stuff for the hours it may take to land them. No Sir! Attached to the fly is a short piece of really heavy monofilament or wire that will take all of the abrasive application of the big fish's mouth.

So why think it's easy to land a fish in the 100-pound class with even this kind of fly tackle just try it some time. It's quite a stunt! To me, the general public is going to think it can't be done, just because you're thinking of your little bream outfit.

I remember one time before fly fishing became so popular and I was shooting off my bazoo in a tackle shop. The subject was fly-fishing and I was talking about a slight kind of fly tackle to catch a slightly unsteady character arose from where he had been listening and announced that nobody could catch snook on a flyrod, whereupon he walked out. He didn't know what kind of fly tackle I was talking about.

But how many fly-fishermen, would use that kind of tackle? We soon hear the cry, "That's all right but it ain't fly-fishing!"

A lot of competitive fishing isn't quite what it sounds like.

Record-seekers sometimes restrict themselves to tackle that is impractical. For example, a 50-pound channel bass or redfish caught on 12-pound spinning line sounds a little unlikely even though it can be done.

A while back, I watched a fellow whip a big tarpon on light spinning gear. After the fish was released, I saw some others rolling nearby.

That's "enough of that for one day," he said, "Let's find something smaller."

Don't knock it, even if you have tried it. Record-keeping is quite a game, even if it isn't for you or me.

The gentle pursuit of returning game fish to the water to "fight another day" has become an honest game and it's popularity has grown.

I can recall when a man who said he was "in a tackle shop" on a Daytona Beach pier, he had observed a fellow returning fish to the water and the man should be arrested for wasting our natural resources.

Sometimes it may be of questionable value to return unneeded fish to the water. I put nearly all of those back because we don't eat very many fish and I am too lazy to clean and distribute them.

If you put a fish back, the idea is for him to prosper and raise a family. Therefore, you want him to be in good health and there are some ideas on how to keep him that way. We'll talk about some specific kinds of fish because the desirable method varies.

It used to be a hard and fast rule to wet your hands before touching a fish that was going to be returned to the water. The authors of that maxim were thinking of very small fish, of course, they were something.

A fish is covered with a slimy film that can be damaged by contact with something dry and rough. The slime is part of his protection against parasites, biologists tell us—so it would be nice to return him to the water without breaking the film. It might well be possible with some fish, especially when you can grab them by the lip or can get your hand on considerable periods but it is probably better to grab him with something dry than to squeeze him into a cone or let the little rascals go.

There are too many different places for grabbing too many kinds of fish to go into detail and some of them I'm not sure of myself. Anyway, the lower lip hold works fine on bass and apparently does no harm at all.

It is my experience that black bass are tougher than boiled oysters, so I leave considerable periods out of water and will swim off after a terrible manhandling. They swim off, but how many are permanently damaged? I don't know so I'm as careful as possible.

Dilligence is accepted as a better way of working the worst thing that can happen to a fish is short of instant death. They fish just keep looking and that's hooked in the gills and bleed is in real trouble. Many fish caught on bait swallow the hook and they know they are pretty bad, this is fairly certain to cause death. Even if the hook doesn't kill them by its presence, the fish maimed in landing the (Continued on page 36)
Facts About

FLORIDA SQUIRRELS

By RICHARD FICHHORN
Assistant Chief
Game Management Division

Squirrels are popular and widely known species of Florida wildlife. Many people enjoy watching these frisky creatures as they cavort through backyard trees and in city parks. In the wilderness areas, Florida hunters spend more time and effort in hunting and harvesting squirrels than any other species of the state. The flying squirrel belongs to the Subfamily Sciurinae, which also includes woodchucks, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, chipmunks, and red squirrels. The flying squirrel is not a game species.

Species of Squirrels

Three species of squirrels are found in Florida. These are the flying squirrel, the fox squirrel, and the gray squirrel, which is also known as "cat squirrel." All squirrels are rodents of widely distributed families of tree-dwelling animals. They are noted for their long, bushy tails, and for their strong hind legs which allow them to leap easily from place to place.

Whisk Is Which?

The Florida fox squirrel is scientifically classified as Sciurus niger. The gray squirrel is scientifically labeled Sciurus carolinensis. Both fox and gray squirrels are considered to be game animals, and belong to the Subfamily Sciurinae, which also includes woodchucks, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, chipmunks, and red squirrels. The flying squirrel is not a game species.

Do Flying Squirrels Fly?

No; they should really be called "gliding squirrels." These animals are small in size, and have large, dark eyes, since they are mainly nocturnal, or "night-living" animals. They have additional folds of skin which connect the front and back legs on either side. Also, the hair on the tail grows in such a manner that another flattened surface can be produced. Thus, when the animal eats itself alittle into space, it stretches its legs outward to indent the extra skin surfaces, and flattens its tail. These planes surfaces allow the creature to glide through the air silently and with little muscular movement. They do not "fly" through the air like a bird, since their only means of locomotion in the air is the energy that results when they jump outward to begin the glide to their destination. While gliding, they can maneuver so as to change directions slightly. Flying squirrels are not often seen during day-light hours, and they are most often found along higher ground— such as oak ridge. The Gray Squirrel, shown at top, is the most common Florida squirrel. It is gray or grayish brown, above with white underparts, and tail banded with white. The Fox Squirrel, at bottom, is larger than the gray squirrel with body color varying from grayish reddish to white. Typical specimens have white noses and thick faces.
the size of our Florida squirrels, deer and many other mammals by importing modern animals so as to "up-grade the herd." Nature decrees otherwise.

What Do Squirrels Weigh?

An adult wild gray squirrel will weigh from 13 to 17 ounces, with little difference in weight between the sexes.

What Do They Eat?

The number one food, of course, is the acorn. Also of importance in the diet of wild squirrels are other nuts, fruit of trees and shrubs, buds, seeds, fungi, insects, and, occasionally, eggs or young birds. A gray squirrel will eat about one and a half pounds of food per week.

What Competitors Exist?

All game animals and birds, including ducks when hammock lands are flooded, as well as mice, rats, flying squirrels and wild hogs, compete with squirrels for the acorn crop and for other seeds and fruits. The acorn, or nut, weevil does extensive damage to oak mast crop, and may infest two-thirds of the nuts, and, in such a manner, the insects also compete with the squirrels.

What is Mast?

"Mast" is the term used to describe collectively all nuts and seeds which have fallen to the ground and become a food supply for wild animals and hogs.

Is Water Important?

Squirrels seem to live without water, since they often live in areas where no surface water is available. Actually, the squirrels obtain water from holes in trees which catch and hold water, from dew or rain, and from juicy or succulent plants during periods of drought. Open surface water is desirable for purposes of drinking water, but squirrels can exist without it.

How About Habitat?

Good habitat for squirrels has, on a per-acre basis, a minimum of at least five mast-producing trees of a ten-inch "DBH" (diameter breast high) or more, and two good ten-trees, plus a mixed stand of trees smaller size. For better squirrel habitat, there should be twelve mast-producing trees and five denning trees per acre. The greatest limiting factor working against a larger population of squirrels is the depletion of suitable habitat—the cutting or other destruction of large hardwood trees which provide food and cover.

How Many Per Acre?

In Florida, one squirrel per acre is considered to be a good population, with extremely favorable peaks providing, on occasion, an average of two animals per acre. This, of course, varies with the amount of food and cover per acre. In the midwestern states, where fertile soil produces more nutritious food than we have in Florida, the oak-hickory woodlands of a state like Ohio carry an occasional peak population of nearly eleven squirrels per acre. (These figures are for large wilderness areas, and not for unusual areas such as pecan groves or city parks having many mast-producing trees and good habitat.)

How Long Do They Live?

Squirrels in captivity, with good food and care, have been known to live to be fifteen years of age. Squirrels that must shift for themselves in the wilderness, combating all the hardships that weather, nature and man can provide, have an average life span of one year and six months, with a maximum life span of six years for the very hardy and fortunate ones.

How About Enemies?

Squirrels have many natural enemies. Dogs, housecats, fox, hawks, owls, raccoons, snakes, and some hawks prey on squirrels. Such natural predators studies in Florida by game biologists indicate that mature female squirrels will have both a spring and a fall litter following years of good mast crops, but few, if any, spring litters are produced following a season of poor mast crop. Therefore, it may be concluded that the squirrel population, and hunter harvest success, will vary with the abundance of the mast crop of the preceding seasons.

How Many Per Litter?

Litter size may vary from one to six, but the average in the South is 2.7 young squirrels per litter. Female squirrels have a gestation (pregnancy) period of 44 days, and the young are very small, blind and hairless at birth. The young squirrels stick the female for a period of ten to twelve weeks. At the end of this period, the young are able to go out on their own. The family group of female and young usually remains together about four months.

How Many Litters?

Yearling female squirrels have but one litter of young the first year. Females born in the spring will have litters the following spring, while summer-born yearling females will have summer litters. Recent
(Continued from preceding page)

The greatest damage to squirrels results from reduction of their food and cover by the cutting of den and mast-producing trees.

Do Squirrels Get Sick?

Like all other wild animals, squirrels suffer their share of sickness. There are no doctors or hospitals in nature, and the sickly or feeble animals are fair prey for other animals. Recently, the southeastern states, including Florida, entered into a cooperative agreement with School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia to study diseases in wild game animals. At present, we know little about wildlife diseases, and we need to know much more.

What About Shock?

We are now finding that both squirrels and rabbits, and perhaps other wild animals, suffer from what is called "shock disease." Although not a disease in the true sense of the word, it is an ailment that sends the animals into a coma. While comatose, they may die, but we do not know of any remedies or medicines that are of much help to such affected animals. Shock disease apparently only occurs during a high population of animals—when the species becomes overcrowded, the animals go into a state of shock when excited and many die. This die-off from shock may be one of the natural ways of controlling an over-population of many animals such as squirrels. We have worked out various methods that can be applied to small areas, and the sickly animals are fair prey for the predators of the same species.

What Other Diseases?

Squirrels have parasites, such as fleas and tape-worms. Mites, a small parasite, is common to most wild squirrels. In Florida, mange disease is not found frequently among our squirrels. Rabies is not common among squirrels, but an occasional individual will contract the disease. It is, therefore, advisable to avoid any squirrel, or other wild animal, which acts suspiciously or strangely.

How About Folk Tales?

One common folk tale is that old male squirrels tend to go into a state of shock when excited and remove their vigor. Apparently there is some truth in this tale. Over 400 squirrels were collected in Florida by game biologists, and over 6,000 in a West Virginia study, and no evidence of such injuries has ever been found. The old hunter's story probably originates in the fact that over sixty percent of all squirrels taken by hunters are young squirrels which have not yet matured, and the sex characteristics of the young male squirrels are not yet fully obvious.

How Are Squirrels Aged?

Determining the age of squirrels has, until recently, been based on the sexual development of the individual, plus the shape of the tail and the weight of the body. Such methods have enabled field personnel to classify squirrels as either adult or juvenile, but this rough method is not accurate, especially in aging the males. More accurate methods are now being developed. One of these involves X-raying the bone structure of the foreleg so as to determine whether the growth area of this bone is made of cartilage as possessed by a young squirrel or the solid bone of an adult. The degree of bone maturation indicates the age of the animal. Researchers are now exploring a method of aging squirrels by the weight of the eye lenses. These methods may seem lengthy processes yielding insignificant facts, but the game biologist views it as adding another small bit of evidence along the road to a complete understanding of our wild squirrels.

How Many Squirrels?

It is very difficult to get an accurate count of animals such as squirrels. We have worked out various reliable methods that can be applied to small areas. These methods are of little help in getting a state-wide count. In small areas, we can census squirrels by live-trapping them, tagging and releasing and retrapping. This gives data of the ratio of tagged to untagged squirrels in an area, and thus the total population in the area is determined. Other methods used are to count nests, count the squirrels in a given area for a certain amount of time, and even the use of squirrel-calls to count answering calls. Such methods are satisfactory for small areas of not over two or three thousand acres. For state-wide estimates, we must use hunter-harvest figures, knowing that the hunters average a harvest of thirteen percent of the total squirrel population. Knowing the annual harvest by our Florida hunters, we can estimate that Florida has approximately 4,287,000 squirrels in the average year just prior to the hunting season. We arrive at this figure knowing that the hunters, for the past three years, have harvested about 356,000 squirrels from a total population of over four million.

Do Hunters Cause Damage?

Hunting in accordance with wise conservation laws does no damage to the squirrel population. Wild squirrels are short-lived, and have a high reproductive capacity. It has been pointed out that if a single pregnant female squirrel were released into the woods, and all of her young survived for seven years, a total of 2,500 animals would be produced. Of course, this is one of those problematical statements, but it does indicate the potentialities of this species. Under normal conditions, more than fifty percent of the squirrels may be taken by hunters without damaging the reproductive potentials of the squirrels for the coming year. The greatest damage to squirrels results from reduction of their food and cover, and not from over-shooting.

Do Squirrels Travel Far?

No mass migrations of squirrels has ever been noted in Florida. Game management research in Florida shows that the average feeding range of a squirrel in one day is about 200 yards. During the "fall shuffle," some of the squirrels may move as far as a mile or a mile and a half, with a rare individual moving as much as five miles. This fall shuffle occurs when the families containing young squirrels break up, and the individuals begin moving out on their own. Such fall shuffles result from changes in population and changes in available food supplies in a given area.

Are Squirrels Good Pets?

It all depends on what you expect from a wild animal as a pet. Very few wild animals exhibits the affection shown by dogs. Young animals are more affectionate and make better pets than older animals. Any wild animal will bite under certain circumstances, and squirrels can inflict serious wounds with their long incisors and strong jaw muscles. We recommend against the keeping of any wild animal in captivity as a "pet."

In Summary

Squirrels are one of the most valuable wildlife resources in Florida. Florida hunters could harvest many more squirrels each year without hurting the population. We do not yet know as much about squirrels for game management purposes as we need to know, but research studies are continuing. When, if ever, our wild squirrels disappear, we will know that the wilderness is disappearing, since squirrels must have adequate food and cover. Squirrels afford many recreational opportunities for our people, and they should be wisely protected, managed, developed, and utilized for the greatest benefit without harm to the species.
A boat cruise from Jacksonville — up-river — to
Green Cove Springs, Palatka, and "points south"

By ELGIN WHITE

PART I

At the beginning of our journey on the majestic St. Johns River we had a good look at Jacksonville’s expanding skyline.

Florida Boating Adventure

THE ST. JOHNS RIVER

A boat cruise from Jacksonville — up-river — to Green Cove Springs, Palatka, and “points south”

I

ASKED A NATIVE New Yorker on a recent trip to Gotham how to get to the Empire State Building.

"Don’t really know ... never been there."

This sort of apathy towards the natural attractions in one’s home town or home state isn’t limited to New Yorkers by any means.

We here in Florida are so used to the Sunshine State’s natural attractions that we tend to overlook some- thing right at our doorstep.

This has been particularly true of yachtsmen here in Florida and in other regions of the nation. In many instances, visiting boaters who have travelled to Florida every year via the intracoastal waterway spin right on by one of Florida’s most scenic, largest, and most fascinating water highways.

I’m speaking of the majestic St. Johns River, the mighty artery of aqua road that has made Jacksonville one of the nation’s fastest growing seaports.

Having been born and raised in Jacksonville, it never occurred to me that the St. Johns would be the scenic attraction for boating that it is today. The only thought I ever gave to the wide and handsome stream was when I crossed it going to beautiful Jacksonville Beach for fishing and recreation. Of course, I realized the St. Johns was a vital part of the life blood of Jacksonville, but this commercial aspect of the river stirred not the least bit of interest in me.

But the recent boating craze that has taken America by storm changed all that line of thought. Recently I noticed in the old home town hit me like a ton of bricks. As a teen-ager I remembered the water-fronts of Jacksonville as a typical pan- orama of warehouses, docks, tug and the usual clutter that accompanied them. This is not so today.

In the past decade the waterfront has undergone a tremendous change. New skyscrapers, magnificent municipal parks and parking lots, a busy new expressway, and a brand new courthouse and city hall have transformed the city from a rather drab industrial center to a well- manicured, bustling metropolis.

We moved back and forth along the skyline while Johnny grabbed some pictures. Jack made sure we got a shot of Prudential’s beautiful building that is a landmark of Jacksonville’s fast growing south side.

“I have often wondered,” mused Clark. “Why yachtsmen coming to Florida each year have seldom come from the intracoastal on over to Jacksonville and then made the run down the St. Johns. I guess the biggest reason is because after you get down at the St. Johns Naval Air Station.

It seemed funny to be heading south and going “upstream” at the same time. The St. Johns River is one of several on the North Ameri-

can continent that runs north.

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We finally turned southward and headed "up river." This still seemed to be an odd situation, as it is difficult to bring yourself to thinking about "going up south"! But this was the case, and I also had to start thinking about going "down north" on the return trip. As we moved towards the naval air station, just south of the main "bend" in the river leaving Jacksonville, Comstock broke out the charts.

"Why do you need charts now?" I asked him. "Looks like the river is plenty wide and deep here." "It is," he replied, "but there are some hazards and shallows that we have to look for, and I want to be sure we're picking up the right channel." Comstock pointed out that Coast and Geodetic charts 685, 686, 687, and 688 took us all the way from Jacksonville to Sanford, and included markings on the side trips we made.

Comstock pointed out that Coast and Geodetic charts 685, 686, 687, and 688 took us all the way from Jacksonville to Sanford, and included markings on the side trips we made, such as Dunn's Creek, Cross Creek, Crecent Lake, and the Oklawaha River. When you make this run, you'd better get these charts, particularly if you're interested in making the side trips and if you're planning to do any running at night. The St. Johns is a big river in this northern part, and night travel is dangerous unless the beacon route is followed.

Near the naval air station, we were greeted by a rather ear-splitting roar of the latest naval jets blasting off right over our ducking heads. We were in mid-channel, but the last still seemed terribly close. Actually, they weren't, and a boatman could even go in closer to the station itself, but it isn't advisable.

There is a seaplane course just off the station, and though yachts are not prohibited in the area, you'd better keep a sharp eye peeled for some lumbering flying boat that may be setting down to nest. They can't see you, so you'd better look for them.

Directly across the river from the naval air station was our starting point, Goodye's Lake. Comstock figured this would be a good spot to refuel... not the boats, but ourselves. We went back into Lakeside Marina for a coffee and breakfast break, and then back out for the first day's jaunt southward.

We moved into a section of the St. Johns River that yachtsmen, if they were not fishermen, would find delightful. South of Goodye's Lake is the entrance to Julington Creek (at Beacon 19). And just across the river is the entrance to Doctor's Lake. Both these regions are considered by native Floridians as among the best bass fishing spots in the world, and don't argue with them. They've got the fish to back 'em up!

The entrance to Doctor's Lake is guarded by a swing bridge with a vertical clearance of nine feet, so if your boat needs more headroom, three taps on the horn are necessary to gain admittance into this really fine fishing and boating country.

We cruised southward after a quick run into Doctor's Lake, and the edges of the St. Johns River presented an interesting sight, with boat docks of every size and description wandering into the water from the shore's edge. Most of the docks are narrow, walk-on docks with larger pier-type structures at the terminal. Many are covered, some are not, but all of them seem to be inviting to a boater. This is especially true at times when the yachtsman finds himself in mechanical difficulty.

None of the private docks offers anything that resembles marina services, but most of them do offer something that is synonymous with this part of the country—genuine Southern hospitality.

Gene Fabares, who owns a place on the river off little Switzerland, told me, "I have known of instances when boatmen have had to pull up to one of these private docks and ask the home owner there for assistance—either in getting gas, or perhaps finding a mechanic. On one occasion, one of the home owners got a rap on the door from a boater in distress at about three o'clock in the morning. The traveler was out of gas, having made a miscalculation on his fuel supply. The gentleman of the house immediately got dressed, took the skipper with him in his station wagon, and went far down the highway to find a station that had fuel supplies. This is not unusual. It is rather a nice habit with these people around here."

It wasn't long before we approached another glimpse of navy life. This time the sight was as nostalgic as it was inspiring. On the west bank of the St. Johns, just past the town of Green Cove Springs, is one of Uncle Sam's "moth ball" fleets. Here, in wet storage, are hundreds of combat vessels from World War II and the Korean conflict. The radar-domed masts form a forest of steel along the shore-line, and Gene said, "Each one of those masts represents about 200 military men..."

This fella should know. During both conflicts Gene was a naval commander, and at one time was stationed at Green Cove. There are LSM's (Landing Ship Mechanized Rocket), LST's (Landing Ship Tank), APD's (Amphibious Personnel Destroyers), and DE's (Destroyer Escorts)," Gene said.

"The fleet used to number close to 500," he continued, "but a lot of them have been sold for scrap, some put back into service, and some sold as an entire unit. I suppose there are about 300 of them there now."

It is indeed a sight to see this moth ball fleet, and a check of the chart shows you can move in fairly close, for a good look at the gray ghosts.

Just past Green Cove Springs we approached the longest wooden bridge in the world. It's called Shands Bridge, and I can remember back to one of Uncle Sam's "moth ball" ships. This still seemed terribly close. We moved into a section of the St. Johns diminished in girth. The river takes on a twisting, turning appearance, and closely resembles the Suwannee at this stage.

Along the banks near Palatka and East Palatka were some beautiful homesites that would make a pleasant marina, with complete supplies. Just past this marina is one of the power plants of the Florida Power Corporation, with its huge towers extending overhead lines across the river.

The turn in the river at red lights marked Devil's Elbow, I asked Clark where the name came from. He didn't know. Neither did anyone else on the boat. Guess it wasn't important.

From this point southward the river narrows very much. The greenery along the banks seems to blend into a solid mass of trees, shrubs, flowers, and underbrush. Homesites become fewer and far between, and the St. Johns takes on a look of primeval splendor.

Every once in a while as we chugged our way towards Welaka, we would see an old stern-wheeler, or what was once a proud stern-wheeler, plowed onto the bank and deserted. Some were deserted, but some were painted over with "no good ghosts" look at television. Several had the ever present antenna trucking skyward, and we had a distinct urge to visit what it looked like inside.

But out of respect for privacy, we headed for the bridge, spanning the river at Palatka, and decided to pull in for a gas stop. "Corky II" was getting a little thirsty, and so was Galim's outboard. As we went under the bridge, I looked up and saw the stations that were placed there in memory of the soldiers and sailors of World War II.

Just past the bridge on the west bank of the river was Palatka Marine, there was a good dock there and a gangway was right on the end of the pier. We got our needed petrol, and moved on down river.

From Palatka to Malapata the St. Johns diminished in girth. The river takes on a twisting, turning appearance, and closely resembles the Suwannee at this stage.
PHOTO STORY

BY

ROBERT F. BURGESS

1. Start at the small dorsal fin, slice the skin across the back.

2. When the large dorsal fin is reached, angle the blade to 45 degrees and cut towards the backbone.

3. Break the backbone and bend the head parallel to the belly. Insert index finger of right hand over and of broken bone and start drawing the head toward the tail.

4. The head, entrails and skin are quickly peeled from the catfish.

5. What remains is now ready for the frying pan.

NORTH FLORIDA catfishermen have found there's more than one way to skin a cat—and it's as easy as peeling a banana. The fish is laid belly down on a plank. With the blade of a sharp knife, start cutting just behind the small, second dorsal fin, using a sawing motion as you slice the skin across the fish's back (Fig. 1). When the main dorsal fin is reached, turn the blade at a 45 degree angle and cut toward the backbone (Fig. 2). Pick up the fish and break the backbone by bending the head down parallel to the belly (Fig. 3). Holding the fish in your right hand with your index finger over the broken end of the bone, slowly pull the head toward the tail. As soon as the rib cage is exposed, grasp it and continue pulling the head and entrails in one direction, the body in the other (Fig. 4) until the fish is skinned (Fig. 5). Only small and medium sized catfish can be cleaned in this manner, but with a little practice you'll be able to do the job quicker than it normally takes to skin other fish.
The Ocala Forest is truly scenic, providing the public with timber, water, wildlife and outdoor recreation.

The beautiful Ocala National Forest encompasses more than 359,000 acres of Florida land.

When the slanting rays of the rising sun pierce these locations with shafts of light, the effect is like being inside a mighty cathedral. This is similar to being inside a mighty cathedral. The beauty of the woods is similar to being inside a mighty cathedral. The woods wanderers comprise those from beds or hiding places an easy target for deer-frightened hunters. They are great roadside conversationalists—ever ready to talk after the perfunctory greeting, "Seen anything?"

The unknown hunter who experimentally built the first elevated tree-stand in the Forest, on the theory that deers don't look up, pioneered a construction program that gets bigger every hunting season. In fact, those who prefer to build and hunt from high tree-stands are a select and distinctive group.

Characteristically, tree-stands are treacherous to climb into and down from, are cold and confining, usually shaky, uncomfortable to occupy for hours on end, and invarably in the wrong places in relation to current deer movement. Once settled on his high perch, the hunter must manifest considerable willpower.

Taboo are such simple actions as smoking, tightening your belt, zipping coat open or shut; belatedly winding your watch, unwrapping the creaking jacket of a candy bar; squeezing the screw-cap of your canteen; running a hand admiringly over a 3-day growth of beard or fingering it in anticipation of a shave; slapping at flies and gnats; hard scratching of itchy spots; bumping of gun against palmetto frond or tree; clicking gun safety on and off for amusement and other movements or noises that might betray your presence to a deer. Screening, coughing and hicups definitely have to be controlled.

Woods wanderers comprise those hunters who have the mistaken idea they can "walk up" deer despite any noise they make going through the woods. They operate entirely opposite from the careful, quiet, slow-stalker, and are dangerously ready to shoot at the first thing that moves. Nine times out of ten, they get lost, but finally come out on some road miles from car or camp and have to wearily plod long distances unless fortunate enough to be given a lift by a passing car.

The slow-stalker is of different caliber. He is seldom in a hurry, and takes care to make as little noise as possible. One of the most successful slow-stalkers of my acquaintance combines his efforts with those of a couple of close-forging beagles. The dogs painstakingly investigate every juniper-scrub and palmetto patch twenty yards ahead of the quietly moving hunter. Deer frightened from beds or hiding places are easy shotgun targets for this man.

Undoubtedly, the dog pack owners see the most action. Without them, many exciting "races" would never materialize. But they pay heavily for their sport. Not only must they foot the cost of maintaining a dog pack, but dog losses are costly. Dur-

(Continued on next page)
hunting season there is no hour, day or night, regardless of the weather, that a dog owner somewhere in the Forest is not seeking a lost dog.

Dog pack followers more often represent non-dog owners than handlers. They listen attentively for the sounds of a dog pack in pursuit of a deer. When I approached to congratulate the lady on a successful hunt, she wasn't worried about being blamed; neither was I. 

I held an upright finger against my lips as a plea for less noise. Just about the time we glimpsed her stand, the noise suddenly stopped. I turned inquiringly, to see the girl with opened compact applying the finishing touches to freshly applied lipstick. She took a quick look at her hair in the mirror before snapping the compact shut with a metallic click probably heard by any deer within half a mile!

The average woman on a deep-woods deer hunt is also easily frightened, quick to lose all sense of direction or both. Let her encounter an armadillo, snake, skunk, hog, fox or spider and she's apt to run from the meeting place. Fifty feet from familiar terrain and she is hopelessly bewildered. Several times I have directed "lost" women hunters to the nearest road, often less than a hundred yards away.

It used to be that getting lost deep in the Forest was a serious matter. It still is for anyone who is easily panicked. For the calm hunter, who carries a compass and keeps in mind that most roads run east and west or north and south, being lost is merely short-lived inconvenience. Besides being vast, the Ocala National Forest can be the hottest place when it's hot and the coldest when it's cold of any section of Florida!

The especially cold days live in memory.

I recall the time I parked the car on old Forest Road 17 (now 97), preparatory to hunting the back scrub country at daylight, with the thermometer reading 17 degrees, wet cold. And there was the night I walked up a trail off present Road 88 in an ephemeral—but nevertheless real—snowfall.

Dawn on a cold day is invariably attended by an almost instantaneous increase in coldness—as if someone suddenly opened the door of a gigantic deep freeze. Seemingly, at such moments there is open conflict between the elements—the cold and darkness of night making a final attempt to maintain a hold against the assault of light and warmth.

In similar fashion, there is a sudden dampness and chill that floods the Forest once the sun reaches a low setting point. No matter how warmly you are dressed, you can feel these sudden temperature changes.

At times, the Forest is filled with a variety of sounds, caused by both climatic forces and activity among native wildlife. On other occasions, it is as silent as a tomb. It is on quiet, windless days that the deer hunter must take every precaution against making alarming sounds or sudden movements.

I go along with John Alden Knight's solunar influence theory that all wildlife is subject to almost instantaneous effects of the ever-changing phases of the moon.

The approximate season harvest is 600 deer in the Ocala National Forest. Only ordained bucks are legal.

The slow stalker is seldom in a hurry, and takes care to make as little noise as possible. Deer frightened from hiding places are often his target.
FAR-AWAY

By CHARLES WATERMAN

There is one rule for anybody interested in mangrove bass fishing—don’t count on it!

I very seldom go bass fishing in a yacht. In fact, I can’t recall doing it but once.

Ordinarily, it is a little hard for me to associate wall-to-wall carpeted salons and teakwood decks with largemouth bass but it is well to keep an open mind on the subject as you can’t tell when somebody will invite you to go bass yachting and when it happens you want to be ready.

I was.

Along in March of 1961, I went down into the Everglades mangrove swamps along the lower Gulf Coast and Ted Smallwood, an Everglades City guide, showed me where the bass would eat everything in my tackle box and match me for the handle. I told about it in a Florida Wildlife column and I promised Editor Bill Hansen I would get him a real story on it later on—say along in the winter.

So the first of December I called this Smallwood guy and said I was ready for more bass and when should I come down? There was a slice of silence and then he said something under his breath I didn’t quite catch but I believe it was about people who think he can turn the fish on and off whenever he likes.

Then he said something like this: “Listen, Watertanky, (a term of endearment he uses because he is bigger than I am) this country is dried up and blown away. Where you caught those bass last spring, the gators are coughing dust. The rivers are salt clear to the sawgrass and any bass that could live in this swamp would have to be part mackerel.”

My shirt collar felt a little damp because, after all, I had promised a story about those Everglades bass. I said nothing because I was paying attention to 85 miles if we would behave.

The next morning, Ted wheeled the 55-foot Shawnee around in Bar-rin River the way I would turn a skiff on one of my lucky days and we headed down the coast toward Shark River, towing two 16-foot outboard boats, one of which was mine and the other his. In addition to the crew of two, there were Ted’s.

(Continued on next page)
I would have him to port or starboard, dependent on where the bugs were located. If I waved him to port he was always careful to go to starboard. No sense in letting a hitchiker get the upper hand.

After rolling ten or twelve miles of river back into the mangroves we anchored at noon in a deep bay somewhere in the Shark River country. Jimmy, the mate, fixed us a good lunch and then we went fishing. Debbie, Jack and I went in our boat and Ted took Mommie with him in his. I followed him, and after winding around islands and through creeks for ten miles, I was so lost I couldn't have found my ear with my hand.

Finally, the props began to catch grass and Ted let down. I cut my motor and there was a little slurp as the wake caught up to the boat. Then there was another slurp over the side. I fished the bug slowly and finally got my line caught at that. Between screeching orders to Debbie and yelling at Jack to keep his plug out of the way and get the net, I was being managed to get the fish to the boat. He was fat, shiny-green, full of grass.

It was a real blast as a bigger bass closing in on a minnow. Then there was a bass so big and a mighty solid bass at that. Between screeching orders to Debbie and yelling at Jack to keep his plug out of the way and get the net, I was being managed to get the fish to the boat. He was fat, shiny-green, full of grass.

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Ted sat in his boat and bragged about how he knew where all the fish were and I didn't even know my way home.

We got out the oars and moved away and left him sitting there in the middle of the river yelling Mom­emie how smart he was. Mommie lis­tened politely but started catching bass while Ted rowed.

I was grim. I wanted to catch a bass, so I took a pickle and write a story about it. Debbie rowed and I fished a yellow popping bug she had made. Jack threw a plug from the wheel.

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CHALO NITKA
(Continued from Page 5)

hips are caught at the same time; the time for an early start and drive to Chalo Nitka for the day.

This February 24, the fourth Saturday in the month, marks the fourteenth staging of Chalo Nitka, promoted by the Glades County Chamber of Commerce and aided by other groups and persons. Interest and participation have grown each year due to local and national publicity on the unique celebration.

Chalo Nitka came to life in early 1949 when the Chamber of Commerce planned a celebration to open a newly-paved Moore Haven street. It was decided to work up a festival to appeal to the hundreds of sportmen who visit the county each year, especially to pay homage to the bass of the area. It was determined to tie in the Seminole Indian theme and ask them what they could call it. The answer was, "the Seminole words Chalo Nitka, "Day of the Bass," was the resulting name.

And CHALO NITKA is just that: Day of the Bass, and more. All in all, the event is a come-early-stay-late celebration, for all the family.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

WILD GAME AND FISH

FEBRUARY, 1962

DOG CHATTER

(Continued from Page 4)

Conservation Camp at West Palm Beach, according to reports made at a recent meeting of the Fifth Region of the Florida Wildlife Federation, San DuBon, temporary chairman of the Camp project, stated that a money-raising brochure has been prepared for potential participants. State President Herb Alley, who was presiding at the Fifth District meeting, said that all donors should be approached with the idea that contributions will be deductible tax items.

The camp is to provide a south Florida site for youth training in conservation similar to the camp now active near Ocala.

Wildlife Week

Don McAllister of Orlando will serve as chairman of National Wildlife Week, beginning March 18.

The well-known television personality will be assisted by a committee consisting of Dr. George Bassett, Paul Mains, Carol Shumaker, Dr. H. R. Wilber and others who will be appointed as they are needed.

A popular project of the National Wildlife Federation, Wildlife Week amounts to a concerted effort to bring the needs and principles of conservation before the public.

During that week, a series of press releases are provided for all news-dispensing agencies, civic groups are urged to present conservation programs, special youth, conservation projects are conducted and ministers are urged to use conservation themes in the pulpit.

Hunting Workshop

The Missouri Conservation Commission has conducted an all out effort to get landowners to develop game food and cover on their lands. Working through its game agents, the Commission has conducted numerous workshops where two things have happened: one, the game improvement show on the road but improve hunter-landowner relationships. 

CLUBS & CONSERVATION

(Continued from Page 4)

his behavior isn't acceptable.

We have noted so many times that folks who are not accustomed to pupping sometimes misinterpret a pup's chewing on fingers and hands as attempts to "bite." But chewing on things is as natural as breathing to a pup. A pup uses his mouth and teeth as a child uses his hands in grabbing at things in play. Puppies playing together always mouth and chew on each other, with no harm done. However, chewing on people's hands is far from attractive behavior in a grown dog, and this type of play shouldn't be encouraged beyond puppyhood.

Jerk your hand away or slapping at the pup won't help in correcting. Simply let him know that hand-chewing has limits. When he begins to press down hard say "Easy, now" and, if necessary, gently pry his mouth open with your other hand. Then divert his attention. This can be done by throwing his ball for him or giving him a harmless toy to chew on, such as one of treatedoring.

On, you might try stroking your hand down his back in a steady, slow motion and talking to him calmly. This is usually an effective way to show a pup that rough-housing is over for the day.

DOG CHATTER

(Continued from Page 4)

Bud rides on top of Broussard's truck, waiting for an assignment. When Broussard spots a stray dog, he calls for Bud to chase the dog. After catching the stray, Bud often lies on top of his victim until Broussard arrives to rope the dog. Their teamwork pays off with an average of about ten catches a day.

St. Louis - Two dogs are living university safety and police acquired "Rusty," a German shepherd, and "Fang," an Alaskan sled dog to help patrol the campus. Some pets are going to be better dressed than most people, according to the latest doggy fashions. A mink coat for canines with lining to match, price $110, a cocktail coat with rhinestone collar for the pooch-around-town, a velvet houndstooth coat trimmed with mink, gabardine trench coats, and terry cloth bathrobes.

Or, if you're dog lover you would perk up at a black-and-white houndstooth tweed outcoat with four zipper attached to cover the legs.

News, announcements, photos, and field trial results are invited for publication. All such material should be submitted so as to reach this publication location by the tenth of each month. Next issue for Dog Chatter material is the April issue, deadline February 10, 1962.

FEBRUARY, 1962

DOG CHATTER

(Continued from Page 4)

It's a fishcatchers' sight to see dozens of eight-pounders-and-up racked at the same time; the time for sportmen's eyes to momentarily marvel at the bighorned multitudes which are caught in the area year-round, year in and year out.

Bass fishing has attracted many winter visitors and held them in the area, season after season. The "King and Queen of Bass" have been both winter residents from northern states: Fred Kispert, of Jefferson, New York, with a 11-pound bass, and State President Herb Alley, who was producing articles.

Bass, bigmouths, tacklebushers, or what-ever-you-call-them, remain the center of attraction, as a 14-foot-long replica of a Black Bass reminds attendants.

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It is a fishcatchers' sight to see dozens of eight-pounders-and-up racked at the same time; the time for sportmen's eyes to momentarily marvel at the bighorned multitudes which are caught in the area year-round, year in and year out.

Bass fishing has attracted many winter visitors and held them in the area, season after season. The "King and Queen of Bass" have been both winter residents from northern states: Fred Kispert, of Jefferson, New York, with a 11-pound bass, and State President Herb Alley, who was producing articles.

Bass, bigmouths, tacklebushers, or what-ever-you-call-them, remain the center of attraction, as a 14-foot-long replica of a Black Bass reminds attendants.
Muzzle Flashes

BY EDMUND MCLAURIN

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

February 1962

Muzzle Flashes can take on a variety of forms, but the most common are those that result from the burning of the propellant in a firearm. The resulting gases and burning materials create a visible and audible disturbance, often referred to as "muzzle flash." This phenomenon is caused by the rapid expansion of the gases generated by the combustion of the propellant, which is ignited when the firearm is fired. The gases expand outward and upward, creating a cloud of smoke and a visible flash at the muzzle of the gun. This can be a significant factor in the accuracy of the firearm, as the recoil and muzzle flash can affect the shooter's ability to aim and follow through with the shot. Additionally, muzzle flashes can be a source of distraction and can be used to signal or communicate. In some cases, muzzle flashes can be suppressed by using suppressors, which are canisters attached to the muzzle of the firearm that absorb the energy of the gases and reduce the noise and visible signature. This can be useful in situations where minimizing the signature of the firearm is necessary, such as law enforcement or military operations.

Get that used 303 if you wish, but I feel you could make a better choice of caliber—say, 270 for open country hunting and a 33 Remington caliber if you hunt your game in thick brush.

Question: I have an early Model 740 Remington auto-loader chambered for the .244 cartridge. The barrel has a 1 in 12 inches barrel rifling twist. Now I read where Remington has changed to a 1 in 10 twist. Can you tell me if this is very accurate? (G.G.S.—Tampa)

Answer: Ballistic research is constantly being conducted by Remington and other firearms and ammunition manufacturers.

The change to a 1 in 10 barrel twist is to take advantage of the maximum accuracy potential of currently popular cartridge loadings.

Bench rest shooters have pretty well proven the 1 to 10 barrel twist gives smaller and ten shots group less than the 1 in 12 inches barrel rifling twist. The average hunter, however, need not worry; in either rifling twist the .244 is plenty accurate.

Question: I used Size 00 buckshot in my 12 gauge last season for deer, but accuracy was very poor. Any suggestions? I cannot use a rifled in the Eglin Field area, where I hunt each season. (S.K.W.

Answer: You aren't never found Size 00 pendably accurate, Switch to Size No.

Quail—Squirrel Hunting Season Ends February 11

First District: November 18 through February 11, hunting permitted every day.

Second District: November 18 through February 11, Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed.

Third District: November 18 through February 11, hunting permitted every day.

Fourth District: November 18 through February 11, hunting permitted every day.

Fifth District: November 18 through February 11, hunting permitted every day.

Ocala National Forest closed Monday, Tuesday and Friday.
A BOUT A YEAR AGO this column commented on the fact that boat designers were playing around with a batch of innovations in an effort to attain improved performance.

At the boat shows in 1962, some of the results of this will be pretty much in evidence. The designers haven't "thrown away the book"—but they've been pretty versatile in switching in the pages around to come up with new approaches in hull lines. In other words, the rules of already-known principles and scambled them up together in new combinations and adaptations. And they've produced some noteworthy results.

This isn't to say that the day of the conventional model-bow smooth-hulled boat is passing—but there is a question but its dominance is for the first time facing a serious challenge in the family-craft category.

Already in the field are the Boston Whaler, a twin-prow craft (not a catamaran) which has proved itself a good rough-water boat and has attained considerable popularity in the Northeast, where it was introduced. And, of course, the "Moppie" hull (winner of the Nassau race) and modifications thereof employed a model bow with lateral steps and a deep-V bottom. While the catamaran has fallen short of the public and industry conjecture on the design.

Facts concerning the motor had been known for months. It is an 80-h.p., V-4, two-cycle engine mounted inboard with "outdrive" lower unit and propeller. It is basically, the V-4 powerhead of OMC's Evinrude and Johnson outboard divisions, with five added horsepower and modified for inboard installation.

Statistically, the OMC 17 is just over 17 feet in length, has a 7 ft. 4 in. beam, carries two 18-gal. fuel tanks, and has a gross loaded weight of 1,664 lbs. The cockpit space is 10 feet by 5 ft., 4 in.; hull depth 2 ft., 4 in.

When on plane, the craft rides on the trailing edges of the two sponsos and the moderate-V transom.

At a test demonstration in early winter, the OMC engineers told me that they were principally interested in attaining safety, stability, easy handling and comfort. The result is a boat that is extremely soft-riding, handles beautifully in roily waters, and is characterized by an absence of broaching and digging. The steering is very firm and positive; in quartering a cross waves, the stability was such that I could release the steering wheel and light a cigarette—without scratching my nose, and without the craft veering from course.

The craft will be offered this year in two models, the OMC 17 Deluxe and second utility version—the latter lacking such features as power lift, windshield, slide-out storage bins (the space is still there, of course), side curtains, etc. The Deluxe, say the engineers, has "everything..."—here is a rundown on what they mean.

Windshield, power operated, tinted safety glass; built-in storage compartments for water skis, fishing rods, etc., under gunwales, plus four lockers and additional storage room in bow and stern (there's really a lot of room!); five removable shock-absorbing seats (driver's seat is adjustable); large lighted instrument panel; putting all controls directly in front of driver; these include rudder position indicator, speedometer, tachometer, ammeter, fuel gauge, warning lights for engine heat and oil level pressure. There's also a cigarette lighter. Switches on the panel operate running lights, bilge pump and ventilation blower, lower or tilt the outboard unit, power tilt the windshield and operate the windshield wiper and instrument lights. Navigation lights conform with International Rules.

The white vinyl convertible top shades the entire cockpit, and folds under the rear deck.

OMC also will produce a tile-type, brake-equipped trailer especially designed to carry the craft.

Riding with the 1962 boating parade...

A possibly insidious device is a new, transistor hand megaphone capable of reaching winds and weather) of pitching your voice up to three miles across the water...

The insidious part of it is that it'll work in reverse, it will pick up voices upwards to a mile away and come with earphones. We're going to have to be awfully careful of what we say, even in whispers...

A campaign (entertainingly sparked by Jim Martenhoff, Miami Herald boating ed) to standardize international orange for life jackets, cushions, rafts and canoes everywhere...it will say its advocates, greatly boost your chances of being sighted if you're unlucky as to be adrift and in trouble.

A reminder that carbon tetra-chloride units are "out" as fire extinguishers, as of last Jan. 1—this also applies to chlorobromomethane compounds (wow, that's a mouthful!) and other toxic vaporizing liquids.

The subject coverage of the movies is much broader than the title of the booklet indicates. The 351 movies listed (16-mm, color and sound) cover a wide range of outdoor activities: Adventure, hunting, photography, fishing (both fresh and salt water), life saving and swimming, navigation and weather, racing, hunting, etc. The booklet gives a capsule description of each film, with information on method of obtaining it, rental or handling charges, if any.

Completed too late for inclusion in this book is a new thrill film, "Nine Against The River," the story of nine men who became the first to travel upstream on the Colorado River in its wild course through the Grand Canyon. It was produced by Turner Division of the Buellcor Corporation, 2110 Roosevelt Ave., Indianapolis (18) Ind.
fish probably permanently damages his returns.

Many-hooked plugs sometimes tear up a fish pretty badly during the fight but he can generally recover from most injuries that do not affect his gills or eyes. There are exceptions, of course, when abrasions of the gills are the only trouble a fish receives. Ladyfish fight so frantically that they tend to rip themselves unmercifully and many of those landed or treble-hooked plugs are as good as dead. The jack orevale, is, smaller size, is susceptible to hook-tearing. Small snook have papery mouths and are easily mutilated. Redfish are pretty tough customers. Bream have a way of gulping small lures down into their gills. Speckled perch or crappie have papery mouths but usually don't put up enough fight to do serious damage. Salt water trout generally come out of the water readily although they often lose their big front teeth—how much harm this does is open to question.

Some fish are killed by fishermen who insist on carefullyorying the hooks loose without tearing the slightest bit of tissue. Often the time spent out of the water and being wallowed around during the operation is worse than having the hooks just in there.

Good-sized carp are best released from light plugs by simply yanking and straightening the hooks out. Generally they cannot be released that there is a visible mark.

There is a lot said about "artificial respiration" for fish being returned to the water. There are no methods to be recommended with some species. A bonefish, for example, is completely done in by the time you land him. Holding him by the tail and gently pushing him back and forth in the water is a satisfactory way of recharging his battery, gets his gills working and generally sends him on his way, groggy but wiser. A bass is generally ready to swim off when you put him back unless he is in pretty bad shape. You hand him into the water or drop him in gently and recollection is seldom necessary. Pick him up by the lower lip, take out the hook or hooks and flip him back without trying to see how much distance you can get and the chances are he'll have forgotten the whole episode before the day's over.

In salt water there are some added problems because there may be sharks around. Except on shallow bottom flats, I'd just as soon not be a fagged fish with my own personal pincushions.

By the way, the gentle treatment seems to be bad form with snook. If you ever snook back into the water he's likely to simply lie there feeling sorry for himself and he would be easy prey for a shark or other predator. I don't know how long a tired snook will lie on his side without moving but he'll do it for a long time.

For some reason, the shock of being thrown back into the water generally gets him into operation again. I don't mean to try for the world's snook-throwing record. Just toss him two or three feet into the water.

Barney Parker, the retired Everglades National Park ranger, once told me of running along a creek in his outboard and coming upon a party of fishermen upstream allowing fish to lie back into the water instead of catching and releasing them with such care that the fish didn't both to swim away. This is a strange bit of dope but I've seen so many times I know it happens.

Fishing clear flats in the Florida Keys will turn up some strange things about eyesight and visual perception.

Most fishermen making their first trip to the Keys or other fishermen residents of the shimmering shallows know what they are looking for but have little idea of how it's going to appear when they sight it.

I made a bad start on the bonefish business and happened to get on some flats where they just weren't present. Thinking there must be some and that I'd simply failed to recognize them in the distance, I finally began imagining bonefish. I saw seeming shadows in appearance and probable application are quite useful. When the editor of FWFTOT first saw a pair of flyfishing style Kingfish goggles, he smiled in amusement; since then, he has realized that Kingfish goggle has serious and practical application.

The gripping antlers consist of a pair of ram-o-nose, tough Neoprene bands, designed to slip on a thumb and opposing middle finger. Each band is made of synthetic teeth—mindful of barbed-wire teeth—that mesh together to provide a grasping surface and a holding ability not otherwise possible. Consequently, Kingfish gorgers wear on the hand are the same practical in cold black with slippery minnow, shrimp, frogs, "cat"-bird, and blue, and for maiming a fish grip on fish being shucked or rolled for the pan.

FWFTOT has used Kingfish goggone in a variety of other ways, however. They are ideal when counting boxes of stickers or forms printed on slick paper, for holding screws until the first binder turns can be made with screwwrench for or any job where holding ability of thumb and middle finger is needed. 

Finally, Kingfish goggone have great potentialities for marking experiments at full-fledged conventions; for the kids they offer variety when attempting to use well-behaved and realistic-shaped figures on a wall.

In fact, the more FWFTOT uses Kingfish goggone, the more versatile they prove to be. The units should be especially useful to persons whose work calls for the handling and assembly of various slippery objects.

Kingfish goggone are made of plastic materials. The consumer measures circumference at base of nail of fingers on which they are to be worn, then follows the correct order, measured to the nearest 1/10 in of an inch.

Tests and T.E.

Price is $1.50 per pair, postpaid from Kingfish, Box 1222, Sheridan, Wyoming. They come in a small plastic box that can be carried in almost any size pocket, to hang the units together and clean.

When does silhouette figures were first announced and advertised as effective drive hunting decoys, FWFTOT made magazine report on the best product available at the time.

Since then, however, several superior prototypes have been developed in this same category.

One in particular—the Dr. Décay, designed by Outdoors Publishing Company, Portland, Ore.—is especially worthy of follow-up report, this being of hunting season in most dove populated states.

Improvment of original idea is obvious when one physically compares an earthern clay decoy with the product of the Kansas firm. Latest version is not card-pointed painted black or gray-brown, but recessed, and with each decoy finished in natural colors.

A strong, snap-tight clothes pin attach, it is important to each of these tactics, permits clipping to fence wires and to tree branches.

Decoy figures, like crow decoys, work surprisingly well but must be located in an area dove frequent and where they can be seen from afar. Best hunting will be had it is to a clover dinner, as When hunting, When used in combination with a Dunn-Cull, a product of previous FWFTOT reports. Use may be limited.

Seemingly, the best results are had at midday when temperatures are high and again in late afternoon. Dove Decoys sell for $3.00 per dozen, postpaid. You can get a $10.-a-decay and a Dunn-Culler—for $27.50.

Although a shotgun is literally pointed rather than aimed, many shooters are definitely front-sight users. Even though they correctly line up gun to shoulder, automatically aligned to expect to position between aiming eye and target, they consider an eye on front sight essential to final precision. Put too high a front sight on a shotgun it is undesirable to undertake shooting. With a gun that already shoots characteristically low, to high a front sight can result in a lot of unexplained missing. Contrariwise, a higher front sight can be beneficial on a shotgun that normally shoots too high in relation to target.

For most shotgun users, conventional height, low-mounted front sights are quite satisfactory. FWFTOT calls attention to the "Gap Bed" shotgun sight, washable in choice of ivory, red or gold finish made, product of Williams Gun Sight Company, Danville, Michigan. Price—$1.50.

The large, .9 diameter finish bead—whatever the color—has exceptional visibility, and helps you pin your targets fast. The "Gap Bed" sight gives more than 85 ° or 3 degrees, it is important that the correct scope-be removed. Also important is the mark length of the threaded portion of your sight's rear sight for the old one.

The Danville, Michigan, firm also has a set of double bead sights, including necessary drills, taps and special wrenches, so that a shotgun help some shooters eliminate gun alignment and crease.

Williams Gun Sight Company is likewise in position to furnish shooter choice. They make Finnish Simmons, Simon VID-vision, Bradley Ball and Poly-Choke Bv-L-B style shotgun sights, and the most famous, the Nío Oleum Iron Sight, at list prices.
Ocala Opus

(Continued from page 25)

simultaneous high and low activity peaks. This is borne out by the fact that at times the forest is conspicuously alive with birds and animal and insect life on the move, and at other times, silent and seemingly void of life.

Rattlesnakes are a lurking threat. One never knows when or where one will be encountered. A hunter may tramp the brush for several seasons and not see a rattler. Again, he may find one in his path on his first hunting trip. Once I walked into a grassy, palmetto-studded clearing and suddenly found myself surrounded by a ring of coiled, rattling rattles. I backed out of there in a hurry.

Starting, but entirely harmless, are the occasionally encountered blue indigo snakes. Only recently a companion came face to face with a blue indigo snake. Our companion was not gullible, if not loco. One morning I was included in a party that covered Road 77 ahead of the new man. I knew the old man was a native and had been on a morning walk, I inquired if he had seen any deer. He said that if I wanted to go fishing, he’d have to slow down then to save the outboards and would get me in the forest proper, are shown areas designated by suec grants, as indicated by map.

The little animals look like large rats outfitted in medieval armor. Seemingly they face no threats to their existence, except from man during hunting season and cars encountered when crossing highways.

This season I had an albino skunk on my place. I’d been watching my property and had been on a morning walk, I inquired if he had seen any deer. He said that if I wanted to go fishing, he’d have to slow down then to save the outboards and would get me in the forest proper, are shown areas designated by suec grants, as indicated by map.

We came back to the Shawnee lunchtime and headed for Everglades City. Captain Ted put ‘er up on top and went down the river with something like a thousand horsepower bending the bushes. For a while, I was down below and the tree tops went past the ports so fast, I thought they might miss a bend in the river so I went up to the wheelhouse. Ted was in a good humor and lake land, with legal title, is periodically being bought, sold and in some instances developed.

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As I was crossing a highway, I thought we might miss a bend in the road dead straight and did not see it until I was down below and the tree tops went past the ports so fast, I thought they might miss a bend in the river so I went up to the wheelhouse. Ted was in a good humor and lake land, with legal title, is periodically being bought, sold and in some instances developed.

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By five o’clock an old fellow came down the dusty clay road, walking slowly with the help of a cane. A companion engaged him in conversation, and I joined them. When I learned the old man was a native and had been on a morning walk, I inquired if he had seen any deer. He said that if I wanted to go fishing, he’d have to slow down then to save the outboards and would get me in the forest proper, are shown areas designated by suec grants, as indicated by map.

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I pretended not to hear him. •

I am confident of a shared interest in mangrove bass fishing. Don’t count on it.

There are a lot of theories about sawgrass water. Maybe there are some springs back there that provide enough fresh water to preserve the breeding stock from one wet spell to the next. Perhaps there are some fresh creeks that provide escape hatches for a few of the bass trapped in salty rivers. Certainly the efforts of the Southern and Central Florida Flood Control District should provide more consistent water supplies in the future.

But there is one rule for anybody interested in mangrove bass fishing. Don’t count on it.

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