The Sturgeon is a living fossil. Breeding like ancestors that lived 10 million years ago, it grows slowly taking about 20 years to mature. It is an anadromous fish and ascends Florida's fresh water rivers to spawn. Young return to salt water to grow. Record weight: 134 lbs. Length: 14 ft.

AMERICAN SHAD
- LURES FOR SHAD ARE SPINDLES, SPINNERBS & FLOATS ON LIGHT TACKLE
- AVERAGE WEIGHT 3 LBS • GROW UP TO 50 LBS • A GOOD FOOD FISH • EGGS CALLED "ROE" ARE A DELICACY • MALE SHAD ARE CALLED "BUCKS" • FEMALE ROE MIGRATE FROM THE OCEAN UP THE ST. JOWNS RIVER TO SPAWN FROM NOVEMBER THROUGH APRIL.

Know Your Florida Fishes

Published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Tallahassee, Florida

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

Bill Hansen, Editor

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director
C. L. SAFFERFIELD, Circulation

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Paul M. Vestal, biologist, of Rol­
list, and founder of the Hernando
Haven, who has served as Presi­
dent of the Audubon Society
of Duval County, Jacksonville;
elected: Maurice R. Protheroe,
and experience in the Conserva­
tion field, with Minnesota Fish and
and native Florida wild turkey is part
program as conducted by the
Commission's Game Management
Division. Turkeys are trapped at
hunting season in areas of maximum
turkey population
and in areas where public hunting is prohibited. The trapped
Turkeys are released in areas
where the turkey habit is found
be suitable and such lands
available for public hunting.

Wild turkeys have been recorded
in the following Wildlife Manage­
ment Areas: Avon Park in Highlands
and Polk Counties; Fish­
esting Creek in Glades County;
Point Washington in Bay and
Walton Counties; Okkellehee in
Okeechobee County; Edgin Field in
Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and
Walton Counties; Richloam in
Hernando, Su m t e r and Pasco Counties; Camp Blanding in
Clay County; Tarroon in Volusia and
Brevard Counties; Tomoka in
Flagler and Volusia Counties; and
W. Corbett in Palm Beach County.

Wild turkeys are trapped
through several methods which
include cannon shots, drop traps
and dr i ve traps. After being
trapped, the turkeys are banded
and recorded as to sex, weight,
and location. The banded turkeys
are then transported as rapidly as
possible to a selected area for
release.

Audubon Elections
Kenneth D. Morrison of Lake
wards of the Mountain Lake
Sanctuary and Singing
Tower, was elected president of the
Florida Audubon Society at the
annual business meeting of the
Society on February 2 in Winter
Park. Mr. Morrison brings to the
presidency a wealth of training
and experience in the Conserva­
tion field, with Minnesota Fish and
Game, and with the National
Audubon Society before he became
associated with Mountain Lake.

Three Vice-presidents were
elected: Maurice R. Protheroe,
President of the Audubon Society
of Duval County, Jacksonville;
Paul M. Vestal, biologist, of Rol­
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associated with Mountain Lake.

The following piece of wildlife
wisdom, by J. Burton Laukhart,
then capped the INCISOII by ba991D9D9 a 4-
Imported Asiatic Buck December 31. and
polnt Whitetail, with his Winchester 25-20.

THE COVER
Sunset — The Florida Keys — a year-round outdoor recreation
beauty spot. See "Cruising The Keys" on page 12.

Cover Etch cute By Florida State News Bureau

THE HUNTING ETHIC
This is not an easy thing to write, nor will it be easily under
stood. Hunting is a complex affair with roots too deep to be pulled
up and examined. If the hunter is asked to explain his sport, he
can no more rationalize hunting than he can describe emotion.
His hunting is, and has always been, a conditioned instinct that is
largely emotional.

As a species, man was born a hunter. It is not often necessary
today for him to hunt for food, but it is often very necessary for
modern man to reach back over the bridge of centuries to take
reassurance—and some measure of peace—from his forest
beginnings. Some men say, and perhaps rightfully so: "But man is no
longer a savage; it is time that he puts his racial childhood
behind him and grows up. Hunting was the work of his youth, he
is now mature and should stop playing savage games."

The hunter may agree, then, shirug and go hunting. And al­
though he may not be as "racially mature" as the man who is
laquered with urban culture, he may be far happier. He is keep­
ing faith with his fathers, and exercising his legs and
instincts.

However, the careers of many hunters exhibit a strange
contradiction of the real hunter's character—-that he can at once
hunt the things he loves.

Part of the hunter's deep attachment to wildlife may stem
from the fact that he sees wild creatures as the "right" thing to
hunt. It is then that they are strongest, freest and
sharpest. The completely safe, "protected" wild creature is some­
thing of a vegetable, and somewhat the same thing might be said
of man. Hunting is a form of intangible concentration, and a dedi­
cated hunter is more carefully attuned to his environment—and
(Continued on page 33)
MUZZLE FLASHERS

Youngsters eager for basic rifle instruction seek gun handling clinics

By EDMUND McLAURIN

United States Government, authorized and delegated by Congress to encourage and promote rifle marksmanship training among civilians.

Issues of training rifles and ammunition by the DCM are initially based on the size of the group and subsequently on the number of members completing prescribed courses of record firing. A club seeking assistance from the DCM must provide bonds to protect the government against possible losses of donated equipment by fire or theft. Also, some designated person must take responsibility for periodic accounting to the DCM of training aids issued to the club, and be prepared to effect their return should the DCM recall the equipment or the club disbanded.

Where the junior members furnish their own rifles, models like the Remington 515T, Winchester 75, Remington 521, Mossberg 141LS, and the Winchester 52 with standard weight barrel are readily adaptable to club training and often popular Winchester 69, Savage 19, Stevens 416-2 and Remington 417-models. Most of these rifles have adjustable rear sight, and can be easily fitted with a rifle sling if not already equipped.

As a rule, most youngsters find the tournament grade Winchester Model 52 heavy barrel and the Remington Model 40-X "Ranger" a bit too heavy for four position shooting, although older teen-agers can be trained to shoot them on par with their elders. Unless the new junior club is being formed around the remaining nucleus of a formerly active club, heavy barrel and sighted group that sounding the general assembly will result in magical appearance of an adequate supply of approved type training rifles. NRA will furnish a copy of "The Handbook of Smallbore Rifle Shooting" distributed by the NRA to each registered junior rifle club, and be prepared to effect their return should the DCM recall the equipment or the club disbanded.

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Three beagles receive Field Champion titles at Escambia Club Field Trials

In 1890 the first and only field trial for beagle hounds, conducted under the jurisdiction of the American Kennel Club was held at Hyannis, Mass. Seventy-three years later the first Florida field trial for beagles, licensed by the American Kennel Club, was conducted Feb­ruary 9-10-11-12, by the Escambia Bay Beagle Club. While the time element between the trial in 1890 and the Florida event in 1963 may have been great, so was the entry and enthusiasm on both occasions.

To climax the first Florida trial, three of the little rabbit hunters received the title of Field Champion. In order to wear the title, Field Champion, a beagle must accumulate a total of 120 points and three first place wins in AKC licensed field trials. Once the little hounds receive this title, they are retired from competition and run only in club and sanctioned trials.

The first to receive the title occurred on the first day of the trial which was restricted to 13-inch females. With 39 entries, one little five-year-old, open marked, bawl mouth, lady stood out from the rest and received the top honors. Danberry Shine, owned by Paul Jones, of Jonesville, Michigan, and handled by Henry Mark of Whitehaven, Tennessee, was called back as high hound in the second series and after completing three series, managed to edge out the balance of the entries to claim honors of the day.

The win at the Escambia Bay trials was the third in a series for Danberry Shine. Other wins were in trials at Mobile, Alabama, and Stone Mountain, Georgia.

The second day’s activity with 36 entries was limited to 13-inch males. Wilcliffe Red Boogie, a four-year old, red strain, bawl mouth, owned and handled by B. N. Doddridge, of Collierville, Tennessee, received top honors for the day and his title of Field Champion. Wilcliffe Red Boogie has a record of three first places, five second, two third, and one fourth place positions out of thirteen trials. Sired by the great Field Champion Wilcliffe Boogie and out of International Field Champion Wilcliffe Miss Rusty, it is small wonder that the little hound should be a Field Champion. Red’s other first place wins were in trials at Memphis, Ten­nessee, and Jackson, Mississippi.

The third Field Championship was awarded on the third day of the trial which was for male beagles in the 15-inch class. With 24 entries in the stake, a hard hunting hound with the appropriate name of Speedway Shorty, was first place. Owned by LeVerne Ottmar of Ann Arbor, Michigan, the Escambia win was Shorty’s third and final step toward the title of Field Champion.

The Escambia Bay Beagle Club is to be congratulated on their trial, the manner in which it was conducted and the high standards of club activity. With 112 entries, this trial will go down in history not only as a Florida first, but also as an excellent field dog event. With a seventy acre fenced running area, there were rabbits (Continued on page 34)
FISHING
The small jig — properly used — is the most democratic of lures for speckled perch

CHARLES WATERMAN

From time to time I say something about the care and feeding of fishing guides. Generally what you learn from them is worth more than the good fishing you're likely to have in their company.

A guy who spends most of his working hours at the business of fishing is apt to have some pretty good inside dope, most of which he's quite willing to share with a character who displays the right approach.

A little humility is a fine attribute under such circumstances.

Another fellow and I went fishing with a top guide in a strange area some time back. About the time we reached the fishing spot my buddy began a dissertation about some of his pet methods and the guide listened with interest.

Then my buddy started demonstrating and, worse luck, catching fish. The better his work, the more impressive became his new and improved system. He became a very profitable day— for the guide.

For the day I was a flop.

Instead of learning something from a new expert, I'd had to watch a demonstration of methods that were old stuff to me. I'd counted on cross-questioning that guide all day.

And did you ever stop to think that the poorer the fishing the more tricks a good guide is forced to demonstrate?

About eleven years ago, my wife and I became intrigued with the fresh-bradkiss and salt-fishing around Everglades at the northern border of Everglades National Park. In fact I got so hysterical over it that we finally bought a shabby house trailer which we staked out at Everglades. We've had some kind of a mobile haven at that location ever since.

We set out to learn the country, spent long days and nights on the water and finally got to the point where we knew quite a lot about snook and tarpon as well as the sawgrasses bass. We were beginning to feel we could finally compete with the local guides and I was gratified to find that they were asking me for information.

But creeping years, ready availability of good fishing and human frailty took its toll and the fishing days became shorter with more days of just lying around than ever before.

I was right. It takes long days and lots of them to get the word on fishing in a given area and it's hard to keep up with a guide who HAs to find some fish.

The Boat Business
Average length of outboard boats purchased during 1962 was 14.9 feet, according to a release by the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers and the Outboard Boating Club of America. The power of outboard motors sold averages a little over 29 horsepower.

Boat business is improving after a recent slump. Despite the steady increase of the boating hobby, manufacturers of marine equipment were going broke all over the place a couple of years ago, evidently because there were simply too many of them.

But creeping years, ready availability of good fishing and human frailty took its toll and the fishing days became shorter with more days of just lying around than ever before.

I was right. It takes long days and lots of them to get the word on fishing in a given area and it's hard to keep up with a guide who HAS to find some fish.

While we're on panfish, here's an opinion on bluegills.

I have found bluegills reluctant to change depth for feeding purposes. When they're working on top that's obviously the place to catch them but I don't believe they care to swim up any great distances for a lure and it's the same story on swimming down.

Now it may be that a bream will change his level considerably for bait that remains in one spot long enough but the artificial user should be persnickety about depth.

On occasion a bass will change depth a long way for a lure. In clear water I have seen a bigmouth come up an estimated 20 feet to strike a surface bug. I have also seen one come from the dark depths of a deep lake to rap a top-water lure in a cove where I have no idea how far he came. He first appeared as a tiny shadow way down there and rapidly "developed" into a 2-pound fish.

St. Johns School Bass
Florida's school bass — large-mouths that tang up and blast bait after the fashion of salt water residents — have apparently clipped their calendars—at least in the St. Johns River area.

When I came to Florida something over ten years ago the jump fishing regularly gave me a pretty good schedule for school bass fishing. But following it I found enough fish to keep me happy, even though I was told repeatedly that it wasn't like the old days.

Then, about five years ago the program seemed to go pot and school fish seemed to come up at the wrong times. Some of the old reliable spots were fishless the year around. Some of the school fish became actually quite good. Some of the others stuck to the old schedules and had rough going.

Then, during the spring, summer and fall of 1962 the fish were plentiful in some spots again. They struck right through the fall and knocked off in December only when it appeared Florida might be approaching another ice age.

Jim Henely, a real wild-eyed dyed-in-the-wool school fishing enthusiast, tells me he's had the best year of school fishing he ever had. He has spent most of his time fishing new spots (or maybe old schooling grounds forgotten by other anglers).

Now another jump bass regular whom I hadn't talked to in months. I beamingly suggested that he must have had lots of fun school bass fishing.

"School bass?" he snorted. "Mister, I haven't seen a school bass this year! I don't know what became of them!"

So that's my report on school bass fishing.

Fishing Lures
Since no one knows how many fishing lures are or have been on the market, I frequently avoid mentioning new ones touted as final answers to all fish prayers. Generally these introductory announcements are a bit optimistic to put it charitably. Often they additions or changes in old favorites that have (Continued on page 36)
A FLORIDA BOATING ADVENTURE
CRUISING THE KEYS

By ELGIN WHITE

The run by Seven Mile Bridge was an interesting one.

The Florida Keys were a remote chain of islands accessible only by boat—big boat! By 1912 Henry Flagler fulfilled a lifelong ambition and his railroad to Key West was completed. The big wind of 1835 destroyed 41 miles of Flagler’s dream, but by 1939 the fills and rights of way of Flagler’s railroad were taken over for a highway, and the famous Overseas Highway was completed to America’s southernmost city.

Today you can get to Key West by auto, plane, or boat, and in these modern times of outboarding and family cruising over America’s water highways, the most romantic and interesting journey by far is by boat. So the good old days must have been just that!

I have been to Key West a number of times by car, and once by plane. But never by boat. This was to be a new venture, and one that proved to be as picturesque as it was fascinating.

Photographer Johnny Johnson and I made arrangements with Jim Gay of the Key West Chamber of Commerce to make this cruise and record it in pictures and words so that others might learn of this beautiful journey and make plans to take the same route, or perhaps an even longer one.

Jim contacted Gainey Maxwell, one of the Keys’ best known guides, and he agreed to lead our three-boat brigade through the complex of emerald green islands that make up this strip of American soil that pokes a green finger towards the Yucatan peninsula.

We were joined by some real Yankees—Michael Sweeney of Providence, Rhode Island, his wife Marilyn and son “Pud.” They travelled with Gainey in his jet stream power pack, while another boat of youngsters included Ray Briggs of Mansfield, Massachusetts; Henry Barclay of Hamden, Connecticut; and two Key West girls, Anita Rendon and Rosemary Quesada. The boys were taking a busman’s holiday from their naval duties at the base in Key West, and we were happy to have them along.

Though we began our journey from Jim Wylie’s El Capitan resort at Islamorada, which is on the southernmost part of Windley Key, many might prefer to begin this jaunt to Key West from Miami.

The journey should not be made without charts, obtainable from any marina in Miami, or even in your own home town. The charts to be used are Coast & Geodetic Survey Charts 849, 851, 852, 853, and 854. These will take you all the way from Biscayne Bay, near Miami, to Key West.

Gainey knew the route very well, but he, too, had the charts on hand and checked and double checked the night before we left as we supped at the fabulous Chesapeake House at Islamorada.

The lure of the Keys is illustrated perfectly in this establishment that is a gourmet’s delight. It is owned and operated by Ray Bauer, who is an engineer at Cape Canaveral. When the space age drew Ray to the Cape, in his spare time he helped his Dad build the famous eatery. Two quick catastrophes struck in succession a couple of years ago.

First, Ray’s father died just before the building was completed, and second, Hurricane Donna wiped the extensive layout off the map. But Ray rebuilt, scoured the surrounding Keys for remnants of furnishings that were blown hither and yon, and reopened. Now the Chesapeake House is one of the Keys’ most famous establishments and part of a nationwide chain.

There were plenty of chances for Mike and Marilyn to pick up driftwood to take back to Providence.

(Continued on next page)
The "Hut" at Deep Simmsotts Newfound Harbor had a south view.

Dusky a stop-over at Pigeon Key everybody tried to get to the act or picking a coconut.

We enjoyed a magnificent picnic at Bahia Honda Tennis, populated by the good folks in Marathon, included many native Keys gookens.

April 1963
This was a magnificent cool-out in an indescribably beautiful spot, and if you plan to make a cruise like this, contact Kay Johnston ... that little lady can arrange almost anything!

The rushing waters that passed under Bahia Honda bridge were alive with silver king tarpon, and Gainey, being the fisherman he is, had to give it a try. But, as fate befals other fishing experts, the tarpon were interested in fricte, not Gainey's bait, and they just moved on past this frustrated angler.

We begrudgingly said “good-bye” to those wonderful Marathon citizens, and the gorgeous spot at Bahia Honda, but we wanted to move on to Big Pine Key and Doug Simmons' place before nightfall.

Now Doug Simmons is one of those “Keys characters” who seems to fit right in with the mood of the entire area. He sports a bright red bush on his face, always wears a floppy Panama skimmer, and is just as friendly as the rest of these people.

Doug runs a resort and marina at Newfound Harbor, which we reached by moving back into the Atlantic after we had circled No Name Key, an island with an appropriate moniker. No Name had nothing on it but brush, as far as we could see, and there was a burned out bridge to it from Big Pine Key, the largest island in the entire chain. That bridge seemed to lead to nowhere, but it did provide a good fishing spot, from which the natives in these parts gather many bright colored specimens from the deep.

It was a pretty rough run around the southern side of Big Pine Key. The Atlantic was kicking up pretty good, and we took some pounding before we rounded the western edge of Big Pine.

Just as we approached black channel marker “3” in Newfound Harbor Channel, we noticed an extremely tropical looking setting on the island to our right. We moved in for a closer “look see” and saw a Hollywood crew busy constructing a South Sea setting for the movie “P T 109,” the story of President Kennedy’s wartime exploits. You can move in and see this set from right off shore, but we couldn’t “go aboard,” at the time. But probably by the time you read this, the movie will have been completed, or in its final stages of shooting, and you can go aboard and look around.

Before retiring for the night at Doug Simmons’ place, the red-bearded one told us that for the past year a group of Cuban commandos had been using his island for training, with high hopes and plans of returning to the Latin island just 90 miles from this spot and overthrowing another bearded one.

That night we went back around Big Pine and into the magnificent marina of Vista Linda, which is nestled right at the foot of that burned out bridge leading to No Name Key. We were treated to a wonderful sea food meal at the restaurant there by Thomas Gordon, and his manner was in true keeping with the above mentioned Keys hospitality.

The next morning we gassed up all three boats at Doug’s place, and Gainey turned us to the north for the final leg of our trip to Key West.

This route took us through a myriad of islands and keys, many without name, but none without resplendent beauty in tropical flowers, white sand beaches, and that ever-present blue-green water. Our route led us through narrow channels, and since Gainey knew these waters, we followed his jet boat like a couple of puppy dogs. We were away from the marked intracoastal channel, and if you make this run, be sure to have someone with you who knows the waters. We were moving toward Barracuda Key and Mud Key, for a lunch stop at a sheltered beach constructed by the Key West Powder Squadron, but if you don’t know the route, you’ll wind up going “round and round these Keys and inlets forever.

This is wild country, and the water depths are tricky and currents swift and mean. You can “pick” your way through by watching those deep-green water depths, but you could spend hours moving around the same island. They all look alike and your gasoline supply could go “kaput” in no time.

The best route is to stay with the channel markers. They will get you right into Key West, and our only reason for the wandering course we took was to see the wild country, and beside, we had an expert guide.

After lunch on the beach at the Power Squadron shack, we headed south by southwest and ran on into Key West, pulling in at Garrison Bight, location of the municipal marina. We were met there by Jim Gay, who instructed us where we would lodge for the evening, and also informed me of plans for touring Key West the next day, by boat and by auto.

The next morning we went back to the marina to start our cruise around the former island kingdom of pirates and privateers. At the marina, we met out of Key West’s many colorful citizens.

This old fellow, now 70, was named Manuel Lopez. He runs a charter boat; that is, it is a reasonable facsimile of a charter boat. The craft was as worn and weather-beaten as its skipper. But it had a romantic past, and had fished such luminaries as the DuPonts, Jimmy Durante, and many other celebrities. Duanne fished with Lopez just a couple of years ago, and you have to admire “Schnozz’s” courage. A good look at Manuel’s craft and you wonder what keeps it up. Compared to this boat, the African Queen looked like the Queen Mary.

But Lopez fishes right on as he has been doing for 40 years. And he gets customers. And he has many, many tales he can tell in his best broken English. Perhaps that is the lure that drags ‘em on his boat. It is an experience in real living.

We pulled out of Garrison Bight to begin a boat run around the island of Key West. From the water side, you can get a beautiful picture of the antiquity of this city, see submerged wrecks and remnants of the past glory days, the pirate forts, privateers, run-runners and their like ruled the waves.

Today the ramparts of the old forts are watched by the Uncle Sam’s Navy. The naval base here is surrounded by shrimp fleets, pleasure craft, lobster boats, and the accompanying packing houses, turtle kraals, wharfs, and typical water front paraphernalia. It is a

(Continued on page 37)
"I don't know about minnows," he admitted, "but there are plenty of tadpoles, which is just as good."

Tadpoles? Bass bait? This was FFBEA T BASS BAIT

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

A tadpole makes the best fishing bait just before it starts, and during the time it is changing into a frog.

Photo By Wallace Hughes

OFFBEAT BASS BAIT

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

It is a new twist to one of our most time-honored natural baits

Before I could shake it down on the cord stringer, my wife Marjorie was battleing another bass. Within an hour we had collected thirteen, weighing large, the biggest being perhaps two pounds, but enough to be the making of a nice fish fry.

The real excitement, however, was yet to come. Marjorie impaled a large tadpole on her hook, one that was beginning to change shape with a shorter tail and hind legs. She allowed it to drift with the current, under a plastic bobber, down parallel to the undercut bank. It hadn't gone more than five or six feet when the bobber abruptly vanished. Marjorie struck.

Her whippy spinning rod snapped over in a horseshoe shape and the reel drag whined in protest. A big fish surged out in the middle of the creek and started up. It rolled hall out of the water, shaking its broad head.

Marjorie gasped.

This one was a dandy, all right, the largest bass we'd ever hooked from the creek. It would go to six pounds, maybe more.

But excitement got the best of Marjorie. She tried to rush the bass, something you don't do with eight-pound-test monofil. The fish came close to shore, saw that it was trapped, flipped around and powered its way across the creek.

The rod tip dipped all the way to the water, shuttered for a moment then snapped back as the line popped like a gunshot.

Marjorie will never be the same after that.

But the incident with the big bass convinced me of one thing: Bass do eat tadpoles. They don't necessarily wait until they grow into frogs.

Since then I've done some field research on this slimy creature. While it isn't as consistent as minnows, the tadpole will produce quite well at times on bass. It seems to work much better in streams than ponds, however, for some inexplicable reason. Tadpoles are found in both places.

In fact, the biggest concentration of tadpoles I've ever seen was in a postage-stamp shallow pond. What drew my attention were the dimples all over the surface. For a moment I thought it was minnows causing the unusual activity. But upon closer examination I found it to be tadpoles in the change of life. They were becoming frogs and were beginning to get lungs, which required them to rush crazily to the surface at times to gasp air. Often you can pinpoint a concentration of tadpoles by these dimples on the water surface.

Frogs are around most of the year. They may disappear briefly in the winter, when they bury themselves in mud to hibernate. But in Florida this will be less than a month in the southern extremes, perhaps longer in the northern third of the state. When they put in their appearance again in late winter or early spring, they'll be in the mating mood, ready to produce the thousands of offspring which can be found in practically all waters.

Frogs, it seems, mate throughout the year. I've found tadpoles on into the fall. As one generation grows into frogs, others show up in streams and lakes. At birth, they are minute, just black specks in the water. But within six to seven weeks they grow into maturity, becoming frogs.

Once the change of life begins, the tadpole completes its transformation quite rapidly. It starts to absorb its tail, hogs up and gains are impressive. Soon the tail is gone and front legs are in evidence. Then the tadpole becomes a full-sized frog.

A tadpole makes the best bait just before it starts and during this change, when it is of fairly large size. Once that has matured to the age that it has a stubby tail and pronounced hind legs is past.

(Continued on page 35)
There’s nothing wrong with the sidearm cast in a situation like this. Even though he may cast from the side, a good caster generally throws with considerable snap in making use of the rod’s action to fire the plug.

Florida Caster

By CHARLES WATERMAN

You are probably a lousy caster but if you’re a typical fisherman the chances are you figure you’re pretty good.

You probably learned by yourself and advice on how to improve your casting offends you. You may figure casting is too much work anyway. One state casting champion I know always trolls when he goes fishing.

There have been hundreds of articles on how to cast, illustrated by thousands of pictures but I’m going to hang around the edges of the casting business and try to fill in some gaps about practical casting for fish.

In Florida you’re apt to run into big fish in either fresh or salt water. That means your tackle should be fairly sturdy unless you’re a real stunt fisherman. If you’re that, you’ve developed specialized techniques.

Some of the flimsier gear that works on very small fish is a poor choice around here—especially if you get into brackish or salt water where something drastic may happen.

For most experienced fishermen, baitcasting tackle is most accurate of all. Nothing is quite so good for hitting small targets, for working surface baits or for throwing long distances with bass-weight lures.

The five or 6-foot casting rod with conventional level wind reel (or a new free-spooling model) is what we’re talking about.

Tournament accuracy casters use these outfits with a tip soft enough that the pitch is a true “snap cast.” That is, the rod is held out in front of the caster so that he can almost sight along it at the target. Actually, most deadeyes simply line up the tip with their objective. They then flip the tip back toward the caster’s shoulder so that the rod is bent sharply from pull of he casting weight. The cast is made with a sharp, “whip-cracking” movement of the wrist helping the spring of the rod tip to fire the plug flat and fast.

The action is mainly wrist, some forearm, very little upper arm and practically no body English. On the back cast the plug may not even go behind the caster’s head—certainly the rod itself is not swung back over the shoulder. Why? Because the caster wants the plug and tip out in front where they can be aimed. If he swings back over his shoulder there are all sorts of erratic moves that can take place.

A hard, flat cast is best for accuracy. If the cast (Continued on page 22)
in fishing most fishermen let the rod tip get further back on the backcast. They have to if the rod is a stiff one or if they're going for extra distance. Eighty feet is as far as the tournament accuracy caster worries about. Hard casts take hard thumbing. Unless the reel is a free-spooler or extremely fast, nothing but the thumb should be used to control it. Anti-backlash devices are actually brakes which use up much of your casting force. However, there are some reels too "fast" for thumb-only operation. Even tournament casters sometimes get one hopped up too fast. The thumb generally drags lightly over the spool during the entire throw and pressure is increased or decreased to control distance. Some casters apply the thumb to the flange at the end of the spool rather than to the line itself.

You make the conventional cast with the reel handle up. The reel spool rides on its end for two reasons, the most important being that you have much more freedom of wrist action if you turn your thumb "inward" instead of "outward" as with the sidearm cast. The handles are up when the rod can be held well out in front of the fisherman for "spinning" purposes. With handle up, the wrist has a maximum of freedom for movement.

A good grip is preparation for a cast with plug rod. The handles are up and the rod can be held well out in front of the fisherman for "spinning" purposes. With handle up, the wrist has a maximum of freedom for movement.

This shows how the wrist can be cramped if a cast is made with the real spool parallel to the water instead of on its end. Such a cast will require more arm swing and must put out more effort for a snap cast, even though his thumb is turned up only a few degrees from correct method.

A good grip in preparation for a cast with plug rod. The handles are up and the rod can be held well out in front of the fisherman for "spinning" purposes. With handle up, the wrist has a maximum of freedom for movement.

The conventional setup is that the reel operates more with your thumb "inward" instead of "outward", as by, ready to strike a fish or make a line pick-up on another cast.

A good position for beginning a spinning rod cast. Some fishermen pick the line up with the forefinger instead of simply holding it against the spool as shown here.

**This Method of Catching a Good Live Bait is Extremely Simple but not Understood by Many Fishermen.** The line is simply pulled through the leader and tied behind the stopped hook. This enables the fisherman to strip his rod tip pointed in-ward so, by ready to strike a fish or make a line pick-up on another cast.

**A method of catching a good live bait is extremely simple but not understood by many fishermen.** The line is simply pulled through the leader and tied behind the stopped hook. This enables the fisherman to strip his rod tip pointed inward so, ready to strike a fish or make a line pick-up on another cast.
Owners and communities usually prohibit such drastic action because of the cost. The repeated treatment removes unwanted fish and allows growth of game fish.

Fishingwise, the good old days may be gone forever. But happily there's encouragement for the future in the techniques of... LAKE

There are many ways to help a sick lake and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, usually with the support of Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid Funds, has literally tried them all.

Where one fish runs rampant in a troubled lake, by the bulk of its presence it smothers out the sought-after gamefish, holding the spawning potential and replacement of these fish to a minimum. The culprit in Florida fresh waters is usually the gizzard shad.

If such an unbalanced body of water is pond-size, it is sometimes possible to "pull the plug" and start over from scratch, restocking in the proper ratios. Or a body of water can be totally poisoned with toxaphene, and, after detoxification, restocked. Pressures from those economically concerned—fish-camp owners and communities catering to sportsmen—usually prohibit such drastic action, however. Rightfully so, of course. A cash register silent for a couple of years can be a catastrophe, too.

Initially, it was hoped that periodic and frequent seining of a body of water might manipulate its population to a more favorable sport-fishing climate by keeping and destroying the rough fish (shad, catfish, mudfish, garfish) and releasing the gamefish back into the water.

Between 1948 and 1953, the St. Johns, particularly the Lake George area was intensively seined. Under the supervision of Harold R. Moody, fisheries biologist for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, nearly 4,000 net hauls were made with 12 nets from 600 to 1600 yards long in operation. These nets had a 3-inch mesh. According to Moody, the total five-year lake was 10-million pounds of fish, 9-million of that from Lake George. In the Lake George total, 6-million pounds were rough fish. The average monthly harvest was 5 pounds per acre.

Astonishingly, except for equipment failure or bad weather conditions, the nets never harvested less than they did in any previous haul (this was an average; there were lots of fluctuations between hauls.) Even with no outlet or inlet to replace the netted fish they still would have grown into net size faster than they were harvested as Lake George is extremely productive. It compares to bailing a boat with a seine.

Later nettings at lakes Okeechobee, Reedy, Trafford, Newmans, Eustis, Harris, and Panasoffkee confirmed these findings. Temporary declines and surges in populations were frequently noted during these operations but they were probably a result of a change in water levels or temperatures—not of seining. At one lake (Reedy), however, the seine was thought to be of some benefit.

Despite the public pressures and opinions that resulted from seining, the biologists are confident that the removal of rough fish by netting methods neither helps nor hinders the sport-fish population. In several Central Florida lakes in which they experimentally included in the harvest such gamefish as bluegills and shellcrackers, the sport-fish population was again neither aided or abetted. This attempt at utilizing a non-harvested crop that would otherwise go waste met with severe public criticism and was subsequently cancelled.

All these nettings, even if they failed in their primary purpose (i.e., rough-fish control) still accomplished much. They showed, for example, that bass were scattered in all parts of Lake George, despite their normally being a shore fish; that these economics concerned—fish-camp owners and communities catering to sportsman—usually prohibit such drastic action, however. Rightfully so, of course. A cash register silent for a couple of years can be a catastrophe, too.

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mixture of too much electricity and water can be a hazardous situation. The rig, dubbed the "Spider" because of its extended arms bearing the electrical apparatus, was a success, particularly in the canals of the Tamiami Trail. Fish, stunned by the current, floated to the surface where the rough fish were scooped up by personnel with long-handled dip nets. The shock - called electro-narcosis - did the gamefish no permanent harm; in a few minutes they recovered and went on about their business.

The researchers found that fish could be totally electrocuted by increasing the power. However, this method killed gamefish, too. A current high enough to electrocute also presents an additional threat to the workers.

In the canals, bowfin and Florida spotted gars were removed at a minimum of 100 pounds per hour and at a maximum of 5,500 pounds per hour. The limiting factor was the electrical holding rig was developed to see what part it could play in specialized rough-fish control. It proved successful in the canals of South Florida in removing large quantities of gars and mudfish.

The electroshocking rig was developed to see what part it could play in specialized rough-fish control. It proved successful in the canals of South Florida in removing large quantities of gars and mudfish.

The electrical holding rig was developed to see what part it could play in specialized rough-fish control. It proved successful in the canals of South Florida in removing large quantities of gars and mudfish.
helps panfish more than it does bass. The quick elimination of the forage fish does release the reproductive potential of the large-mouths, but a fairly substantial population is necessary to replenish the population and get them going. And this is the one way to do it. With better watershed practices in place, the fish population will reflect it.

For example, bass are sight feeders, chasing down mainly what they can see. Most of Central Florida's lakes are too fertile from grove and agricultural runoff. Therefore the plankton thrives in the shallow water, so bass have trouble finding their prey. On the other hand, shad thrive on plankton, and get along more easily in the bottom of these smaller test lakes. The weight of the dead shad on these screens was then multiplied by how many screens it would have theoretically taken to cover the bottom of the whole lake. Sometimes, too, the number of dead fish on a 4-foot stretch of shore line was used in similar manner.

So, while the 300-pound per acre figure may have some shortcomings, it has been painstakingly reached and is generally considered a valid, yet minimum figure. Kills are scaled up or down from this norm.

Selective poisoning works best when it can be repeated for a series of years. Such successive applications insure elimination of nearly all breeding stock of this type, such as the gizzard shad. Because of these pressures, it is doubtful if the good old days, fishing-wise, will ever come back.

Unhappily, there is no reason to believe that the shad will not return to their pre-poison abundance unless the conditions in and around the lake which led to this abundance are changed. So there's no doubt that the lake management effort is a complicated one, made even more so by the human element which so frequently opposes or resents those things which it does not understand, and which, unfortunately, assumes it knows as much about the situation as those who make fisheries biology their profession.

But, regardless, until a more effective tool is discovered, it would appear that the chemical treatment of Florida lakes is here to stay, so long as those economically involved can bring themselves to understand the workings and purpose of the method. And, so long as these people understand that the treatment can only be a help, not a cure, because of the many factors working against sport fishing which are beyond the control of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Huish is generally recognized as one of the foremost authorities in the country on the selective poisoning of large bodies of water. Not that he discovered the method; it is just that he has worked out and refined the techniques to the highest degree possible, taking into consideration the variables that must always be considered.

While operators in some other states prefer to work in cold weather when the shad don't float to the surface, Huish likes to apply the chemical in early fall before the water cools off significantly. Still, the upcoming year becomes the real test, for it begins—by the cold weather, Chrome.-fish is only the step-up measure, however, due to many other controlling factors.
THE AIR FORCE and OUTDOOR RECREATION

Florida was selected for all phases of the Tyndall Air Force Base four-armed natural resources program during 1962, according to a just-released annual report by the Base Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee.

The program on Tyndall’s sprawling Northwest Florida Gulf-side 28,000 acre reservation includes forest management, wildlife management, fish management, and conservation education. Mr. Harry Allan, base forester, heads the program that began here in 1960.

In forest management, the U.S. Government realized a profit of $62,678 since 1960 in the sale of forest products, the report revealed. There are also significant assets in a reforestation program that resulted in planting of 129,000 seedlings, preparation of 55 acres of forest land and reclamation of 160 acres of reservation land.

The program for fiscal year 1963, starting July 1, 1962, calls for acceleration of the program. Plans indicate more than one million seedlings will be planted, 1,203 acres of land will be prepared for reforestation and another 1,130 acres will undergo reclamation work.

Sales of forest products including pulpwood, distillate wood, and fence posts totaled $92,994 in the 12 months period from July 1961 to June 30, 1962, an increase of $16,000 over the previous 12-month period.

Forest product harvesting is a controlled program administered for the U.S. Air Force at the air base level.

Reclamation of forest resources was another important project in 1962. The report indicates 125 miles of firebreak was constructed and that 5,500 acres of land were subjected to controlled burning as the start of future reforestation work.

Access roads totaling more than 20 miles were also constructed during 1962.

Sportsmen were not forgotten. A program of habitat improvement for wildlife, aimed at achievement of proper ecological balance of forest acreage to support the highest quality of plants and animals, increased existing resources by a large margin. As a result of this program, a wildlife planting program was initiated that produced increases in animal and bird population up to 200 percent. It is estimated that deer number 300 head, a 200 percent increase over the previous year.

More than 800 Bob White Quail, 10 Chuckar Quail, eight turkeys and 75 wood ducks populate the reservation forest lands now.

There are an estimated 75 hogs and 30 black bear roaming the woodlands. All population figures were increased over 1961.

Game increases prompted hunting this season at Tyndall, but hunters were limited to bird shooting and one brief hog hunt. As yet hunting is limited on the reservation to the headwaters of the Minden Creek, but hunting is limited to bird shooting and one brief hog hunt. As yet hunting is limited on the reservation to the headwaters of the Minden Creek.

The deer being released is one of 30 scattered on Tyndall’s 28,000 acre reservation as part of its natural resources conservation program.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

A. Allan

The door being released is one of 30 scattered on Tyndall’s 28,000 acre reservation as part of its natural resources conservation program.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

A. Allan

APRIL, 1963

THEME IMMORTALIZES some human beings—others it sentences to an obscurity deeper than the grave. Henry Thoreau was little known when he died today his writings have assumed the stature of classics. The same can be said of John Muir. These two evangelists had a common bond, a virgin sincerity and a passionate interest in all things natural. They followed their own kind of research, but not of the laboratory variety, nor was it down one narrow avenue. All out-of-doors was their laboratory, and everything great and small interested them. They did not pursue knowledge of raw nature to convert resources into creative comforts. Their interests in things natural had little relation to the accepted human benefits, but were of nature for its own sake. They did not disregard, almost a contempt, for conveniences and the monetary affairs of mankind.

Neither one was afraid of work, as such, nor of poverty or hunger; neither sought security.

The two were also diverse. Thoreau, a traditionally individualistic New Englander with spells of poor health, confined most of his nature studies to his immediate surroundings in and around Concord, with a few short journeys beyond. But in addition to his studies of the nature spectrum, he wrote biting essays on the motivations of mankind and what he deemed false and unimportant objectives. These attitudes are distinctly brought out in Walden, Civil Disobedience and Life Without Principle.

His entire philosophy of life is enunciated in the statement: "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." This was a circumstance from which he painstakingly sought to free himself. He reduced his physical needs to a bare minimum so that he had nothing to do but think. This activity, he continually fought to free himself. He reduced his human behavior, other than its obvious necessity, to a bare minimum so that he had nothing to do but think. This activity, he constantly fought to free himself. He reduced his physical needs to a bare minimum so that he had nothing to do but think. This activity, he reduced his physical needs to a bare minimum so that he had nothing to do but think. This activity, he reduced his physical needs to a bare minimum so that he had nothing to do but think. This activity, he reduced his physical needs to a bare minimum so that he had nothing to do but think. This activity, he reduced his

By ERNEST SWIFT

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But he was a lover of solitude and created it within his own mind and imagination—something the present generation may have to learn to do. Walden Pond is just beyond the limits of Concord, and the railroad runs past one edge of it. While living there Thoreau could hear the daily trains and their lone whistle. It is not far from visitors and neighbors who fished the pond. He was not truly in a wilderness.

In his walks he skirted farms and fields for isolated woodlands. By shutting out the world he found his wilderness. In his time he was misunderstood, and still is, but his close associates did not consider him a misanthrope. Whether he realized it or not, he was the voice of conscience then and now.

Both Thoreau and Muir had formal educations. Thoreau was a graduate of Harvard and a recognized scholar of the classics; Muir attended the University of Wisconsin. By strange coincidence, both were friends of Ralph Waldo Emerson. While Thoreau was growing up in Concord, Emerson was already a recognized intellectual. They saw much of each other and occasionally took walks together. Thoreau lived for a time with the Emerson family.

Muir met Emerson in California in the spring of 1871. Muir was 33, Emerson 68. But Muir had long been an Emerson disciple and his essays were Muir’s constant companion. In fact, at one time he had pictures of Thoreau and Emerson on his mantle, and so involuntarily were they that no one could dust them.

Muir was more childlike than Thoreau in his rapture of the primitive. A true son of the wilderness, daring and self-reliant, he worried about human behavior, other than its obvious impact on nature, than did Thoreau. But he also was the voice of conscience.

Born in Scotland, he came to southern Wisconsin in 1849 at the age of nine. Until he was 21, life was the exacting drudgery of a frontier farm, and made intolerably harsh by a fanatically religious father. In after years John Muir never forgave his parents for the daily whippings he received.

He was also an inventor of no mean ability—an aptitude frowned on by his father. He left the family farm with 15 dollars, and after some preparatory study took entrance examinations for admission to the University of Wisconsin. His inventions, plus teaching country school, doing odd jobs and summer farm work, paid his way. Much of his diet consisted of graham mush, potatoes, bread and molasses at a cost of 50 cents a week.

(Continued on page 38)
The extensive study of reproduction, disease, and nutrition in the deer's diet is an important undertaking to gather exacting information on the limiting factors controlling these herds. This required undertaking is extremely important at the time due to the changes in the deer population, the weather, and the specific range they inhabit. This adds to the factors Florida's changing environment. The deer herd is an important and positive force in our lifestyle, and if managed properly, can happen to pasture when inhabited by excessive quantities of animals. Not only do the deer become increasingly smaller in size and poorer in condition but the opportunity for parasitism is highly increased.

Parasites can be successfully carried by healthy deer with no visible detrimental effects; however, when a deer's health condition is lessened, these parasites can easily reach epidemic proportions with catastrophic effects. This is comparable to the case of a man, suffering from a disease such as the common cold, being highly susceptible to pneumonia, which he probably would have contracted in a normal healthy state.

One can easily read the signs and symptoms of this collection last year, two of which might be of interest to the general public. For instance, on the Citrus Area, it was found that there were only .33 fawns being produced per doe while on the Ocala Area there were 1.26 fawns being produced per doe. This is directly correlated with range conditions and carrying capacity. In addition, on the Citrus Area it was found that buck deer in the .5 year old age class did not have antlers that would meet the legal requirements for harvest: that is, on good range a .5 year old buck would have antlers exceeding the five inch requirement but on poor range deer on the Citrus Area they average only .04 inches. The collection of 20 doe deer from the Ocala Area represents sound basic research in an attempt to better manage one of the state's most important natural resources in an area that supports some of the heaviest hunting pressure. Wildlife, like agricultural crops is an annual renewable resource and must be managed accordingly. Certainly no complaints when the Agriculture Development State does a better job of its crop

The code dictates that a game animal be given a sporting chance, and allowed to live or die with dignity. For example, the hunting ethic demands that the hunter make every possible effort to avoid crippling game, but if game is wounded he makes every reasonable effort to recover it. A game bird is shot on the wing and is never "ground-swatled," a deer never shot under a jacklight, and the light birdhunter never hunts without a dog. In the last case, the dog not only increases the man's chances of getting wounded game such as waterfowl, but testifies to his respect for game birds by recovering kills and cripples that might otherwise go to waste.

Some other questions that arise when such a collection takes place are as follows:

(1) Why can't doe deer, killed illegally during the hunting season, be used for this examination? In the first place, of course, all of the deer have not bred in November and December and thus acclimate reproductive rates are not observable. Secondly, these deer have usually determine by December that they are examined by a field biologist to the point where they are usually shot up so badly that internal organs are impossible.

(2) What about road killed does in the breeding season? Here again the carcass is so badly mutilated that in most cases it is impossible to effectively autopsies. In the few cases where a satisfactory specimen is collected, the deer's diet, or for instance, the Citrus Area, it was found that there were only .33 fawns being produced per doe while on the Ocala Area there were 1.26 fawns being produced per doe. This is directly correlated with range conditions and carrying capacity. In addition, on the Citrus Area it was found that buck deer in the 1/4 year old age class did not have antlers that would meet the legal requirements for harvest: that is, on good range a 1/4 year old buck would have antlers exceeding the five inch requirement but on poor range deer on the Citrus Area they average only .04 inches. The collection of 20 doe deer from the Ocala Area represents sound basic research in an attempt to better manage one of the state's most important natural resources in an area that supports some of the heaviest hunting pressure. Wildlife, like agricultural crops is an annual renewable resource and must be managed accordingly. Certainly no complaints when the Agriculture Development State does a better job of its crop.
Field trial observers at horseback, in hunting boots and jeans. Follow the working pointers across the field at Pineknoll Plantation during the annual Georgia Field Trial.

The Florida State Championship Wild Coon Hunt and Bench Show was held on January 26 with 63 hounds entered in the bench show and 63 hunts entered in both the grade and registered hunt. The show and bench were licensed by the United Kennel Club and sponsored by the Panhandle Sportsmen Club, Escambia County Coon Hunters Club, Okaloosa County Cat and Coon Hunters Association and the Northwest Florida Coon Hunters Association of Gulf County. This was the biggest assembly of coon hunters and coon hounds in the annuals of Florida’s organized coon hunting history. Emerging as the new Florida Champion Coon Hound was a three year old black and tan coonhound owned by Toby Aplin of Crestview, Florida.

Championship Wild Coon Hunt

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COON HUNT RULING

Let there be no doubt that Florida’s coon hunters take their chosen form of outdoor recreation in a serious vein, and their organized activity as a matter for the courts. The recent Florida State Championship Wild Coon Hunt and Bench Show, sponsored by the Okaloosa County Cat and Coon Hunters Association, the Panhandle Sportsmen Club, the Escambia County Coon Hunters Club, and the Northwest Florida Coon Hunters Association of Gulf County, was a matter for Circuit Judge Ernest E. Maso. Judge Maso issued an injunction, stopping the Northwest Florida Coon Hunt and Cooon Club from Escambia County from conducting a “championship event” one week before the January 26 Championship Hunt, sponsored by the organized efforts of the four coon hunters clubs.

Following the court hearing, the Northwest Florida Tree Hound and Coon Club was quoted as saying, “They sure plan to hold a championship event in February.” This statement drew true from the Okaloosa County Cat and Coon Hunters, who said they would take further action if the Escambia County Club made any attempt to hold a championship coon hunt at any time during 1963.

If you will look up and really look at this situation you will find that it is no laughing matter, and falls into the category of the old mountain threat, “poacher, don’t kick my dog.” I think this may be some indication of a changing trend insofar as Florida’s hunting scene is concerned. As the face of Florida changes and the population increases, public hunting lands are reduced. With an increased public pressure, more and more hunters will turn to off season activity, such as field trials. Each day new citizens move to Florida and among these are coon hunters from other states. These new citizens bring with them the feeling that the coon is a critter worth fighting for, and surely worth taking to court.

OFFBEAT BASS BAIT

(Continued from page 19)
It is simply a means of gaining line speed and is the difference between grunting out 60 feet and casting 120 feet easily. Although it is most spectacular when firing 100 feet its main purpose is to make modern distances easy and that it does. Most experienced fly casters try to false cast too much line. The double hand gains line speed without excessive line in the air on false casts. Many fly casters have never learned to move their lures efficiently with their stripping hand. This should be done by letting the line run through the fingers of the hand that holds the rod and pulling it with the other hand. A lot of good fresh water trout fishermen have never learned that trick and it’s necessary in lots of Florida fly fishing. This stripping method enables you to work a lure without getting your rod tip clear up over your head. Once you get that tip high you have no place to go on your pick-up and the cast crumples. You are probably a troller anyway.

Such vagaries make me a little sore. Here we have a well-balanced bait that has been a killer for years and somebody hangs a little junk on it making it twice as effective for the time being.

They can’t be hooked. They’re especially likely to do that with plastic worms worked along the bottom. Some of the bass bed fishermen tell me that they’ve been doing that for years and that becomes more and more popular even though some anglers are against it. That’s a case of bass fishing, not bass bed fishing. You can’t use it in a bass bed fishing situation. The bass has to be seen to be believed.

There were 259 gun accidents in Florida alone during 1962. Seventy-three of the total involved hunters. Of 55 fatal gun accidents, nineteen were hunting accident victims. Lack of safety training in firearms safety is a primary cause of accidents among young hunters, the Game Commission is attempting to combat the serious accident rate through effective public service education. Jim Reed, of the Ocala District office, is currently conducting a state-wide educational program. The Game Commission, deeply concerned by the growing problem, recommends that parents require their children to have firearms safety training before giving them the privilege of hunting. The objective is to bring about the organization of firearms safety training classes or clinics in schools, Y.M.C.A.’s, sportsmen’s clubs, community centers or wherever users of firearms can conveniently gather to listen, observe and learn the basic principles of safe gun handling.

Conducting a strictly safety phase firearms program is not as demanding of leaders as a sustained, full-bodied marksmanship program. Not much study is required to learn and teach the Ten Commandments of Firearms Safety, to explain the types of gun actions, loading and unloading sequences, bullet and shot flight maximums, basic sight adjustment and demonstrate typical field situations. There are concise, illustrated booklets for the volunteer instructor’s perusal and guidance, and large wall charts to help with impressive class instruction. Interesting and demonstrative sound films are also available.

Both the Game Commission and the National Rifle Association stand ready to cooperate.

CRUSING THE KEYS

(Continued from page 17) contrasting sight indeed, and one that has to be seen to be believed. But that contrast, the old with the new, is what makes Key West interesting. The tremendous attraction is the narrow streets, old weather-beaten houses that have defied every hurricane, Dura-chrome covered cobblestone, old forts that have alternately withstood attacks from “Feds”, and pirates alike, intrepid tourists, curio shops, home-made lobster boats, Conch Train, the old cemetery, the Audubon House and many other natural attractions make Key West seem like a city in another part of the world.

Space will not permit us to go into the real charm and fascination that Key West holds for a visitor. But whether you visit America’s truly tropical city by car, plane, or as we did, by boat, you will find it has old world fascination the likes of which you didn’t think existed on the American continent.

The entire boat run we made covered about 120 miles. You can make it without a guide if you follow your charts. And if you do make this run for the first time, you will wonder time and again why you delayed so long.

Small or large, a boat club can be activated wherever a safe shooting range can be found. Also, benevolent non-flying instruction can be conducted indoors, using wall charts and films.
CONSERVATION CONVICTION

(Continued from page 21)

Intent on his own interests, he studied only what he liked and did not receive a degree, and when he left the University after three years he "determined to study the inventions of God." A too stringent religious upbringing alienated him from churchgoing, although he freely gave to all denominations. He found religion in the temples of nature.

He journeyed to Canada and then walked a thousand miles to the Gulf of Mexico, but he did not find his ideal until he reached the Sierras and Yosemite. Later he helped unfold the beauties of Alaska. He roamed the wilderness for weeks on end with a sack of dried bread and tea.

To him conservation was a moral cause, and his arguments were more on this plane and less on economics. One thing is apparent, fear was not in him: of hardship, of being alone, of wilderness, or of death.

At the beginning of the century his was a powerful and eloquent voice raised in defense of nature. His voice has increased with time. His contributions to the preservation of wilderness beauty have been a guiding light to many; and probably none is more responsible for the establishment of a National Park System, even though it came after his death. Glaciers, lakes, hills, gorges, groves, campuses, wildlife species, a college, a rail road station and a liberty ship have been named after John Muir. Practical people have honored a dreamer and lover of beauty.

He once wrote: "A man in his books may be said to walk the earth long after he is gone."

Whereas Thoreau has been called parochial, Muir was of continental and global stature; but the writings of both have walked the earth after their passing, and have inspired posterity to a higher plane of ethical understanding.

The present day hot-house variety of purists find the pleasures of the flesh more attractive than the hard-won pleasures of complete freedom. Even so, the disciples are better for having read the accounts of the lives of both. Their written words have become an indestructible monument to their achievements. Two in one century is about all that we can ask.

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 5)

and clear my back yard, I am a good, clean citizen who would not burn anything...

"But if all available songbird territories are occupied, there is no vacant home to be occupied by this pair. When I destroy their habitat, I reduce the world's population of song sparrows..."

On the other hand, if I killed the two sparrows there would be no permanent effect. With the surplus of birds that is available every year, two other song sparrows would soon move in to take the place of those killed. The killing of two would save the lives of two others.

"To destroy habitat is to kill all of the wildlife using it. We must orient our thinking to emphasize the real importance of preserving habitat."

Wildlife Threat

In an effort to preserve Florida's wilderness lands and its abundant wildlife, conservation groups have started campaigns to protect the Loxahatchee River area.

Resolutions similar to the one presented at the bottom of this page have been drafted by many civic and sportsmen's groups.

Florida will lose one of its few remaining jungle rivers, and one of its most beautiful wildlife sections.

New, therefore, be it resolved by the Jupiter Island Garden Club, that the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials, in conjunction with the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, be requested and urged to prevent the land involved and also the land further upstream belonging to "Trapper" Nelson, so that all of the upper area of the Loxahatchee River be preserved in its presently beautiful, jungle condition for posterity.

DANGER!

A match in the bands of a careless trash burner can wipe out an entire Southern forest. Scenic beauty and valuable timber go up in smoke. Before you burn, take every precaution. Then stay until the last spark is out.

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