WILD EYES

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

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Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy subscription rates: annual 25c per year. Changes of address should be

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AUGUST, 1965
CONSERVATION SCENE

Outdoor Recreation Fund Distribution Started

Allocations of nearly $10 million in recreation grants-in-aid for which States and territories may apply under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act were announced June 4, by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

The grants-in-aid allocations are the first announced under the new Act. To take advantage of the allocations, States or territories must match them in equal amounts. The money can be used for planning, acquiring, and developing outdoor recreation areas and facilities for public use.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund derives its revenues from sale of the new $7 Federal Recreation/Conservation Sticker, other Federal outdoor recreation fees, the Federal motorboat fuels tax, and proceeds from the sale of Federal surplus real property.

"These grants-in-aid mark an important day in the annals of conservation," Secretary Udall declared. "Money which Congress has appropriated for this purpose will help the Nation meet its increasing demands for outdoor recreation opportunities."

Apportionments from the Fund to the States and territories is based on 40 percent of the amount available being divided equally among the States and the rest on population, Federal resources and programs, and other factors.

Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, States may request money for comprehensive outdoor recreation planning needed to qualify for acquisition and development grants. After such plans have been accepted, States must submit proposals for individual projects before grants-in-aid are actually made for the acquisition and development.

Allocations announced by Secretary Udall are from $10,675,000 appropriated by the Congress for the fiscal year which ends June 30, 1965. Of this amount, $10,575,000 is available for State recreation purposes, the remainder for Federal purposes.

Approximately one million dollars of the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been retained by the Department of the Interior as a State contingency reserve.

The allocations will remain available to the States for qualifying projects through June 30, 1967. The President's 1966 budget requests appropriation of $75 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for State outdoor recreation projects. Congress has not completed action on that request.

Conservation Booklet

Natural resources and what they mean to people are stressed in "Conservation—Living in Harmony With Land," a new booklet published by the College of Agriculture Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

One of a series, this newest booklet emphasizes the interrelatedness of natural resources and stresses the role of an informed citizenry and responsive government to conservation problems and issues. Sportsmen's clubs, garden clubs, youth groups, teachers, public officials, professional workers and others concerned with long-range resource planning and management, soil classification, land use planning, soil, water, forest and wildlife conservation, and related activities may find the booklet useful.

It explains to all citizens the importance of conservation programs in controlling civilization's impact on natural resources.

Copies are available without charge from 111 Forestry Building, School of Forest Resources, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802.

Outdoor Films Index

Teachers, school administrators, and others interested in using films as aids in conservation education programs should be interested in obtaining a free copy of "Critical Index of Films and Filmstrips in Conservation."

(Continued on page 32)

THE COVER

The Florida Cypress, an ancient dating back 50 million years, is found throughout the state. It is the only mangrove, or "pouch" animal found in North America. See page 15.

From A Painting by Wallace Hughes

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

agroundswell of concern presently is rolling across the land as efforts increase to save unique elements of outdoor creation which can never be duplicated. Perceptive citizens are more than ever realizing that once these natural museum pieces are destroyed, they will be gone forever.

Some conservation problems are endemic, others become an epidemic; some are cancerous, still others a mere rash. Collectively, they produce waves of indignation, uncertainty and fear, and much too often, a morass of lethargy.

This has all happened before and will happen again. Honest but disorganized indignation rises and falls like a tide, and because of its instability is often ridiculed and scorned; but on rare occasions it explodes into an avalanche of upheaval. Then the cynics cry foul and become indignant.

More conservation issues are causing national concern, which in the past were brushed off by industry as irritating roadblocks to progress. The issues increase, however, where industry can no longer jostle with a few local crackdowns; they now may well feel the impact of indignation from far and wide.

New York State citizens are now in the throes of debate which progressively generates its own heat and volume. Again two philosophies meet head-on—whether to preserve the famous Hudson River Gorge at Storm King Mountain, or turn it over to progress—that sacred deity of civilization. A formal request has been made by a unit to gouge the side of the mountain and to build a station which will pump water from the river to a reservoir at the top, and in turn run it downhill through turbines for hydroelectric power.

Even though the fact that the majesty of the Albany Executive Mansion favors the installation and the Federal Power Commission has officially blessed it—plus similar plants on the Hudson—the truculent spirit of '76, born and bred in this American Rhinegold, is far from dead. The Hudson-Keowee reservoir project, which will impound a million acres of the upper third of the state, will mean a large dam on the Hudson, which will consequently be dammed for 20 miles, and 90 miles of the Catskill Mountains will be submerged.

Many ghosts of history in the struggle for continental supremacy have walked these hallowed grounds, from the French and Indian Wars, to the rag-tag armies of Washington, Nathan Hale, and the glories of Johnny B urgey; and the region is still haunted by the delightful fantasies of the early Dutch patrons, the Headless Horseman and Ichabod Crane, as related by Washington Irving. But progress should have no truck with sentiment.

Mr. Lewis Rothbacher, President of the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference, has been diligently spreading his "Minute Men Alarm" far and wide, and substantial echoes of support are coming back from both home and abroad.

Mr. Alexander Saunders, spokesman for the Scenic Hudson group, states that any urgent necessity for the project is a myth, that the utility company has a shocking lack of concern for natural resources, that the project will cause tremendous damage to the fishing industry, and all types of outdoor recreation; that...
The true gun center permits leisurely gun inspection, without sales pressure

By EDMUND McLAURIN

T\nA PERSON who loves guns, an obviously fine quality or new model firearm is an instant attraction.

While the collector may be satisfied with mere eye appeal or mere curiosity, the powder burner invariably has to hold an appealing weapon in his hands, examine it minutely and throw it to shoulder several times to get a first hand idea of how it balances and how it feels in the hand.

Ever since I was a boy I have enjoyed looking at guns displayed in the sporting goods stores. When I got in the 8 to 12 year old range of the business world (only then it was 8:15 to 5:30) I habitually headed for the nearest sporting goods store at lunch hour or immediately after work. Nathan Jacobs, proprietor of the largest store in town, let me browse among and handle his stock of different gun models to my heart's content—one reason being that I always carefully and reverently wiped down all handled guns before replacing them in their racks.

If a gun felt right, I usually wanted it, and sooner or later purchased it, sometimes for cash but more often in half or one-third payments, depending on my monotonous general living costs. Prices then were fantastically low, compared to today's price tags, but so were salaries. At best, I averaged only about three new guns per year B.M. (before marriage).

I still like to browse whenever guns are offered for sale, but dealer attitude has changed. Today, the average sporting goods store owner, or his clerk, usually isn't very interested in simply talking about guns or particular models. Some are even blunt about it.

Not long ago I walked into a sporting goods store and, when the clerk approached, made the simple statement that I was interested in his stock of guns. I already had my eye on one particularly attractive firearm among many behind a glassed-in showcase.

"Are you just looking, or buying?" the clerk bluntly asked, before I had a chance to even express my particular interest. "I won't open the display case unless you are ready to buy. We don't like customers to handle our guns unnecessarily."

I wanted to tell him that I never purchased any firearm without first handling it and testing it for balance, good workmanship and "feel" in the hands. I also wanted to tell him that a Silhouette gun with proper grip and stock, might be the best gun for my needs. Instead, I gave up and left the store.

Sorrowfully, a shooter can no longer walk into the average sporting goods store, pick up an eyeappealing firearm, open its action and shoulder and unattended fall in love with it. Today, most displayed guns are chained or otherwise locked in their racks like galley slaves in ancient merchant ships! In some instances, you cannot even turn them enough in their racks to read caliber or gauge. Those that are not chained have some other discouragement to customer handling that often is the psychological factor in ultimate sale.

In marked contrast was my recent visit to Tom Addision's Gun Center, on the southern outskirts of Kissimmee. From the moment I walked through the front door I was literally in a powder burner's Paradise.

From the outside, the Kissimmee gun shop doesn't promise much; the plain exterior is downright deceiving. But inside the building is one of the largest and most comprehensive stocks of modern guns and accessories to be found anywhere in Florida. Not only are the four walls filled with racks and display cases of sporting rifles, shotguns and handguns and accessories, but there is a twosided center wall partition that runs the length of the store and is filled solid with guns.

The white-haired St. Peter in charge of this bit of heaven is genial Tom Addison, assisted by his son Tommy.

Best of all, you can browse to your heart's content, without any sales' pressure. Neither Tom nor Tom, Jr. is even in a hurry to make a sale. Either individual will first talk an hour about shooting (if the customer has the time and inclination) before getting around to a sale. By first encouraging a prospective customer to talk of his shooting interests and wishes, the Addisons are better able to make specific and practical recommendations.

Like me, Addison believes in matching gun actions if possible, a secret of successful shooting. For example, if you're plinking .22 is a slide-action, your big game rifle and your shotgun should be slide-actions, too. The same holds true of autoloaders.

However, don't make the mistake of starting a youngster with an autoloader, even though you may personally prefer and use that style of action. The kid does not need firepower; what he needs is deliberation, and realization of the importance of accuracy on each fired shot. Start him with a boltaction; the training will tend to develop good gun handling qualities and prove excellent for successful handling of a big game bolt-action rifle in later years. This is Addison's recommendation, and mine.

The old adage, "Beware of the one-gun rifleman!" still holds true. It is usually the one weapon type of active hunter who demonstrates ability to handle a particular model to maximum efficiency. This is especially true if the one-gun man happens to be an experienced user of a bolt-action rifle that truly fits him. He knows how to make the all-important first shot, and does so with confidence, because he is familiar with rifle and bullet performance at all average hunting ranges. He does not need sustained firepower to hit and kill.

However, Addison feels that the Florida big game hunter can justifiably own two similar action rifles, if he can afford them—"say, a .35 Remington or .30-06 and .270 Winchester, or .30-06 Magnum caliber with Williams Foulproof rear peep sight and Redfield "Boardroom" or "Gold Medal" gun sights. Both rifles have low-power scope sight for hunting around large fields and open areas common to some sections of the state. Nationally known big game hunting guides substantiate Addison's contention that the average big game hunter goes into the wilds overgunned. Les Brownson, who guides for Western states' hunting, says that out of every ten hunters using the now popular 300 Magnum caliber, eight are needlessly overgunned for the game they seek, and some of these are both unfamiliar and inwardly fearful of their powerful weapons.

Gun experts have long known that well-made sporting rifles of the 7mm class—which includes the .270 Winchester and .280 Remington calibers—approach the ideal in a big game rifle.

First of all, a rifle of 7mm class is powerful enough to surely kill most big game species shot at within reasonable range. Felt recoil is moderate. Sectional density of bullets of the 7mm class is such that the powerful slugs are ballistically stable and accurate.

An exception is the .284, the black sheep of the 7mm family. The .284 caliber was created to provide a short cartridge that would function in the short breech mechanisms of certain popular, already in production rifles, like the Winchester 100, Savage 99 and Winchester Model 88. But use of a short length cartridge means corresponding use of a relatively short length bullet. This is not good where a heavy bullet must be used for assured penetration, because as bullet weight is increased bullet length must invariably be increased, too, for bullet stability and killing performance. For this reason, the .284, although of the 7mm class, does not live up to 7mm performance traditions.

The average purchaser of a new hunting rifle wants a scope sight to go with it—that is, at least 75% do. Many make the mistake of trying to get all the scope power to be had for their money, rather than select the power of most practical application.

The lower magnifications, for example, offer the advantages of a broad field of view (important on (Continued on page 31)
Warm weather care of hunting dogs, and pre-hunting season training periods

By JIM FLOYD

It's summer time and while the living may not always be easy the fish are biting and this may cause some dog owners to forget the hours of pleasure spent afield in the company of "Ole Blue" last hunting season. If there was ever a time of the year when "Ole Blue" needs some consideration and care it's now.

Some hunters and dog owners have a slight tendency to neglect their canine companions during off seasons when there is not an immediate need for their services. Don't let your gun dog go soft and flabby this summer. Keep him in good working condition and he'll have the stamina and the vigor to perform efficiently in the field right from opening day of the hunting season.

To accomplish this, see that he gets some regular exercise of semi-strenuous nature. An early morning run of an hour or so will help toughen up soft muscles, harden foot pads and build up wind. A little water work is particularly important for the retriever breeds, but other breeds will love it too, especially in hot weather, if they have been properly introduced to water.

Proper feeding is another important means of keeping your dog in shape. What to feed is no problem with the many commercially prepared canned foods on the market. How much to feed is much more of a problem. Feed enough but not too much. Be guided by appearance rather than appetite. The dog should be streamlined and not overly fat or bloated. The coat should be well groomed, not furry or too well padded.

If you would keep your dog in condition this summer, you will have to check him periodically for fleas, lice, ticks and kennel worms. You should also check his ears, eyes and nose for foreign material. Unfortunately all dogs are not farm dogs, there are back steps under which to escape the brutal forces of a noon day sun.

If your dog spends most of the day in kennel runs or pens, be sure that there is adequate shade present at all times. If trees do not provide enough natural shade, cover a portion of the runs with canvas, plastic, or even burlap bags. One excellent shade material is the dark green plastic screening used by plant nurseries to shade young plants. This material is rather inexpensive and may be used to cover the entire run for a few bucks. I checked one kennel which used this type perforated plastic material and found that it was ten to fifteen degrees cooler in the runs.

Each run should have a platform in a shaded area upon which the dog can rest. A simple but adequate platform can be made by nailing a 30" x 30" piece of 1/8" plywood to three 4" x 4" supports. The size of the platform will depend on the size of your dog, and a platform several feet high will provide some of the needed exercise. Dogs like these platforms, perhaps because it is cooler due to the circulation of air.

Climping is not recommended for long haired dogs. By now your dog will have shed its winter coat and even though the hair may be long, it is not as thick as it was during the winter months. The hair acts somewhat as an insulating blanket protecting the dog from the sun's searing rays as well as providing a protective screen against a host of summer insects, such as mosquitoes, sand gnats, dog flies, and others.

Summer training time is a time to be double sure that runs and pens are clean. Just run your dogs over the runs, wash them frequently and apply a disinfectant during a weekly scrubbing. Once a month, concrete kennels should be washed with salt water (2 to 3 pounds table salt to one gallon of water per 100 sq. ft.). This salt water wash is a preventative against hookworms.

Keep plenty of fresh, clean water available to your dog at all times. To properly appreciate the need for fresh, clean water you should try taking a drink of water that has remained standing outdoors for several days during a Florida summer.

If you have a problem with droppings disposal, dig a hole a good distance away from the kennels for droppings. Deposit them in the hole each cleaning, then cover with litter. Better still, build a droppings disposal unit, or if you want to go whole hog, you can install a septic tank and drain field. This should solve future disposal problems with a turn of the water hose.

Many skin problems in dogs are termed "summer eczema." Their causes usually can be determined by laboratory tests. Some are related to the presence of fleas, ticks, and lice, or to a dog's exposure to certain plants. Others are related to chemical disturbances within the dog when normal levels of nutrients cannot be used efficiently. Still others may be attributed to an excess or deficiency of specific nutrients in the diet.

When skin problems are created by mites, ticks, fleas and lice, treatment is relatively simple. Apply the correct insecticide to the dog's skin, his bedding and kennels.

Contact with some plants and some common garden insecticides and chemicals can also cause hair loss and skin damage. Some dogs have an allergy to sunlight, especially after exposure to some plants covered with dew. Care should be taken that dogs are not exposed to these aggravators.

Supplementation of diets may aggravate skin problems because of an excess of vitamins and minerals. Proper nutrition, without a deficiency or over-supplementation of any one nutrient appears to help dogs maintain strong resistance against "summer eczema" not caused by fleas, ticks and lice.

An automobile can be a brutal prison for a dog, even under the best conditions, during the summer months. If you must leave your dog in the car, you should manage to park in a shaded area and leave the windows open if your dog is trained to remain in the vehicle. If not trained, all windows should be checked to allow some circulation. While the car is in motion the dog may appear to enjoy sticking his head out of a window but such practice is a good way to lose an eye, due to a flying object. At the minimum, it's an invitation to an eye infection.

Hunting Dog Training Periods

In the new hunting season regulations, established for the 1965-66 season, deer hunting dog owners will have a special 15-day pre-hunting season training period. Deer hunting dogs may be trained during day-light hours, without guns, from October 15, through November 1, in all regions except the Northwest Region. In the Northwest Region, the training period is from October 22, through November 8. This regulation does not allow the training of dogs on Wildlife Management Areas or National Forest lands.

The training regulations for other dogs, such as bird dogs and retrievers, remain the same as last year. Regulations concerning the use of hunting dogs are available on page 4 and 8, 1965-1966 Hunting Rules and Regulations, available at County Judge's offices.

AUGUST, 1965
FISHING

Found in some areas of Florida now, the striped bass could become a popular gamefish throughout the state

By CHARLES WATERMAN

I LOOKS AS IF there are going to be more striped bass around Florida in the future so maybe I'd better make some comments.

Generally considered a saltwater fish, the striped or rockfish as he's known along much of the U.S. east coast has done very well in the Apalachicola River where they've caught some really big ones. As far back as anyone knows there have been occasional striped catches in the St. Johns River system, sometimes more than 100 miles from the ocean. At times striped fishing has been pretty good at the north end of Lake George (part of the St. Johns) in and around what is known as the Croaker Hole.

School bass fishermen have occasionally gotten involved with stripers much further upstream although it hasn't been consistent enough to publicize and the "runs" if you can go so far as to use the word are impossible to forecast.

The Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission has done a lot of experimenting with stripers although the studies are currently being handled by the federal people. In some localities the striped has worked out in a landlocked status so I guess he becomes a fresh water fish. The best known landlocked stripers are found in the Santee-Cooper lakes of South Carolina. Now this is a fine game fish although the methods used sometimes don't give him a chance. Of course the striped is No. 1 target for the hardy souls who fish the northern surf and in that setting he's sporty enough for anyone besides getting big enough to danger nearly drown you if you don't watch out. A 50-pound striped, of course, is a bustar.

Unfortunately the big surf sticks or stiff boat rods are too often carried along when fishermen go after stripers that run many miles from shore.

Years ago I did my first striped fishing in San Francisco Bay and the anglers I accompanied were cut bait and heavy tackle users; most of those Californian fishermen thought striped would take artificials but I just didn't get with the right crowd and my experiences weren't too dramatic as our small fish were badly overpopulated.

Incidentally, the striped is not a native of the Pacific coast but thrived after introduction there in 1879.

DEEMED TO BE one of the fastest gamefish in the world where I winched in the poor little fellows a bunch of light tackle users are having a ball and a man named Larry Green kept me informed about it in the magazines, filling me with sadness over the "chance that was wasted" as the song says. I'm long gone from San Francisco these many years.

But I lucked into a striped fishing trip to Tomo River, New Jersey last spring and was re-introduced under different circumstances. This time we used nothing but fly rods and I was guided by an energetic character named Pete McLain, who is a conservation official up there. Pete, who has caught more stripers than I've ever heard about, still gives a warwhoop and jumps three or four feet when he sights a fish.

Where we fished the water wasn't quite as clear as found in the Keys but clean enough that you could set the bottom and Pete could spot stripers as he slid along with a 14-foot boat and 18-horse motor, with long steering handle. I never got so I could spot them.

Pete would sight the fish as they darted away from the boat and then we'd stop and fish for them as he explained they wouldn't run very far.

Most of the fish we caught were on popping bugs. The biggest was 10 pounds. So what are the fighting qualities?

All right. The stripers struck a popping bug with heartfelt blasts. Then (and remember this is only from brief experience) they tended to be slow starting off and I couldn't guess how big a fish I had. On a leader way, however, they were strong, hard to turn and slow to tire. The runs were not fast but difficult to stop and hostilities would start over again when the fish saw the boat.

Although they rarely jump, I consider the striped a top game fish.

Probably the greatest appeal is that their activities are hard to predict, especially along the beaches. I hope we some time have millions of them in Florida.

Nothing unusual about fish that commute from fresh to salt water and back and some are hard to classify since they're found about as much in one as in the other.

Then many fish that are definitely salt water species prefer waters of low salinity and live only close to shore and in tidal rivers or bays. On the other hand, fresh water black bass sometimes spend their entire lives in brackish water.

Life cycles of some species include both fresh and salt water and give them the descriptive name "anadromous." A Florida example is the shad, which goes into fresh water for spawning. Salmon and the Pacific steelhead are even better known examples.

But other fish seldom associated with fresh water travel long distances in it.

Shoos, tarpon and other salt water species are found all the way across southern Florida, traveling by canal or river to Lake Okeechobee. Even further from salt are some that ascend the St. Johns River from its mouth at Jacksonville. Tarpon are caught in Lake Monroe a hundred miles by river from the ocean. Snook are very rarely caught up there but they are seen that far upstream with some regularity. Some good-sized snook spent one winter within in a few yards of the boil at Blue Springs near Orange City just downstream from Sanford on Lake Monroe.

Striped bass are occasionally found all the way up the St. Johns but we know that under proper conditions they can live out their life spans in fresh water so that's not so unusual.

The channel bass, redfish or red drum is another fish that gets a long way up the St. Johns, being reported occasionally near the very headwaters and ladyfish get up there too. Flounder, generally not considered fast travelers, are found more than 100 miles upstream from salt water.

Generally those saltwater wanderers are not plentiful enough to be the specific objects of fishing trips but they're usually so scarce their progress can't be traced by marine biologists (who would seldom be interested in such a shoestring migration anyway) but it makes you wonder why one fish decides to live in fresh water while another stays where he belongs. Family trouble maybe?

I can't help wondering just how many of these saltwater fish move back and forth and just how many decide to spend their days in fresh water.

I've seen some pretty wild flotation gear for fishermen but one of the simplest and most effective "boats" I've viewed is one put together by George Cornish of the Driftwood Marina near Avalon, N.J. Cornish simply built a platform with an outboard motor mount and set it atop a couple of big pieces of styrofoam. He didn't even need to fasten down the deck. The rig is light and buoyant and, although not recommended for offshore marlin fishing, is extremely effective for protected waters.

When I was a kid, I stuck together a pretty frisky one in company with a neighbor boy named Joe Bennett. We saw in a magazine how you could take a bunch of inner tubes and put a framework over them, achieving a buoyant raft. We built the thing all right but we didn't have enough tubes (and they were pretty small in 1922) so the thing would slowly sink at one end once we were aboard. We spent more time running from the wet end to the dry end than we did fishing. Back to the drawing board!

I'm sort too excited about fishing contests except as they provide research data about fish. However, it is too bad that an occasional potential record is filleted before he can be entered in some kind of competition.

I have quit chasing rumors of 25-pound black bass. Generally I find the monster has been teaming up with bushpuppies before I get there and weighed 15 pounds anyway.

But the other day I heard a well-substantiated story about an enormous pickerel (called "pike") Florida taken in a northern state by an elderly fisherman concerned principally with food.

When he showed the monster to other anglers they were positive it was a world record and proved it with a pair of scale but the gentleman thought they were simply trying to get his fish away from him so he flopped it into the car trunk, closed the lid and drove away. That one won't get on anybody's books.

The International Game Fish Association keeps (Continued on page 30)
The familiar Sable Palmetto grows throughout peninsula Florida and along the coast of the panhandle. Although a fairly familiar sight few are aware of the food qualities contained within. For those tempted to try their hand at swamp cabbage cooking, first consideration should be palmetto selection. Mature trees may still have frond bases clinging to them, upper left, but more often the trunks of older trees are bound closely by fire and weathering. The larger size are worth more as scenery, and would be difficult for swamp cabbages since it is the bud at the top that is wanted. Young "cabbage" trees are easy to find and easy to cut. We have selected an approximate 10 year old tree here, upper right, and first step is to remove the old fronds and underbrush which will get in way of the ox swing. It is dangerous to swing an ox where it could deflect off vegetation. Begin by cutting a complete circle around the tree about three feet down from the top of the bud. This will seem awkward the first attempt, but becomes easier with experience. As a frond is cut loose at the base, it can be pulled off with the blade of the ox.

SWAMP CABBAGE

The next step, left, is to remove most of the "boots" down to where the end is very tender. Test by tasting. If the cabbages end in bitter or tough, keep removing boots. The first few edible cuts, above, are large. Cut towards the tip until the cabbage is a little tough; another test by tasting. Remove another boot when it gets tough near the tip. As each boot is removed get at the tender heart, the remaining bud gets thinner and shorter. You're through with a bud when you run out of tender cabbages. What you have been cutting is the tender, developing palm heart.

Continue to cut across the bases of the fronds in a complete circle around the tree each circle will be an inch or two higher, and another ring of fronds will be removed each time. After seven or eight fronds have been removed the bud begins to feel tender to the ox blade, and will show white and smooth, upper left photo. You are getting close to the edible portion of the bud. As you get deeper it is necessary to slit the thin edge of the "bud" from top to bottom in order to remove the crying fronds. When only five or six fronds remain, push the top out, trim the ends of the fronds off .... and head for home.

Photo Story
By LOVETT WILLIAMS

Place the sections of palm heart into a pot and nearly cover with water. Add smoked bacon, or meat anything else you may desire to add flavor. Experiment a little. Stirring will make swamp cabbage mushy. .... so don't.

Boil slowly until tender. Test by tasting. Add seasonings, salt, a little onion, and anything else you want to try. The portion shown here was served with steamed peas, but if you will cut enough, swamp cabbages is a meat by itself. You will learn more about this palm-heart cooking each time you try it, from cutting to cooking, but chances are you will like it from the start.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

AUGUST, 1965
Florida’s Most Amazing Underwater Find

Court of the PILE-DWELLERS

By WILFRED T. NEILL

Underwater exploration is a popular sport in Florida. Here the clear waters, both fresh and salt, lure divers with air tank, face mask, and swimmis. But Florida’s most amazing underwater find was not made by any well-equipped diver exploring deep beneath the surface. The “Court of the Pile-Dwellers” was hidden only by the shallow water of a coastal mangrove swamp, and Frank H. Cushing, who found the Court, investigated it mainly by grubbing in the mucky bottom.

Of course every diver has his own idea of what constitutes really exciting underwater find: an old sunken ship, a challenging network of flooded grottoes, or perhaps the fossilized bones of long-extinct animals. But I give top billing to the Court because Cushing’s discovery was unique; nothing like it was ever found before or since. Also, there is no question about the authenticity of the find; for scientists had chance to study all the items from the Court, as well as Cushing’s notes and on-the-spot photographs.

As is often the case, an elaborate chain of events led to the discovery. In the spring of 1935, Captain W. B. Collier dug some muck from a mangrove swamp on Marco Island in Collier County, Florida, and brought up some wooden cups and cordage. Charles Wilkins, tarpon-fishing out of Naples, heard of the find. He passed the news to an amateur ar- chaeologist, Colonel C. D. Durnford, and the two visited Collier’s locality. They found more cups, an animal head carved from wood, some rope and net- ting, a wooden tray, and several perforated conch shells. But the muck and water discouraged them from exploration, and so they missed making the big find that lay hidden in the swamp. Durnford took the specimens to the University of Pennsyl-

The circular inset shows one of Cushing’s most famous finds, a mirror of a panther-rod. Below are Collier spear points, owl, needle, and fishhook, all made of bone.

AUGUST, 1965

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

vania, where they happened to be seen by Frank Cushing, who was an anthropologist with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. Recognizing their importance, Cushing obtained permission to explore the Marco area.

Cruising about Florida’s Ten Thousand Islands, Cushing found that many of them were really great heaps of sea-shells, piled up by Indians before the coming of the white man. The swamp on Marco seemed to be an artificial lagoon that had become partially filled with mud; it was walled about with great ridges of shell. Cushing found remnants of broken pilings in the swampy water, and deduced that a tribe of Indians had once built a village upon the spot.

Feeling sure that an important find lay hidden beneath the muck, Cushing returned some weeks later fully prepared to investigate the lagoon. As he said, “After the first day’s work I was left no longer in doubt; for relics not only of the kind already described, but of new and even more interesting varieties, began at once to be found, and continued to be found increasingly as we went on day after day. Never in all my life was I so fascinated with or interested in anything so much as in the finds thus daily revealed.”

Up from the mud and water he brought an astonishing array of tools, weapons, and ornaments, the possessions of prehistoric Calusa Indians. There were mortars and pestles, sets of carving tools, packs of ceremonial objects carefully wrapped in plaited reeds, a carved and painted boat paddle. There were toy canoes, some up to three feet long; wooden stools; mats woven from reed, cattail, and palmetto leaf; cups of wood and shell; wooden spoons, trays, and ladles, and several kinds of baskets. Much of the wood was colorfully painted in black, white, blue-gray, and reddish brown.

But these items were just a beginning. Farther out in the lagoon he found big dugout canoes and a sort of catamaran, a platform mounted on timbers between two dugouts. Also in the deeper part of the lagoon Cushing came up with two anchors, one made of coral and the other of Triton shells bound together so that the ends stuck out like points of a star. And there were boat balers of shell and wood, dip nets and long gill nets with gourd floats and shell sinkers, wooden fishhooks with barbed points of deer bone, and line sinkers of heavy cut steel.

In another part of the lagoon were clam-shell hoe; shell picks, hammers, gouges, scrapers, and shavers, and draw-knives of shell and of sharks’ teeth. In this area he also brought up awls made of bone, horn, and fish spines; raps of sandstone; and a rolled-up shark skin perhaps also used as a rasp. Especially interesting were many little azales, each with a shell blade set in a deer-horn socket, and the wooden handle carved to portray a snake, a deer, or a rodent.

At that time the prehistoric Indians of Florida had been known only from their relatively imperishable items of stone, pottery, bone, or shell; but at Marco Cushing had chance to bring up the entire inventory of a Calusa village. He began finding weapons: lances of cane with hardwood tips; war clubs, some mere blueglovers but others elaborately carved; bone daggers; and stabbing spears with tips of horn or bone. Among the weapons were spear-throwers, curious devices that enabled the Indian warrior to hurl a lance with great force. One big spear-thrower was set with razor-like sharks’ teeth, so that it could also be used as a sword.

And Cushing found a wealth of ornaments: shell beads, pendants, breastplates, buttons, and lip plugs ornamented with tortoise-shell. Of exceptional beauty was a wooden brooch, carved to represent an angelfish and inlaid with spots of tortoise-shell. Big ear ornaments apparently were intended to represent staring eyes, for they had a white outer ring of sea-shell, an inner ring of tortoise-shell, and a central button of dark wood.

There were sets of carved wooden discs which Cushing took to be gaming pieces, fringes and tassels of green and yellow fiber, bark headresses, bone hairpins decorated with tortoise-shell, dozens of tortoise-shell discs including one with a carving of two porpoises, and big bundles of crab claws.

(Continued on next page)
Cushing’s photograph of an ancient wall of shells, left, on an island near Marco. Such construction led Cushing to believe that other Indian relics would be nearby.

Flora and fauna of the islands nearby have been carefully explored. However, the aboriginal people who populated the area 1,400 to 1,500 years ago have left few traces of their presence.

The Court also produced bones of rabbit, and of some kind of whale. Perhaps the Indians did not catch the whale but simply found it washed up on shore. But certainly these Calusa were adept at taking birds; in the muck of the Court were bones of loon, gannet, cormorant, great blue heron, snowy egret, white ibis, red-breasted merganser, long-billed curlew, and royal tern. There are also waterfowl, and the list suggests that the Indians were hunting mostly along the coast. However, there were bones of the gopher tortoise, a big burrowing land turtle which probably was caught on the high dunes in the interior of the island.

There were bones of black vulture and turkey vulture—“buzzards” as they are commonly known in Florida. Probably these scavengers were attracted by village refuse. Other remains from the Court included diamondback terrapin, box turtle, chicken turtle, softshell turtle, and some kind of big sea turtle. Alligators large and small were killed by these Calusa, too.

There were plenty of fish bones in the Court, as might have been expected from all the fishing gear that Cushing brought up. The Indians had caught mako shark, requiem shark, tiger shark, sawfish, spotted eagle-ray, sea catfish, smoothnose, jewfish, jack crevalle, black drum, and barracuda—a remarkable lot of battlers! This catch suggests that the Indians were not afraid to take their dinners and catamarns out into the deep seas of the Gulf.

The long nets Cushing found probably were gillnets for mullet, another fish represented in the debris from the Court.

Of course the Indians did not eat everything they brought home. Having little or no flint to tip their weapons and tools, they relied on sharks’ teeth, barracuda jaws, fish spines, deer antlers, and splinters of bone. Some bricks were probably valued only for feathers, some mammals only for hides.

In the Court were remains of five dogs. Four of these were of a small variety but the fifth was a good bit larger, perhaps a different breed. The dog seems to have been the only domestic animal known to these early Calusa. Probably they had some domesticated plants in little garden plots on higher ground, but of this we have no direct evidence. In the Court Cushing found hoe blades made from seashells, and these are generally thought to be Indian garden tools.

One thing is sure: people who built the Court found plenty of good food in Florida’s swamps and rich coastal waters. Plenty of oysters, scallops, conch, venison, terrapin, and sea turtle steak, to go with their fresh garden vegetables. These Calusa put in a great deal of labor to build their lagoon, a great deal of time to develop their possession; and this means that the Indians did not have to spend all their time trying to find something to eat.

Today we know that the Calusa Indians once ruled southwestern Florida, from about the region of Punta Gorda in Charlotte County southward to Cape Sable in Monroe County. In the Ten Thousand Islands are many great shell heaps, ridges, and lagoons, the handiwork of these vanished people.

And in this labyrinth of channels and mangrove swamps there must be numerous Calusa villages now buried under muck and water. Florida archaeologists hope some day to find another such village, one that could be investigated by scientific techniques unknown in Cushing’s day. In the meanwhile, the Court of the Pile-Dwellers remains Florida’s most amazing underwater find.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

AUGUST, 1965
The FLORIDA OPOSSUM

By WALLACE HUGHES

This is the "critter" referred to in the song, "... do the folks keep eatin' possum, do the sweet magnolias bloom ..."

Many folks do eat possum, and enjoy it; the flesh is similar to pork. Unless prepared properly it has a tendency to be too rich and greasy for the unexperienced possum eater. But, stuffed with sweet potatoes, and roasted or baked, it has been claimed as fine tablefare.

Although not rated very high in the brain department, the Opossum is about tops as a mammal curiosity. Found throughout the state, it differs very little from those that ambled through field and forest 30 million years ago, in company with the dinosaur.

The possum is the only marsupial, or "pouched" animal, found in North America. Several species of marsupials, such as the kangaroo, are found in Australia. Bean-size, baby possums are born in an extremely undeveloped, almost embryonic condition, except for well-formed claws on the front feet. Immediately after birth, with some aid from the mother, they crawl under their own power into the pouch, attach themselves for feeding as shown in photo 2, and do not let go for about seven weeks. At 10 weeks of age they may leave the pouch and ride around on the mother's back, photo 3.

The often heard expression "playing possum," is derived from its feigning death appearance, photo 1. Once thought to be a clever way of getting out of a tough situation it is now believed that this is an involuntary reaction; the possum overcome by shock, simply faints.

Another common expression, "grimacing like a possum," is illustrated in photo 4.

Although it spends a good deal of time on the ground, the Opossum is designed for life in trees, photo 5, as revealed by its prehensile tail, and the grasping thumb and toes of its hind feet.

Photo by Leonard Lee Rue III

Photo by Morrie Naggsar
There is still time to prevent further loss of Florida's

NEGLECTED HISTORIC SITES

BY STANLEY J. OLSEN
Division of Geology
Florida Board of Conservation

For many years, untold numbers of fishermen pulled their boat trailers through the heart of old Fort Fanning on the way to the launching site on the Suwannee River. In most instances these sportsmen were not aware that their vehicle wheels were churning up gun locks, military buttons, gun flints and clay pipe bowls from the sand roads of the almost forgotten frontier fort in Levy County.

Fifteen years ago, I spent several days screening these sand ruts, frequently stopping to allow fishermen to drive past to the river, and recovered many fine examples of the above mentioned artifacts. A housing development now covers the spot and preservation of the site is no longer possible.

Much of the little town of Middleburg, in Clay County, is on the site of Fort Headman or Gerry’s Ferry. This tract was a rest and hospital area for regular and militia troops during Florida’s Indian War and was also used by the United States Quartermaster Corps for a supply depot. A dozen years ago there were many open areas, vacant of dwellings, on the banks of Black Creek where the troops camped during the Seminole War of the 1830’s. Today the choice spots are built over and it is doubtful if a state park, similar to the fine one at Fort Gasden on the Apalachicola River, could now be established.

There are many such sites in danger of being lost forever because of Florida’s rapidly developing population and industry. However, a description of one Spanish Mission site near the State Capitol will serve as an example of these unnoticed frontier sites of Florida’s past.

On the crest of a hill on the western city limits of Tallahassee, in a pleasant open glade of widely spaced trees and cut lawn, is the site of one of the most important Spanish missions and military outposts of the late 1600’s. The mission of San Luis de Talimali, as it was called, was the western limit of a chain of missions that began at St. Augustine and spread in a line across north Florida. These fortified mission settlements were constructed about 1630 and were destroyed or abandoned in 1784.

The image of flocks of white pigeons flying from the bell tower of a tall stone cathedral, disturbed by the pealing of huge bronze bells or the image of armor clad soldiers stationed on the bastions of a limestone fortress is not one to be associated with San Luis de Talimali.

The Spanish missions that were established in the interior of Florida during the close of the seventeenth century were little more than one story adobe and wood structures with a small bell hung from a limp reed stalk to summon the Spaniards and devout Indians to prayer. The forts were more properly classified as temporary stockades built of palm or pine logs which were easily reduced to humps of the surrounding soil once they were abandoned and neglected.

Few of today’s visitors, leaving Tallahassee on U. S. Highway 90 heading west even know of the existence of the site of Fort San Luis, once the key to the Spanish occupation of west Florida. A cast iron plaque nearly hidden by highway signs marks the general location of this important colonial Spanish mission and fort.

The site of the fort, on privately owned land, has been known for many years and as late as 1823, several broken cannons were still visible on the surface near the springs that supplied water to the settlers.

The area was most recently investigated by Professor Hale Smith and his archaeology crew from Florida State University in the late 1949. The brief excavations conducted on the property of Mrs. James Messer Sr., owner of the site, revealed a broken cannon barrel, a fragment of a rosary and numerous pottery sherds. A section of the most surrounding the pallisades was also located. Further excavations would certainly reveal additional historic material to add to our knowledge of the inhabitants of this area during the seventeenth century. It is hoped that this work can be carried out someday.

A contemporary map and sketch by Admiral Landchee in 1705 depicts a four-bastioned fort with (Continued on next page)
One of the missions in the chain from St. Augustine to Tallahassee had traces of the mud walls still standing until comparatively recent times. These walls were levelled by the owner to make room for a few more rows of cultivated crops. It seems to be characteristic of civilized man to become nostalgic for past things only when they are beyond his means to bring back.

Sites of primitively constructed Spanish missions and those of Seminole War forts are peculiar to Florida. It is important to remember that the tourist and historian must come to this State to visit and study structures and sites of this kind. This fact alone should be cause for concern for those areas that are in danger of destruction.

On the hopeful side, of those of us who are concerned with Florida’s fast disappearing heritage, is the part recently taken by the Florida Board of Conservation in doing something about these important records of our past. The Outdoor Recreation Committee and the newly appointed State Archaeologist, both under the Board of Conservation, are actively planning and working toward the preservation of historic sites in Florida. Some of these will eventually be developed and restored so that local citizens as well as tourists may enjoy the rich colonial history of Florida.

It is not too late to take action to prevent the loss of many such areas of cultural interest, but time is running out.

Turtles Are Crafty

Summer is the season when the Loggerhead turtle comes on a rare show along coastal Florida when the giant Loggerhead turtles struggle from their sanctuary in the sea and come ashore for their annual egg-laying.

Under the cloak of darkness the turtles steal ashore like so many corks floating on pure bulk (some of them are four feet across and weigh up to 500 lbs.) and having to pull themselves through the soft sand and leave a trail which even a child can identify.

Everglades National Park, at the southern tip of the Florida mainland, is a favorite nesting area for turtles, with the remote beaches of Cape Sable being the choice locale. Here the turtles go about their egg-laying without being annoyed by curious onlookers. During the summer months park rangers maintain special vigilance to insure the turtles safe passage to and from the nesting areas.

Although a few individuals break the law each year by capturing and killing some of the turtles, ironically it is Mother Nature’s own birds and animals which pose the greatest threat to the turtle eggs and subsequent young offspring.

People also hunt the eggs. Thus, the mother turtle is careful to conceal the nest by smoothing the sand. She does such a perfect job that you cannot find the eggs even though you find the mother’s tracks leading to and from the nest under the Board of Conservation, are actively planning and working toward the presentation of historic sites in Florida. Some of these will eventually be developed and restored so that local citizens as well as tourists may enjoy the rich colonial history of Florida.

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Frog Leg Charlie

By JOHN FIX

LOUTFITTERS who lived in the vicinity of Tampa will remember, although there will be few. For Whites were scarce in that pre-drainage watery wasteland of the early 30’s. His name was Charlie Ochroda, a surname more indicative of relationship with one of the two Seminole tribes in South Florida than kinship to any particular family group. But everyone knew him as “Frog Leg Charlie.” And the sobriquet had nothing to do with a physical peculiarity. It derived from the nature of Charlie’s large and lucrative business.

Frog Leg Charlie sold succulent Everglades frogs to Miami restaurants to serve as the basic ingredient of the Frog’s Leg Dinner which were a staple of every menu in those days. And Charlie’s method of procuring them was as unique as the affable aborigine himself.

Charlie, a huge mountain of copper-tinted blubber, wheeled about in an ancient Cadillac as massive for its species as he. From the car Charlie had removed the back seat and in its place installed a galvanized tank that took up the entire rear and extended to the level of the windows which were as devoid of glass as the Cadillac was of paint. The tank was equipped with a hinged lid that Charlie raised by tugging on a cord suspended from a pulley beside his steering wheel. The tank was kept partly filled with water. The Cadillac had a deep and penetrating horn.

Early each day Charlie would stop at the Wildcat Grocery, a food market and trading post favored by the Seminoles, located at the corner of Miami’s Red Road and Tamiami Trail. And he would buy a king-size sack of corn meal which he placed on the seat beside him and opened wide and carefully. Then he began his daily 50-mile trek across the Trail, westward to Ochopee.

From time to time he sounded his horn. Its clarion call echoed through the fastnesses of the Glades. And soon, emerging from the nearly impermeable growth and lining the road, were Seminole women, some clutching small children and each dangling a number of wriggling frogs.

Charlie’s big, old Cadillac lumbered to a stop beside them and without a word he nodded at the rope that raised the lid to his back-seat tank. Each of the frog bears in turn glided to the rear window opening and tossed their fatty charges into the water. Charlie, his moon face ineradicable, made a mental note of each contribution.

The women then filled noiselessly to a position opposite Charlie who had opened the front door. Each extended a voluminous skirt curled upward in cupped position, over the corn meal sack.

Charlie plunged a huge paw into the open sack and for each frog he had received deposited a handful of golden meat into the extended skirt. Then he chugged off down the road, his horn tooting in the distance.

And the colorfully garbed women he had left, their dark pleasure at their good bargain and clutching the cornmeal in their skirts, melted into the watery wastelands of the Florida Everglades.
The Quick — or

In his size classification, the striped race-runner, known also as sand sifter and streak-field, is a champion sprinter. This lizard rarely measures more than three inches, if you do not count his tail. Yet it can hit eighteen miles per hour almost by the time you can take sight on it. And its braking power is as amazing as the flash of its take-off. For once it reaches cover it can halt as suddenly as it started, thus making it seem to disappear.

Actually a number of lizards run at bewildering speeds. A few travel at such high velocity they whisk over the surface of water without sinking. The fastest thing on two legs is an ostrich. Once this bird gets stretched out it can knock off fifty miles per hour fairly easily.

It is not always the sprinter, or even the speedball that wins the race. Staying power may make the difference between life and death. An antelope can hit a mile a minute clip. But more important still for this open country inhabitant, it can do thirty-five miles an hour for thirty miles.

Animals, like men, are their fastest when on wings. Most people are familiar with starlings and robins—considered fast travelers, at about thirty-five miles per hour. But these wingsters are just run-of-the-mill speeders.

There seems no agreement on the speed of bats. But one is known to have flown safely through an electric fan making 800 revolutions per minute.

The Dead

By ROSS PHARES

In his size classification, the striped race-runner, known also as sand sifter and streak-field, is a champion sprinter. This lizard rarely measures more than three inches, if you do not count his tail. Yet it can hit eighteen miles per hour almost by the time you can take sight on it. And its braking power is as amazing as the flash of its take-off. For once it reaches cover it can halt as suddenly as it started, thus making it seem to disappear.

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Birds of prey, because of their means for making a living, must be swifter than most birds. The falcon is the fastest bird of prey. Hawks can overhaul most birds unless they can make it to protective cover quickly. Or, the chase, hawks range from 170 to 200 miles per hour.

Many people claim that the frigate bird is the world’s swiftest creature. It has been clocked by ship chronometer at 240 miles per hour. Sailors call this bird champ doubtless because they see him so frequently whinking through the air at this great speed on routine missions.

But the tiny hummingbird, surprising as it may sound, makes the frigate bird look like a slow poke. The humming bird is an astonishing example of what love can do for speed. For everyday business a humming bird has no need for a frigate bird’s or a hawk’s air splitting speed. Traveling from flower to flower collecting nectar seems a leisurely occupation compared to that of many birds that must overhaul rapid-flying prey for a meal. But let a humming bird fall in love, and he is a creature possessed. Just why he is geared for such tremendous velocity for courting purposes is one of the mysteries of romance. It takes no superspeed to catch up with a lady humming bird. She sits quietly in the grandstand, on a limb that is, while her wild lover puts on his reckless aerial show. The speed (Continued on next page)
For a river cruising vacation, try the Suwannee, with its fine fishing, crystal-clear springs for swimming, and excellent camping sites.

By ELGIN WHITE

As reported in last month's issue, we are offering a summation on just what has happened over the past six months of the Suwannee River since the high waters have been raising so much havoc.

My old buddy, E. T. Bales, sports editor of the Chattanooga News-Free Press, finally got his boat and trailer in a row and came down this way to make a Suwannee River jaunt he had been planning for more than two years.

We had originally planned this cruise as far back as last December, but in constant checks with Guy Hamilton and Otto Wettstein of the Suwannee River Authority, we kept getting the "uh uh" treatment. "Water too high, can't get the pictures you want."

I even went out there in February to check water conditions on the river, and if the Suwannee had been much higher, it looked as if somebody had had better start building an ark.

Well, the waters began receding just prior to the Legislative Boat-A-Cade in April, and by the end of May we were in business and could make our cruise.

Funny thing about the Suwannee River...it is one of the most beautiful cruising streams anywhere in the world, and many, many words have been written about her attributes. But she can be a treacherous lady if the water situation isn't just right.

Well, Bales and his staff photographer Delmont Wilson and some other fine folks from New Port Richey and one of Jim Steinbrun's Crosby boats from Marisanna all joined us at the Colonial Hotel in White Springs, from whence began our journey southwest.

We had planned to put in at Suwannee Springs, just a 'hoot-n-holler' down the stream from White Springs, but Hamilton said we had to change those plans as the high waters had washed away the launching ramp at Suwannee Springs. So we moved down to the good ramp at Ellenville at the Suwannee River State Park and put the boats in there. A point of information...that ramp isn't in the best condition neither, 'cause a lot of mud had to be moved away before we could get the boats in. However, the Good Lord wills it and if the creek don't rise (as the old saying goes), by the time you read this that ramp should be in a fine state of repair. So should the ramp at Suwannee Springs.

Our trip down river was uneventful as far as problems were concerned, though we did witness a few stray logs floating with the fast-moving tide. Watch out for these bits of flotsam 'cause they'll eat you up in a clear piece not to mention hull damage if you ram one of them.

The springs along the way were not as clear as we had hoped they would be, though again by this writing they should have cleared if we don't experience too much rain this summer. The only clear springs we ran into were Fannin, Manatee, and...
The Suwannee was about 4 feet above normal when we made our run, and that's just about right. You can pass over the shoals between Ellaville and Branford without fear of running aground, and from Branford south to Suwannee there is nothing but clear sailing.

One trouble we had which you might encounter if you plan this trip is that every boater in Florida should be a lack of good spots to purchase gasoline. Not that you can't get gas...you can, but you have to plan your distribution. We gassed up in Live Oak before putting in at Ellaville ramp, and we carried four six gallon tanks. This got us into Branford with ease, even with all the extra running around we did, shooting pictures.

But be sure you have plenty of gas from Branford to get you to Old Town (or Fannin Springs), particularly if you plan a run up the Suwannee River. You wouldn't want to leave me. This is a beautiful river that leads up to crystal clear headwaters of the Ichetucknee River. This side journey is one of the main attractions of a trip on the Suwannee. Usually you can buy gasoline at one of the fish camps around a mile or so up the Santa Fe, but on the day we were there, they didn't have any gas, and you might encounter the same problem. But I would suspect that 99 times out of 100 you can get gas there. But be prepared in case there is none there, for it is a long haul back upstream, especially after you've toured up the Santa Fe.

Refueling problems are not as acute from Fannin Springs, where we stayed overnight, to the town of Suwannee along the Gulf. There are several stops along that route and you won't have any gasoline difficulties. All these problems actually arose in the past two-three years, according to Woodrow White, one of the white homes in the Suwannee River Authority who made the jaunt with us. There used to be places of places to gas-up the entire route, but in the past two years, when the waters got high and people quit making runs down the river, a lot of the folks who had refueling depots closed down for lack of customers. Too, many boat clubs from throughout the South came on cruises on the Suwannee, and they stopped coming when the water conditions got high. So you see the high waters compounded the situation, but with Ol' Dame Suwannee returning to her normal gait, we ought to start seeing a lot more traffic.

I really am glad to see the Suwannee getting back to normal. I think, honestly. I have made cruises all over Florida and in other parts of the south, and I can compare with the Suwannee for a week-end holiday. Not only are there crystal clear springs for swimming, but there's plenty of picnic areas and coves along the entire route, and there isn't a better river anywhere in the world on which to take a cruising vacation.

THROUGH THE WATERS

By the way, we have a lot of inquiries from many sources on the feasibility of night boating. Is it dangerous? How can one prepare for it, etc.

Let me say this...I have been on rivers and lakes many times at night and have found the experience exhilarating, though you are always somewhat nervous as to whether or not you'll get run into some cowboy out fishing or some poorly lighted craft or object that isn't lighted at all.

Night boating is a grand way to relax, cool off and extend one's hours of boating pleasure all at once. Give it a try...but to make it more enjoyable, here are some useful pointers:

Lights on boats are either red, green or white. Red lights are, of course, placed on top of red buoys. However, black buoys are surmounted by green lights. As in the daytime, keep red buoys to your right when entering port or heading upstream. We had an old saying when I was in the Coast Guard during World War II you might remember this: "Red right returning." In other words, when we were heading upstream, or back into port, the red light for buoy was always kept to starboard.

White lights have no directional significance, according to Bob Brewster of Mercury Motors, but merely serve to locate isolated buoys on the water. They can be seen further, hence are ideal for this purpose.

On waterways marked by numerous buoys, lighted ones flash in different sequences to facilitate identification. There are charts that give the characteristics of each one. A flashing light is dark most of the time and comes on intermittently. An "occulting" light is one which burns steadily and "flashes off" at intervals.

Rapidly flashing lights—not often encountered—may mean more than usual caution is needed when operating near them.

Sometimes your charts will show "range lights," which are usually on shore or on fixed piers, dolphins, etc. When two of them are kept lined up like rifle sights, the operator of a boat knows he is running safely in the deep portion of a narrow channel.

There is research that has shown that red light has the least adverse effect on the ability of human eyes to see well at night. For best night vision lamps to illuminate cockpit and instruments should be of cock's color. Always mount them low inside the boat so they can't be mistaken for navigation lights.

Green, orange and white lights adversely affect night vision, so locate navigation lights as far out of the line of vision as possible subject to the rules for their location.

When trying to make out a distant object at night it is best not to look at it directly. As part of the eye's retina away from center is more sensitive to weak light, look a little to one side of the object.

In these hot summer months, many more boaters are taking to the waters at night, and as mentioned previously, night boating is ideal if these few simple safety rules are followed.

Now many storage ramps are springing up like mushrooms all over Florida, and with push-button operations now more normal than a rarity, they are proving to be a boon to boating. There is one in Sarasota, the Outboarder, that was a pioneer in this field. Originally starting with about three "hangars"...boats were nestled on racks like the wash hung out to dry, the Outboarder now has seven hangars and every stall is filled.

All a boater has to do to prepare for a day's, week's or even a trip for an hour or so is to call, list his boat number, advise when he will arrive, and when he shows up his craft is in the water, gassed-up, cleaned, and all ship-shape ready to ride.

There is no bothering with trailering, launching, handling, or what have you. When your trip is over, you bring her back to the dock where she is taken into a wet stall, a fork-lift truck lifts your craft out of the water, and it is moved to its rightful stall in the hangar. This push-button boating is really catching on and there are several more such machines now being built in various sections of Florida, with the majority of them scheduled for construction around the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater-Sarasota area.

Cost for storing your boat in these hangars is quite nominal, considering that many more experienced boaters go on in pursuit of the sport. I recall the Outboader started about four or five years ago and that at that time you could rent a stall for $10 per month. Probably the same now, but even so, considering the services rendered at these places, it is money well spent.

The Outboard Boating Club of America serves boaters throughout the land in many ways, and has compiled a list of navigation, aids on water that every boater should have.

With events during the season in Florida a year-round affair, it would behoove each and every one of you in the State to read the OBC publications now being offered which will help us all bone up on boat handling, maintenance and laws and keep our sport safe and enjoyable.

Publications now being offered include:

Outboard Handling—a 32-page guide to small boat operation, including rules of the road, launching, trailering, all safety precautions, maintenance and other helpful tips. This booklet is free.

Fascinating Cruising Waters—describes some of the best boating spots in many parts of the nation...especially fine if you're planning a boating vacation. This booklet is free, too.

Boating Insights—a guide to keeping your equipment in top mechanical condition. Free.

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All these publications may be obtained by writing to: Outboard Boating Club of America, 333 North Michigan, Chicago, Ill.
FISHING
(Continued from page 11)

records of big hook and line catches and is the official source of salt water fish records. It has long been a bee of mine that they will not recognize an entry caught on a lure or bait with banjo blue.

This means that treble-hooked plug can catch a record fish for you, regardless of how light a line you use.

Just recently, Bernal Pita of Costa Rica is reported to have landed a 68-pound snook but it won’t get into the book because he used a treble-hooked plug.

WHAT TO DO WHEN A hooked fish jumps is worth a bit of discussion. I’m just pig-headed enough to think I have the answers all worked out and when I heard a bunch of experts arguing about the matter the other day, I was surprised to learn that not everyone is smart like me.

It always looked like this from my end of the rod:

When the fish is heavy and goes high you have to “bow to him” or give him a little line. That’s the standard procedure in big tarpon fishing. The idea is that if you keep a tight line and he falls away from you will break the thing. Bowing to him or at least lowering the rod tip gives him a little leeway.

But giving slack to a jumping bass who is wearing a large plug can lose your fish for you. The violet head-shaking of a bass can loosen hooks he’d never escape under water. That’s why big plug swings free and rattles. It’s the same principle as that of shaking loose a lure hung in a tree. If you can make bass feel like he’s generally fly loose. If you simply have a tight line, it’ll dig deeper.

The tarpon is even more likely to throw the plug but you have to take that chance if he’s big—because a hundred pounds of fish can really rattle things on a loose line.

A lot of things can happen during a jump. Some large species of fish can fall on the line if there’s too much slack and make a heck of a tangle.

Some authorities say it’s bad sportsmanship to keep a fish from jumping, from jumping, but that far although I like to see them hop as well as anyone. If you really want a bass, for example, there are times when keeping him in the water and, at least cramping his jumping style. The best method of doing this is to push your rod up into the water and increase pressure just as he comes up. The closer he is to the rod, the more effective this maneuver is. A high tip encourages jumping and once the fish is fairly close you can easily tell when he’s planning a jump.

Another stunt that takes a little time is to let him jump but lift up just as he leaves the water, extending the jump but hampering the head-shaking. If the fish has a plug inside his mouth he may be re-hooked, even if the plug comes loose from its original mooring.

Stu Apte, the Keys tarpon specialist, tells me his clients often land a fish in a fly with a completely different spot from the original mooring. Apte, who has exceptional eyes, says he sees the fly in the fish’s mouth on the jumps and notes that the position has changed during the jump.

The lure I’ve seen thrown most often is the single-hooked spoon such as the Johnson Silver Minnow (usually fished with pork and fish). It’s heavy and there’s only one barb. The large single hook is less likely to be in deep at the beginning of a scrap. Nevertheless, it’s an excellent lure and I use it a lot. You should keep the hook sharp.

Spoons with single treble hooks lose a lot of fish too as the treble is hung loosely and they falling on your already taut line is rough on tackle.

If the bass is a real monster his jump might be dangerous to your line but the chances are against it. A heavy bass doesn’t jump very far or very high and I think you can take a chance with 6-pound line or better.

The procedure is much less critical if the fish is on a fly as he doesn’t have that lure weight to throw around.

Most multi-hooked plugs are likely to get him in more than one place if you keep a tight line. If he comes out shaking there will probably be enough loop for another hook, even with a fairly snug tension.

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BY THE TIME a rod builder gets around to making the rod he has often in the mood for a little economizing. There’s disagreement about the best type for use on big bass, but it’s anything but a precise science. He personnel favors those makes and models that are truly accurate and permanent of adjustment and unaffected by exposure to moisture.

For the shooter who has long used a properly adjusted

Fishing
sting, for easier carrying of a rifle field and as an aid to steadier stances, the value of a gunslung on a hunting rifle is frequently overlooked. Those that do appreciate the benefits of a sling strap seldom go into the woods without one.

Addison says that he has had customers drive fifty miles or more to purchase a Williams Guide Strap, long endorsed by Elmer Keith, gun editor and big game hunter. The Williams model is especially desirable because it does not put any metal band against the neck, and is yet is adjustable and instantly usable. It also draws up a rifle, especially the stumped basket weave and hard curved versions.

The Kissimmee gunsmith does not fashion gunstocks from custo- mers’ blanks figured of walnut or some exotic wood. Instead he buys select semi-finished stocks from E. C. Bishop & Sons and from Reinhart Fajen, both of Warsaw, Indiana, then tailors them to stock dimensions to fit the individual shotgun exactly. He fits stocks with long-life Pachmayr “White Line” recoil pads. In ad- dition, this custom stocking service at average покупок prices.

Behind the shop, in the shade of a big tree, is a breech-loading gun that has often in the mood for a little economizing. There’s disagreement about the best type for use on big bass, but it’s anything but a precise science. He personnel favors those makes and models that are truly accurate and permanent of adjustment and unaffected by exposure to moisture.

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For the shooter who has long used a properly adjusted

CONSERVATION SCENE
(Continued from page 4)

ently published by The Con-

servation Foundation.

The 78-page bulletin is a com-

pilation of films selected by the

Foundation for instruction pur-

poses from a screening of more

than 8,000 films in the broad field

of conservation. Each of the se-

lected films and filmstrips is de-

scribed, its target audience—ele-

mentary, junior, high school,

college, or adult—is given, and

the name and address of the or-

ganization or agency from which

the film or other material may be

borrowed, rented, or purchased

also is given.

Single copies of the bulletin are

available on request from the

Foundation, 70 East 46th Street,

New York 16, New York. The list

covers conservation materials de-

aling with renewable natural re-

sources, resources and people, and

eology.

Waterfowl Conditions

Waterfowl habitat conditions are 

“excellent” and water abundant through the duck breeding areas of

western Canada. Heavy and widespread rain in the past month has greatly improved the situation in formerly marginal areas. April and May combined rainfall in Saskatchewan and Manitoba highest in at least years. Water likely to be abundant throughout the nexti-

ng season in almost all areas.

Good news for sportsmen, con-

servationists and just plain nature

lovers—lower in the month of

the June issue of the N.M.F. Un-

til “Duckological,” prepared by

Chief Biologist W. G. (Bill)

Leitch.

While stressing the high rain-

fall in Saskatchewan and Mani-

toba, the report also points out the

fact rainfall has been above nor-

mal through the Alberta park-

lands, but light in the south. Re-

port’s main head is “Water no

problem in ’63.”

Pondists have “come home to the

prairies,” along with water.

Leitch sees this species in south-

ern Alberta as greatly increased

over last year, even if well below

peak years of the middle fifities.

The report cites canvassing of

one species which has held it’s

numbers. It also reveals a decrease

where mallard (except in Al-

banae) and redhead are con-

cerned. Minor species held the

same in Alberta, but shipped sligh-

tly in each of the two other

prairie provinces.

The report cautions. . . . Abun-

dant, high-quality habitat all

across the western Canadian

breeding grounds, but the breeding

population available to ex-

ploit is somewhat disappointing . . . Yet the ducks appear to be off to a good start with every chance to begin a recovery from

the recent years of drought.

Wild Rivers Study

Publication of a 44-page, four-

color booklet entitled “Wild Riv-

ers” in the Wild Rivers Study

Team of the Department of Agri-

culture and the Department of

the Interior was announced at

the annual convention of the

Outdoor Writers Association of

America in Glenwood Springs, 

Colorado.

The new publication, financed

with the completely donated funds, ex-

tolls the attractions and values of

wild, free-flowing rivers and rec-

ommends establishing a National

system of wild rivers.

An introduction by Secretary

of the Interior Stewart L. Udall

and Secretary of Agriculture Or-

ville L. Freeman states: “We

have dammed many of our riv-

ers, deducing some to navigation,

others to power, water sup-

ply, disposal of wastes. But we

have not yet made adequate pro-

visions to keep at least a small

stock of our rivers as we first

knew them; wild and free-flow-

ing. In a Nation as bountifully en-
dowed with rivers as ours, it is

time to do so.”

Issuance of the wild rivers

booklet coincides closely with

Senatorial consideration of an

Administrative proposal to estab-

lish a National system of wild

rivers. Introduced as S. 1446 by

Senator Frank Church of Idaho

and sponsor as S. 1447 by 12 other Sen-

ators, the proposal has had hear-

ings before the Senate Interior

and Insular Affairs Committee in

Washington and field hearings in

Idaho and Wyoming. It would

give immediate wild river status

to six rivers and direct the study

of nine others for possible later

additions to the National system

of wild rivers.

New Vacation Guide

HAPPIER VACATIONS is the title of

a 72-page pocket guidebook

published by The Coleman Compa-

ny in response to the pleas of

government officials to vacation-

ers to see the U.S.A. first.

This comprehensive family va-

cation guide is a guide to vaca-

tion areas in the South which

will help for families who would like to travel farther and see more of the country on their annual vaca-

tion trip, yet have limited vaca-

tion budgets.

Vacation food is given particu-

lar emphasis, along with detailed

information on how to stretch

food dollars by cooking and eat-

ing in parks along the waysides or

etire section is devoted to cook-

ing in camps and roadside parks.

Other chapters deal with camping
equipment, auto expenses, lodg-

ing, bathing, and other subjects

helpful in planning a family trip.

Prepared exclusively for The

Coleman Company by the well-

known outdoors writer, George

Wells, “Happier Vacations” pro-

vides entertaining reading as well

as a wealth of information on how

to cut family vacation costs.

The guidebook costs as much as one-half. For a free copy, write The Coleman Company, Dept. FW, Wich-

ita, Kansas 67201.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

AUGUST, 1965

Property values will be devaluated through the destruction of scenic beauty (in part from huge power lines traversing the coun-

tryside); that it is not a fight be-

tween the poet and the engineer, 

but a destruction of long-range,

and economic values for a short-

term profit. It also comes to light that the average citizen is attempting to condemn State Park Lands. 

Win, lose or draw, the Hudson

Valley citizenry is giving its op-

ponents the seven-year itch, and

politicians seeking office from the

area in the future will long rem-

ember it.

It is interesting to note how

workmen’s unions are trying to

outdoor preservation when unin-

hibited by personal economics. 

When their job is not affected

they become evangelical and no-

ble. This holds true in another

conservation conflict where New

York State was the battle ground.

The state adopted a constitutional provi-

sion which established a forest

preserve in the Adirondack and

St. Regis lands. The idea was to

save these areas for the future by

not allowing them to be used for

sawmills, industries, resorts,

local government and others, as

inamous, wasteful and wasteful

takeover of an enlightened civiliza-

tion. Only a few years ago the

state was censured for selling

lands. The matter of the New

York State preserve is still under

litigation.

BEAVERS never stop growing nor

reach “maximum growth.” Life

span in the wild is about twelve

years. Captives have lived nine-

teen years.

The tiny bat has a big appeli-

tion. It will eat a quarter of its

weight at one meal and more than

half of its weight every night.

(Continued on next page)
experts such as Sieur du Lhut (Daluth), and still has a semi-
primitive charm and beauty.

Other problems are receiving much more than local attention. Out in the Midwest the Boundary Waters Canoe Country of northern Minnesota has been an ideological battle ground for 45 years, whether it is to be a saw-
log forest and a resort honeky-
tonk, or a wilderness. Recently Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, declared in essence, that a substantial part was to re-
main wilderness and the balance in multiple-use but managed to protect the primitive environ-
ment. If this declaration doesn’t come unglued it will be a victory for wilderness lovers. The latest report is that the opposition is not accepting the Secretary’s edict, and plans to use political might to destroy it. Such are the jungle laws of democracy.

A more recent conservation front is developing on the Upper St. Croix River, a part of the northern boundary between Min-
nesota and Wisconsin. A utility company has petitioned to build a steam electricity generating plant on its banks and to use the river as a canal for coal barges. This plan of the river has never been subjected to such use. Hearings have been held; there are more to be, and the skirmish becomes more acrimonious. The St. Croix is and has been one of the great fishing and boating streams of the region, and been recommended for preservation as a wild or natural river.

It has an historical heritage dating back to the early French

FLORIDA WILDLIFE’s
FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the freshwater game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.
Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the prescribed date listed below.

Name (please print):
Address
City State
Species Weight Length
Type of Tackle
Boat or Lure Used:
Where Caught in County
Date Caught
Catch Witnessed By
Registered, Weighed By
(Signature of Applicant)

LARGEMOUTH BASS
Chain Pickerel
Bluegill (Breem)
Shellcracker
Black Crappie
Red Breast

For That
Big One
That didn’t
Get Away

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

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8 pounds or larger
4 pounds or larger
1 1/2 pounds or larger
2 pounds or larger
1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the freshwater waters of the state of Florida, as defined by law. They must have been caught in 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 author-
ized agent of the respective establishment.

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