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Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

Florida

Hunting Season Regulations
Four Months of Shad

Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •
Outdoor Recreation

WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER 1965

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS



HORNS and ANTLERS

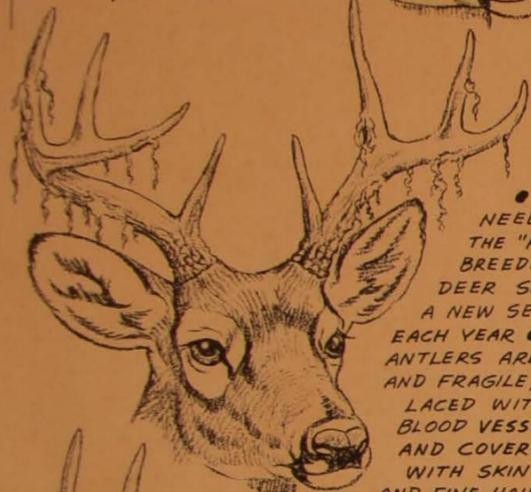
HORNS AND ANTLERS FUNCTION AS WEAPONS FOR ANIMALS THAT HAVE THEM
 • ASIDE FROM THIS FACT THEY DIFFER CONSIDERABLY • ANTLERS — POSSESSED BY DEER, ELK, MOOSE, REINDEER AND CARIBOU ARE COMPOSED OF PURE BONE



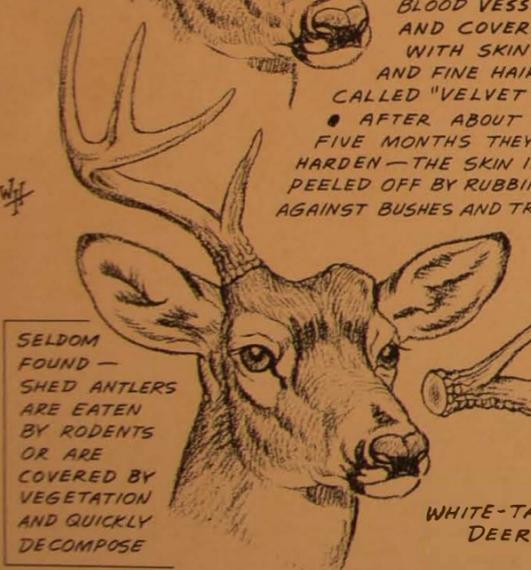
HORNS — POSSESSED BY CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOATS — ARE BONE COVERED WITH A HARD SUBSTANCE CALLED "KERATIN" WHICH IS ALSO FOUND IN FINGERNAILS, CLAWS, HOOFS, HAIR AND SKIN • HORNS ARE NOT SHED AND CONTINUE TO GROW THROUGHOUT



NORMALLY, EXCEPTING THE REINDEER AND CARIBOU, ONLY THE MALE DEER HAVE ANTLERS
 • APPARENTLY NEEDED ONLY DURING THE "RUTTING" OR BREEDING SEASON, DEER SHED AND REGROW A NEW SET OF ANTLERS EACH YEAR • GROWING ANTLERS ARE SOFT AND FRAGILE, ARE LACED WITH BLOOD VESSELS AND COVERED WITH SKIN AND FINE HAIR CALLED "VELVET"



• AFTER ABOUT FIVE MONTHS THEY HARDEN — THE SKIN IS PEELED OFF BY RUBBING AGAINST BUSHES AND TREES



SELDOM FOUND — SHED ANTLERS ARE EATEN BY RODENTS OR ARE COVERED BY VEGETATION AND QUICKLY DECOMPOSE

WHITE-TAILED DEER

BOTH MALE AND FEMALE CATTLE SHEEP AND GOATS HAVE HORNS
 • THOSE OF THE MALE ARE USUALLY MUCH LARGER AND CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN SIZE AS THE INDIVIDUAL GROWS OLDER • HORNS OF THE "EWE" OR FEMALE BIGHORN SHEEP ARE SIMILAR TO THE 2 YEAR OLD "RAM" AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE



THE ANIMAL'S LIFE • AT TOP — A 2 YEAR OLD AND CENTER — A 6 YEAR OLD ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP
 • AT LEFT, 12 YEARS OLD

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 1965

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

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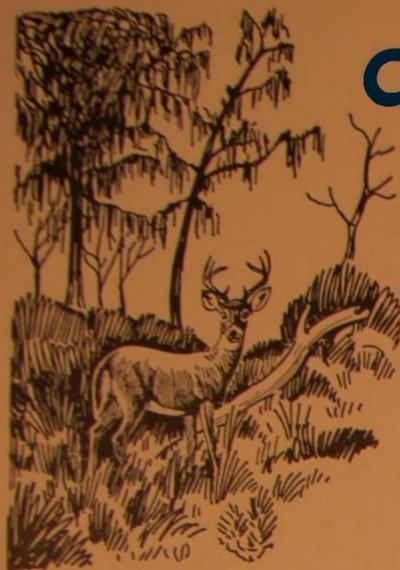
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CONSERVATION SCENE



Hogs Are Declared Game Animals On Designated Management Areas

are as follows: Palm Beach, Alachua and Levy Counties, Camp Blanding area in Clay County, Fisheating Creek area in Glades County, J. W. Corbett area in Palm Beach County, Everglades area in Palm Beach, Dade and Broward Counties, Avon Park area in Highlands and Polk Counties, Farmton area in Volusia and Brevard Counties, Richloam area in Hernando, Sumter and Pasco Counties, Guano River area in St. Johns County, Gulf Hammock area in Levy County, Cecil M. Webb area in Charlotte County, Eglin area in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Telogia Creek area in Gadsden and Liberty Counties, Point Washington area in Bay and Walton Counties and the Croom area in Sumter and Hernando Counties.

Outside of the 14 areas and Levy, Alachua and Palm Beach Counties, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission claims no jurisdiction over hogs of any kind, and feral or wild-roaming hogs are generally classified as private property. Hunting hogs to which there is a legitimate claim of private ownership, such as on lands where valid hog claims are in effect, is an illegal activity and subject to civil action.

Before going hog hunting on lands other than the designated areas, the hunters should always obtain the permission of the land

owner. It is also helpful to verify with the County Sheriff to determine whether hog claims are in effect in the area selected for hunting, and to determine the fact of ownership.

Conservation Library

THE CONSERVATION Library Center of the Denver Public Library was voted an additional grant of \$10,000 by the Board of Trustees of the American Conservation Association at its annual meeting on Friday, September 10, 1965 in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming.

The grant is a continuation of support given by the Association since the Center was established in 1962 towards building and maintaining the collection of basic conservation materials for research and public use.

Judge Russell E. Train, President of The Conservation Foundation, and William H. Whyte, Jr., Co-Director of the White House Conference on Natural Beauty, were elected to the Board of Trustees at the meeting. Among other actions, a contribution was authorized to the National Audubon Society for its educational program dealing with the problems of water pollution. The increasing blight of vast parking areas on the national landscape was discussed by the Trustees. (Continued from page 30)

THE COVER

Florida's White-tailed Deer—most popular of the state's big game animals—will often put the hunter's marksmanship to a severe test, especially in heavily vegetated areas. See pages 12 and 22.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

Pesticide Studies Show Deadly Effects

RESEARCH BY Department of the Interior scientists has revealed that amazingly small amounts of pesticides can kill shrimps, crabs, and other aquatic life.

One part of DDT in one billion parts of water (1 ppb) was found to kill blue crabs in 8 days. One part per billion, the Department said, is the relationship one ounce of chocolate syrup would bear to 10 million gallons of milk.

These and other new findings on the dangers of certain chemicals to wildlife are given in the Department's Fish and Wildlife Service 1964 annual report on pesticide research which has just been released. The purposes of the continuing study are to determine the kinds and amounts of pesticides that are injurious to fish and wildlife and to assist in discovering ways to achieve pest control with least hazard to fish and wildlife resources.

The researchers found that commercial brown and pink shrimp exposed to less than half of one part of heptachlor, endrin, or lindane in one billion parts of water were killed or immobilized in 48-hour laboratory tests. These chemicals, like DDT, are chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides. In the laboratory, paralyzed fish or shellfish may live for days, even weeks. But in the sea, where only the fittest survive, death may result almost immediately, the report says.

Under experimental conditions, the oyster detects and stores pesticides present in the water at concentrations as low as 10 parts per trillion. The report says pesticides stunt the growth of oyster shells. To test oyster growth, the researchers filed off the thin new growth on the edge of the shells, put some oysters in water containing a pesticide, others in clean water. The results became obvious in a few days: the shells of those in clean water grew back; the others showed no perceptible growth. ●

Public Indifference

The Future of Waterfowl

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

IN THE March 1, 1965, CONSERVATION NEWS, there appeared an editorial regarding the September teal hunting season as proposed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The venture had the surreptitious title of "evaluation procedure." By whatever name it can be called, an early hunting season of not more than nine days was advocated on teal ducks in the Mississippi and Central Flyways. The states could accept, reject, or limit areas and days.

The editorial questioned the advisability of breaking with tradition in view of the gradual, positive and proven decline of all waterfowl for at least two decades—and, as a matter of opinion, much longer. The editorial drew some sharp challenges, and since early spring there has been speculation as a trial balloon of public reaction which was a cross between optimism and timidity.

The fact of the matter is that few present-day working biologists have really seen ducks as they were at the turn of the century, and so have no basis of comparison as to what may be considered many or few. As a result, some have flirted with this experiment as a means of gathering data on what has been termed an unharvested resource. Others opined that an early season rendered a service by keeping hunters interested in preserving waterfowl. In other words, if hunters can't indulge their killing instincts, they immediately lose interest in the resource. On the other hand, if restrictions are used now, the ducks might increase for some limited hunting in the future if given a chance. People interested only in taking resources for their own personal satisfaction, regardless of any future potential crisis, should not be given the dignity of conservationists.

Now the moment of truth seems to be at hand.

John Gottschalk, Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, who originally announced the teal season, has this to say as of August 10: "... that drought in recent years and large kills in Canada and the United States last year reduced the duck breeding population to the lowest level since reliable surveys were started in 1947." And he further states: "... that improved water conditions in the prairies this year merely accentuated the scarcity of ducks and did nothing to increase the breeders."

Suddenly comes a rash of discovery by way of statistics and percentages concerning the decline by species, by given areas and of the entire continent. They all point to the fact that ducks are on skid row, whether one talks about 1947, 1962, or 1964. The subject catapults into dimensions far beyond the early teal season. Too many amateurs and some professionals are still clinging to the delusions of estimate from last year's duck blind and this year's wishful thinking.

At the annual summer meeting of the Mississippi Flyway Council, one state representative said that he favored gambling and advocated a two mallard limit. From another state the

(Continued on page 30)

FISHING



By CHARLES WATERMAN

WHEN YOU WADE through the flights of fancy and occasional outright lies that surround distance casting, the subject gets pretty interesting.

Tip toe throws to the other bank are seldom necessary, often a hindrance to real fish-catching and a poor measure of fishing ability but we all need to make a long one once in a while.

Generally the methods of tournament anglers, who cast fantastic distances with highly specialized tackle, are impractical for fishing. Whirling all the way around before firing a bass plug isn't very practical in a skiff and few of us can employ full-time line-handlers for our fly rods.

If I'm an average fisherman with no more nor fewer thumbs than the rest of you, perhaps an account of what I can do in measured distance will be helpful and if some of you can't do as well, my methods might even be of interest. I would rather not receive sneering letters from those who cast farther (unless you can help me).

Okay, let's go.

Drifting an open flat with a brisk breeze behind me, I can take a medium action, 6-foot baitcasting rod with a direct-drive reel and 12-pound test line and, using a 5/8-ounce plug, I can throw off 50 yards of line. The plug won't go quite that far as I have to throw pretty high and, therefore, there's some slack when the bait hits.

Without the breeze, I can't quite make it. With 18-pound line I can't cut'er either. With light monofilament I can do a little better part of the time but I'm less consistent because the thumbing is more critical. I have found little advantage in using casting line of less than 10-pound test. Perhaps those used to really small line would do better.

Distance casting with a plug rod is a combination of arm and wrist action. You flip the tip back pretty briskly so you have a good bend in the stick before you start forward with it. Then you swing your arm and snap forward with your wrist at the same time.

I see some casters who sidewind, keeping the elbow pretty stiff when they want distance. I think they're wrong because there's elbow snap involved too if you get the best results. Most of these sidewinders put more body and shoulder into the throw

Distance casting techniques differ with the various types of fishing tackle used

and are likely to shift their weight considerably. Although a swing of the entire body is necessary with surf tackle. I doubt if it helps much with a 6-foot plug rod. An absolute, all-out physical effort often gets less distance. Hold back just a little and your control will be better.

Accuracy is pretty sketchy with this long-haul throwing but you can do fairly well with practice. Once in a while I catch a school bass that way and now and then I get results when drifting past a likely "blind casting" spot that's a little off my route. A bank or bridge fisherman may win with it occasionally. It's wonderful if you fish in salt water from the piers.

I consider 80 feet just about the outer extreme for really accurate casting at a shoreline. A good, long cast for that kind of fishing would be 60 feet. My average cast at the shoreline is nearer 40. I think you'll find 30 to 40 feet short enough for accuracy and long enough to deceive most fresh water fish.

A chief disadvantage of the very short cast is that a fish has little time to make up his mind and if he comes for your lure you may be taking it out of the water just as he decides to plaster it.

Remember that fish frequently come from considerable distance to take a lure and a 10-foot flip doesn't give them much chance to close the gap before they see your boat or shoelaces.

THE PRINCIPLES of distance with a spinning rod or spin-cast rod are much the same as with the plug rod. Generally, the distance available isn't quite so great but if you want to use a real, long-range spinning outfit and are willing to put up with a longer, heavier rod you'll match anything the plug casters do. Of course, the lighter the line the greater the distance in spinning but, for Most Florida fresh water fishing 4-pound test is about as light as you should go and 6-pound is a better all-around choice while many experts prefer eight. Ten or 15-pound test spinning line just won't get the job done for you if you want to reach 'way out with a light outfit. The slowing factors involved are wind resistance, slap against the rod, friction against the guides and friction as the line peels from the spool.

Some users of light spinning tackle employ both

hands when going for great distance. A right-handed caster may use his left hand principally for adding snap at the end of the cast. I doubt if this is practical with truly light rods but as the rod gets stiffer, the extra power is more likely to help. I have tried this but am not adept at it and hesitate to pass judgment. I may do a little better *sometimes* by putting my left hand on the grip of a medium spinning rod. Of course, with a really heavy outfit, the second hand is necessary.

A deceiving thing about spinning tackle is that the first 75 feet come so easily you feel you could put it into orbit if you really tried. But you get to diminishing returns pretty quickly.

GETTING DISTANCE with a fly rod is somewhat more complicated and seldom necessary but a good stunt if you want to be a fishing hero.

A long throw with a fly outfit draws cheers of awe from an audience, simply because most fishermen never think of throwing a fly more than 30 feet.

So what can we expect with the buggy whip?

Well, using a 9-foot glass rod that weighs five ounces and takes a G2AF line (that's pretty heavy) I sometimes throw off 100 feet of fly, leader and line. It won't actually go that far because it seldom lies perfectly straight.

I say "sometimes" because I need a little breeze from the rear (preferably over the left shoulder) and I need a good place to stand and coil my shooting line. You can't very well hold that much extra line in your left hand.

Now I can do this only with a weight forward line (one with a heavy section near the front end). I'm neither proud nor ashamed of it because I find that most of the experienced fly fishermen I know can do about the same. Depending on the outfit they use, they go a little farther or not quite so far.

For the most part, this is an impractical fishing distance. Ray Donnersberger, consistent winner with big tarpon in the Metropolitan Miami fishing tournament, says he never likes to cast more than 50 feet at a heavy fish.

"If you get out more than that, it's hard to set the hook and your accuracy suffers," Ray says. Even with the heavy rig he uses for 100-pound fish, Ray can cast 90 feet. That is very good and about all you can expect to get with a huge streamer.

You can't cast that far with a very light outfit. Rod length isn't the whole story, though, and George Radel of Coral Gables can get 100 feet with an ordinary broomstick and a guide on the end although he wouldn't want to fish all day with it.

Now if you want to cast what's known as a "shooting head," just a piece of heavy fly line backed by light monofilament, you can go much farther but this is a specialized rig. I have used it on only two kinds of Florida fishing—once when I was trying to get deep with a sinking line for salt water trout and once for shad in the St. Johns River.

There are two big "secrets" in distance fly chunking, both of which are pretty obvious but ignored by many fly casters.

One is the "double haul," a system of feeding line out on the backcast and then hauling it forward on the fishing cast to gain added casting speed. The other is the simple need for "shooting" line rather than waving it in the air.

Almost every beginner at distance casting feels the more line he can false cast the farther he can throw. He waves so much line in the air it bogs down on him. If he'd shorten up and false cast only the head part of a line the distance would come more easily. Most experts false cast nearly the same amount of line all the time, whether going for dis-

(Continued on page 28)



Distance casting is the least of their worries. These three fishermen in Wimpy Steermen's boat are working a shoreline, moving along close as possible.

MUZZLE FLASHES



By EDMUND McLAURIN

"GIVE ME a Winchester Model 94 lever-action in .30-30 or .32 Winchester Special caliber, and I can kill any deer in Florida. The Winchester Model 94 is the best big game rifle ever made," a dedicated deer hunter recently expounded for my benefit.

With his opening statement, I concur; a Winchester Model 94 in either .30-30 or .32 Winchester Special caliber will kill the largest and toughest deer to be had—if the bullet hits a vital area. . . .

Undeniably, the .30-30 cartridge has killed more deer than any other single caliber. This has not been because the .30-30 is so reliable as a big game caliber, but because Winchester has made and sold more than 2½ million Model 94's alone, and augmented it with the now discontinued Model 64 special deer rifle in .30-30 caliber.

Introduced in the year 1894, the Winchester Model 94 has since been a perennial favorite. Deer hunters, trappers and ranchers have long loved the rugged Model 94's short, quick, easy, smooth action that involves only two short manual motions, one down and up, to feed a cartridge into the chamber for first or follow-up shot. The Model 94 in .30-30 caliber has long been a popular saddle gun.

Popularity of the .30-30 caliber, established by the Model 94, has been enhanced by the .30-30 chambered rifles of rival manufacture, notably those of Savage and Marlin.

Actually, the .30-30 caliber—whatever the rifle model—is only a fairly reliable deer killer; the late Col. Townsend Whelen, famous big game hunter and firearms authority, rated the .30-30 caliber as being only 90% dependable on deer and only 60% efficient on larger American game. . . .

On the last portion of my informant's emphatic declaration, I offer rebuttal.

My contention is that the Winchester Model 70 bolt-action, as made in the days when Winchester's gunmakers did not seem to be in any particular rush, is the best game rifle ever mass produced, not the Winchester Model 94.

Boyd Williams, who manages the Williams Gun Sight Company, of Davison, Michigan, outlet for brand name firearms and accessories, shares my opinion. Boyd hunts a variety of game all over the world. He also has instant selection from the Com-

The long eye relief scopes may look awkward but are efficient and fast-aligning

pany's stock of any brand and model big game rifle that strikes his fancy. It is significant that he put his faith in the Winchester Model 70, when narrowed down to a single choice in an all-purpose big game rifle. . . .

But back to the Winchester Model 94.

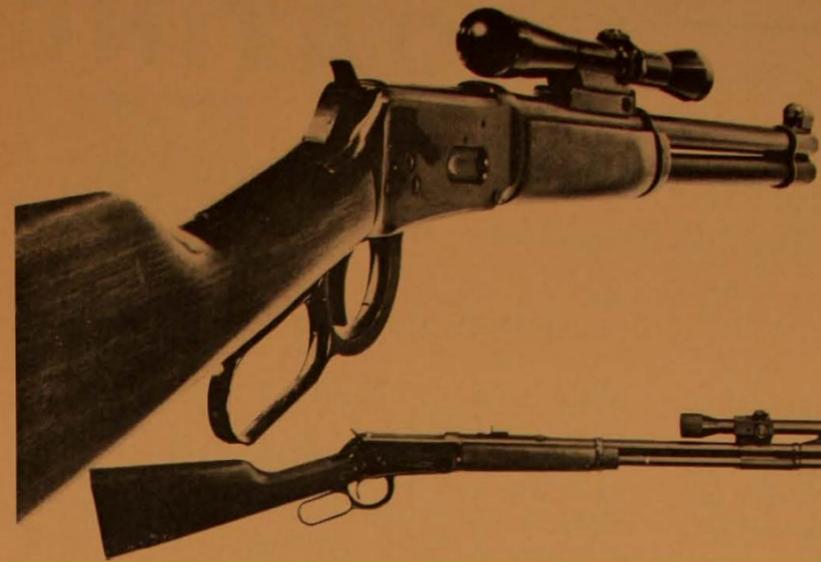
Despite its widespread acceptance, the Model 94 cannot be said to be a marvel of firearms' engineering.

True, its action is reliable, fast of operation (much faster than a bolt-action) and suitable for either right or left-handed shooter, and the rifle itself is rugged and fast-pointing; is easily repairable when some part eventually wears out, and in .30-30 caliber chambering offers the convenience of being able to buy ammunition in almost any locality where used.

Against the Model 94 is the shooter's limited choice of either the .30-30 or .32 Winchester Special calibers, the regrettable top-ejection feature and the fact that it is normally necessary to feed loaded cartridges through the action to unload unfired cartridges that remain in the magazine tube after a hunting period. Also, the solid frame necessitates cleaning the rifle from the muzzle, where bullet influence is critical. Fortunately, modern non-corrosive ammunition has greatly reduced the need for frequent barrel cleaning; even so, cleaning from muzzle end should be carefully done, to prevent muzzle wear.

For quick, natural aiming-eye alignment and maximum efficiency, a hunting scope should be mounted low and central over bore. Until recently, this was not possible on the Winchester Model 94, due to the top of receiver ejection of fired cartridge cases; the only way to put a scope on the Model 94 was to mount it in offset position in relation to bore.

Both Bushnell and Redfield finally licked the problem by developing long eye relief hunting scopes that mount well forward of the receiver. The Bushnell model is known as the "Phantom." Redfield originally came out with the M-294 model, superseded by the improved "Front-IER" (one inch diameter, intermediate eye relief) scope. Redfield also makes the "Front-IER" for the Remington Model 600 bolt-action carbine.



Both the Redfield, at top, and the Bushnell long eye relief scopes can now be had for the popular, lever-action, top-ejecting Model 94 Winchester. Mounted forward of the receiver they look awkward but are remarkably fast aligning and efficient.

Admittedly, first impression of one of these scopes mounted way down the barrel of a Model 94 is that the entire assembly is unnatural and impractical. But the idea works! Such a scope sight is remarkably fast and easy to align, even on a fast moving target.

Discussion of the working principle of each of the two scope models and a report on their field performance, together, are worthy of separate text treatment. Sufficient to emphasize here, they work—and well, especially for hunting in brush country where heavy cover makes instant sighting essential.

The necessity of feeding loaded cartridges singly from the magazine tube, through the mechanism and into the chamber and through the ejection stage has been overcome by development of an auxiliary insert known as the "Deloadmatic." With it, loaded cartridges need not be run through the rifle action to unload a Model 94. Further, ejected cartridges are caught in a small, attached pouch instead of being scattered all over the ground or hand fumbled. Beldon Machine Company, New Haven, Connecticut 06513, manufactures the device.

The Winchester Model 94 in .30-30 caliber is very sensitive to variations in powder charge and bullet weight. Once sighted-in with a given load, the shooter should not change to another loading unless he also re-sights his rifle. For uniform performance, deer hunters should stick to 170 grain, soft point, fast expanding bullets and sight-in so that bullet impact will be about 1½ inches high at 75 yards, on the nose at 150 yards and only about four inches low at 200 yards. This practical sight setting takes maximum advantage of bullet trajectory, and is embracive of short and fairly long range application, using metallic sights.

The Model 94 is now made in 20-inch barrel length. Winchester's cutting of the barrel back from

its former 26-inch length has resulted in only a slight velocity loss for the 170 grain bullet (about 100 feet per second loss), and a trajectory increase from 4.6 inches at mid-point of 200 yards range, to a mid-way trajectory height of 5 inches. The old, long barreled Model 94's may look more impressive, but other than the increased sighting radius provided by the longer barrel offer no advantage.

Readers may conclude that I am prejudiced against the Winchester Model 94. I am not; I have owned several and enjoyed them very much. But always there has been something lacking in performance of either the .30-30 or optional choice .32 Winchester Special caliber, or choice and latitude of sighting equipment. Winchester has never made any effort to redesign the Model 94 or make it available in other calibers; consequently, I have had to look elsewhere and to other calibers for my embodied ideas of an ideal hunting rifle. In doing so, I quite realize my judgment is opposing that of more than 2½ million owners of Winchester Model 94's, most of whom are satisfied with their choice.

It is accurate to say that the Winchester Model 94 is the most popular model big game rifle ever made, and that it has accounted for the most deer, but as for being "the best big game rifle ever made," that is a statement to be challenged.

A TIMELY TIP—without intent to encroach on the Dog section. . . .

The average owner of only one or two hunting dogs usually lacks a cage truck or other means of transporting the animals to and from hunting areas.

Letting them ride in the back seat of an ordinary passenger car is like having a car full of restless kids, and doesn't improve the upholstery—yet seemingly that is the only place they can ride, since they would suffocate or surely suffer in a closed trunk compartment. A portable cage placed tempo-

(Continued on page 29)

BOATING

National Gold Cup awards for 1965 boating safety to be announced at New York National Boat Show

By ELGIN WHITE



LOOK FOR OUR Florida boating buffs (as well as countless visitors) to be making a lot of trips to the Big Bend cut, from Tarpon Springs all the way around to St. Marks, south of Tallahassee, as we move into November and the winter boating season.

Just one word attracts boatmen to this region like honey attracts bees and bears . . . redfish!

The first little nip that permeates our usually balmy Florida air is just like a signal igniting the booster rocket on Gemini VI! Boatmen who have been spending most of the summer months on cruises or camping with the family answer the clarion call and head for such waters as the Crystal River, Homosassa River, Wacassassa, Withlacoochee, St. Marks, Cedar Key, the Suwannee, and any other stretch of fishable waters along the entire Bend section, because redfish is one species of underwater citizen that nearly everyone enjoys eating.

I have been over that way in past Novembers and Decembers, and those rivers are dotted with more boats than Dunkirk ever saw. And I always get a kick out of the fishermen . . . they remind me of Charley Waterman . . . when you cruise by them and ask them "how're they biting?" you usually get a scowl and a negative shake of the head, while the angler straddles a boat full of redfish under his big boots on the bottom of the boat.

Anyhow, if that first cool snap gives you the urge, head for the Bend . . . it means redfish (channel bass) are all over the place.

FLORIDA IS gonna soon be, if it isn't already, the power-boat racing capital of the world, you know it? One of the big sea splashes that is really gaining in popularity each year is the Miami-Key West classic that this year should attract an awesome fleet.

Not only has the prize money for this event been upped to \$6500, but the big run has proven to be a fine testing ground for new power boats, special rigs for ocean racing, and the power plants themselves.

The race, scheduled for November 12, is expected to attract an estimated 40-50 of the most powerful gasoline and diesel propelled craft in existence.

And it is a hectic 158-mile run from Miami to our southernmost city.

The race is in its third year, and annually some 150 drivers and crew members hurtle more than a million dollars in hulls, experimental and stock engines over a briny course made up mostly of the capricious Gulf Stream.

And capricious is a tender term when you talk about the Gulf Stream in these races. I recall last year my good friend Jack Seville, executive editor of POPULAR BOATING magazine, cracked a couple ribs when he was tossed into the briny by a big bounce during the run to Key West.

Captain Jack Manson of Miami, one of the founding fathers of this ocean-race extravaganza, won the first two events and set all sorts of records in last year's run with his diesel-powered 36-footer, "Kamikaze." And that boat has a good name for this race!

Jack set boating history last year when his craft became the first diesel powered boat to ever win a major ocean powerboat race. And it was all the more impressive since the 54-year old Manson set a record of three hours, 29 minutes and 26 seconds in six-foot seas!

This is no cruise for sissies, but if you have a boat you consider capable of making the jaunt . . . give it a try. I'll meet you in Key West . . . by car!

WHY DON'T SOME of you inventive geniuses among our boating gentry come up with a good idea on keeping gasoline fuel indicators on the dashboard? Or can it be that so many of us cannot read fuel gauges on gasoline cans?

We have found out that during this past summer's cruising efforts by millions of boatmen all over the nation, most calls for assistance come from folks simply running out of gas!

Coast Guardsmen, harbor masters and inspectors say that while pleasure boaters often worry about the possibility of engine failure from mechanical causes, they paradoxically pay little attention to the prime cause for powerplant stoppage . . . running out of gas.

Boats often run out of fuel because marine operating conditions are different from the highway conditions to which so many people are accustomed.

Load, wind and water current influence a boat's gasoline mileage figure appreciably whereas they have little or no effect on cars.

Most cars carry fifteen to eighteen gallons of gas in their tanks, whereas the normal portable outboard tank carries six gallons, about all the average person can lift or carry.

Daily experience the year around gives the average motorist a surprisingly well-developed ability to judge how much farther his car will go on the amount of fuel the gauge shows. It is a rare pleasure boater who has developed equivalent judgment!

A common cause of boats running out of gas is the failure of their operators to make good use of navigation charts. On the water there are no signposts giving distances to various towns. That is, unless you spend a lot of time cruising through Florida's central lakes area . . . they got signposts sticking out of water at every turn out there . . . but even they show no distances . . . they just point the general direction.

The boater who fails to measure distances to his destination sooner or later, usually sooner, finds himself on the embarrassing end of an official tow-line!

I'll tell you another reason so many boatmen run out of gas . . . it's because of fishing! It is normal for fishing craft to cruise around from one spot to another, and short runs, interspersed with a lot of stopping and starting, aren't figured in on the running time allotted, and as a result many fishing boats run out of fuel.

All it takes is becoming "fuel conscious" on all our parts. We have to take into consideration extra running time . . . we experienced this trouble on the last cruise we took on the Suwannee be-



Miami's Capt. Jack Manson made it two in a row last year, winning the Miami-Key West ocean powerboat race. The team beat out 29 other boats in what has become one of the leading world offshore powerboat classics.

cause we were running around taking pictures a little more than we had expected to, and we wound up getting to our gas stop in Branford on vapor!

SPEAKING OF thoughtlessness on the water, got word from Bill Prentiss of Johnson Motors that a new 10-minute short subject with a message for safe boating has been put in distribution by Paramount Pictures.

Entitled "Lubber Afloat," the movie describes the misadventures of a thoughtless boatman, carrying the story with a boating family serving as victims of the nautical transgressor.

Produced by world-famous photographer Dick Matt, the film hopes to show, in an entertaining way, that the golden rule, as practiced on the water, will help contribute to the enjoyment of boating for everyone.

"Our actor," says Matt, "is a caricature of a 'hot rod' on the water and I would never expect to see such a boatman anyway—at least I hope not."

A final scene shows the skipper of "Cool Cat" racing between cypress trees at Cypress Gardens, finally being jolted into the air and coming to rest, boat and all, in one of the aged trees.

"We didn't want to put the boat in orbit," said Matt. "This may have cast aspersions on our fine space program."

If you have a group that might like to witness this fine film, contact Bill Prentiss, Johnson Motors, Waukegan, Illinois.

LOT OF PEOPLE have taken up surfing . . . not in the ocean, Clyde, on Florida's many lakes. It's a great idea and eliminates the dangers of ocean surfing in those big wakes.

Trick is to see if you can stay up on a surf board behind a slow moving boat . . . preferably an outboard with about a 40 hp motor and up, plugging along about 8-10 miles per hour, creating a big wake.

Americans are always the first in line in trying new gimmicks, and though slow-boat surfing has been in vogue now for some months, there are more and more addicts turning to it.

It is really quite simple. (For agile young folks, not for stern-heavy fogies like me). All it takes is getting into position on the board with the help of a short tow line connected to the boat. After you get moving, the surfer rises to a standing position, tosses the tow line aside and rides "free-flight" pushed forward by the following wake.

People who shy away from high-speed activity enjoy surfing because, to make the large, mushy wake the boat has to travel at a clumsy speed. The thrill comes from rising the board unattached to the boat and mastering tricks rather than dare-devil speed.

(Continued on page 31)

There are deer to be had. Sound management programs have brought about increasing numbers of deer. One disadvantage of today's hunting is that wild deer have become more educated to the ways of man.

Present day management practices have produced deer populations far beyond that known by the early settlers

By EDMUND McLAURIN



Photo By Leonard Lee Rue III

There's Nothing Like It!

ASK YEAR IN and year out deer hunters what they think of their chosen sport, and you will get a variety of answers. Some individuals will also seize the opportunity to propound pet hopes and peeves.

The essence, however, will reflect strong feeling that "there's simply nothing else like it."

Obviously, it must be the truth. Deer hunting *does have* that undefinable something that is peculiarly all its own. . . . Why else will a deer hunter arise in the cold hours before dawn, hurriedly gobble up a plate filled with questionably digestible fried ham and eggs, then race out in the dark to find and occupy a remote "stand" for long, lonely hours that are often distinguished only by annoying gnats and flies, mosquitoes, red bugs, boredom, hunger, shivering cold or uncomfortable heat, rain or other discomforts?

Would you—as one Florida deer hunter did—repeat that routine almost every legal hunting day for *eleven straight years* without killing a deer? Truly, the dedicated deer hunter does not hunt for venison alone! . . .

If there is any real secret to successful deer hunting it is combined in the formula of being at the right place at the right time with the right weapon, knowing how to be both thoughtfully patient and still, and finally, in making the first shot count. All other influencing factors are apt to be only contributory.

There are deer to be had. Forgetting for the moment the disparity in weapons, you have a far better numerical chance than the early frontiersman and his muzzleloader. Present age methods of timber harvest and reforestation generally have fos-

tered a national deer population beyond anything early settlers knew.

The advantage of having more deer to hunt is offset by one significant truth—wild deer of this generation are infinitely more educated to the ways of man than their ancestors.

At best, you can be a deer hunter practicing your hunting ways and wiles for only about 12 hours of each legal day of a short hunting season—whereas the deer are seriously devoting full time effort to remaining *live* deer! Wild deer make mistakes, but they are seldom foolish, and they learn fast. Keeping that in mind will reduce chances of a costly mistake on your part, that of underestimating your quarry.

There are various techniques for successful hunting of the whitetail deer. The method you use to bag your buck is largely choice, or, in some areas, determined by deer environment.

But whether you elect to still-hunt on the ground, occupy a perch in a tree, slowly stalk through known deer country with the wind in your favor, join a drive, or listen for and follow sounds of baying hounds hot on a trail, your chances are good. All these techniques pay off for patient hunters who know the basic fundamentals, and there is usually one experienced, guiding personality in every hunting party.

Ground level hunting and hunting from a tree that offers more encompassing visibility are two methods that are argued pro and con.

Some of the deer hunters of northern states consider the practice of hunting from a platform built in a tree unsportsmanlike and vent their displeasure by destroying unoccupied tree-stands encountered while hunting—an act that would probably result in violence if attempted and discovered on the Flor-

ida scene, where tree-stands are considered personal property.

Whatever the sportsmanship factor, high seat hunting offers a number of advantages over ground level hunting, especially in thick brush country. Besides the already mentioned better visibility of terrain, the occupant of a tree-stand is fairly safe from the line of fire of a hunter blazing away at ground level, and he is generally above the scent and sight line of any deer attempting sneak escape from detected hunters.

There also disadvantages: No matter how well built, a tree-stand is uncomfortable and tiring to occupy for long periods. Hunting is restricted to the area of surrounding vision, and fast descent and interception of a heard but unseen "race" of

(Continued on next page)



An old automobile tire, upper right, can be made into a comfortable tree seat. Wire it in place and wedge short boards in the bead for seat section.

For long-range shots across a fairly open terrain, right, a scope sight comes into its own, especially at dawn and at dusk.



(Continued from preceding page)

deer and hounds is well nigh impossible. Finally, there is always danger of falling or suffering bad leg scrapes while climbing in and out of a stand, more so if the stand is a high one.

Not too many years ago we had more available natural feed than deer; now in some areas it is the other way around. . . .

Biologically deer health and herd increases are dependent upon a year around adequate supply of nourishing food. The carrying capacity of a given area is not the number of deer that can exist in it, but the number that can live in a healthy, vigorous, reproductive state in ratio to the available food supply. Where food is limited and there are too many hungry mouths, malnutrition and disease set in and there are die-offs and below average annual herd reproduction. Also, where deer must compete with free roaming cattle for limited natural food, comparatively little reaches deer stomachs. . . .

Suppose we imagine that a given area has only enough food to maintain, say, 200 deer in good health, and that it is now at or very close to carrying capacity. Normal annual increase in a healthy deer herd of 200 animals will be at least 25%—that's a minimum of 50 more deer the very first year, unless there is a corresponding kill.

But hunters do not normally bag 50 bucks from a herd of 250 animals under the present "bucks only" law. The result is that there is a gradual, but steady increase in the size of the herd—especially illegal does—until the number of animals exceed the available food supply. Then malnutrition, disease and lowered reproductivity set in and do what hunters fail to do.

Now, let's assume that under a combined buck and doe legal bag, hunters kill a set quota equivalent to the minimum calculated annual increase of a healthy herd: Hunters would be killing more deer, yet basically maintaining the same healthy herd stock, capable of producing an annual crop of fawns every bit the numerical equal of the number of bucks and does harvested.

Sooner or later, Florida is going to have to follow the lead of certain other deer producing states and declare a designated number of does legal game, under some practical system of controlled harvest.

The stumbling block is unjustified public sentiment. Many persons oppose even the idea of doe deer being killed by hunters, and a herd thereby kept in proper balance. In taking such a stand they are condemning many animals to slow, painful—but sure—death from malnutrition and associated diseases. These well-meaning sentimentalists end up by actually contributing to the deaths of more animals than their voiced objections temporarily save. *Nature makes the final decision.*

Against that inescapable fact, officials, biologists, sportsmen and the avowed conservationists should

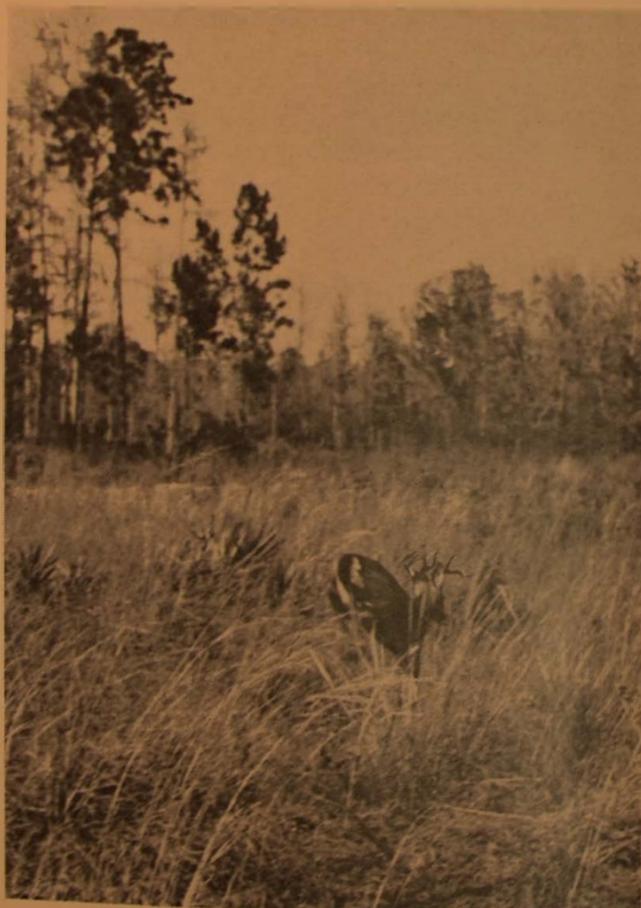
come to some working agreement on a plan to harvest more deer while having more deer, instead of serious periodic die-offs that occur when the solution is left to Nature alone. . . .

Deer are not hard animals to kill if hit in a vital spot. A hit in the heart, neck, junction of neck and body, lungs, shoulder or spine by a proper type of bullet fired from anything from a .243 caliber up, will either anchor your deer or keep it from traveling far. For mature deer, this vital area is about 14 inches square; it is up to you to visualize and hit it with the right type of bullet. The bullet will take over the job from that stage.

Since most deer are killed at ranges under 100 yards, it would seem that a 14-inch square of target area would be a simple matter to hit. It is, if the deer is standing or slowly walking, but becomes difficult when the target happens to be high-tailing it out of the country, or when intervening timber or bullet-deflecting brush makes that 14-inch vital area only partially or momentarily visible. . . .

Usually a heavy, round nosed bullet driven at intermediate velocity will plow through brush and stay on course better than one that is light and fast-traveling. . . .

Good caliber choices are the .35 Remington, .308 Winchester, .30-06 Springfield, .280 Remington, .270



Bounding away into concealing vegetation a deer becomes a difficult target, putting the hunter's marksmanship to a severe test. Knowledge of the deer's anatomy plus proper equipment helps take the guess work out of bagging a deer.

Winchester, 7mm Mauser and the .30-30 Winchester. For deer, you can't go wrong selecting any of these. Most can do double service, on much tougher game than deer, when matched to the proper bullet style and weight.

Any field check of deer rifles in the hands of Florida hunters will show many individual preferences for the Remington 742 regular and carbine model autoloaders; the Marlin 336, Savage Model 99 and Winchester Model 94 lever-actions; the Winchester Model 100 autoloader; the fast Remington Model 760 slide-action, and the Remington Models 600 and 725 bolt-actions—all current models and embrative of a variety of calibers. There will also surely be found a smattering of their no longer manufactured predecessors, versions you now don't see very often but which are still productive workers, given a chance.

Unless you have put in some pre-season practice, you'll probably do better with a correctly sighted-in receiver peep sight utilizing a large peep hole than with a scope sight, in thick brush country. But for open area shots and for long range shooting from a tree-stand, a scope will be your best bet—pre-season practice or not.

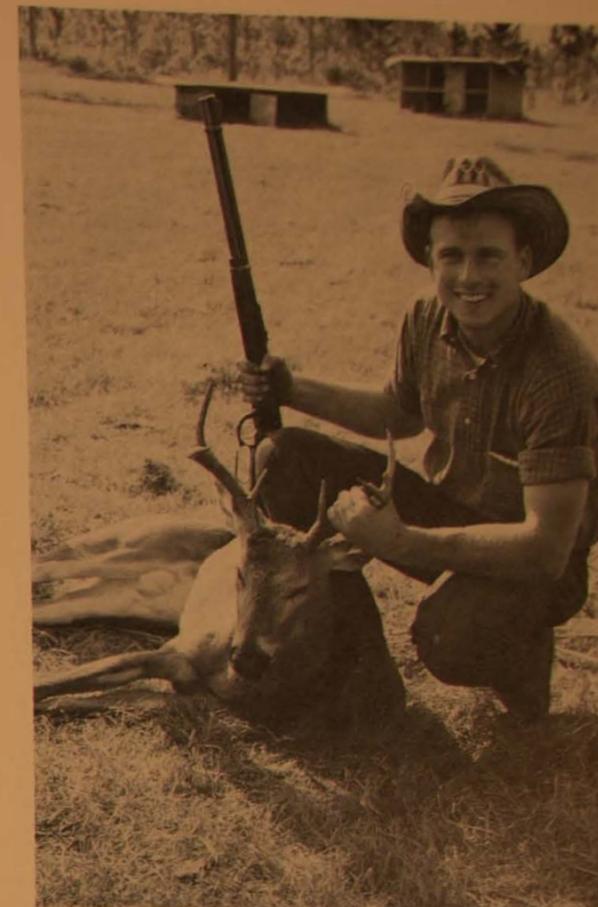
Good receiver peep sight models for hunting rifles are shooter's choice of those of the Williams FP series, the Lyman 48's and Redfield "Trophy" models. Two very popular hunting front sights are the Redfield "Sourdough" and the Williams bead; both must be of correct base and overall height for the particular rifle model on which mounted and used in combination with the adjustable peep rear sight. Reference charts can be found in many catalogs, and at gunsmiths.

Everything considered, a 12 gauge shotgun firing No. 1 and larger size buckshot is probably to be favored for short range killing odds; even a poor shot can score with a spreading load of buckshot. In brush, at close range, the shotgun is very effective.

If a shotgun is your preference, play it safe and use either a pump-action or an autoloader; many double barrels do not handle slugs well, and may also be decidedly moody about the size of buckshot they will fire with accuracy.

To get the potential hard-hitting accuracy of rifled shotgun slugs—effective at ranges under and beyond fifty yards—you must have an adjustable peep rear sight on your pump or autoloader. The Redfield RE-SG model is especially suitable, because it can easily be removed from the shotgun to again convert it to upland game use, and later replaced without affecting an established rifle slug "zero."

If your chosen deer hunting weapon lacks a carrying sling, put one on. It is a great aid to woods' transportation, and when getting into or out of a tree-stand you can simply sling your weapon over



Photos By Bob Brantly

The combination of being in the right place at the right time, along with patient waiting, is probably the real secret to deer hunting success. Michael Horne, of Jacksonville, did that in 1964 on the Lake Butler Mgt. Area.

a shoulder and have hands free for climbing. If properly adjusted of loop, the carrying sling can also serve as an influence to a steady aim.

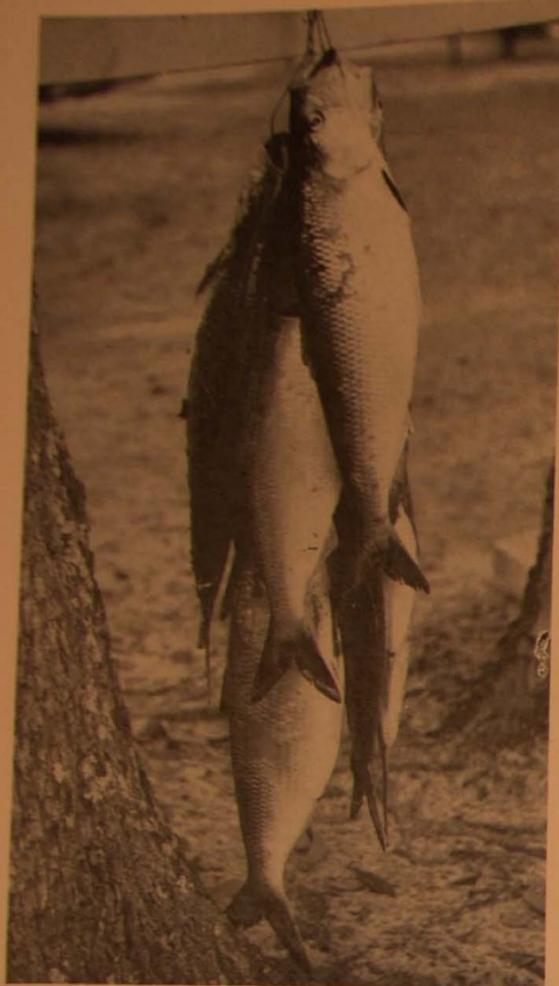
Undeniably, there is an element of personal danger in deer hunting, especially in a heavily hunted area; another hunter with the bad habit of either shooting at "sounds," or blazing away before being absolutely certain of target identity, may shoot you. It has happened to others. On the other hand, you invoke greater risk of injury (through collision) every time you drive your car.

If you are inclined to feel a bit anxious when deer hunting amid a known concentration of eager hunters, then wear something bright and instantly identifiable as *not* being associated with deer. New this season are the vivid-hued Safe-T-Flage garments (by KAMO) that are highly conspicuous during the critical hours of daylight and dusk but which tests show are not alarming to deer.

Florida had more than 350 reported cases of poisonous snakebite last year, but not all to hunters, and not anywhere near the total cases occurring in Texas, North Carolina and Georgia.

Sensible precautions for the deer hunter—any-

(Continued on page 34)



A typical shad catch, left, from Lemon Bluff near Sanford on the St. Johns River. There's no better family fishing than shad trolling. This party of four, right, caught a heavy string of fish in the Lemon Bluff area. A boat with seats facing aft is best for trolling.

FOUR Months of Shad

THE SHAD IS SOMETIMES described as a fire-breathing tackle-eater and gourmet's ecstasy. A somewhat different slant views him as a dopey, shingle-shaped package of bones. The truth, as usual, lies somewhere in between.

A 2-pound shad on heavy tackle will come aboard uneventfully. He's shaped to tow easily and unless he can get under way he won't kick up the fuss a bass of similar size might produce. Pick a bigger fish or lighter tackle and he'll show not only speed but staying power and some pretty classy jumps.

Most St. Johns-River shad are caught trolling, a highly practical method requiring little labor and not too much study of the fish. The hot spots are so generously patrolled by fishermen that you can simply watch the others and learn what to do.

Casting with spinning or fly tackle can be a lot of fun if you want to do some extra work. Worst problem is that the better locations are likely to have so many trollers you'd be in the way if you stopped to cast.

There's a shad fishing place called Puzzle Lake upstream from the most popular shad hangouts east of Sanford. Heading south (upstream) into Puzzle Lake you probably won't know when you get there as it's just a poorly engineered series of sod-banked channels that becomes a solid sheet of water when we get enough rain.

You can run an outboard boat fairly well if the water's low enough to reveal the channels but if the banks are barely covered, supernatural powers are helpful and an ordinary rabbit's foot won't pre-

vent violent groundings. Then, if water gets extremely low, you're likely to dig mud, even in some of the channels. Puzzle Lake can best be described as carelessly oriented.

The shad and bass seem able to find the channels all right. On falling water the shad sometimes school up with black bass and strike small bait fish, especially where bays and creeks drain into what passes for the main river.

As elsewhere, the shad seems partial to bends in the current. Last winter I made a couple of trips up there, specifically for shad. We figured on fishing from the banks and at one of the first stops we temporarily forgot shad as some violent bass striking broke out just as we pulled the boat ashore but by the time we got into action it was all over and the bass refused to come up again.

I thought shad were rolling all over the place but most of the surface disturbance turned out to be gar, some of which were about as large as I've seen in the St. John.

We didn't exactly load the boat with shad on either trip although we had enough action to keep us contented. A small jig worked best on the spinning rods. It happened though, that the tiny Cather spoon cast on a fly rod with a sinking line caught the most fish on that particular occasion.

Cast on monofilament, the spinning rod jigs would come through the gentle current pretty straight but the current's drag on the fly line would pull the fly

or spoon downstream and it would retrieve in a wide curve. For some reason that seemed to be the most attractive method on the trips we made.

The technique is familiar to any northern trout fisherman who has fished a wet fly or streamer across and down stream. I found that a medium retrieve caught fish but a very slow movement of the lure did just as well with the current helping out.

Most shad battles begin slowly. In fact, I had some of those fish almost to the bank before they decided there was anything worth getting excited about. Then they made some pretty long runs and most of the fish were good for two or three jumps at least.

Now about fighting qualities:

Shad have been called the "poor man's salmon" and the "fresh water tarpon." They just don't jump that wildly although they'll clear the water considerably. They don't do much shaking in the air and, unless brought up short by the tackle, they usually go back in head first instead of falling back with the rousing splash stirred up by a healthy bass. But a shad will generally outlast a bass and the big ones are likely to evade the net for a long run or two after the nervous angler figures it's all over. For that reason, netting operations on the better known shad grounds are likely to be comical, a frustrated angler sometimes giving way to a swat-

(Continued on next page)

Late autumn is "alert" time for the St. Johns River angler awaiting the first arrivals of the "compact power-packs"

By CHARLES WATERMAN

Boats for shad trolling come in all sizes and shapes. Fishermen in the foreground are doing it in plush comfort, but the skiff in background is more typical.



(Continued from preceding page)

ting technique, colorful language and tackle destruction.

My method of fly fishing for St. Johns River shad probably wouldn't interest anyone not especially addicted to the fly rod but I'll go into brief detail. My best results were with sinking line (the kind manufactured to go down rapidly) and monofilament shooting line. The fly casting nuts call that rig a "shooting head" since there is only a short section of heavy fly line and it is backed up by a length of monofilament (generally about 20-pound test so it won't tangle). You simply false cast the short "head" and release it when it seems to be going good. Since the mono line weighs little and has slight wind resistance you can thus get a lot of distance with little effort. The disadvantages are that you must keep the mono from tangling and you must occasionally work the splice through your guides.

Now there are shad to be caught with regular floating lines and a fly that works only a foot or so beneath the surface but I believe you have to go rather deep to be consistent day in and day out. Most of the trollers and spin fishermen are getting pretty well down toward the bottom.

Claude Wright, who fishes regularly in the Puzzle Lake area, tells of finding shad striking on the surface along with bass. Claude was using a plastic bubble with a spinning rod and his lure was the "marm," an elongated bug with short hair tail. I have never run into that situation but it should have been a real picnic. I believe true surface activity is a bit unusual and I certainly wouldn't start out to catch shad that way.

In some other areas the shad are habitually caught near the surface. Shad, you know, are fished over much of the eastern coast of the United States

as well as the Pacific shore, where they were introduced nearly 100 years ago.

Most trolling rigs employ two lures, generally a jig and some kind of small spoon. Spin casters rig that way also but two lures are sloppy to cast with.

With a deep running jig bouncing the bottom and a spoon working somewhat higher up, you have a good chance of locating the proper depth quickly. Experienced shad trollers such as the late Joe Cather, originator of the effective Cather spoon, generally adjust their trolling depth by simply extending or reeling in their line rather than using more weight. Slowing the boat's motion, of course, puts the lures deeper and the ideal level varies from day to day.

The shad is an anadromous fish, meaning he spends part of his life in salt water and then comes into fresh water streams to spawn so part of the St. Johns fishing is for fish that are en route upstream, often in large schools, and part of it is for fish which are holding in a given area preparatory to the actual spawning. Some of the best fishing is for moving fish when you can get into a heavy concentration and that probably accounts for the fact you sometimes make good catches in a spot that seems to be abandoned from then on.

Such established shad centers as Lemon Bluff near Sanford are true spawning grounds. From time to time I hear of newly discovered shad spots, some of which are good year after year. Others are a one-shot proposition but the Sanford area has no corner on the shad, many of which are caught far upstream near Cocoa.

About 75 feet of line is considered right by most trollers. A small outboard is ideal for this as fish don't seem to be overly disturbed by the slow-motion boatcade that passes over them day in and day out. Any kind of powered boat that will run slowly is satisfactory for shad fishing. A good, big



Shad are a little difficult to land. A big landing net is handy, even for the small ones being dipped here by author.

landing net is a big help as even a tired shad is a little hard to steer neatly. His mouth is papery in some places and too much pressure is risky.

Although inboard boats having above water exhausts have repeatedly proved their superiority in trolling for some species, they have no noticeable edge on shad. I don't think they're sensitive to noise when holding in spawning areas.

Some of the best stories of what I'll call "traveling shad" have been told of the Lake George area. Just south of the lake as you move upstream into the river there are some very good areas for panfish and bass. Most common rig for crappie is a cane pole with small minnow and bobber and when a big school of healthy shad comes through a concentration of "speck" fishermen there's some pretty wild activity. The shad may not be the toughest fish in the water but he'll run when hooked and a monofilament capable of swinging a crappie into a boat may not be capable of holding a shad. Some of the break-offs, of course, are attributed to monster bass and there's no sure way of telling unless you see the fish.

Just how much feeding a shad does as he nears the end of his spawning run is debatable and we get into that business of why a fish strikes but most students of the subject feel that although food is not the primary objective of such fish, they are not above taking on a little chow now and then. Although strikes at spoons and jigs may well be termed "anger strikes," the minnows offered by

the speck fishermen can hardly be classified as anything but food and quite a few shad have been caught on plastic worms and eels.

This question of whether migrating spawners feed or not is an old one among Atlantic salmon fishermen in the North and the salmon's return to fresh water resembles that of the shad in many ways although it's more dramatic in swifter streams preferred by salmon.

A fresh run Atlantic salmon seldom hasn't much of anything in its stomach after it gets upstream a bit. Still, these fish are sometimes caught on dry flies which can hardly represent anything but insects.

Trolling methods of Florida shad fishermen have become pretty well standardized, the principal lures being jigs or "darts" and small spoons. Spinners are just as effective as spoons but give more trouble in line twisting.

Until recently, I never heard the term "dart" but the shape of many of the new jigs make the name appropriate. Although their designs may give them some action, the jigs certainly don't wiggle like plugs or spoons. Yellow, white and red seem to be the most popular colors for jigs although some fishermen like green. Both nickel and brass spoons are used, real aficionados having definite preference for certain colors in certain waters. The theory of nickel for bright days and brass for dull weather has some basis and there are certainly times when one or the other is preferred.

Tackle stores near shad areas sell shad rigs already made up and ready for attachment to your line.

All right. The typical shad trolling combination is a spinning outfit with a medium action rod and eight or 10-pound test line. Ahead of this rig the fisherman generally uses a keel-type sinker weighing an eighth or quarter of an ounce dependent upon his other tackle and the depth he wants to fish. At the end of his line there's usually a jig or "dart" and some 18 inches ahead of it he'll have some sort of small spoon fastened by a dropper so that it will get free action, running ahead of and above the jig.

That's pretty standard operating procedure but some fishermen use two jigs or only one lure. The merits of the standardized combination are that it gives you considerable spread in depth and presents the shad with a choice of target. On some days one lure gets the fish and on other days there's a definite preference for the other.

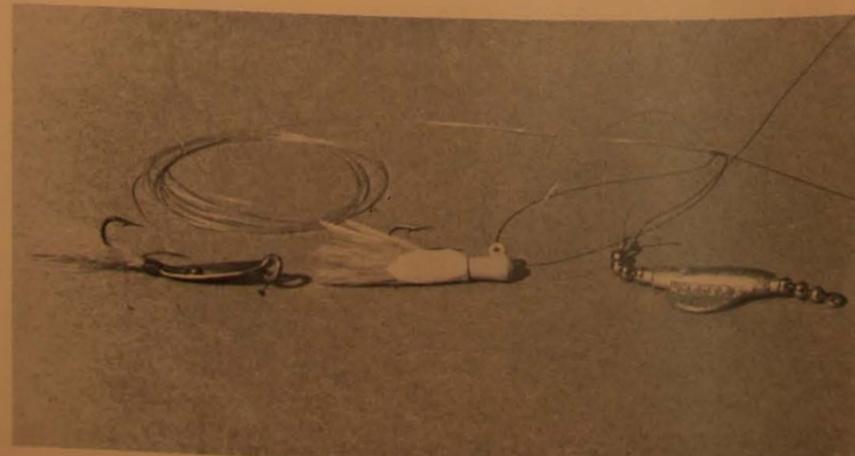
If the deep-going jigs gets all the action, cagey operators will endeavor to put the entire outfit deeper. The valued roe shad are believed to hang deeper in the water and some catches prove it although it's not always so.

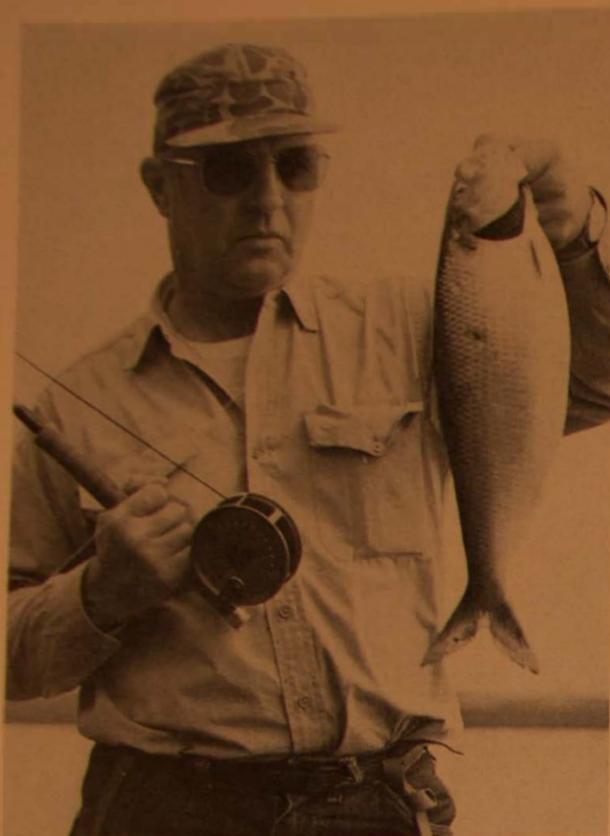
Spawning shad show no preference for cluttered

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Popular shad lures, left, and the sinkers used to make them perform. Many of the new jigs are known as "darts." An old standard rig for shad, below, is a Cather spoon. No Alibi jig and keel sinker.





A shad this size won't win any prize but it puts up plenty of fight on a fly rod.

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waters; that is, they're not hanging out in weeds or brush by choice. Ideal shad areas are generally with sandy bottoms and numerous bars, sometimes under a brisk current, but there's no truly fast water in the St. Johns. Occasional obstructions break off a lot of fishermen and a well-oriented skin diver could often pick up a bucketful of shad rigs after a busy day on one of the better areas. Several years ago, a sunken branch near Lemon Bluff collected a week's wages in lures.

Now I said the typical trolling outfit includes a spinning rod and reel. I wouldn't say that's the ideal setup. If I had an outfit for use only on shad trolling, I think a medium spinning rod with a single action fly reel and monofilament line would be close to perfect. That's what the late Norton Webster used. He is usually credited with starting sport fishing for shad in the St. Johns back in the forties.

The late Joe Cather, inventor of the Cather spoon, used a plain, ordinary fly rod and fly reel but employed monofilament line. A long, light-action rod with a baitcasting reel would work fine. Most of the big salt water outfits seen on the shad grounds are unnecessarily bulky and the rods are generally pretty stiff for shad. If carried in a rod holder, an outfit should be flexible and the drag should start off smoothly.

Monofilament line is justly preferred because it's small diameter allows it to sink swiftly to trolling depth without excessive weights. About 75 feet of trolling line is generally right. On a busy day it's easy to get tangled up with other fishermen if you use more. On a popular trolling spot, ultra-light tackle will get you into trouble and might even bring forth dramatic rhetoric from other anglers. A big shad will go quite a piece if you can't give him some pressure and he could easily collect several other lines in the process.

Usually a bunch of shad boats falls into a trolling pattern—down one side of the river and up the other and a bit of conformity will make friends and probably catch just as many fish. I confess I never spent a lot of time trolling but I found it was a temptation to immediately swing around and cover a hot spot again in the other direction after getting a strike or two. Since there's sometimes a parade of trollers immediately behind you, that's bad form. You'll just have to go on a piece and turn back with the pattern.

Most St. Johns shad don't make it back to salt water after spawning, the biologists tell us. Commercial netting at the mouth of the river provides fish for northern markets at a time when shad aren't present in northern rivers. The run is in the spring there.

The word "shad" is used pretty loosely. Our larger ones are white shad but we have hickory shad too (similar in appearance) and the small "herring shad" are sometimes called menhaden. "Stink shad" are a different fish from those sought in the river.

A 5-pound Florida shad is about tops although there are some which will go a few ounces more.

The season is long. Although the first shad are found in the St. Johns in November, tackle dealers tell me that nothing much moves in the shad department until Christmas. From then on to the middle of April shad fishing is likely to be pretty good. Perhaps February would be the top month most of the time although the "runs" are ill-defined and, of course, fishing is sometimes poor when you know the fish are present.

Actual spawning operations are carried on mainly during the night and evening hours, observers say. Sometimes the fish are wallowing all over the river at night and you simply can't catch one.

It appears lately that there is more interest in shad as a food fish in Florida. It's now illegal to chuck a dead one into the river after removing the roe.

Shad can be steaked and cooked until the bones are harmless. Strips of boneless meat can be cut from along the spine. Some experts can bone them out but I don't know how and can't find anybody who will tell me. ●

Florida Hunting

Florida Migratory Game Bird Regulations 1965-1966



Waterfowl—Ducks, Geese, Coot

Seasons: Two Phase, November 24, 1965 through December 6, 1965
December 18, 1965 through January 9, 1966

Shooting Hours: Nov. 24, First Phase Opening Day, 12-noon to sunset
From sunrise to sunset all other days

Bag Limits	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks	4 (see notes below)	8
Geese	2	4
Coot	10	20

The daily bag limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks.

The possession limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks (b) 4 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks.

The limits on American, red-breasted, and hooded mergansers, in the aggregate of these species, are 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

South of State Road 50, duck hunters will be allowed to have 4 Florida ducks in their total bag of 4. North of State Road 50 the Florida Duck is classified along with the mallard and hunters may have no more than 2 in their daily bag.

In the following described areas, two scaup ducks may be taken in addition to the daily bag: all open waters of Charlotte Harbor area from the bridge on U. S. Highway 41 to a line running from Boca Grande Pass east through Bokeelio to the mainland; all open waters of the Guano River Wildlife Management Area in St. Johns County; all open waters of Banana River from Bonano Creek south to State Road 520; all open waters of Tampa Bay; all open waters of the Indian River from Shiloh south to the bridge on State Road 516 at Melbourne; all open waters of Mosquito Lagoon from Oak Hill to State Road 402.

LEON COUNTY. Waterfowl hunting permitted only on opening day, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, November 25 and 26, and December 6. The use of all outboard motors is prohibited on Lake Iamonia, and Lake Jackson, during the open seasons for waterfowl hunting.

Marsh Hens

(Rails and Gollinules)

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: September 11 to November 19.

Daily Limit 15; Possession Limit 30.

Snipe

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: November 13 to January 1.

Daily Limit 8; Possession Limit 16.

Woodcock

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: November 13 to January 1.

Daily Limit 5; Possession Limit 10.

Mourning Dove Bag Limits: Daily Limit 12; Possession Limit 24.

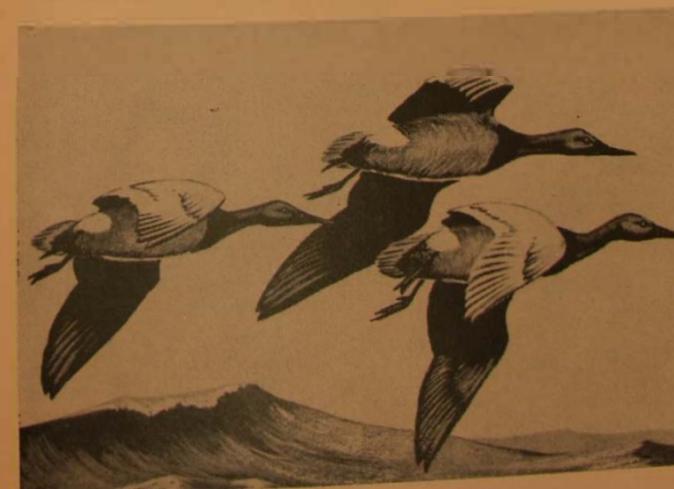
Three Phase Season, shooting hours from 12-noon to sunset.

First Season: October 2 through November 7.
Except Alligator Point, Franklin County, Third District, closed.

Second Season: November 20 through December 5, statewide.

Third Season: December 18 through January 3, statewide.

Continued on next page



WATERFOWL HUNTERS

Make certain you have a 1965-66 Federal Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp before hunting waterfowl. Available from your local post office at a cost of \$3.00, the "duck" stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older.

Your name must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp before you hunt.

A trio of canvasback drakes, shown at left, is featured on the 1965-66 stamp, from a drawing by Ron Jenkins.

1965-66 Hunting Season

Northwest Region

DEER: November 20-January 16. Hunting permitted everyday. **SPECIAL SEASON:** Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, November 20-December 5, and December 18-January 2. The deer season in Washington and Holmes counties is the same as for the Point Washington Management Area (Nov. 20-Dec. 5).

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 20-January 16. Hunting permitted everyday. No fall turkey season on Eglin Field. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 26-April 10. Hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 20-March 6. Hunting permitted everyday.

DEER: November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday, except DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties which will be open for deer hunting from November 13 through November 21, only.

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 12-March 27 south of State Road 50; March 26-April 10 in Hernando County north of State Road 50. Hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS: The use of rifles is prohibited in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties except .22 rimfire rifles may be used other than for taking of deer and bear. The use of dogs in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties shall be limited to bird dogs, retrievers and slow trail hounds. The use of running hounds or any other dog that can reasonably be considered a dog usable for running deer is specifically prohibited.

South Florida Region



Florida's Five
Regions for
Hunting
and Trapping



Regulations—Summary



Northeast Region

LEVY COUNTY Only—Resident Game—Nov. 13 to Jan. 2.—Mon., Tues. & Fri. CLOSED, except during first 9 days; between Nov. 24 & Nov. 28, and between Dec. 22 & Jan. 2.

DEER: November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday. In Gilchrist County, and that portion of Levy County between State Roads 337 and 339, from November 13 to November 21, only.

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday. **NO OPEN SEASON** for turkey in Alachua and Madison counties. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 26-April 10. Hunting permitted everyday from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon. **NO SPRING GOBBLER SEASON** in Alachua and Madison counties.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

DEER: November 13-January 2. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days, and between November 24 and November 28, AND between December 22 and January 2. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the Region lying south of State Road 50 and west of the St. Johns River.

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 13-January 2. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during the first 9 days, and November 24 through November 28, AND December 22 through January 2. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the Region lying south of State Road 50, and west of the St. Johns River. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 12-March 27, south of State Road 50 and in that portion of the Richloom Wildlife Management Area lying north of State Road 50. March 26-April 10, north of State Road 50. Hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon. No Spring Gobbler Season on the Ocala and Citrus Wildlife Management Areas.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 13-February 27. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during the first 9 days, and November 24 through November 28, AND December 22 through January 2. Hunting permitted everyday in that portion of the Region south of State Road 50 and west of the St. Johns River.

Central Region

Everglades Region

DEER: November 13-January 2. Hunting permitted everyday. No deer hunting on the Florida Keys of Monroe County.

TURKEY: FALL SEASON: November 13-January 23. Hunting permitted everyday. **SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:** March 12-March 27. Hunting from one-half hour before sunrise to 12-noon.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 13-February 27. Hunting permitted everyday.

Bag Limits—Resident Game

Shooting Hours—Resident Game: From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

DEER (Buck): 1 per day, 3 per season.

GRAY SQUIRREL: 10 per day, not more than 20 in possession.

MOG: 1 per day, 2 per season, except as provided on certain Management Areas.

TURKEY: Nov., Dec., Jan., 2 per day, 3 per season, either sex. March-April Season, gobblers only, 1 per day, 2 per season.

FOX SQUIRREL: 2 per day, not more than 4 in possession.

BLACK BEAR: 1 per season.

QUAIL: 12 per day, not more than 24 in possession.



In photography it is the results that count. Pay attention to details and you will have a photo history of your favorite outdoor activities

HUNTING MEMOIRS

ON DISPLAY IN MY HOME is a selection of photographs that record many of my more successful hunting trips. During casual moments I can stop to study these pictures, and by so doing I am able to relive some of the more exciting moments of the trip. During early morning, before the family begins to stir, I can sip a cup of coffee and by glancing at one particular picture recall the cold December morning I managed to decoy two black ducks into range by employing a widgeon whistle rather than a duck call.

To obtain these photographs and subsequent memories, I have made it a practice to carry a camera along on most of my trips. The camera is capable of recording and later presenting the highlights

of a trip, leaving the balance to my memory. The camera, however, is a bit on the lazy side and will make no effort to render its unique services unless I prod it into action. On the other hand it doesn't talk back or require too much room in the boat or car.

There is one danger in becoming too closely associated with a field companion of this type. The operation can defeat the objective and there are case histories in which the camera has become so demanding that sportsmen have been known to lay down the gun and quit hunting in order to pick up the camera and become wildlife photographers. To guard against this possibility my camera stays in its case until I have completed the day's hunt.

Then and only then is it allowed to creep from its case and go to work.

I have reached a firm conclusion that an individual either hunts or photographs and it's doggone near impossible to serve both masters at the same time, especially with any degree of success.

Most sportsmen are interested in recording the activities of a hunting, fishing or camping trip, and never before have so many cameras, films and accessories been available for such purpose.

There was a time when any camera, other than the fixed exposure or simple box camera, required some technical knowledge about film speed, exposure, lens aperture and shutter speed. Today, however, camera manufacturers have taken the guess work out of photography and automatic cameras that do the thinking for the photographer are available at any camera store. These cameras are quite serviceable and will do a fine job in the hands of outdoorsmen not familiar with the basics of photography.

Even with all of the automatic gadgets the manufacturers have yet to devise a system of providing two important ingredients that go to make a successful picture. The first of these two is a desire to expose film and the second is imagination. These, of course, can be supplied only by the man behind the lens.

Unless a sportsman is willing to trip the shutter of his camera, he cannot expect recorded images and unless he is willing to utilize his imagination he cannot anticipate anything more than the usual snap shot.

There is nothing wrong with snap shots, and the smiling face of Aunt Minnie has a rightful place in the family album. The family album, however, is where snap shots belong, and not mounted, framed and hanging on the wall of a sportsman's den. A good photograph should be able to stand alone. It needs no title to inform the viewer as to the subject or mood. A good photograph is a story in itself
(Continued on next page)

By JIM FLOYD

In the crisp, invigorating days of autumn there is a bursting energy in the air which can be caught by the camera. The photographer must have, however, a feeling for such a mood. If fellow sportsmen are to be subjects of a scene, have them engage in some form of activity. Have them do about anything except stand stiff and smile into camera.

Photos By The Author



(Continued from preceding page)

and to quote the old cliché "says more than a thousand words."

If upon viewing a photograph of a bird dog on point you receive a sensation of autumn in the fields, wood smoke in the air, tense quivering anticipation of dogs on point, the excitement of a flushing covey and the recoil of your scatter gun, then the photo is a success.

The business of making a photograph may be said in simple terms to consist of four elements: the object, the film, the sheet of paper on which the picture will be realized, and the experience which brings them all together. There are a few standard rules that a sportsman can follow in order to elevate his exposed film from the category of snap shots to photographs that demand a rightful place on the wall of the den.

The following might apply to a sportsman who has a desire to create lasting impressions of his trips afield through the aid of a camera. Any mention of what might appear to be technical information regarding light sources, filters, film speeds, exposure control or other palaver of photography is unintentional and slips into this conversation simply

because there is no other way to discuss the situation.

Be Alert: In the crisp, invigorating days of autumn or the predawn hours of a trip afield, there is a bursting energy in the air which can be caught by the camera. But the photographer must first have a basic feeling for such a mood. This is not a difficult thing to acquire. Once this mood is acquired, it will seem that, no matter where he is, or what he is doing, a picture is seen ready-made for the taking. Be alert and really look at what you see. If a scene or certain activity impresses you, try to record it.

Compose your picture: Once you have located a scene that pleases you, compose the picture you want in the viewfinder. Only what appears within your viewfinder will be in the final picture. It is surprising how many people can be thrown by the general excitement of a scene and expect to see it automatically in their pictures. Unless the excitement is seen in the viewfinder, it will not be in the finished photograph. When I have a good picture framed in my viewfinder I know it, because I can feel its presence. It will stand out and hit you right between the eyes.

Click the shutter: Don't be satisfied with expos-

ing just one frame or a single shot of a subject. One of the cheapest items of your trip may be the film you expose. Once you think you have covered the subject take a look around and see if you can develop a new approach to the same subject. I have been told that the photograph located in the center of a popular male magazine requires the services of seven photographers and each photographer exposing countless sheets of film.

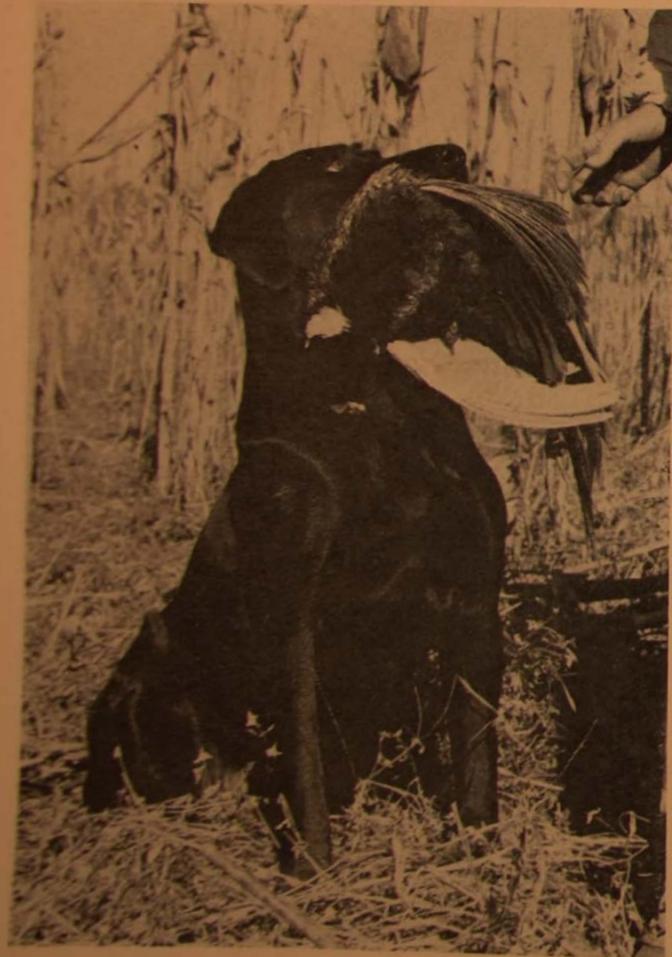
Don't forget the angles: Photography is the art of reproducing reality—without adding to or taking away from it. The most beautiful and interesting subject matter will not always in itself make a good photograph. Often as important as the subject matter is the angle from which it is taken. A camera is easily given to exaggerations and sometimes wrong angles give exaggerations which are frequently ridiculous. The right angle is the one which pictures the reality of the subject.

There are three primary angles from which to choose, the straight, the high and the low. Try to record your subject from a natural angle. If the subject is something that is generally viewed from above, such as a dog, then by all means employ the high angle. If it's a tree then use a low angle. There are, however, exceptions and sometimes rules may be stretched or broken with good results.

Watch the background: Many times a photographer is too concerned with the subject, even to the point that he neglects to note the distracting background that may actually ruin the finished picture. Before clicking the shutter, take a few seconds and really study the scene in the viewfinder. In nearly every outstanding photograph simplicity is a key factor, so move around, change the camera angle, or have the subject move, in order to eliminate all unnecessary details from your picture.

As stated earlier, Aunt Minnie is for the family photo album and not for our collection of outdoor photographs. While Aunt Minnie might be an active sportswoman we don't need a smiling freckled face copy for our wall. If a fellow sportsman is one of the subjects of a scene, have him engaged in some activity that is compatible to the scene, such as looking at the gun or game, rather than showing teeth to the camera lens. Have your human subjects stand on their heads or scratch their backs, anything that might appear normal. Standing on their heads appears about as normal as does standing at attention and smiling at the camera.

Photo Finishing: The average commercial photo finisher is geared for maximum production and not custom development or printing. For snap shots, the corner drug store provides an invaluable service, but for your photographic field ventures I would suggest a bit of scouting around for someone who



There are times when a routine negative can be turned into an outstanding picture through darkroom techniques. By eliminating the individual and placing emphasis on the dog, the dog's eyes, and the waiting hand, a routine photograph has become an attractive "hunting memoir" that will always tell the story.

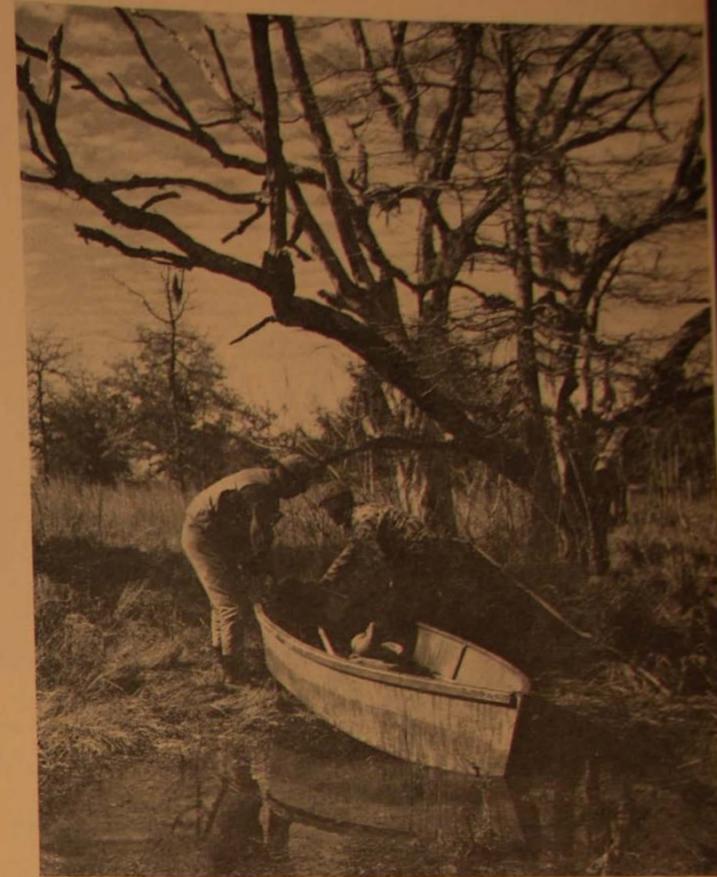


Photo composition is important. When you have a good scene in the viewfinder that is eye-appealing, trip the shutter.

will be able to provide custom processing and printing. It might cost a bit more but it will be worth it in the long run if you are seeking quality.

There are times when a negative that might be assigned to the collection of weekly trash can be turned into an outstanding picture through darkroom manipulations such as controlled printing or cropping and eliminating unwanted background.

Final selection: Before spending any hard cash for mounting or framing you should show your outdoor photographic prize to other hunting companions and photographer friends. Better yet, show it to someone that is not a friend. If these individuals like your picture, and request a copy of same, don't hesitate, frame and hang it. Far too many photographers fall in the same category as mothers, there is no such thing as a bad photo or a homely child.

Your outdoor photography can be as simple or elaborate as your budget will allow. But in photography, results count. Pay attention to details and even the simplest equipment can provide you with excellent photo records of your most enjoyable outdoor activities. ●

FISHING

(Continued from page 7)

tance or sticking to medium casts. And a little understood truth is that no matched rod and line work well until the right length of line is out through the guides. Sometimes it's harder to throw really short casts than it is to get distance. All you're working with is the bend of the rod and if you don't have out enough line to make it work you're going no place.

A good length of line for bass fishing is around 35 feet. If you can't do that easily you're using the wrong equipment or you simply haven't learned to cast. I'm not trying to be nasty—just frank.

GRABBING AN unfamiliar species of fish by the lower lip is likely to be a bit dangerous. Bass fishermen of long experience know a bass can't wiggle when you seize his lower jaw and they're apt to land some salt water numbers in the same way.

Some biologist will probably come forward and call me a simpleton but I don't know of any fish except the basses and immediate relatives that can be immobilized by a jaw hold. Just what there is about the bassy nervous system that makes the lower lip such a handy handle I wouldn't know but I have learned to my sorrow that it doesn't work with most fish.

Grabbing a small tarpon by the lower jaw is silly, especially if he has a face full of hooks. A salt water trout has enough teeth to skin you up considerably and snook has a switch blade in the roof of his mouth. Even a fresh water trout of considerable size will carve you up if you try it. Unless you know of a special handle on the fish you catch, you'd better use a net.

A FISHERMAN IS middle-aged before he becomes famous. By the time he's nationally known as



Lip hold on this largemouth bass renders him immobile, but the grip won't work on many kinds of fish.

an angler, he's too old to fish as hard as he used to.

Maybe by then he's been around a lot of the world and is packed with general knowledge of his subject.

With due respect, however, I find that the very top fishermen in most areas are young guys—maybe with less diversified experience but real hot shots in their specialized areas.

On a fishing trip to Montana last summer I found some of the most highly skilled trout fishermen I've ever been acquainted with. They were young school teachers who spent their summers fishing and guiding.

They could do more fishing in a day than I could hobble through in a week.

TRY MORE THAN ONCE before you decide a certain kind of fish doesn't taste good. Individual fish of a certain species can taste all the way from wonderful to lousy.

This depends largely on the waters they come from but sometimes two fish caught from the same waters will have decidedly different taste.

Black bass can be distinctly muddy tasting when caught in stagnant ponds.

The skin is a major factor in "holding" the taste when a fish lives in a poor quality of water. A skinned fish is apt to lose most of the strong taste.

FISH SMOKING, a sort of mystic rite surrounded by secret formulas and knowing outdoorsemen with sealed lips, is becoming a lot simpler.

It isn't made for mass seafood production but there's a Swedish smoker advertised in some of the outdoor magazines and appearing in some catalogs (notably Abercrombie & Fitch, Madison Avenue and 45th St., New York 10017) that gets fish smoking down to the tasty fundamentals.

You spend \$12.95 for this thing. You use alcohol and wood powder (sawdust to you). The alcohol burns slowly at the bottom, sending smoke from the hardwood sawdust up through your strips of fish. It takes only a few minutes and the results are highly satisfactory. You get some sawdust with it and can buy or make more on your own (providing you have the right kind of wood). You can use it for oysters and dry land meats too.

And it is too late for me to get one of them free for this plug because my wife has already bought one; an example of the inefficiency rampant in this business.

Various kinds of smoked fish have brought raves as long as we've had fire and Florida's best known is probably smoked mullet but you can smoke all of the fresh water fishes just as well although the little smoker I've described is more suited to appetizers than the main course.

Perhaps it isn't true smoking but a fish speared on a green stick and cooked over a campfire is mighty good. It's best not to put the fish over the main part of the

fire because when it's done it generally falls off the stick.

My most appreciated fish cooked in that manner was gulped in Canada where I once tried it on grayling. I'd caught a nice fish and fell into an icy creek a few minutes afterward. Camped alone on a gravel bar covered with grizzly tracks, I built a roaring fire and smoke-cooked the grayling on a stick. When it fell into the ashes I scooped it up and started chomping with only occasional looks over my shoulder to make sure the track maker wasn't around.

My enthusiasm was partly engendered by hunger pains and cold but later efforts have been almost as good.

ON CAMPING-FISHING trips, the single item of equipment that seems to give most trouble is the air mattress. If you stop and think you'll realize that it gets into a host of situations where puncturing is easy and, between trips it's often wadded or folded in a manner sure to encourage cracking.

The cheap, plastic ones such as used by kids in swimming pools are a poor choice over the long haul. We have two sets—one light one for back packing and some heavy, rugged mattresses for use in boats hauled in cars. The mattress is a poor place to economize. It is a sorrowful sensation to fall asleep on a comfortable mattress only to learn it has sneakily deflated, leaving your spine supported by a stone or sharp root.

Of late, airfoam pads have become increasingly popular where weight or bulk are not important. A surprisingly thin one will provide a lot of comfort. Some say they have made the air mattress obsolete.

After getting an air mattress mail order and having it leak all over at once, I was inclined to believe the foam rubber proponents. ●

MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from page 9)

rarily on the floor of the trunk compartment is merely a compromise solution, since travel must necessarily be made with the trunk lid propped open, and roped to keep it from swinging on its hinges.

A Virginia hunter named Ernie Todd has ingeniously solved his former problem of passenger car transportation of his two bird dogs by cutting two holes in the top of his car's trunk compartment and installing inside-locking portholes, like those on ships.

The two openings are sufficiently large that a dog can stick his head out easily, yet are small enough that neither a fore-paw nor other part of the body can also be thrust through an opening.

The idea permits the carrying of two dogs in a closed trunk compartment, without the problem of adequate ventilation or the inconvenience of a cage.

At other times, the thick glass portholes are kept closed and locked. Since they have gasket seals and inside-locking bolts, the small windows are both waterproof and virtually useless to a would-be thief (who couldn't reach anything through them even if he broke their heavy glass

domes). The installed portholes—for that is what they are—neatly blend with the appearance of even a 1966 model car. Installation cost is relatively low.

Incidentally, if any of your hunting dogs are inclined to car sickness, a Dramamine or Mari-zene seasickness tablet, given an hour prior to travel, will prevent an attack, a veterinarian friend advises.

"CAST OFF and "cast on" in a stock exists where the gunstock is offset in relation to center line of breech and barrel rib. Offset to the right is "cast off"; offset to the left is "cast on." Physical deformities or muscular limitations of the shooter may require such. Also, some shooters possess a left "master" aiming eye, but otherwise are right-handed and shoot from the right shoulder. These must order an offset stock to get proper "master" eye alignment with gun breech and barrel. Invariably, offset stocks give a gun the kick of a mule, because recoil is not exerted in a straight line. Awkward though it may feel at first, I strongly recommend that shooters with a left "master" eye learn to shoot from the left shoulder rather than acquire an expensive, if not freakish-looking, special stock. ●

Federation Officers Elected



NEWLY ELECTED president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, Don Southwell, left, accepts presidential gavel and warm handshake from outgoing president Tommy Needham, of Ocala, during annual convention at Clearwater.

Elected along with Southwell, of Ormond Beach, were Bill Theobald, Miami, Executive Vice President; Jim Connley, Jr., Orlando, Secretary; Ed Walch, DeLand, Treasurer.

FUTURE OF WATERFOWL

(Continued from page 5)

conservation director said: "To me the survival of the duck population of the continent is foremost, and I can't understand how so many fish and game people take other considerations more seriously than the welfare of the birds. To me such action on the part of the Council makes its recommendations and even its existence useless."

The distinguished Willis Robertson, long-time Senator from Virginia, long-time conservationist, and sponsor of the "duck stamp" in 1934, wired Secretary Udall to this effect: "If we wait one or two more years before taking drastic action to save remnants of brood stock and then close the season, it will probably never be opened again because brood stock would have gone beyond the point of recall."

Even some of the older generation of optimistic sports writers have their tongue in their cheek on what might happen with liberalization this year. Twenty states are going to participate in the teal season; three turned it down. Minnesota opens for only 2½ days in limited areas. So far as a general season is concerned, it appears that Canada may drastically curtail both bag limits and seasons as compared with former years.

This old "retread," in writing these comments, has been subjected to much galling ridicule and acrimony over the years—along with a small minority—because of his prophecies on the future of waterfowl. It no longer is popular to walk alone in this day of the committee system and organization thinking.

Having been deeply involved in creating the Flyway and National Waterfowl Council system, I vainly have looked forward to the time when these bodies would grow up and wear long pants. The philosophy has degenerated into one of bargaining and not of basic concepts. Too much management

at the state level has consisted of rawhiding the Fish and Wildlife Service into greater liberalization regardless of possible consequences.

Having sat on three sides of the table for over ten years, as a state and Flyway representative, as a representative of the Federal Government, and as a representative of the public, it adds up to a state grab gag of greed, hypocrisy and human predation. Too many public officials are afraid to stand up and be counted, and when they can't stand the pressure of self-interest groups, they should get out of the business.

Professionals who claim that waterfowl research can be measured by the inch are fooling the public; as yet it can't be measured by the rod. And when there has to be long debates as to whether a daily bag limit should be three or four ducks the line is getting mighty thin. The ducks, the hunters, and the probable cripples can't be counted that close. Specialized training has no value unless it is teamed up with horse sense, which seems hard to find these days.

In the last analysis, it is the public which has created this annual crisis. People have been indifferent to subsidized drainage, to winter and summer habitat destruction, to overshooting, and to insufficient law enforcement. There are too many present-day administrators who underrate law enforcement as a tool of control. If the hunter is going to lose interest because he can't hunt every year, just how moral is he going to be regarding daily bag limits and crippling losses? The decisions made during the next decade will determine whether the duck will remain a game bird or become a museum piece. ●

A bird's feet are so constructed that the foot is forcibly closed when the leg is bent. Hence birds maintain a steady grip on limbs or perches even when asleep.

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

tees and it was decided that the study of parking in recreation areas now being distributed by the American Institute of Park Executives under a grant of the American Conservation Association would be expanded to include industrial, business, shopping center and other high concentration situations.

Waterfowl Tomorrow

WATERFOWL TOMORROW, considered the most comprehensive book ever written about North America's migratory waterfowl, is rapidly becoming one of the Federal Government's best sellers.

The 784-page volume, authored by 103 wildlife experts from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, is going into its third printing as the fall hunting season for waterfowl approaches.

WATERFOWL TOMORROW is divided into 11 sections. One of these, "The World of Waterfowl," acquaints the reader with the many species of ducks and geese and, by illustration, shows the great variation of their habits and requirements for living.

Another section, "Nature at Work," describes the many natural factors that influence the distribution and numbers of waterfowl. Beginning with the Ice Age, the story moves forward in time to include discussions of climate, weather, predators, diseases, and the many other factors affecting waterfowl.

The Department's Fish and Wildlife Service said hunters and other conservationists will be especially interested in the section, "A Helping Hand," which includes 14 chapters on the various aspects of waterfowl management.

Over 3,000 photographs were submitted for WATERFOWL TOMORROW. The 194 pictures in the

final selection tell a waterfowl story by themselves. The more than 80 pencil drawings are by Bob Hines, staff artist for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Copies of WATERFOWL TOMORROW are available at \$4 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., and in Canada from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa.

Career Booklet

"CAREERS in Wildlife Conservation," a new booklet prepared by the Conservation Department of the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation, should be of interest to all high school students seeking helpful explanation and guidance about career opportunities in the wildlife field, working assignments, higher education needs, courses of study, and names of colleges and universities offering accredited courses of study leading to bachelor and advanced degrees in the various related fields of study.

Written by John Madson and Ed Kozicky, the 36-page booklet, illustrated with sketches, is free on individual request to the Conservation Department, Olin, East Alton, Illinois. Copies can be supplied for bulk orders at 15 cents each.

Park Construction

NINE architectural firms have been approved and planning money committed by the State Cabinet for state park buildings and improvements totaling approximately \$730,000.

According to State Parks Director Bill Miller, these firms will design improvements for construction work at Koreshan, Collier-Seminole, St. Josephs, Three Rivers, John Pennekamp Coral Reef, Bahia Honda, Tomoka, Grayton Beach, Falling Waters, St. Andrews and Little Talbot Island State Parks and Bulow Plantation Ruins and State Constitution Historic Memorials. Construction at all of the areas should be underway early in 1966. ●

BOATING

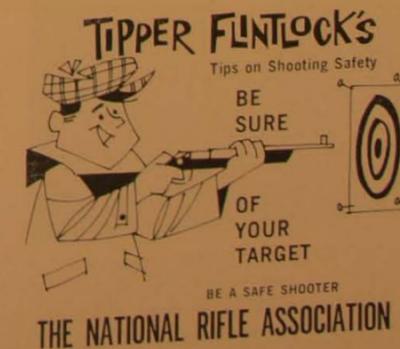
(Continued from page 11)

Surfing tricks include moving around on the board (which is from 8 to 12 feet long and about two feet wide) and making the board dart to the left and to the right. Surfing doubles is fun and requires some good teamwork.

How far can you travel along on the board? If you maintain your balance, you can ride until you run out of gas.

ALL ALONG Florida's coast-line, and particularly along the west in the Sarasota, St. Pete, Tampa and Clearwater areas, these new dry storage hangars and marinas are springing up. With electric hoists and special dolly-trucks with fork lifts to handle all sized outboards, these new storage bins are making boating much more pleasurable. You have to do nothing but pay a small rental fee and the crews at the dry storage marinas handle all details. You order your boat, it's waiting for you upon arrival, and you simply get out of it and turn it over to the crew when you're through. They clean 'em, hoist 'em, and stack 'em back in the rack. How easy can it get?

GUESS THIS oughta be in ol' Charley Waterman's column, but Terry Bonard, director of sales at Port St. Lucie (where the Outdoor Writers of America will hold its convention in June, 1966) informs me that Port St. Lucie Country Club has been designated an Official State Fishing



Awards Station by SPORTS AFIELD magazine. Got the word from Uncle Homer Circle who handles this particular endeavor for Ted Kesting's fine magazine.

By the by, boaters, did ya know you can load your golf clubs in the family cruiser and whip it right on up to the beautiful new marina and docks at the Port St. Lucie Country Club, unload and walk over to the first tee? Not many places you can do this, and there are many golfing nuts among our boating clan, and this is an opportunity they might just be looking for.

THREE NATIONAL Gold Cup awards for boating safety in 1965 are going to be announced at the National Boat Show in New York in January, 1966, Frank Scalpone of the Keikhaefer Corporation told me. The annual awards for three categories:

1. A group, organization or community that makes substantial progress towards improving boating safety in its area during 1965.

2. A magazine, newspaper, television or radio station that assumes leadership in its community, or nationally, towards promoting greater boating safety consciousness in 1965.

3. A governmental agency that expends exceptional effort toward boating safety during 1965.

There may be many of our readers who feel their community, or newspaper or radio or tv station in their area could well qualify for one of these fine awards. If there are, entries should include a detailed description of the project carried out; a statement or details of the circumstances which brought about the project or activity; a statement regarding results achieved which contribute to boating safety; and photographs, if available, would be helpful if they illustrate the information requested above.

Send entries to Don Guerin, 851 Maple Drive, Webster, N.Y. by November 30. ●

Hunting-Trials-Training



By JIM FLOYD

"Coon Hunting Hootenanny" highlights annual Wildlife Night at Daytona Beach Bandshell

IT MAY HAVE started as a bit of wishful thinking, wild imagination and day dreaming but it ended up as one of the doggonest demonstrations of dogs, hunting, folk songs, coon hunters, pretty girls and wildlife conservation ever conceived. Some shook their heads and said that it wouldn't work, others were willing to take the gamble and run the risk that it would. With a flair of adventure all the chips were thrown into the pot and the word was sent out that the 15th annual Wildlife Night at the Daytona Beach Bandshell would be a Coon Hunting Hootenanny.

It may have been the title of the event that aroused a statewide curiosity but soon after the word was out that the Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club would sponsor a Coon Hunting Hootenanny in the Daytona Beach Bandshell on August 14, the press, radio and television jumped on the bandwagon and really began to plug the event.

The end results were somewhat memorable for the group that staged the event and the hound owners that traveled from far and near to enter their dogs in this most unusual demonstration of sporting dogs. Under normal conditions the open air theater at Daytona Beach may seat four thousand people. On August 14, the night of the Coon Hunting Hootenanny, there wasn't even standing room and more than five thousand spectators witnessed the running of the First Coon Hunting Hootenanny and State Championship Inboard Field Trial.



The raccoon was safely secured to a protected tree limb to prevent any mishap should he suddenly decide to depart the area for safer quarters.

When the word about the wildlife night event got out there was a deluge of telephone calls and letters all of which were universal in the question of what the heck is a Coon Hunting Hootenanny. To answer the questions and inform both hound dog owners and interested individuals the following prepared information was mailed.

"A Coon Hunting Hootenanny is hound dogs and raccoons. It is the music of banjos and guitars, hunting horns and folk songs, a part of the Florida Championship Inboard Coon Hound Field Trial and one of the most unusual coon hound events in the nation."

The hootenanny and field trial is sponsored by the Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club and staged by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and scheduled for Daytona Beach, August 14th. The musical hound dog event will be held in the 4,000 seat open air theater of the Daytona Beach Bandshell and is the 15th annual renewal of the popular "Wildlife Night."

Wildlife night at the Daytona Beach Bandshell is an interlude with emphasis on hunting, fishing and wildlife conservation and breaks a summertime routine of musical concerts."

Music for the hootenanny will be provided by the Wildlife Swamp Boys, a group of guitar playing, folk singing, wildlife personnel of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The hounds will be provided by individual coon hunters who feel their hound is good enough to compete for the title of Florida Inboard Field Trial Champion."

PURPOSE OF THE event is to promote wildlife conservation and the wise use of Florida's natural resources. To fully appreciate the story of this first hootenanny it is necessary to go back a bit and bring the night of August 14, into focus.

In Daytona Beach there is an open air theater, complete with bandshell and seating arrangements for four thousand people. Once each year the Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club sponsors a special program with emphasis on wildlife conservation. Throughout the years Wildlife Night has be-

come not only popular but eagerly anticipated by the residents and tourists of Daytona Beach.

In the past, Wildlife Night has seen everything from snakes, alligators, hawks, duck calling, movies, bears and retrieving dogs. Each year the show is a bit bigger and better than the preceeding year. Quite a few years ago the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission got into the act by helping the sponsoring club obtain suitable conservation programs. With the Commission's participation, Jim Reed, the Information Officer from the Central Florida region, has managed to lose an annual handful of hair in his efforts to come up with something new.

The idea behind the Coon Hunting Hootenanny was, first of all, to provide something unusual enough to attract the attention of a prospective audience. Once the audience was attracted to the point of where they were in a captive position, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Division of Information and Education could deliver a message stressing the need for conservation of wildlife.

The second objective was to provide the audience with sixty minutes of entertainment of a type which they could not possibly obtain at a boardwalk concession or movie theater.

The third objective was to promote the wholesome and healthy outdoor recreation of raccoon hunting and the utilization of a plentiful natural resource as well as to outline and explain the rules and regulations governing the sport of raccoon hunting in Florida.

The fourth goal of the wildlife night program was to assemble some of Florida's coon hunters into one group in order that they might show their hounds and demonstrate their dog's hunting ability.



A little young for the Coon Hunting Hootenanny this bluetick pup didn't mind at all sitting it out with his lovely companion Miss Martha Beatty.

perched on the shoulder of the master of ceremonies who, for the occasion, used the title of master of hounds. There were two pretty girls who paraded the dogs across the stage as the master of hounds introduced the individual dogs and discussed the various breeds of hounds.

In the center of the stage the Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club had erected a single cypress tree. A ramp was constructed from the runway to the stage in order that the hounds might obtain easy access to the stage and the tree.

On the night of the hootenanny and inboard field trial a total of 21 hounds reached semi-finalist, and this assembly was broken into two groups to run elimination heats to select four finalists from which a championship line and tree hound would be selected.

This report would be remiss if there was not mention of the last minute contributions from the popular sporting dog supply house, Bill Boatman's of Bainbridge, Ohio. Bill Boatman responded to an emergency telephone call and contributed two outstanding trophies to be presented to the dogs judged first at tree and first at line.

The actual trial consisted of a drag trail with a raccoon scented bag plus a pet raccoon. Both the scent bag and the raccoon were placed in the tree, with the raccoon securely tied to prevent any chance of a mishap in case the raccoon might decide the fire created by the baying hounds was too hot and try to depart the tree for safer quarters.

The trail was approximately seven hundred yards long and crossed an open but grassed area along the Daytona Beach boardwalk. The trail then entered the auditorium of the bandshell and down the center aisle and up onto the stage and handlers were allowed to follow their hounds and

(Continued on next page)

To say that this entire performance depended on some generous applications of pure unmitigated corn would be stretching the truth; however, there was corn produced on the stage of the Daytona Beach Bandshell that would put the best of television commercials to shame and while it may not have made the show it did accentuate the positive.

First of all there were the Florida Wildlife Swamp Boys who in their everyday occupation represented the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission as wildlife officers, biologists and information officers. These talented and imaginative individuals appeared on stage with guitars and banjos, and dressed in coon skin caps and overalls to render a number of musical renditions such as "Bay at the Moon," "Ole Blue" and "I won't go hunting with you Jake but I'll go chasing women." The entire Coon Hunting Hootenanny was staged to a background of hunting and folk songs.

Then there was the pet raccoon

(Continued from preceding page) urge them onto the trail to a half way point. Handlers were not allowed to touch their dogs after the cast and could not enter the auditorium until their dogs were on the stage.

The dog which placed both feet on the stage first was judged first at line and the dog which first barked at tree was judged first tree. After the two semi-final heats four dogs remained to be cast for the championship heat. The remaining hounds were "Stone," a registered Plott hound owned by Cecil Salette of Alamo Springs; "Ring," a July-Walker cross owned by Horatious Thagard of Daytona Beach; "Lady," a Redbone hound owned by Sonny Faircloth of Ormond Beach, and "King," a Redbone hound owned by Dwight Raymond of Ormond Beach.

At the final cast all in attendance knew that four well qualified hounds were competing for the championship title. When the hunting horn blew for the final cast, all four hounds took to the

trail and sounded off as one dog, and a nip and tuck race was underway. The audience was standing on their seats and whooping their favorite on to victory.

The four remaining dogs hit the concrete runway at the same time and reached the ramp in unison. "Stone," the Plott hound, for some unknown reason made a tight circle at the base of the ramp and lost his lead. Two other hounds, "King," the Redbone and "Ring," the July-Walker cross, took the ramp together. "Ring" did, however, manage to get a foot on the stage first and received the judges nod as first line. It is possible that "Ring" reached the tree a second before the Redbone "King," but the July-Walker cross did not open and the Redbone did, which obtained for him the title inboard tree champion.

There were many highlights of the nights activity such as the actions of the Plott hound "Stone," handled by the son and daughter of Cecil Salette. "Stone" wanted the raccoon and was bound and determined to catch the critter if

he had to chew the tree down to do it. This hound was in the hundred pound class and almost more than the children could handle.

While a good coon hound is trained not to trail other game or to be distracted by other game, few were broken to the point of ignoring five thousand people, and one hound in particular displayed a gregarious nature as he wandered up and down the center aisle being petted by the spectators. He never did reach the tree.

There was also one eleven year old night hunt champion that was as blind as a bat. He couldn't see the action but followed the trail like a veteran and champion.

There was lots of good string music and hunting songs, there were plenty of laughs and hijinks, there was hound dog music and hunting cries. There were dogs and raccoons. There is a new Inboard Champion line and tree dog. It was lots of fun and speculations are that 1966 will bring a bigger and better Coon Hunting Hootenanny at the Daytona Beach Bandshell. ●

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE IT! (Continued from page 15)

where!—are to wear boots, have pants' cuffs hanging loosely outside boots, watch where you step and look before you sit down, and carry a reliable snakebite kit in case your luck runs out.

A suction type snakekit is to be preferred. Used in combination with one of the Wyeth Laboratories' antivenin kits, prompt treatment should be efficacious, and contribute the margin of safety needed until you can reach a doctor for professional attention. Any druggist can supply a Wyeth kit; no prescription is required.

The prolonged physical exercise of hard deer hunting depletes one's energy supply. When you're tired, you are apt to lose enthusiasm and alertness—possibly at the wrong moment! For sustained energy, you can follow the example of members of the United States Olympic teams and carry one or two Nu-V energy food bars to nibble on when you feel tired, or as a food supplement when you take a refreshing drink from canteen or Thermos bottle.

There are all sorts of mechanical aids, some practical and some of highly questionable value—deer scent atomizers, deer calls, tree climbing aids and

portable tree-stands, various ground level seats (including one appropriately called "the rump-rester"); a small mirror that clips to cap or hat and provides rear-view vision at a glance; hand-warmers, and range-finding scope sights. Some you would think could never work, do; others of seeming promise, fail flatly. You can experiment and judge for yourself.

The one thing still lacking is a crystal ball in which you can look and foresee the right place and right time.

If you have any wild idea of out-hearing, out-smelling and out-running a deer, give it up! In all three accomplishments a deer has all the advantages.

Perhaps, as is contended, a deer cannot distinguish colors as we see them, but that doubtful handicap is made up by ability to detect the slightest movement. Also, a deer can remain motionless and hidden far longer than man's possessed patience. In the woods' game of hide and seek, the hunter is always "it!" ●

FOR THAT BIG ONE



- THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded 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 Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

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

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

Where Caught _____ in _____ County

Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

Registered, Weighed By _____ At _____

(Signature of Applicant)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

..... 8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

..... 4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

..... 1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

..... 2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

..... 2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

..... 1 pound or larger

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

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

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK



WINTER VISITORS—from the north—Canada Geese arrivals "drop in" on farm pond near Tallahassee.—Photo by Bill Hansen

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