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The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

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Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

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Many Firearms Laws

For Gun Handlers

Is it legal to ship a shotgun to a friend in another state? What about a handgun? Ammunition?

Sooner or later, says the National Shooting Sports Foundation, almost every sportsman will run up against questions like these. And if you don't know the answers, warns the Foundation, you may be in danger of breaking the law.

There are roughly 20,000 federal, state, county and city firearms laws. Anybody who handles firearms should know the laws of his own state and those covered by the Federal Firearms and National Firearms acts.

For complete information on your state laws, check your state or local police. Federal laws are explained in five government publications, three of which are free:

—Firearms Law Enforcement Guidelines. No. 399 (Rev. 4-65)
—National Firearms Act and Federal Firearms Act. No. 364 (Rev. 3-64)
—Interstate Traffic in Firearms and Ammunition. (Fed. Firearms Act) Part 177 of Title 26. No. 417 (Rev. 4-65)

These may be obtained by writing: Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, D.C.

Much appreciated interest in the Youth Conservation League was shown at the Florida Wildlife Federation's annual meeting. The Federation adopted the resolution—"Realizing the vital need for youth conservation education: the Florida Wildlife Federation will support and implement the work of the Adult Advisory Council, Inc. in expanding and improving the Florida Youth Conservation Club League. The Federation will stimulate state-wide interest toward the establishment of youth conservation clubs, and toward

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Human Affinity With

Elements of the Earth

By ERNEST SWIFT
National Wildlife Federation

TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE recreation signifies some form of sport or relaxation, to others millions it has become a commercialized means of livelihood, and more recently to science, the recreationist has become an organism for study. The recreationist's habits, desires and range of habitat now are being observed with the same interest as a new and multiplying amoeba.

Federal and state resource agencies—with increasing concern and sometimes dismay—have long watched this multiplication without too much outside attention until the past few years. They have struggled along with the problem; the recreationist is not a new phenomenon to them, and not always delightful.

Those in research are taking off on different tangents with a variety of conclusions. Some feel that the recreationist has such a mass impact that what he wants he should have, regardless of consequences. Others are alarmed at the lack of basic interest in esthetics which is most test by the now thundering herd.

In attempting an objective look it must be realized, distasteful as it is, that our personal likes and dislikes are not the same. We defend our own preferences and are astonished at the peculiar attitudes of others. For example, camping is no longer a primitive form of recreation or an escape from civilization. A majority of campers encumber themselves with endless gadgets—often from lack of experience or because of a fast-talking salesman and research has proven that many wish to squat in the midst of a hundred other campers, wheel to wheel and tent peg to tent peg.

One of the most cherished spots for rare wildflowers that I have ever seen, several varieties of orchids and trilliums, was turned into a campsite. There are no longer any flowers and, if there were, I doubt if the invaders would be able to identify them. Another spot could have been chosen, but the demands of the campers were paramount to the preservation of some delicate and rare species of flora.

Studies have shown that many campers want the complete city image at their camp site—people, electric lights, noise and bridge games; and that picnickers appear to be as gregarious. They stay close to the parking lots and herd together. Back-in-the-woods tables go unused. Why continue to claim that people wish to squat in the midst of a herd?

Research has also discovered that a substantial number of wilderness campers can stand only a few days of isolation. Even visitors to several fishing lodges have lived only a day or two at motels and satisfy their gospel of purism by a brief day or so of paddling near the perimeter, or not even that; they insist on an

(continued on page 33)
Gun operation on the long-coil principle helps eliminate annoying autoloading performance

By EDMUND McLAURIN

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FEBRUARY, 1966


Fishing films are also numerous. John Zorner, who is information specialist for the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers', 200 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, will gladly send you a long list.

"Fishing in Florida." "Fishing—Luck or Logic?" "Between You and the Fish," "Bass In The Hand," "Marlin On The Mind" and "Fishing Thrills" are recommended subjects. You should also write Sears, Roebuck; Dept. 666, Homan Avenue, Chicago, for loan of the Ted Williams-made tarpon subject film.

While most films are sent to applying clubs without charge, some have nominal service charges, but these are always stated. There are no hidden charges, or gimmicks, connected with film showings. Of (continued on next page)
course, you are expected to return the films at your own expense, for which there is a special, very low, pared post rate.

Requests should be made well in advance of intended showing, with possibly alternate date or title considered should your planned showing conflict with an already arranged looking.

When a SHOOTER, fisherman or conservationist sets a record of accomplishment that merits acclaim, it is customary for clubs to recognize his efforts by presenting him with an engraved plaque, a trophy cup or an engraved medal.

The idea of recognizing effort, basically, is fine—except that, in time, a really active, dedicated individual is apt to find himself the possessor of an array of ostentatious medal awards which modesty keeps him from wearing, or else is the recipient of bulky trophies for which permanent resting places are frequently hard to find in the home.

Far better—to my way of thinking—to simply award a framed certificate, or a letter of appreciation, along with some truly useful item.

For example, a silver, dress attire width, belt buckle with an overlay appropriate to the sport, when combined with a quality belt, makes a fine presentation piece.

Authentic sterling silver overlays of popular rifle and pistol models, and other sports' identification, can be had from V. H. Blackington Company, Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts, the firm that manufactures medals and trophies long used by shooting clubs affiliated with the National Rifle Association. Your local jeweler can obtain and attach an appropriate sterling overlay to a sterling belt buckle of local jeweler stock selection.

Where recipients are members of a club affiliated with the National Rifle Association, jewelry items featuring the official NRA emblem can be ordered from the Washington, D.C., headquarters. Included are rings, cuff links, key chain and tie-tack for men and a 10K gold ring and bracelet charm for ladies.

Highly detailed antique silver tie clip miniatures of Patterson, 1851 Navy, Wells Fargo and other revolver models are marketed by Art-Jan Mfg. Company, P. O. Box 592, Freeport, New York. They, too, make good individual presentation pieces, especially for runners-up who just failed to take a major award.

Available from another source is a beautifully gold finished tie clasp made from a full size, plated Remington .322 caliber center fire varmint cartridge. Attachment to shirt is by a compressed flat bar spring clip soldered to the back of the gold plated cartridge. The tie clip measures 2½ inches overall; it can be ordered from Forester-Appelt Mfg. Company, Lancaster, Illinois. Price is $2.75. The clasp comes in a clear plastic presentation box.

Eight jewelry items appropriate to fishing activity can be obtained from The Garcia Corporation, Teamneck, New Jersey. Included in the group are four tie clasps. One is of flat bar design with raised effect spinning reel, finished in 14K gold. Another is chain design with lively looking, flexible body-scale fish, finished in chrome, on a spring clip base. A third design is merely the flexible, silvery fish attached to a spring bar. The fourth available design is of chroned chain and spring clip pattern, with dangling miniature fishing creel attached. (Prices range from $3.00 to $4.05).

The other four items are for wear by the ladies, the most novel of which is a gold-filled chain bracelet featuring a miniature 14K finished, spinning reel. The bracelet also has a clasp feature.

Jamiarian Crafts, 1803 Main Street, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, manufactures some nice looking, inexpensive bar and chain style tie clasps that identify the wearer with such individual pursuits as fishing, archery, dog raising and boating. Either gold or silver plate can be had.

While back a native Floridian sent me a letter full of verbal handsprings upon discovery of the best fishing he'd ever had.

Together with another hard-fishing native, this character had struck it rich in some canals near Vero Beach and Fort Pierce and managed to pull out enough superlatives to learn they had caught and released a hundred and some smook and had wrestled untold tarpon, using flies. I'd received a second letter from a plug caster who gushed about the terrific bass fishing in another canal only a few miles from the smook triumph.

Fine ditch fishing is nothing new in Florida. My point is that all of these "pioneers" had lived in the state all of their lives and had taken 40-odd years to zero in on the canals. Maybe I can give you some helpful dope on the ditches.

Number One thing you must remember is that canal conditions are much more stable than those of rivers and lakes. A good canal fisherman is a wanderer who knows today's hot spot can be a hopeless mudhole (or an unproductive lake) next season. Unless you've been checking constantly, trial and error is about the only method of locating good canals. Appearances are misleading because a fishy appearing canal may have been dry last year, may have been taken over by rough fish, may have overcrowded and stunted fish—or you name it.

Except for a few well-known ditches and those plainly visible from main highways, canals are under-fished and information about them is skimpy at best so you have to do most of the research on your own and it takes time. That's why Floridians who work for a living seldom get far in the canal business. Most anglers with limited time don't want to spend it exploring when there are places they know contain fish.

Although I'm a lover of pee wee boats I find them a mixed blessing on small out-of-the-way canals. One reason is that fish in small canals are easily spooked by boats. Another complaint is all tied up with human nature—since you've launched a boat you may be slow to pull it out and go somewhere else even though the fishing is punk.

Most Florida fish are used to some boat traffic but narrow, unused ditches are something else and there's a tendency for your quarry to move ahead of you, a condition underlined by the fact...
most boatmen move about as unobtrusively as a scene. The canal was full of small tarpon and they went to great effort in dragging a pram to the other way. Foiled again!

Well, bass, bream and snook may be less boat sensitive but chances are they'll get wary in any narrow canal—even though they can't be seen on the bank the way rolling tarpon are spotted.

 Casting from the bank is Number One small canal method and can be tough enough to send most fishermen back to broader waters. An exception may be the roadside ditch with a state-maintained highway shoulder such as the Tamiami Trail canal best known of the ditches.

A long rod is helpful because you generally can't walk quite to the edge of the water and you need some way of lifting your lure over the shoreline vegetation. That's no problem for fly casters but the plug or spinning rod isn't so handy. A seven or 7½-foot spinning rod is fine. Few pluggers can handle more than six or 6½ feet of stick so they'll just have to make do.

The Tamiami canal and other roadside ditches are ideal for fly casting but less cosmopolitan waters have no provision for back casting and canals are generally too deep to wade. Lure manufacturers love canals as a hangup on the far side usually means a lost goody.

If you start from scratch, an expert dealer is generally the best bet. Fishing "outfits" may be bargains but check the list before you buy.

I wrote a book. It is called "Fresh Water Fishing, Family Camping and Hunting in Florida." It's published by Erving Publications, Box 1030, Kissimmee, Florida and they'd send you one for a buck if you can't find it in your neck of the woods.

I tried to outline the Florida fresh water methods together with some opinions on tackle and places to go. But there's something too for you hardheads who don't care what I think about fishing methods. It's a pretty complete directory of fresh water fishing spots throughout the state. There's a camping directory too.

After all, it is only a buck and I need the money.

While in the book review department, I should mention that Don Fuechse has appeared again with his Southern Angler's and Hunter's Guide for 1965-66. If you have no time for fishing you could spend 1976 reading the Guide, which has a total of 1580 attractively typeset pages (it gets bigger every year). If there is anything Don has missed, I don't have time to look it up.

That's $2.50 from Don J. Fuechse, Southern Angler's Guide, P.O. Box 2188, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71919.

For example, a seven or 7½-foot spinning rod is fine. Few pluggers can handle more than six or 6½ feet of stick so they'll just have to make do.

I generally minimize snake dangers (usually overlooked by newcomers) but canal edges are attractive to both moccasins and rattlers. Snake boots or extreme caution are advised. I'd say walking the bank is more dangerous than actually wading and you should take a good look before reaching for a near-side hangup or before jumping into landing operations.

A landing net is a big help and the small trout-sized ones are much better than nothing for bass and small brackish water species. Roadside fishermen who stick close to their cars can employ a long-handed boat net if there's someone free to run for it.

Now and then I see a canal fisherman who takes the big net along in spite of inconvenience. If you do a lot of ditch walking, a fishing vest is a good investment but few Florida anglers use them, evidently counting them a northern affectation. I figure there's no practical substitute.

Judging canal waters if fairly simple. Canal fishing is generally at its best as the level is falling, probably causing run-ins from small flats or lesser ditches. The run-ins leave food and concentrate fish. In tidal waters this can happen regularly and experts learn the spots and when to visit them.

At really low water in either tidal or fresh canals the deep spots are generally best.

Newly dug canals wouldn't seem to be a good choice at first thought but they should be investigated and if the nearest to fishy water they may be worth a try. Fish will often move into a new area as soon as it is opened. One of the toughest angles to a relatively new canal is that it is without vegetation which makes it tough to figure where the fish would concentrate. Only the bottom conforma-

tion can cause them to bunch up.

I believe in matched fishing outfits all right although the expert dealer is most likely to get a good layout if he'll simply let a good tackle maker make it up especially for him.

The mail order outfit is likely to be inexpensive and maybe it's a good investment. Generally it includes at least one well known item, probably a reel of acknowledged popularity. You may take a beating on the rod unless it's one you've heard of before. A fine penel will show whether you're really getting a buy or not.

I want to point out that the spinning reels offered are generally of a well-known make but, generally it's a make regularly found in such offers. There are certainly items of equipment that are nearly al-

ways "marked down," being advertised at a very high "retail price" with a big discount. For that matter, there are a few fishing items that were originally offered at a high price only and were later cheapened in quality so that the cut-rate gimmicks could be worked.

This is the same sentiment often criticized in the automobile industry where an enormous trade-in allowance is handled by a heavily padded "retail" price. I can think of at least one case where a hardy sporting reel I haven't seen sold at "regular" price for more than ten years.

Some of the bargain outfits have hundreds of pieces in them although most of the items don't cost much. They even sell "family" outfits. Perhaps they're a good buy for an occasional outing or a single vacation when no one has had fishing experience.

Although they make a lot of high quality stuff, the Japanese haven't helped this bargain tackle situation. Some time back a tackle man asked my opinion of some imported Japanese spinning reels he had been considering. They looked a lot like some pretty good equipment of "standard" manufacture until you sniffs them over closely and then learned that cost to the importer was 75 cents each. A kind way of putting it is simply that they weren't exactly lifetime quality.

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MARKS of DISTINCTION

For Florida's Research Alligators

Photo Story
Bylovett Williams
Game Management Division

When one gator's hide sells for more than five beaver hides or a couple of mink, it's time to take a close look into the economic value of the wild alligator population in Florida. Whatever the State's gator hides are worth, one thing is for sure— we intend to keep the ole gator around.

Right now almost nothing is known about wild alligators and before anybody starts poking at them, more than a few questions need to be answered. The first is basic: Can we have our gators and skin them too? The answer is probably yes but just exactly how to harvest the crop without endangering the breeding stock will take some figuring. And that figuring is underway in a big way right now.

A research project on the gator was kicked off last summer to test several possible sets of harvesting methods and regulations to see which, if any, could be employed without hurting the gator population. This will provide a tentative answer on study areas. Information is badly needed on natural growth rates of gators; we need to know the age and size at which a female reaches prime reproductive condition; can gators be harvested by the public in some manner so that the females can be spared? For most of these questions the researchers need to be able to tell one gator from another. And that's where this story starts.

Alligators are marked three ways. At top, a hole drilled painlessly into the bony plate of the neck holds a numbered tag fitted in place by a pop rivet. Center photo: a hole punched, equally painlessly, through the tough hide of the tail accommodates another kind of tag. Just to be sure, the shallow inscription "GFC," which will ordinate the gator and show on a tanned hide, is branded on the belly.
The alligator languished its 10-foot, 300-pound bulk on the bleached, fallen cypress skeleton, basking in the early afternoon sun but keeping an alert eye on the approaching boat.

Upstream a half-mile near the Wakulla River’s birthplace, a slightly larger gator—all but its eyes and the tip of its mouth submerged beneath the rank, floating mass of aquatic vegetation—raised its armored head above the pickerel weed and wild celery and pond lilies and greeted the warmth with a resounding off-season bellow.

It was late October, the mercury had dipped to 32 degrees during the night, and as the temperature climbed toward the mid-70s—more respectable for northern Florida in autumn—these mighty reptiles were shaking their chill-inspired lethargy.

An answering boom down river reverberated up the corridor through the swamp like a roar of a jetliner on takeoff. And a trio of young crocodilians—three-footers—watched a trio of common gallinules patter over the pads near a burnished cypress knee. But there was little danger in the red-billed marsh birds’ close proximity to the alligators; the latter would be eating little or nothing from now to late March.

This was Wakulla Springs Wildlife Sanctuary, 4,000 Spanish moss festooned acres of unspoiled beauty on the Panhandle State’s Panhandle—and under the protective wing of the National Audubon Society. A graphic panorama of nature at its finest was unfolding as the flat-bottomed tour craft nosed into the channel through a cypress tangle dubbed “the jungle.” Here, Johnny Weismuller once swung (Continued on next page)

By LES LINE
National Audubon Society

Audubon Society Wildlife Warden Sam Smith, above, sounds by the sign marking entrance to Wakulla Springs, 14 miles south of Tallahassee on State Road 61, the Limpkin, left, or “Crying Bird,” seldom seen outside of Florida, is a common and friendly resident of this wildlife sanctuary.
through the trees on stout grape vines as Hollywood cameras ground out Tarzan epics.

But the tourist from up East was visibly puzzled. We were leaning over the bow, our photo lens focused on a green heron fishing with reddish neck outstretched, head cocked to one side and crest erect. In the stern sat Sam Smith of nearby Crawfordville, one of two full-time Audubon wildlife wardens assigned to Wakulla by the National Audubon Society.

"Why don't you get rid of some of these alligators?" queried the Long Islander. "Don't they eat a lot of birds and fish?"

Ahead of the boat, in the clear and uppolished waters of the Wakulla River, scores of big mullet scattered, some leaping a foot above the surface in their haste to escape. A flock of two dozen plus wood ducks—the males gashed in full regal plumage-winged through the maze of cypress trunks and landed almost within jaw's reach of the biggest alligator, by now stretched atop the green mat of emergent plants, its horny tail arched in a half-haste to escape. A flock of two dozen plus wood ducks—the males gashed in full regal plumage—winged through the maze of cypress trunks and landed almost within jaw's reach of the biggest alligator, by now stretched atop the green mat of emergent plants, its horny tail arched in a half-circle.

A pilate red-headed woodpecker flashed from bank to bank, its spectacular red crest translucent as it paused to rap its way up a live oak. Four blue-winged teal, drab in their fall eclipse moult, joined the woodies. And a conclave of coots kept to itself, while scattered pied-billed grebes piloted the main channel.

A shortage of wildlife, alligator-caused? "How about it, Sam," we injected, "think there're enough fish and birds here?"

His comment, as usual, was brief and to the point: "Yeah Man!"

Overhead, the sanctuary's circling, funereal court of buzzards—both turkey vultures with their warty red heads and black vultures with their definitive white wing patches—scattered at the screaming arrival of Wakulla's royalty, a pair of adult bald eagles, white heads and tails brilliant against the cloudless blue sky. Fish crowds noted the event with their brief, nasal "ca, ca," and a phoebe flitted nervously from one stub to another as the big predators' shadow passed. But two northern couples, who had stopped en route to their wintering grounds at Miami, missed the eagles' dramatic entry. They were peering intently through the glass bottom of another boat as Negro guide Luke Smith hovered the craft over horrid of lunker catfish milling in the crystal depths of Wakulla Springs.

A shortage of wildlife, alligator-caused?

What, obviously, had eluded the New Yorker was the significance of the scene he was viewing, this lesson in ecology on an unrestricted stage. For here was an area where the whole natural community lives in total harmony—in balance—an area where man is merely an appreciative spectator, not an intruder, a changer, a despoiler.

Indeed, nearly every wild inhabitant of the sanctuary is dependent upon its neighbor, lives on its neighbor—and has done so for centuries—in a dramatic display of predator-prey relationship.

Yet there is an overflowing bounty of fish and birds and reptiles and mammals in the Wakulla swamp...a bottomless cupboard, in reality, for other fish and birds and reptiles and mammals.

A careless rail which mistakes a dozing but hungry alligator for a knotty log might, certainly, vanish with a "keek" and a puff of feathers. But the crocodile has a varied appetite. An examination of the stomach contents of 149 'gators by federal biologists showed 47 percent of the food was crustaceans—shrimp, crabs, crawfish—where insects and spiders accounted for 23 percent and 29 percent were vertebrates, mainly fish, birds, snakes, turtles, mammals. One 12-footer—about as large as is found today after decades of ruthless persecution—is reported to have swallowed three whole pigs, each weighing about 30 pounds; and an 11-foot alligator was once witnessed killing a three-year-old cow.

Nonetheless the alligator is not without its own enemies, other than man. An unguarded nest of eggs is certain to be destroyed...by a raccoon, opossum, skunk, or perhaps a bear. Large fish devour many a young 'gator. And the black bear, like the cougar an occasional visitor to Wakulla Springs, has been known to best an adult alligator in a watery battle.

There is no hunting at Wakulla Springs Wildlife Sanctuary, nor fishing. "All animals and plants are fully protected," as rustic signs tell visitors and as metal posters warn would-be poachers. Federal and state game laws, further, are rigidly enforced by Audubon Wardens Sam Smith and Ed Gordon.

This is one of several National Audubon Society sanctuaries in Florida, and like the society's famed 6,000-acre Corkscrew Swamp near Naples, a Southern star among more than 25 such refuges from California to Texas to Maine. Largest of all is the 26,000-acre Rainey Sanctuary in Louisiana, near Abbeville. Others in Florida include areas at Kissimmee Prairie, Lake Okeechobee, Conroys Key and three on Tampa Bay.

The wildlife oasis at Wakulla Springs, 14 miles south of Tallahassee off state route No. 61, came under the National Audubon Society emblem and management three years ago when it was leased to the society for 50 years by the Wakulla Edgewater Company. The firm continues to operate the attractive lodge there—providing excellent rooms and food—plus the cruise boats. Its president, Florida industrialist Edward Ball, had long demanded that the area be left in its natural condition, that its ani

(Continued from preceding page)

(Continued on next page)
males be protected as a heritage for Florida residents and Florida visitors. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission had accorded the swamp itself sanctuary status for many years. Now, the entire 4,000-acre preserve is inviolate under state law.

Wakulla, in the tongue of the Seminole Indian, is said to mean "mysterious waters." And the stream itself has been dubbed "River of the Crying Bird." For here is heard, day and night, the piercing wail of its kind in the world, seen only rarely outside Florida.

This sizeable, unsuspicious and inconspicuous brown wader stalks the Wakulla River shallows hunting its choice food—a large and green freshwater snail, the shells of which are deposited by the dozen near favored limpkin feeding spots, usually a whitened log or a snag. The limpkin holds its head in one of its feet, strikes a few blows with its strong, serpentine neck protrudes above its wings (Continued from preceding page)
Everglades Showcase

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE those of us who live in south Florida shuddered at the insistent cry of our northern visitors: "Show us your Everglades! Show us your wildlife! We want to see the alligators!"

For until recently these requests had many of the unreasonable elements of the Labors of Hercules. Our Everglades is incredibly vast, and quite as elusive as the creatures of the Flying Tigers! For until recently these requests had many of the unreasonable elements of the Labors of Hercules. Our Torres are as elusive as the creatures of the Flying Tigers!

For our good, old Uncle Sam has for a dime! The leaflet describes the wonders of the Everglades and identifies them to correspond with numbered stopping-off places along the trail. That fabulous Sea of Grass, the Everglades, right looking south from the tower. Clumps of trees are "hammocks" or islands on which live most of the wildlife and the Glades Indian tribes.

The 35-foot-high observation tower at half way point, along the Loop Road, offers the visitor a magnificent view of Shark River Valley in the Everglades. A sign post at the entrance to the Loop Road invites visitors to borrow a leaflet or buy one for a dime! The leaflet describes the wonders of the Everglades and identifies them to correspond with numbered stopping-off places along the trail. That fabulous Sea of Grass, the Everglades, right looking south from the tower. Clumps of trees are "hammocks" or islands on which live most of the wildlife and the Glades Indian tribes.

By JOHN FIX

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The number of each species varies with the season of the year. The plants, having no mobility, are easy to see. Not so the shy wildlife of the Glades which, enveloped in its protective coloration, may be within easy reach but still invisible to any but the most patient and skilled observer.

The observation tower is a structure of modernistic design. Its concrete walkways spiral the visitor to a protected observation deck from which he has a breathtaking view of the Everglades and the headwaters of the Shark River which drains into the Gulf of Mexico through the Park. The great, watery wasteland is dotted with innumerable islands, or "hammocks," and on these islands live most of the wildlife and all the Indian inhabitants of the region. The Indians are descendants of the savages who fought so ferociously against the Whites during the Seminole Wars of the mid-nineteenth century and who, when defeated, fled to their present refuge in the Glades. The Everglades itself is not a swampland, but a mighty river of grass, never more than a few feet deep and fifty miles wide, flowing slowly southward from Lake Okeechobee, 160 miles to the north.

At the base of the observation tower is the park rangers' pride and joy, the PIECE DE RESISTANCE to a Loop Road tour; an old moat crawling with alligators. The moat is one that was dug and abandoned several decades ago by an overly-optimistic oil exploration crew. It is now the home of the fattest and friendliest 'gators in the Park. The ugly creatures have lost their fear of man and shamelessly beg cookies and potato chips, for which they reward with a heart-stopping snap of their powerful jaws.

You won't be able to hunt in the area of the Loop Road, and no fishing is permitted. Also, there is no provision for overnight camping, trailers or picnics. (Drinking water and rest-room facilities are available at the observation tower.) But a leisurely auto trip through America's last untouched wilderness will prove a rewarding experience for you and your guests.

What is more it will enable you to comply with those hitherto uncompliable requests: "Show us your Everglades! Show us your Wildlife! We want to see the alligators!"
UNUSUAL FOR DUCKS, the Wood Duck nests in holes in trees. The most important limiting factor governing Wood Duck populations is shortage of nesting places. Found throughout Florida the year 'round, this most colorful of all waterfowl will readily nest in properly built artificial homes in the form of man-made boxes. Conservation-minded individuals and groups can provide useful assistance by building next boxes for Wood Ducks.

By WALLACE HUGHES

Nesting Habits: Starting in the latter part of February, and on through early April, the female Wood Duck, along with her mate, will search for a place to nest. They will readily accept either a natural cavity in a tree or a stump, or an artificial nesting box, if available. After selecting a nesting place the female proceeds to line the floor with down packed from her breast, and begins egg laying. After the eggs are laid, an average of 8 to 15 eggs, incubation begins, the male will desert his spouse leaving her the sole duty of hatching the eggs and caring for the young. The incubation period is from 28 to 30 days.

Placing Nest Boxes: Proper location is an all-important factor when putting up nesting boxes. Tree bordered lakes, ponds or streams, and swampy wood areas are all home for the Wood Duck. For nesting sites they prefer large trees with spreading branches, and like to fly through an open canopy of branches and leaves when going to their nests. They also like to perch on large horizontal limbs at or near their nesting place. Put nest boxes 10 to 25 feet up on tree trunks which are situated in the water, at the water's edge, or within 80 to 100 yards from water. Where heavy wave action and strong currents will not push them over, boxes can be placed on piers in the water. Heights of boxes when over water need be only a few feet. Depending upon the duck population of the locality, erect boxes 50 to 100 yards apart, at a rate of not over four per acre. Check and clean out boxes at the end of each nesting season, preferably by the next January. If you need advice on where to put up nest boxes contact your nearest Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Office, see page 5.

*Sportsmen's Aid For Wood Ducks

Building Nest Boxes: The ideal artificial Wood Duck nesting box (D) was designed by Game Biologists of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois, after many years of experimenting. It is a galvanized, sheet metal cylinder with a removable metal cone top attached with screws, and a wood disk bottom. The interior is coatedock with a rough layer of automobile undercoating to aid the young ducks in climbing to the entrance hole. (F) A 1 x 3 inch board is fastened to the back of the box with screws or nails. This adds stability when the box is mounted on a tree trunk or pole. Size of the entrance hole (G) conforms to the body of the female duck, and also keeps out Raccoons. Keep measurements exact as shown. (A) Illustrates an excellent nest box made of cypress lumber. A strip of hardware cloth nailed below the entrance hole, on the inside, gives the ducklings a foothold when ready to climb out. The pyramid shaped roof (C) should overhang about 6 inches at the front, 24 inches at the sides, and 18 inches at the back. It should be covered smoothly with this sheet metal. (D) Shows method of attaching roof to box. Lip over at the back and lock with hook and eye fastener on the outside front. Area around the entrance hole should be covered with sheet metal (B) to repel Raccoons. To make it climbing-snake and slippery it is necessary to cover the box completely with sheet metal. (E) Shows method of fastening to tree trunk or pole. Use 4 to 6 inches long lag screw. Screw down tightly with speed handle socket wrench. Boxes should be filled with a 3 inch layer of sawdust, wood chips or shavings.

The Young Wood Duck—After hatching and as soon as their down is dry, usually about 24 hours, the young will leave the nest. Coosed on by the mother, baby woodies will leap from the entrance of the nest, one by one, to the ground or water below.

Although some nests are as high up as 60 feet, the young Wood Ducks can make the leap without injury. Some nests are located as much as one-half mile from water, in which case the ducklings will follow the mother crammed to the nearest water.

Photos by Karl Maslowski
Greetings for the New Year included an announcement by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission that the new Richloam Fish Hatchery had been completed. Located in the Withlacoochee State Forest, Sumter County, the new hatchery operations started during January with the first stock of brood bass.

The Richloam Fish Hatchery, one of the most modern hatchery facilities in the nation, is capable of producing an estimated 1,250,000 fingerling fresh water fish a year. The sixty acre hatchery site includes a total of thirty six separate spawning and holding ponds, five buildings, two deep wells and thousands of feet of pipe for draining and filling the ponds. Future plans provide for an additional twelve ponds when needed.

The search for a fish hatchery site was started during 1964 and resulted in a final selection of the Richloam area. The selected site meets all requirements for ideal hatchery conditions in soil, elevation, water and transportation. The soil is excellent for hatchery purposes with sufficient clay to core all ponds allowing a minimum of seepage as well as plenty of rich top soil for topping.

The water quality and quantity is outstanding and the two deep wells are capable of providing 1,560 gallons of water per minute. The location of the hatchery will allow rapid transportation of fish to almost any area of the state as the hatchery is within minutes of a major highway network.

The entire hatchery project is financed by the fishing improvement program created through a one dollar increase in the cost of resident fishing licenses in 1963. The one dollar is set aside in a special fund to be used only for projects designed to improve Florida’s fresh water fishing.

Construction of the new hatchery started in July 1965, and except for an occasional delay due to weather has proceeded ahead of schedule. Supervising the construction of the Richloam hatchery is A. D. Aldrich, former director of the Commission, who reports that not only is construction ahead of schedule but that the cost is below the anticipated construction expenditure of $106,750.

The new fish hatchery replaces the hatchery located at Winter Haven. The older facility was not adequate to meet the demands for increased production. The Richloam hatchery is not limited to production but may also be used for fishery research. Florida has for many years needed a facility (Continued on next page).
The 56 ponds cover a 21-acre area of excellent soil and clay mixture ideal for minimum seepage conditions. A complex of water controls provides the individual spawning and holding ponds with both filling and drainage lines.

(Continued from preceding page)

with drainable ponds to carry out certain research projects and any ponds not assigned for fish production may be put to research use.

The hatchery will be used to produce bass, shellcrackers, crappie, bluegill and channel catfish. At the present time Florida must obtain channel catfish fingerlings from out of state as existing hatcheries are unable to produce catfish. The Richloam facility will also be used to continue research with the exotic peacock bass which is presently limited to several restricted ponds in Dade County.

The Holt Fish Hatchery located in the Blackwater State Forest in northwest Florida is being expanded for increased production and will continue to be a major production site for game fish to be stocked in the fresh waters of northwest Florida.

Water State Forest in northwest Florida is being expanded for increased production and will continue to be a major production site for game fish to be stocked in the fresh waters of northwest Florida.

The 56 ponds cover a 21-acre area of excellent soil and clay mixture ideal for minimum seepage conditions. A complex of water controls provides the individual spawning and holding ponds with both filling and drainage lines.

Water Quantity: Two deep wells capable of supplying 1,550 gallons of water per minute.

Water Quality: Superior with only basic trace elements present.

Cost: Total estimated cost for hatchery construction and buildings $150,000. Present expenditure for hatchery construction $95,000.

Furnished: The Richloam Fish Hatchery is furnished by the fresh water fishermen of Florida through the Fishing Improvement Fund. This fund is maintained by one dollar from the sale of each three dollar resident fishing license and can be used only to improve Florida’s fresh water fishing.
mastic Everglades City, and from there out into the Gulf of Mexico to the entrance of Little Shark River, which will take you into Whitewater Bay and on into Flamingo on the very southern tip of the Florida peninsula.

This is wild country. And you have to have the available U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey charts to make this journey. These charts are available at any marine supply, and don't try to make this trip without them. You'll wind up cruis ing around those Ten Thousand Islands six years from now, or bashed up on an oyster bar somewhere in the depths of the Everglades. There aren't any Indians up in there to pull you free, either . . . only alligators, and unless you have a special rap port with these throw-backs to the Neanderthal age . . . get those charts!

Though in February the weather along the northern Florida sections can get a bit on the chilly side, there are many days when the atmosphere is as warm as a day in May. When these days occur, and they are quite fre quent, you might want to give thought to a cruise down Florida's famous Intracoastal Waterway from Fernandina to St. Augustine. Again, this is not a lengthy journey, but one that is completely different, in all probability, than any you may have made before. On this cruise, you can visit some of Florida's famous historical attractions, merely by pulling into any marina.

For example . . . your starting point in Fernandina will offer such historic spots as old Fort Clinch, Fort George Island, the old Kingley plantation, and many other sights . . . particularly the reconstructed fort has been carefully built, following the designs of the famous French artist LeMoyne, who lived at the fort during the period of French occupation. Just east of Fort Caroline is the marker commem orating the landing on the river of Jean Ribault, fa me. It is still as it was, with few modern addi tions, and as is alarming a town anyone can visit anywhere in the world.

From Apalachicola westward the intracoastal ca nal takes you to Panama City, the thriving sum mer resort town that is a mecca for land-locked sun seekers every year. Through Panama City on to Destin, a world-famous fishing town, old Fort Walton, stumping grounds of the infamous pi rate Billy Bowlegs, and into Pensacola, another historic city of Florida. As a matter of fact, Pensacola civic leaders will point to evidence that this fine port city was built before St. Augustine. Only trouble was, the non-thinking Spanish conquista dores built the original settlement on the sand spit called Santa Rosa island and a hurricane blew the village into Pensacola Bay way back around 1569. The city was rebuilt some years later on the land side where it now is mushrooming into one of the largest cities in the south. Perhaps the best cruise for our winter visitors, and natives alike for that matter, is through the Florida Keys. It would take this entire edition to explain in best detail all the attractions of cruising through the Keys, but it is a trip that no boater will ever forget. Sometimes in February the weather can kick up a bit, and cruising the rather open waters of the Keys would be indesirable, but nine days out of ten you can make it tolerable.

And the sights to see as you meander through those islands are almost indescribable. Start at Key Largo and cruise on down to Key West. There is no shortage of facilities, accommodations and attrac tions and it is a trip you'll never forget. This is merely a short round-up of some boating trips Florida visitors might want to make while in our sunshine for the winter months. The author will be happy to furnish additional, more detailed information upon request. Simply write. I don't mind.

With Americans going completely "a-go-go" over boating these days, many firms are coming out with new boating togs that are not only stylish but most useful.

Tom McKevitt, director of marketing for Style Crafters, Inc., sent some information and photographs about the South Carolina firm's newest boating togs, and there is just as much emphasis on clothing for the ladies as for the skippers.

The new sports togs feature everything from water-resistant shorts and skirts to heavy weather rain gear, and most of them are as colorful as the rainbow. These clothes are probably in your favorite store or marine supply shop right now. Look 'em over . . . bet there's something the lily will want there . . . for both of you.

Most boating fans know, Bob Brewer of Mor cony motors writes me, that the typical pleasure powerboat of today has planing hulls which means they skim, or plane, over the water's surface. However, there are other type hulls in general use. Here's some information which can increase your knowledge and enjoyment of boating.

Rowboats, sailboats, heavy commercial craft and all large ships float by settling into the water until they have displaced a volume of water equal to the weight of the boat. These are called displacement hulls.

When such boats are in motion, their bows push push the water aside. Understandably, there's a limit to how fast something as heavy as water can be pushed aside and speed up.

From experience, designers of displacement hulls know that such a boat cannot be pushed faster than about three times the square root of the waterline length. Now, figure that out, you "math" advocates! Thus, a 25-foot displacement hull has a top speed limit of around eight knots, and an 80-footer could be driven at 14.5 knots. I know this to be a fact, "cause back in World War II when I was in the Coast Guard, we had a coupl
A "court jester's" spoof of future waterfowl hunting regulations

THE SEASON
Opening September 2nd at 10:14 A.M.
Closing September 16th at 8:14 A.M.
Shooting will be allowed from 10:14 until noon on every other day during the season providing the wind velocity does not exceed 4 mph.

LIMITS
Bag limits are simplified this year. Two female coots may be taken or one male coot and one female sawbill. Hunters who have not taken one day's limit as explained above and after making a sworn statement to that effect in Federal Court may apply for a permit to kill one Spoonbill. Hunters will be notified when the Spoonbill quota is reached in each principal flyway. Due to the increase in Mallard ducks, one may be killed during the season, as 37 million were counted in Saskatchewan compared to a mere 31 million in Ontario. The hunter must not kill an Ontario Mallard. All Ontario Mallards have slightly jaundiced eyeballs which will be readily observed by watchful hunters. When a legal Mallard is killed it must be taken immediately to the capital of the state in which you live for proper identification by the State Conservation Corps who will also provide the picking and cleaning permit ($2).

GEESE
No species of geese can be taken except in Leap Year. Shooting will be allowed on the first Monday following the second Wednesday of November from noon until 2 p.m. if the cloud cover does not exceed 7/10ths of the sky.

BLINDS AND CLOTHING
A blind will consist of three branches from local trees or bushes and the butt end may be no larger than the hunter's thumb. Club blinds, wherein members rotate between blinds, must use the thumb of the smallest member for measurement of all blinds. Blinds must be a minimum of 41 yards from any vegetation.

As in recent years, all wearing apparel (boots, pants, coat, gloves) must be either Highway Yellow, Hawaiian Blue or Stop-light Red. The Official Government "Keep 'em Flying" cap with the battery operated blinker light on the bill is mandatory and may be purchased at any post office.

Wardens have been instructed to search hunters for the three spare batteries which are also mandatory because of the "dead battery" excuses of last year.

GUNS AND AMMUNITION
All gauges up to and including 28 gauge. Any length harred. Stocks, however, may not exceed 3 inches in length.

CALLING REGULATIONS
Manufactured duck calls, mouth actuated, are illegal again this year. Due to the high degree of proficiency attained by a number of hunters in imitating ducks by voice alone it is necessary to place some minor restrictions on this activity. Any hunter or guide or pusher who shall endeavor to attract wildfowl by emitting misleading sounds by mouth must hold in his oral cavity not less than two bronze ball bearings while so doing. To avoid hardship, should either or both balls be spit out or swallowed during the shoot, continued calling by mouth will be considered legal if each imitated utterance is interspersed with the cry "Powder River" uttered in the same degree of sound intensity.

THE HUNTER-WARDEN RELATIONSHIP
Remember that the warden is your friend! This year, to promote fellowship, you need not call state wardens "Sir." Only the Federal wardens are thus addressed (PL 1093-Sec. A-506). You will, of course, share your refreshments with these jolly fellows so that they may, in a more informal atmosphere, check your license, your citizenship papers, Wassermann rating, certified net worth, fingerprints, church affiliation, political donations and IQ.

IN CONCLUSION
When in doubt about regulations, be sure and take your lawyer to the blinds with you.

Author Unknown

Waterfowl Hunting Rules For 1970?

Florida Wildlife

February, 1966

31
Gulf Coast Beaches

Why are the beaches on the northern Florida coast whiter than those on the southern coast? Paul H. Unverzagt, park attorney at John C. Beasley State Park, near Fort Walton Beach, was asked this question by tourists so many times he decided to find out the answer.

Unverzagt said the University of Miami Marine Laboratory explained to him that the northern beaches are composed of a white quartz sand, but the sand is mixed with tiny fragments of shells and coral.

The Laboratory said that the shell fragments were located in the center of the northern Florida beaches, whereas on northwestern Florida beaches, the shell fragments were more easily moved up on the beach by wave action.

The Laboratory explained to him that the northern beaches have more sand and less mud, whereas the southern beaches have more mud and less sand. The Laboratory told him that the shell fragments were more common to the northern beaches. It also told him that the shell fragments were more common to the northern beaches.

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Wildlife Officer Law Enforcement Report
Statewide Arrests For 1965
By BRANTLEY GOODSON, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Florida Wildlife Officers chalked up more than 5,000 arrests during 1965, enforcing the fresh water fishing, hunting, and boating laws, under the jurisdiction of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

As 1965 came to a close, nearly one-third of the 5,347 cases were still pending action in the county courts. More than 3,000 cases reached final disposition as "convictions," with an average sentence of $57.25 fine by the county judges.

Seven convictions carried jail sentences ranging from overnight to five months duration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunting Violations</th>
<th>Arrests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunting License &amp; Management Area Permits</td>
<td>395</td>
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<tr>
<td>Night Hunting, Gun and Light</td>
<td>493</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegal Deer or Turkey Hunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegal Quail or Squirrel Hunting</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alligator Hunting, or Possession of Hides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Migratory Bird or Waterfowl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (guns in refuges, unplugged guns, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Fishing Violations</th>
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<td>Fishing License</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegal Transportation, Fresh Water Fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegal Taking of Fresh Water Fish</td>
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<td>Over the Bag Limit</td>
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<td>Registration</td>
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<td>Operation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Arrests</strong></td>
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<th>Type of Tackle</th>
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<td>Artificial</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Bait</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total cases tried, convictions** 3,268
**Total cases pending (Dec. 31, 1965)** 1,378

**Dismissals and Acquittals** 701
**Settled in court by plea of guilty, or convicted by jury trial.

**Several cases bound over to Federal Court for disposition; in several instances the cases represent juvenile arrests, and these minors were released to the parents and required to write a theme on conservation.**

**Total Amount of Fines** $187,095.50
**Average Amount of Fine Per Conviction** 57.25

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**FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION**

In 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
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)**
  - 1½ pounds or larger
- **SHELLCRACKER**
  - 2 pounds or larger
- **BLACK CRAPPIE**
  - 2 pounds or larger
- **RED BREAST**
  - 1 pound or larger

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

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

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK
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Tallahassee, Florida

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