OCTOBER 1966
V. 20 NO. 5
1966 HUNTING REGULATIONS
MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS
- OTHER THAN WATERFOWL.

- Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

WILSON'S SNIPE
ALSO CALLED JACK SNIP
SEASON- NOVEMBER 12
TO DECEMBER 31
SHOOTING HOURS FROM
SUNRISE TO SUNSET 6
DAILY LIMIT - 5
POSSESSION LIMIT - 10

WOODCOCK
SEASON- NOVEMBER 12 TO DECEMBER 31
- EXCEPT NORTHWEST REGION WHICH IS
NOVEMBER 19 TO DECEMBER 31
SHOOTING HOURS FROM
SUNRISE TO SUNSET 6
DAILY LIMIT - 10
POSSESSION LIMIT - 20

DOVE
SEASONS - OCTOBER 1 TO
NOVEMBER 6
NOVEMBER 19 TO DECEMBER 4
DECEMBER 17 TO JANUARY 2, 1967
SHOOTING HOURS-12 NOON TO SUNSET 6
DAILY LIMIT - 15
POSSESSION LIMIT - 30

MARSH HENS
(RAILS & SALLINULES)
SEASON- SEPTEMBER 17
TO NOVEMBER 25
DAILY LIMIT - 15
POSSESSION LIMIT - 30

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

The Florida Black Bear, a heavy beast often weighing four hundred pounds or more, has a general brownish-black coat. There are usually tan markings about the nose and face, and a white "patch" will sometimes appear on the breast.

OCTOBER, 1966

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Early History of Florida Deer
Sawgrass Fishing
Hunting Regulations 1966-1967
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The Cover
The Florida Black Bear, a heavy beast often weighing four hundred pounds or more, has a general brownish-black color. There are usually tan markings about the nose and face, and a white "patch" will sometimes appear on the breast.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes
CONSERVATION SCENE

A COUNTY-STATELAND-BASED cooperative program to provide local leaders with facts and techniques needed to help community outdoor recreation demands has been announced by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

The program will be made possible under a cooperative agreement just reached between the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation of the Department of the Interior and the National Association of Counties Research Foundation, which has headquarters in Washington, D. C. Secretary Udall said the agreement reflects the Federal Government's continued concern with providing adequate outdoor recreation facilities close to population concentrations.

Under the new County-Federal program, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation will contribute $20,000 and the National Association of Counties Research Foundation, will gather information on successful local outdoor recreation leadership methods and tabulate it in a series of 10 recreation leadership guidebooks, and participate with the Federal agency in conducting a series of 30 local training institutes for policy-making public officials and other community leaders.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation holds responsibility for providing technical assistance in outdoor recreation to the States, their political subdivisions, and to private interests.

"There is no question that local governments must satisfy a large part of the Nation's outdoor recreation requirements," Secretary Udall said. "This is going to call for local state and local make of the highest order, both on the part of elected officials who set recreation policy and head of private recreation and conservation organizations who influence it.

"This new cooperative project between the counties organization and the Federal Government is specifically tailored to provide the kind of assistance which local and community leaders need if they are to cope successfully with local recreation needs."

Treasure Fleet Park

A VALUABLE 300-foot oceanfront site on Highway A1A just south of Sebastian Inlet in Indian River County has been deeded to McLarty by the state's marine archaeologists for preservation by the state.

The donor, who has extensive real-estate holdings in Brevard county, has previously made donation of other of his properties in the now booming Cape Kennedy area.

He has donated 20 acres to the city of Rockledge for a park; three acres to the city of cocoa Beach for a civic auditorium, and in the vicinity of the Bok Mountain Lake Guide

PUBLICATION OF A FREE visitor's guide to the nature trail at the Mountain Lake Sanctuary has been announced by Kenneth D. Peterson, director of the Sanctuary. Each car entering the Sanctuary is now being given a complimentary copy of the experimental 12-page guide, illustrated by well-known nature artist Roger Tory Peterson. Numbered sections in the booklet are keyed to 42 numbered signs along the trails to, and in the vicinity of, the Bok Singing Tower.

Visitor reaction to this innovation has been enthusiastic, as (Continued on page 34)

Field Facts Concerning Snake Bite Precautions

A POPULAR theory that a snake will hypnotize is sheer fiction. A snake may fascinate wildlife and people, but it cannot hypnotize them, nor does every bite mean certain death.

According to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, increased outdoor activity also increases the chances of encounters with snakes and every person should be well versed in information pertaining to snakes, their habits, identification, habitat and the first aid method for treating snake bite.

O. E. Frye, Commission Director, was the first advice of the outdoor lover is to try to avoid all snakes, if possible. Most snakes will try to avoid humans and will strike usually only when they are surprised or cornered. He outlined a few simple precautions that will help eliminate the danger of snake bite.

1. Wear boots or leggings when in the woods or fields.
2. Wear pants leg outside the boot, to help deflect the aim of a striking snake.
3. Tuck mosquito bar under the boot, when camping on the ground.
4. Carry a snakebite kit and learn how to use it.
5. Don't put hands, face or other parts of the body into dark crevices, under stones or logs.
6. Don't step over a log; step around it.
7. Don't try to catch, examine, photograph or disturb poisonous snakes.
8. Be careful of other snakes outlining methods of dealing with snakes.

A free pamphlet on Florida snakes outlining methods of dealing with snakes, is available upon request to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fl., 32304.

Does It Equal Maturity?

Sophistication

By ERNEST SWIFT
National Wildlife Federation

A NATIONAL affluent has been gradually supplanting the forthright simplicity of yesterday with a new image of sophistication, in part sincere and in part false. Some would have us believe that simplicity is nothing more than raw adolescence, and that sophistication is a sign of maturity and of necessity, covered with a patchwork of cynicism. As a matter of fact, true maturity is the epitome of simplicity.

In reaching a new millennium in gracious living and body comforts through our technological genius and automation, we are being confronted with such problems as exploding populations, a shortage of towns, urban sprawl, little lands to contain big wars, a longed-for peace, escalating taxes, a diminishing water supply, a search for nonrenewable minerals beyond our borders, and increased space for recreation. These and all accumulations of our pseudo-sophistication which we cannot sweep under the rug. Secretly we are becoming more frightened than we wish to admit, which proves that our sophistication is not mature.

To allay this fright we are now being told that we "never had it so good," but no one prophecies for how long. And few if any speak out to say that we must control our demands in relation to available resources. This is a fundamental which can only be temporarily ignored.

Except for certain extremists the American public has recognized the industrial use of resources as the foundation of its affluence. In spite of past mistakes we have gradually learned that good husbandry of land and forests is necessary for a continued prosperity. We are fast waking up to the fact that water conservation may have even a greater priority.

Now a new dimension of use is being added—land and water for recreation. By some quirk of thinking in the past we have placed industrial uses in one category and recreation in another, but fail to realize that the same resources must furnish both. There is also a national frenzy that we will run out of open spaces for recreation—which has a certain truth in some regions—but it has produced too much off-the-cuff planning.

The demand for still higher standards of living has now become so intense that it is boggling to even cast a doubt on our ability to meet these standards. Today a broad and varied pattern of land and water use for recreation is considered necessary to these high living standards—as much as food and clothing were a few decades ago. All this stems from a new leisure which has been thrust upon people more rapidly than they can handle. This leisure has developed an arrogant look, but often false sophistication. People will never wake up to the fact that the goods they demand from the industries come from resources they wish to preserve in a pristine form for future recreation.

Some people will never wake up to the fact that the goods they demand from the industries come from resources they wish to preserve in a pristine form for future recreation.

(Continued on page 34)
Annual Boat-A-Cade

Power Squadron training courses are designed to promote skill and safety in a variety of boating programs

By ELGIN WHITE

You know, skipper. I sorta wish I was in the houseboat business!

I'll bet since I penned the first words about houseboating in Florida WILDLIFE some months ago, I have received umpteen letters, cards, and even phone calls on where houseboats can be rented, purchased, looked-at, scoured at, or just drooled over.

At the time of the first writing, I told about the Terra-Marina houseboating plan being started by Carroll Norkork over in Deland. Far as I know, Carroll is still working on it and if there are any further questions about houseboating, contact Carroll . . . she'll be glad to hear from you.

Another fine houseboating deal now in operation is being handled in Surfside 6, Inc., of Kissimmee, which deals in houseboat rentals for as little as overnight or as long as a week. You can even rent 'em for as long as four weeks or more, and the rate of rental is very fair, considering you're getting a whopper of a houseboat, 30' in length and completely equipped with everything boating enthusiasts will need. All you need to bring is yourself and grub.

Surfside 6 sounds like a good idea to me. With the beautiful pool (small extra charge for youngsters), free evening movies every other week, featuring showings on interesting naval subjects as well as general theatrical movies.

Free informal evening get-togethers every other week—featuring lectures and discussions on boating and fishing subjects.

Special interest activities throughout the year, featuring a $2,000 cash and merchandise fishing tournament, rendezvous parties with neighboring yacht clubs, formal and informal dance events, swimming parties, fish fries and barbecues, fashion shows and card parties, and luncheon get-togethers.

If anything is left out, I don't know how Helen says this thing is bigger than both of us, and knowing Helen, I'll believe it! If you're a true boatman on Florida's west coast and haven't been by to see Maximo Moorings, you're missing a bet. It is a pretty scrumptious lay-out, I'll tell ya.

O.K. . . . crank up the knowledge box.

There are so many questions coming our way on proper ways to do this, and what are the rules on that, etc., that we have decided, through the splendid cooperation of Dick Husband of the Tallahassee Power Squadron, to hold a lil' quiz to test your boating knowledge.

Questions are to be answered by interested boatmen, and forwarded to me. Skipper, let's see if you know as much about the rules of boating as you think you do. No fair cheatin'!

John Crouse of Sea Talk in Miami sends forth the following information on the up-coming Miami International Boat Show, scheduled for the Dinner Key Auditorium on Biscayne Bay February 17-22, 1967.

"The giant display of marine products and services is already booked solid with an estimated $30,000,000 worth of exhibits expected to fill the show's 150,000 square feet of display area and dockside space.

"Last year's Miami show set an all-time attendance record of 161,109 visitors while having to turn away some 100 exhibitors because of a shortage of room."

Reflected in this magnificent boat show . . . I recall the first Miami Boat Show was held way back in 1937 in a tent on Biscayne Boulevard in downtown Miami, and there was a grand total of 15 exhibitors on hand and not many more spectators.

An indication of the general health of the marine industry is the fact that most of the show's 'regulars' have requested additional display area for the 1967 event. The requests had to be turned down because of lack of display area. I have said for the past couple of years, this Miami show is going to have to seek new quarters. Dinner Key is a fine spot for an international boat show, but this thing is getting so large the auditorium, even with supplemental tenting, just can't hold all the equipment exhibitors want to display.

Getting back to Power Squadrons for a moment, Dick Husband, Educational Officer for Talahassee Power Squadron, came by to spell out some of the things these fine organizations do for boating throughout the country.

There are more than 340 squadrons in the U. S. Power Squadron organization throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and the Canal Zone, plus Okinawa, Japan and Puerto Rico.

These squadrons hold regular classes on all aspects of boating. The courses feature lectures on Safety Afloat, Seamanship, Small Boat Handling, Equipment and Government Regulations, Rules of the Road, Aids to Navigation, the Mariner's Compass and Charts and Piloting.

Husband says about 125,000 boatmen a year take these courses. U. S. Power Squadrons now number 65,000 members, who obtain membership by invitation only. And the only way you can become a member is to pass the PS course of instruction.

In addition to the courses listed above, advanced courses are available for members only, including instructions on boat construction, advanced piloting, and navigation. Elective courses include weather, marine electronics, engine maintenance, and sailing.

So, you can see Power Squadrons cover the whole spectrum of seamanship from bow to stern. The prime purpose of any U. S. Power Squadron is EDUCATION ... learning to operate a boat safely and skillfully.

There are 30 squadrons in Florida in the three designated districts—west coast, south-east, and north-east coasts.

Any person sincerely interested in good boating habits all year 'round in our state could do well to become interested in joining a power squadron. They do a tremendous job.

This month of October brings about one of Florida's truly great boating adventures—the annual Kissimmee Boat-A-Cade. The 18th annual extravaganza, which will start at Kissimmee, on Lake Tohopekaliga (say it) October 20. The cruise will run down the lake, and the Kissimmee River, to Lake Okeechobee. First night out the more than 600 persons who will be on the Boat-A-Cade will "rough it" on the banks of the river near the Avon Park bombing range, which, hopefully, will not be in use that night.

The second night will be at Belle Glade, a small, quiet town.
(Continued from preceding page)

hostile community on the south end of Lake Okechobee. The third night will be spent at Fabulous River Ranch Acres, where Gulf American Land Corporation has built a modern, recreation area including a motel, marina, rec hall and other facilities. Everything there has been turned over to the adventurous ones for the night. This is sorta like the “kick off” of aquatic togetherness. It is inspired by a new hospitable community on the south end of Lake Okechobee.

I recall having made this trip several years ago, and unless you’re in the mood to have a good time —forget it. People from all over the nation converge on Kissimmee for this bash. Tourists bringing their boats in from as far away as Idaho show up for their annual winter stay in Florida early enough to make this cruise. This is sorta like the “kick off” of aquatic togetherness. It is inspired by a new hospitable community on the south end of Lake Okechobee.

Boating wise, though, the kids have come up with what they call Zip Dating, and it ain’t got a thing to do with Post Office!

Zip Dating is a sorta “wet Watusi,” and a form of aquatic togetherness. It is inspired by a new product from Union Carbide called a “Zip Sled.”

Highly buoyant, the novel craft is 54 in. long and built for water skiing, aquaplaning, zip sledding, surfing and water toboogeaning.

The light-weight but sturdy Zip Sled is made of “blow-molded” polyethylene, and won’t break or crumble.

And my, how it encourages “togetherness!” It’ll cost you $24.95 for one. If you’re interested, write Consumer Products Division of Union Carbide Corp., 570 Park Avenue in New York.

It may be just me, or have you noticed it, too? Seems the day of “cowboying” on the water is getting to be passe. I sure hope so. But in recent months I have noticed less and less hot-rodding of boats on the waterway, particularly in small river areas, where such tactics can be downright dangerous.

I think a lot of it has to do with education. Many youngsters who are driving boats, whether their own or Pop’s, have taken heed to the advice that is being distributed quite liberally in the Florida Youth Boating Safety Campaign that was organized at the suggestion of Governor Burns and implemented through the cooperation of the Florida Boating Council and the various sheriff’s offices.

There is no greater pleasure in the world than boating, and with the waterways getting sorta crowded, adherence to common sense and propriety will do more to make boating the number one participation sport in the world than anything else. It is getting to that point now, and careful drivers on the water will mean assured safety for all of us. I’m no fuddy-duddy, but to me safe boating shouldn’t have to be preached. It should come naturally.

The QUEST BOX

Test your boating knowledge. Answer the following questions, referring to the chart of your ability, tear out and return to Elgie White, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla., 32310. Deadline for returning questionnaire is November 1, 1966.

1. The forward end of a vessel is called the _______.
2. The right hand side facing forward is _______.
3. The left side facing forward is _______.
4. The breadth of a vessel is _______.
5. When you descend into a vessel, you go _______.
6. Openings in the ship’s sides for the admission of light and air are called _______.
7. A speed of a nautical mile per hour is called a _______.
8. A nautical mile is _______.
9. How many statute miles are in a nautical mile? _______.
10. Two very popular patented anchors having excellent holding power for their weight are _______.
11. One fathom is equal to _______.
12. A temporary knot which serves the purpose of an eye splice is called _______.
13. The slogan of the U.S. Coast Guard is _______.
14. Sculling of the hull against a wharf or float is prevented by means of _______.
15. When entering a small boat, you should step over as near as possible _______.
16. Small children should always wear a _______.
17. In case of “Man Overboard” from a motorboat, the first thing a passenger or member of the crew should do is _______.
18. The international distress call on the radio telephone is _______.
19. When taking gasoline on board, all doors, windows and hatches must be _______.
20. Never attempt to start the engine until you have checked the level._______.
21. In outboard boats, any additional supplies of gasoline should be carried in approved _______.
22. Name two types of fire extinguishers which are approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. _______.
23. As a personal life saving device, all motor boats must carry U.S. Coast Guard approved life preservers. How many are required when there are _______.
(a) four people aboard? _______.
(b) eight people aboard? _______.
24. Any person operating a pleasure boat recklessly in violation of any provision of the Federal Motor Boat Act may be subject to a fine of _______.
25. Name five items that are NOT REQUIRED by the Motor Boat Act, but which should be aboard _______.
26. The American Emlon is flown aboard ship from _______.
27. The yacht club flag is generally flown _______.
28. On an outboard with bow and stern staffs only, the Yacht Club pennant is flown from the _______.
29. Is a vessel legally responsible for damage caused by her wash? _______.
30. What is the 18 foot outboard used on tidal waters be licensed? _______.
31. If after leaving marina docks and before leaving the marina, should the skipper of the boat _______.
32. When towing a dinghy against an anchorage, ensure _______.
33. How is a vessel legally responsible for damage caused by her wash? _______.
34. On an outboard with bow and stern staffs only, the Yacht Club pennant is flown from the _______.
35. The fundamental object of the Rules of the Road is to _______.
36. The Dinger Zone is the area from _______.
37. A sailboat, under sail alone, has the right of way over a powerboat at all times, except when _______.
38. In case of collision at sea, each vessel must stand by until it is definitely certain that the other vessel is _______.
39. What is a cross signal? _______.
40. The underhand light signal is colored _______.
41. During what period must lights be used _______.
42. How are cones used _______.
43. Odd Numbers distinguish the _______.
44. A red sector in a light indicates an area of _______.
45. Basically the small boat compass is _______.
46. A compass is usually housed in a _______.
47. Lines representing Meridians of Longitude on a chart _______.
48. The charted depths of water are measured from _______.
49. The vertical rise and fall in a body of water is called _______.
50. The horizontal flow of water is called _______.

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50. The horizontal flow of water is called _______.
THE WHITE-TAILED DEER

Early History in Florida

By ELIZABETH S. WING
Assistant Curator, Natural Sciences
Florida State Museum, University of Florida

White-tailed Deer is the largest and most abundant big game mammal native to Florida and as such has always been of importance in relation to man. This relationship has by no means been static but rather has changed with historical changes that have taken place. In prehistoric times, deer was a most important item in the Indian diet and extensive use was made of its skeleton and hides. During colonial times the colonists, particularly the English, affected the relationship between man and deer by the promotion of trade in which the currency was deer hides. As Florida has become more densely populated, its economy has changed. Domesticated animals have largely replaced deer as a food item and hides have lost their importance in trade. As a result of these changes, deer have become a managed resource for recreation.

This changing relationship between deer and man is traced very briefly in this article.

Before Florida was discovered by Europeans, it had been inhabited for centuries by Indians. These Indians lived in a wilderness which hoof, humped and fascinated white man. Three major territorial plant associations interpreted by various aquatic situations made up this wilderness. These will be discussed briefly as they are important in influencing the settlements of men and concentrations of deer.

The terrestrial situations may be divided into upland forests, hammock lands, and pine flatwoods. The dry upland forests are composed of patches of scrub characterized by saw pine, dwarf trees and shrubs including various types of oaks and the more widely distributed highpine association made up of longleaf pine, oaks, saw palmetto, and wire grass. This latter has been widely timbered for pine.

The hammock or mixed hardwood forest generally has rich soils. Its plant associations differ according to their soil moisture, however, typically they are not as dry as the upland forest nor as wet as the flatwoods.

Flatwoods generally have an impermeable layer in their soil which results in poorly drained areas, alternately dry or flooded. The flatwoods main plan association is pine with wire grass or saw palmetto. The aquatic situations include streams, ponds, lakes, marshes, bayheads, and swamps. Florida being principally underlain by limestone, the depressions that may be filled with water are largely the result of solution and collapse of the limestone.

Man and deer, just as all living things, prefer certain habitats which best meet their need for year-round food and water sources and shelter or cover. In Florida, man seems to have preferred the river banks and coastal locations until he began to depend heavily on agriculture at which time the richer farmland was best. Deer also have enough oaks and other animal is present in all sites and remains of few animals are as abundantly represented as deer is in some sites. Deer had many uses to the Indians. Of foremost importance deer provided food. Furthermore, the hides had a multitude of functions as clothing, raw hide, and bags (fason) for their own use and as a very important trade item to European colonists.

Various processes were used for tanning hides and in many cases deer brains were one of the tanning ingredients. Worked bone and antler are often recovered from archeological sites. The longest bone, the lowest bone of the foot, was most often used to make pins and feather holders as well as other ornaments and tools. Antler, being resilient yet tough, was important for working flint into arrow and spear points.

Early travelers in Florida have described some of the various hunting methods used by the Indians. One method is portrayed in an engraving of a painting done by Jacques LeMoyne, a French artist who lived at Fort Caroline near Jacksonville in 1564. This picture shows three Indians each under deer skins complete with antlered heads and each carrying a bow and arrow confronting three bucks across a stream. Stalking deer with disguise and arrow confronting three bucks across a stream. Stalking deer with disguise and arrow confronting three bucks across a stream.

The illustration at right, and those appearing on pages 12 and 13, are from paintings made in 1564 by artist Jacques le Moyne, and reproduced through the courtesy of author Sedan Lanier, from his book "The New World" (Ooll). Portrayed at the right is an early method of hunting used by the Indians. The three Indians under deer skins, complete with antlered heads, are stalking buck deer across a stream.

The artifacts shown below were all excavated by Frank Cushing at the Key Marco site, on Marco Island, Fla. At left, from the top: a quartered metatarsal; leather holder; pin with flat-topped middle; and bone harpoon. Two points, probably deer bone, and object from metatarsal. At right, from the top: thickest shaped into a point; metatarsal with groove on either side, preparatory to splitting; posterior half of metatarsal turned into a spool; and quartered metatarsal.
the early chronicles. During certain seasons, January in central Florida, fires were set to drive the deer toward waiting hunters or to surround deer with fire so that they might be easily caught when trying to escape.

From the evidence collected from Indian sites, it would seem that Indians were taking kills comparable to other natural predators of deer in that relatively few deer in their prime years were taken. As hunting pressure increased to meet the demands of trade with the colonists more and more prime animals were taken until there was no age class which was even relatively immune to loss from hunting.

The study of the deer remains excavated from Indian sites also reveals some evidences of butchering and cooking techniques which may have been used. The explanation which best accounts for the parts of the deer skeletons that are missing, damaged, or burned from at least one large Indian site in Florida is that the Indians quartered the carcasses and roasted each quarter.

Another one of Le Moyne’s drawings depicts a scene of Indians smoking carcasses of various sorts. A rack was erected over a smoky fire and across the rack lie complete unskinned carcasses of alligator, snake, fish, and a skinned but otherwise intact deer. It seems questionable that they would not have prepared the animals further before smoking them. According to Le Moyne, these smoked meats were stored for use during the winter months.

Insight into the importance of deer to the Indians is given in the description and picture also by Le Moyne of a ceremony in which the deer played a central part. "Every year, just before spring, Chief Osceola’s subjects take the skin of the largest stag, with its horns still on, and stuff it with choicest roots that grow there. On its horns, neck, and body they hang long garlands of the best fruits. Thus decorated, it is carried with music and song to an open, level place and hung on a high tree with its head and breast towards the sunrise."

There is also archeological evidence for ceremonial treatment of deer in the carved and painted south Florida sites.

Indians even increased during colonial times as de Leon, there followed a very turbulent period of problems, probably did not affect peninsula Florida to a great extent.

The principal item of trade was deer hides for use as leather as opposed to fur and as late as the 1750’s deer hides brought greater returns than all other commodities combined. The volume of trade fluctuated greatly with the luck of the hunters, numbers of traders, and intertribal and international warfare. The trade was lighter from St. Augustine, where in 1711 only four thousand pounds of hides were traded, than from Pensacola where during the same year the combined export from Pensacola and Mobile was 250,000 pounds of hides. The annual export from Charles Town between 1739 and 1742 was from 131,000 pounds to 355,000 pounds and from Georgia between 1765 and 1772 was more than 200,000 pounds.

This represents quite an impressive volume of trade as the average hide weighs one and one-half pounds. It is hard to judge the effect that this hunting had on the deer population but locally it must have represented a heavy pressure and diminished the herds. An early writer (1682) said “There is such infinite herds that the whole Country seems to be covered with them.”

These exports represent a great slaughter and the effect of trade as the average hide weighs one and one-half pounds. It is hard to judge the effect that this hunting had on the deer population but locally it must have represented a heavy pressure and diminished the herds. An early writer (1682) said “There is such infinite herds that the whole Country seems to be covered with them.”

The important place of deer in the lives of the Indians even increased during colonial times as deer was the foremost article of trade with the colonists.

After the discovery of Florida in 1513 by Ponce de Leon, there followed a very turbulent period of colonization. The Spanish colonization of Florida was challenged by the French who gained control of the land west of Florida and by the English who were in control to the north. The Spanish policy in dealing with the Indians was based on religion and agriculture. Missions spread from the two settled centers, St. Augustine and Pensacola. At these missions deer and other wild game in addition to domesticated animals were used as food.

This Spanish-Indian system came into conflict with the English system which was based solely on trade. The English system prevailed when Florida was ceded to England in 1762. Frontire trade was a rigorous business for both the traders and their clientele. The distances between trading posts and the main trading centers of St. Augustine, Pensacola, Mobile, and Charles Town were great.

The position of Fish and Game warden became state supported in 1905. The warden was without a conservation program but had to carry out successive legislation enacted and repealed by the legislators under the pressures of various groups.

One of these pressure groups was composed of ranchers who were losing a great deal of money through loss of cattle from "Texas Cattle Fever." At the turn of the century the vector of this disease, a tick, was discovered. A tick eradication program based on dipping livestock was put into effect. Repeated outbreaks of the disease in areas where it had been eradicated implicated deer as reservoirs for the disease. This started a program for deer slaughter and between 1957 and 1959 more than 9,000 deer were killed although in other areas of the southeast and on the Seminole Indian Reservation in South Florida the fever tick was eradicated without the elimination of deer. This raised serious doubts that the slaughter of deer which took such a terrible toll was necessary. Through intensive research and wise management of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission such needless waste has been prevented.

The growth of population and expansion of industry which results in habitat destruction is the other serious limitation on the deer herd in Florida. A program based on research and the development of management practices and their implementation is essential to the maintenance of this and other wildlife resources.
South Florida's new fishing centers have "opened the door" to many unique fresh water angling sites

I STILL FEEL LIKE a tourist when I go fresh water fishing in South Florida, even after 15 years of splashing around down there. You'll never learn it all and you'll never meet anyone else who knows all of it either. Add to this the fact changes faster than a chorus girl's hair style and you'll have a basis for plenty of fishing arguments with both sides in the right.

Over near the East Coast in the Loxahatchee management area there's an ultra modern fishing headquarters and tackle shop. The other day I peeked into the display freezer with which they tantalize fishermen by exhibiting outstanding catches and noted that it contained a tarpon. I commented that I didn't know they caught tarpon back in there, after which we went fishing and found some but they didn't want a bass bug that day.

While my wife and I caught some bass and bream I knowingly explained to her that some of Florida's best bass fishing is in the South but that the fish run small. On the way back from our excursion we stopped at the tackle shop again and noted they had added a freshly caught, 12-pound 2-ounce bass to the display, so I guess they don't run TOO SMALL.

That's sawgrass country and most of the fishing is done in canals built for flood control, or along roads for the removal of highway fill. Stories of boats and swamp buggies operating in the sawgrass wastes of the Everglades have led potential fishermen to believe only a sportsman built-in radar or Seminole Indian blood would venture into the fishing country. That's completely wrong because most of the fish caught are taken in waters easily reached by boat and very close to paved highways. If you have a complex about civilization you never need to get out of sight of the traffic and getting lost would take serious effort on those ditches.

The water is so well sheltered that almost any boat is large enough. Small motors are satisfactory and there's plenty of fishing with no motor at all. For that matter, you can fish from the bank on hundreds of miles of road side waterways and your catch is unpredictable. Often an angler with his heart set on a mess of bream has encountered a king-sized snook or some other salt water torpedo 30 or more highway miles from Gulf or ocean and I once observed a lady tourist in a picture hat who caught a 50-pound tarpon while canepoling for warmouth. She then concluded her fishing, looking apprehensively back at the canal while returning the remains of her tackle to the car.

Biggest news in South Florida fresh water fishing right now are the three new fishing centers operated with the blessing of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Flood Control District.

They are the Holiday, Sawgrass and Loxahatchee "camps" and all of them are nearly new. The tackle stores, boat liveries, lunch facilities and gasoline pumps are operated as concessions with approval of the government agencies and anybody who figures a "fish camp" is a sort of miniature waterfront slum should have a look at these sharp installations.

The Loxahatchee headquarters and landing are located just west of U.S. 441 and almost straight west of Boynton Beach. Sawgrass Camp is just east of U.S. 27, north of Andytown near the intersection of U.S. 27 and State Road 84 west of Ft. Lauderdale. Holiday Camp is south of Andytown on the west side of U.S. 27. Andytown is well known to fishermen but too small to appear on some highway maps.

All of the rental equipment at all of these camps is excellent and none of it is old. The favored rental craft are aluminum johnboats, ideal for this kind of fishing as they give you needed length and room without weight, and high freeboard is unnecessary.

One minor fly in the ointment can be boat traffic on weekends. The canals aren't wide enough to hide in, and even courteous boat operators can bump you around a little with their wakes.

We made Holiday Park on a week day when the bass didn't seem to be doing much so we toured some of the canals. One cast into a clump of grass brought a rather unusual missed strike which turned out to be a small but undaunted alligator who was willing to try again and a couple of otters fooled around the boat for a while. A school of tarpon didn't want to cooperate so Debbie announced she'd do a bit of bream fishing and tied a rubber spider to a fly leader. That was fun for a while but got old pretty quickly.

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(Continued on next page)
In morning and evening, especially, fish tend to move out into small, shallow flats just off the canals. When there’s truly low water the main ditches are about the only places you can operate. They’re often edged with lush coontail moss and relative plants and herein lies the tale of my disgust at Loxahatchee.

We started fishing there late in the afternoon a couple of miles from camp and a little apprehensive of building thunderheads. Our first bass fell to a Rapala, then a good-sized pickerel passed at a Hawaiian Wiggler but missed. A couple more small bass, one of which took a Rebel on top, and we headed for the dock with giant raindrops splattering around us.

After covering in the car for a few minutes we decided most of the rain had passed and set forth again. Three fellows came along with a rented boat and one of them seemed to be wrestling with some sort of monster amidships. He finally heaved it up and it developed into a giant string of bluegills—limits for three and about all one guy could handle.

He and his friends had been using flyrods and hadn’t even bothered to attach reels, just tying on new cast. If fishing hadn’t been quite so good it would have been terrific and we plan to go back some time when they aren’t quite so hungry.

From there we visited Sawgrass Camp where the boathouse is quite a show place. At Sawgrass as in some other areas you’re required to fly a 10-foot flag staff from your boat as a safety precaution while traveling through sawgrass channels, the flag being visible to other boaters and especially to airboat skippers. Majority of the staffs are simply hard-working tail. I never gave line but the leader snapped and I haven’t seen that fish yet.

Generally the most crowded time at Belle Glade is during speckled perch (crappie) season, which also happens to be a good time for bass and comes during the late winter and early spring. Bass fishing can be good at any time of year and if you don’t like to fish the ”hayfields” of grass there are good prospects and while you’re in that area section the Belle Glade...
ing rather than walking. George Espenlaub and
stuff. Most of the fishing I've done has been drifting
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and pork rind are extremely efficient in the heavy
recommend 20-pound test casting line and it will
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in a boat and that's mighty comfortable but when
spent in working out-of-the-way pockets hard to
in a boat and that's mighty comfortable but when
proper and along the canals.
ispended to rest from the fish. Plugging from shore is expensive since there are few places where you can walk around to get a snapped lure.
The canal that follows state road No. 29 north
from the Trail has a lot of bass although they run
rather small. Driving north from the Trail you can
turn right on a new state road just north of Cope­
land and find the ditch well filled with fish, some
of them pretty good bass and really fine bluegills
although you're pretty well out of the salt water
seafood by that time and some of these ditches are
completely landlocked except during very high
water. A small spinner fly combination on your
spinning outfit will do well here as the water is
fairly open.
East of Ochopee and just east of the Turner River
bridge (the river there is largely filled with vege­
tation) there is a canal running south from U.S. 41
and emptying into Turner River well down toward
the Gulf. The upper part of this canal follows a
new gravel road north of the Trail but south of the
highway there is no road.
(Continued from preceding page)
many open areas near bonnet beds both in the lake
proper and along the canals. As in some of the sawgrass canals, ultra light
tackle won't be satisfactory with big bass since
they'll generally make it to the vegetation in one
way or another and a 4-pound spinning line just
won't get the job done. Some Okeechobee guides
recommend 20-pound test casting line and it will
work all right as long casts aren't necessary. Spoons
and pork rind are extremely efficient in the heavy
stuff. Most of the fishing I've done has been drifting
in a boat and that's mighty comfortable but when
the water isn't too high, wading is very productive
although too arduous for most anglers used to rid­
ing rather than walking. George Espenlaub and
Ned Moren, who fish the more northerly stretches
of the big lake, tell me that much of their time is
spent in working out-of-the-way pockets hard to
reach by boat and, therefore, undisturbed. That,
you see, is where the big ones can be had.
Most of the Okeechobee crappie fishing is done
with small minnows and itslack's off in April. Of
course the crappie are still here but methods must
be changed somewhat and they aren't worked much as summer approaches.
Plenty of Everglades fishing is never publicized,
simply because there are no commercial interests
involved and the scene is a long way from town.
The Tamiami Trail, U.S. 41, has had a lot of pub­
licity because of the excellent snook and tarpon
fishing near its western end and that's what most
South Florida anglers mean when they talk of the
"ditch." Further east it's mainly panfish and bass
fishing with occasional salt water specimens and
there are hundreds of bait fishermen operating from the
bank on a pleasant week end. Of course the
beauty of this one is the fact you can simply drive
along and see where the other fellow is fishing
and what luck he's having. A small boat or canoe
is fine if you want to rest your feet.
Some of the most successful snook catchers of
the Naples and Everglades area are fly fishermen,
walking the banks. At times (March is often a
good bet) snook will drive small bait against the
sawgrass shore and churn the area into a froth easily
spotted from the car. Last March the area between
culverts 40 and 72 from Highway 29 to the Marco
turnoff (you'll need a map to check that) was best
for that kind of fishing and we did well with small
crappie flies and a "muddler," a hair gadget popu­
lar with fresh water trout fishermen but not avail­
able in Florida stores.
There are bass right in among the snook and
small tarpon at the west end of the trail but the
pressure is on salt water species. A small boat is
helpful in working small feeder canals but is likely
to spook a lot of fish as they aren't used to the
traffic. Plugging from shore is expensive since there
are few places where you can walk around to get a
snagged lure.
Several years ago when that ditch was brand
new we caught some small bass from shore north
of the big highway. Last spring we decided to put
a small boat into it as the shoreline vegetation had
grown up pretty high. We started in about a mile
north of U.S. 41 and worked down, catching some
small bass, but it was after we went under the
bridge and moved on southward that we had better
luck, evidently because the water's deeper and
hadn't been fished so much. We caught plenty of
small bass and I believe the largest was about 3½
pounds and taken on a fly rod bug.
It was in March that we had a healthy influx of
good snook into the canals and I assumed they
moved up into that bass ditch of ours but never
heard much from them. In past years there has
been an occasional good catch of snook in there but
it's been pretty inconsistent.
In April a friend of mine, Johnny Bailey, came
down during his Easter vacation from college in
Minnesota and after a not-too-productive session
with the snook in the mangrove country (salt water
part of the Everglades) we figured he should have
a shot at a bass or two since he doesn't do much
bass fishing in his native Montana.
Johnny and I dropped the pram into the canal
at the bridge and I started off with the 6-horse
motor, whacking a couple of submerged rocks in
the process. Johnny, sitting in the bow, was wear­
ing polarized glasses and suddenly began kicking
his feet, waving his arms and making unintelligible
sounds of excitement. I stopped to see what was
wrong.
"Snook," he croaked. "Dozens of them! Big as
the boat!"
I didn't have on polarized glasses but by scruch­
ning down and putting my nose near the water, even
I could see a few of them, burly busters swimming
grumpily away from us as we moved. When we'd
stop, they'd disappear, apparently settling back into
the bottom growth they'd come from.
Well, we fished for bass until it got dark. Using
medium-sized flyrod stuff, Johnny caught a bunch
of big breas, some very small bass and a couple of
pretty nice ones. It gave us a funny feeling to know
we were fishing over tons of big snook but not one
ever showed himself, we heard no big strikes and
never got the big ones to come to the boat.
Ditches get little promotion, being overshadowed
by bigger salt water.
I asked a fellow how he was doing in a sawgrass
channel.
"Well," he reported, "I got a mudfish, a couple
of warmouth perch about as big as my hand—and a
40-pound tarpon."

OCTOBER, 1966
1966-67 Hunting Season

Northwest Region

**DEER & BEAR:** November 19 through January 15, hunting permitted every day.

**TURKEY:** Fall Season, November 19 through January 15, hunting permitted every day. Spring Gobbler Season, March 25 through April 9.

**QUAIL & SQUIRREL:** November 19 through March 5, hunting permitted every day.

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**Bag Limits**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Season Bag Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey - Fall</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Gobbler</td>
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<td>Squirrel, Fox</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quail</td>
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<td>24</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Hog</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Florida Migratory Game Bird Regulations 1966 - 1967**

**Waterfowl—Ducks, Geese, Coot**

- **Seasons:** Two Phase, November 24, 1966 through November 27, 1966; December 3, 1966 through January 8, 1967.
- **Shooting Hours:** From one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ducks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geese</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coot</td>
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**Mourning Dove**

- **Shooting Hours:** October 1 to November 6th; November 19 through December 4th; December 17 through January 2.
- **Possession Limit:** 24.

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**

- **Shooting Hours:** From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset; except in the following areas:
  - November 19 through December 31, Daily Limit 15; Possession Limit 30.

**Marsh Hens (Rails and Gallinules)**

- **Shooting Hours:** From sunrise to sunset.

**Central Region**

**DEER & BEAR:** November 12 through November 20, only in Gilchrist County and that portion of Levy County between State Roads 337 and 339. November 12 through January 2 in all other counties. Hunting permitted every day.

**TURKEY:** No open season in Alachua, Madison and Suwannee counties, or in that portion of Columbia County south of State Road 240 and west of State Road 47. In all other counties, Fall Season from November 12 through January 2; Spring Gobbler Season, March 25 through April 9.

**QUAIL & SQUIRREL:** November 12 through February 26. Hunting permitted every day.

**SOUTH FLORIDA REGION**

**DEER & BEAR:** November 12 through November 20, in DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties. November 12 through January 2 in all other counties. Hunting permitted every day.

**TURKEY:** Full Season from November 12 through January 2; hunting permitted every day. Spring Gobbler Season, March 11 through March 26, south of State Road 50. March 25 through April 9, in that portion north of State Road 50.

**QUAIL & SQUIRREL:** November 12 through February 26, hunting permitted every day.

**Everglades Region**

**DEER & BEAR:** No open season on the Florida Keys of Monroe County. November 12 through January 2, in all other counties. Hunting permitted every day.

**TURKEY:** Fall Season, November 12 through January 22, hunting permitted every day. Spring Gobbler Season, March 11 through March 26.

**QUAIL & SQUIRREL:** November 12 through February 26, hunting permitted every day.

**WILD HOG:** Palm Beach County. November 12 through January 2.

**OCTOBER, 1966**
Bowhunting experiences have a charm and attraction different than most other forms of hunting.

By EDMUND McLARIN

The Camp Blanding Area offers week end hunting chances beginning October 22-23 and ending November 3-6—three separate week ends and a total of six bowhunting days. Bowhunters must enter and leave via Check Station No. 2.

To give luckless license holders a final chance to score, and already fortunate ones a chance to increase season game bag, five special post-season wild hog hunts will be staged in the Guano River Wildlife Management Area. Opening hunt is set for the week end of January 21-22; there will be week end hunts thereafter through February 18-19. Other days will be closed to hunting. Only wild hogs will be legal game on open days. Camping will be permitted only on designated campsites.Transient hunters must check in and out the Area through the Guano Dam checking station each hunting day.

Except for the Air Force permit needed for hunting on Eglin Field acreage, a single $5.00 archery permit attached to regular Florida hunting license will be good for all scheduled hunts. Wisconsin was the first state to give archers a special bowhunting season, in 1934. Florida, in 1962, authorized its first official archery season with a 16-day buck hunt in the Ocala National Forest, and Eglin Field began its annual buck hunts in 1953. As Florida bowhunting interest increased, the Citrus Wildlife Management Area was added.

From the Fall of 1960 through the Fall of 1963, archers were permitted to harvest both bucks and does for at least a few days of every Citrus Area hunt.

Biologists have established that a given range will support only so many deer in healthy reproductive population, and that, in some areas, it may be (Continued on next page)
advisable to periodically reduce excessive deer population by decreasing the number of breeding animals, meaning a harvest of a designated number of does as well as the summer legal bucks. Hunting is the logical method.

Bowhunters feel they should be given first chance to reduce deer populations where food range conditions necessitate human intervention.

But game biologists say that bowhunters cannot do necessary harvesting alone. On Page 4 of "The White-Tailed Deer in Florida," biologists Richard F. Harlow and F. K. Jones include this comment:

"Despite the many desirable qualities associated with bowhunting, it has its own rather definite limitations... If the primary goal of deer hunting is to reduce an overly abundant population, as it frequently is today, archery must give way to gun hunting as the means of herd control. Once the herd is brought into balance with the ability of the land to support deer, however, then archers are capable of maintaining proper numbers of animals.

"Effective herd reduction by archers alone is only possible if bowhunter number from 100 to 200 per square mile daily, an almost unbelievable concentration of hunters. On a managed area, such as the Citrus Wildlife Management Area, this means from 6400 to 12,000 bowhunters, or one hunter per 3.2 to 6.4 acres!"

Even so, Florida bowhunters hope they will be given first chance—in whatever strength they can muster—when there is a desired herd herd reduction.

It will be an interesting experiment and observation for bowhunters to ascertain whether the silhouette of the bowhunter against the side-rule calculations of the game biologist's formula. The outcome may well determine whether or not future deer herd population control can be achieved by bowhunting alone. To date, bowhunters have never filled allotted season bag limits on deer. They will be setting a precedent if they do so.

To prove their potential as annual excess game crop harvesters, bowhunters will assuredly have to hunt most carefully, with a minimum of mistakes.

A bow powerful enough to reliably kill big game; matched arrows of proper length and broadhead style; sharp arrow-cutting edges; plenty of prehunting practice on both still and moving targets; correct use of camping and movement reduction; patience—and luck—are all requisites. Even the way an arrow is nocked on the bowstring can be a major factor in success or failure...

Whatever the make or style, above, the modern hunting bow is far superior to anything the American Indian ever had. Successful bowhunting, right, is a special sport providing its own feelings of pride and elation.

There are a number of commercial deer-attracting scents that utilize imitated fragrance of ripe apples. The most efficacious and assuredly the easiest to use, is G-66 apple scent. It comes in a gas-powered container and emits a fine mist of ripe apple odor on touch of spray button. A can is easily carried in coat pocket or quiver. Sporting goods stores stock G-66 apple scent, or can get it for you.

If you are one of the many bowhunters who like to constantly experiment, you might try the European method of luring deer within bow range—violin music played softly! According to a report by National Geographic, the paradigmatic method gets results.

Most Florida bowhunters feel that hunting from a tree-stand offers definite advantages of concealment from game, better hunter visibility and less likelihood of low-brush interference with a released arrow. The drawback to construction of a permanent "stand" is the subsequent frustration of likely observing game habitually passing a spot just out of shooting range. Also, there is often marked clash of temperaments when a hunter gets to his stand just late enough to find it already occupied by some pretentious trespasser.

Rather than repeatedly cope with these particular field problems, some hunters are now using climbing iron or limen's spikes—the kind telephone repairmen use to climb slick poles—to reach the big limb crotch of any forest tree of choice. Their availability makes any big tree crotch a potential tree-stand.

There is a knack to using the climbers, however. You have to keep your knees well out from tree trunk, and you have to take short, securely anchored steps. A set of climbing iron can be earned in a few minutes with a little practice.

For ground level hunting, blinds are very effective when correctly located and used. Four steel rods and a 12 foot length of camouflage netting will enable you to quickly set up a blind anywhere in the woods. So will an umbrella frame and enough camouflage netting to drape over it. If, for some reason, shots do not materialize, then you can, to quote Longfellow, "silently steal away" with your portable stand to another spot and another chance.

Camouflage Mfg. Company, Jacksonville, Florida, makes a five-color camouflage net material that is ideal for blind-making. The firm also markets ready-made blinds, as well as a complete line of camouflage clothing...

Can an alert deer dodge an arrow flashing toward him? Can bowstring noise give a deer sufficient warning to enable it to get out of the path of even a fast-traveling arrow? The answer is "Yes!" to both questions.

There have been numerous reports of deer on the run showing momentary acceleration with the twang of bowstring—just enough to cause a behind-the-target miss. These instances are understandable when one reflects on the fact that sound travels about ten times faster than the swiftest arrow.

To silence bowstring noise, most bowhunters fit bowstrings with brush buttons, or silencers of the rubber-band variety. In either case, the string additions must be thick enough and wide enough to do their intended job. Their location is important. Improperly located, silencers will either be ineffective or seriously interfere with normal "casting" of the bow. Correctly installed, the attachments reduce bowstring snap or crack to the status of a dull thud, with only minor loss of bow power.

In use or idle, a long-limbed hunting bow is constantly vulnerable to accidental damage. The balance of the bow can even get stepped on. Careful bowmen prefer to transport and store their bows in protective luggage style cases that often also house arrows and accessories. Mostly homemade, some of these cases were designed to be carried by the Jolly Green Giant. (Continued on next page)
For sure, quick kills the edges of hunting arrows should always be kept sharp.

newly satisfied with their present tackle. They usually want a better bow, one of a different make, or the currently popular model, or they decide to make complete change from wood arrows to aluminum or fiber glass shafts or vice versa.

These are some of the reasons that convinced both Colt and Browning companies they should make archery tackle as well as firearms, and why Ben Pearson and Bear Archery companies continue to expand. It takes big business to supply the needs of more than 40 million archers!

Bowhunting is a relatively safe sport for the participant, so far as danger from other hunters is concerned. Self-inflicted injuries, and personal mishaps that often have an attendant vein of humor, are the rule rather than the “I thought he was a deer” type of hunting accident. Even so, there have been cases of mistaken identity, with serious results.

A camouflage-attired hunter, further partially concealed by brush, can easily be mistaken for hiding game. “Make Sure of Your Target Before You Shoot” is just as much a cardinal rule of bowhunting safety as it is in gun hunting.

Bowhunting has an attraction and a charm that no other form of hunting seems to provide. And who knows? Maybe this season will be your lucky year.

Ducks Enjoy Highly Successful Nesting Season

Excellent weather has also played a major role in the exceptional nesting effort. Even through a brief cold spell in late April and early May, divided the brood season into early and late phases, field surveys indicate that it did little to hamper production, DU (Canada) biologists reported that early broods of mallards and pintails have now been on the wing for several weeks, however, the peak of the hatch occurred in early July and newly hatched birds are still putting in an appearance.

Since early May the nesting and brood production across the duck-arch Prairie Provinces has been favorable, with timely rains falling, where they were most needed to maintain top quality habitat. Sufficient water is expected for even the latest broods, except for a very small area southeast of Harus, Alberta. In some of the drier regions, DU water control programs are expected to play an important role in getting late broods on the wing.

A third big contributor to the duck production success this season is the much higher-than-expected number of breeding pairs returning to the nesting grounds from the long migration trek to the south. Spring brood surveys indicated that the increase in returning ducks was significantly higher than had been anticipated as a result of last year’s hunting regulations.

DU biologists report that they are quite impressed with the substantial production gains in this year’s nesting season, particularly among mallards and pintails. In some areas the increase in mallard broods came close to the lush years of the mid-50’s.

It is expected that the fall flights of ducks down the four great flyways of the United States will be considerably improved over those of last year. While the duck populations have not yet reached the high levels of the mid-50’s, this banner production year has resulted in sportmen looking forward to the coming Fall waterfowl seasons with considerable optimism.

Duck Stamp Cost Increase Being Considered

A $5 Duck Stamp is possible under a bill approved by the House Natural Resources Committee, May 10. Under terms of the Marine and Fisheries, according to the Wildlife Management Institute, the proposal, H.R. 14130, by Congressman John D. Dingell (Mich.), directs additional funds for the national waterfowl restoration program.

Congress, in 1961, authorized the advance appropriation of $105 million over a 7-year period to speed the purchase of wetlands needed to aid waterfowl and the advance repay from future sales of Duck Stamps. That vital program has been lagging, however, because of the Secretary of the Interior to meet the appropriations scheduled. Only $381 1/4 million has been appropriated so far, rather than the $75 million the schedule calls for.

The wetlands purchase program was helped somewhat by a 1958 Duck Stamp Act amendment requiring that all receipts, other than funds necessary to reimburse the Post Office Department for printing and distributing the stamps, must be used for land acquisition. Much of the money previously had been used for degrading wildlife refuge operating and development expenses.

H.R. 14136 would require that the Secretary of the Interior to raise the Duck Stamp fee to $5 from the present $3. This may add as much as $3 million to the $5 million now collected annually.

H.R. 14136 also would make other basic changes to affect the wetlands program

the amount remaining each year from the sale of federal, timber, and nontimber products after the required payments have been made to county governments in which refuges are located and other federal wildlife lands are located. This could amount to $5 million or more annually.

Another vital change, which has been urged by Congressman Dingell as well as by Senators Lee Metcalf (Mont.) and Montague L. Hurst (Neb.), would require that the refuge program be reimbursed at the fair market value for refuge lands and developments taken for highways, streets, and all other non-county facilities. The bill would also authorize the transfer of the wetlands program to the waterfowl refuge program.
Fish Hooking

By CHARLES WATERMAN

The gentle slope of some back country launching ramps can prove harmful to the traveling angler's boat trailer.

Many of the hunting and fishing material that appears in the public prints is aimed at a third grade mentality and any commentary of some TV outdoor movies is, obviously, intended for a less advanced group. This doesn't mean the writers can't do better; it's just the accepted level at which outdoor literature has always been composed for the general public. In specialized outdoor publications the approach is sometimes quite adult, even technical.

What shakes my bush is the reasoning that a TV watcher, for example, can be absorbing a news commentary which goes pretty well into political science and then become a simpleton two minutes later when the outdoor show comes on; that he can appreciate a well-done commentary on Vietnam politics and then go into ecstasy over a series of snapshots of dead fish.

Don't get me wrong. The folks who make up the successful outdoor shows must know what they're doing or they wouldn't be on the air long and those newspaper articles about record fish which manage to leave out all of the important details must be the result of consumer research of some sort.

The other day I watched a well-produced TV fishing movie, produced at great expense by a big builder of outdoor equipment and obviously intended for the outdoorsman who can judge the professionally pear-shaped tones of the narrator followed anglers through a full half hour. A wide variety of fish was caught and although the narrator listed the kinds he landed, he avoided telling his audience what was being caught when.

Now I know what happened. Thousands of dollars worth of footage was cut and spliced so it would look good. By that time the guy who knew what was going on in the pictures was off shooting a sequence on tiger hunting in India and the people who put the narration with the fishing film didn't know a hammerhead shark from a speckled perch. I have helped on some of those movies myself and well recall when one stirring scene had me batting a tarpon all over a creek but when it came into the boat it was a brook trout. The snook landing sequence looked better to the editor so he spoiled the tarpon and the snook together and let the narrator have it.

Daily newspapers, accounts of hunting or fishing adventures are often handed to general news reporters and they're told to make a feature. If they're not outdoorsmen themselves the story comes out in a routine style with a valiant effort at a cute angle and a humorous twist. Of course the real gasser is when a woman or child accomplishes anything in the outdoors. You may have heard the uproarious one about the wife catching a bigger fish than her husband. There's an especially good account of such a hilarious experience in a 1922 copy of Forest and Stream.

So why do I care? Well, I'm old and crochety and I don't like to see all fishermen classed as bumpkins and I don't care for the implication that all communication with them must be in words of one syllable.

Incidentally, don't ever think I'm writing down all fishermen simply because they're beneath the hand and not much in involve with rod balance.

Okefenokee, the Big Swamp that's mostly in Georgia and partly in Florida, has some excellent fishing, especially for panfish, and some good bass fishing at times. It's a beautiful place, being headwaters of the Suwannee and St. Mary's Rivers. The Suwannee goes to the Gulf and the St. Mary's to the Atlantic.

Outboard motors must be of no more than 10 horsepower as most of the main swamp is a Federal game refuge. There are good rental boats at Camp Stephen Foster on the west entrance, and at Camp Cornelia on the east side.

From road maps you'd think there would be some fishermen proportion of Okefenokee left until you get down into the Suwannee there isn't much in the way of access. There's some fishing, of course, in the St. Mary's but that's undeveloped and the upper reaches require small boats. There are few launching sites. So if you have your eye on Okefenokee, you'd better get a Georgia license.

Some Fish Hooking Notes: The antics of a man trying to nail a bass who is munching a plastic worm are often good for a laugh. The fish has some slack line on him, his monofilament line is stretchy and he is often working a bonefish fly. A lot of people do that and they can't tell me.

If he simply keeps coming toward you, he probably won't hook him. If he has the angle right, he may have the fish's lip but he probably won't hook him. If the hook in inside his mouth and, as he turns away and you feel the line get tighter, now, sock him!

If he simply keeps coming toward you, you probably won't hook him. If he has the angle right, you may have the fish's lip but he probably won't hook him. If the hook is inside his mouth and, as he turns away, it pulls into the corner of his jaw, you have a very good chance.

Very tiny tarpon are supposed to strike like lightning but I haven't found that to be the case. I handle them the same way and I think the whole works is in slow motion.

For fish in the third class there may be some better systems and I have had hold of very few of those on a fly.

Almost any kind of trailer will work when you

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

OCTOBER, 1966

(Continued on next page)
Gun Sights

If a hunting rifle needs a better sight, and many of them do, hunting success may depend on making the change

by edmund mcLaren

Whatever its quality or cost, no hunting rifle is any better than its sights. Each year, many hunters learn this truth the hard way.

Although factory sight installations now generally deliver great improvement over what they were prior to World War II, many otherwise fine rifles still come with relatively crude, open style rear sights.

Why?

There are several reasons. Open style rear sights are rugged, and easy and inexpensive to manufacture. At the moment, there are at least 200 different sighting combinations that can be put on hunting rifles, and the manufacturer cannot possibly know the preference of an unknown purchaser.

Finally, installing a brand-name receiver style sight on a factory ordered rifle subjects it to a special 11% tax.

Examination of rifles factory-fitted with open rear sights will invariably disclose that receivers or tangs have already been drilled and tapped by the factory for easy installation of a peep sight, the provided screw holes having been neatly filled with dummy screws. Even some shotgun receivers now come drilled and tapped for peep sight installation, so that the gun owner can get the best possible accuracy from rifled slugs.

Some sight facts are beyond attack: Optically, a micrometer-click rear peep sight is superior to an open rear sight, and a good scope sight is properly focused and used, tops in optical performance the close-to-eye peep sight.

There are some shooters who will maintain that they definitely do not like a rear peep sight, or a scope, and that they do their best shooting with an open type rear sight.... Take my word for it, those fellows shoot well in spite of open sights, not because of them! Nine times out of ten the principals are young shooters, with eyes that have not as yet lost muscular elasticity and ability to quickly change focus.

In using an open type rear sight the aiming eye is called on to focus on three differently spaced points at the same time—the rear sight, the front sight and target. Now, the eye—great though its versatility and muscular flexibility before age affects it—cannot do this must without a little deceit.

What actually happens when one aims with open sights is that the aiming eye, in a futile attempt to bring the rear sight, front sight and target into sharp focus, jumps from one to another. Sight alignment accuracy suffers, the degree depending on the ability of the aiming eye muscles to quickly change focus for the three different distances represented—about fifteen inches to open rear sight, 28 to 36 inches from aiming eye to front sight, and anywhere from 15 feet to 400 yards to target.

The peep style rear sight gives the aiming eye a better break. Being so close that the inside rim of the sight disc is hopelessly out of focus, the eye makes no attempt to bring the rear sight into sharp focus, but merely looks through the peep hole. The shooter's aiming eye is automatically attracted to the center, where the light is strongest.

Therefore, when using a peep style rear sight you have only two objects to bring into alignment and acceptable focus—the front sight and target.

In learning to use a peep sight, you should place your aiming eye to the sight and look through the aperture, letting it blur around its rim all it wants to, then concentrate on bringing the top of...
on the rifle will completely cancel out the advantages of the peep.

There is no mystery about adjusting a peep sight. Just follow the rule of moving the aperture housing in the direction you want shots to hit on the target. Many peep sights are marked on their adjusting knobs for correct direction changes.

Don't overlook the fact that installing a receiver peep sight may call for a different height of front sight. Consult sight catalog charts to find what sight combinations are especially made for your rifle.

A scope sight is easiest of all rifle sights to use, because the target image seen and the imposed aiming reticle appear at the same distance and in the same optical plane. Your only sighting concern is to align a previously sighted-in reticle on a vital portion of your target.

A scope is a heaven-sent blessing for older shooters and shooters with defective vision not fully corrected by the wearing of spectacles. Within the range of focusing latitude of the scope quality scope sights, an adjustment for perfect vision can usually be found. Shooters who wear bi-focal glasses should be modified to give the aiming eye this instant alignment.

A scope sight is a wonderful sighting aid but it has no magical properties. It cannot for example place you on target with a 100 yard shot simply by focusing and taking aim through a scope. A scope sight first takes form with a tough alloy tube that is threaded at both ends to receive objective and eyepiece tubes. The tube next is placed in a holding fixture against a distant calibration marker to align it with the viewing reticule at the same optical plane. Your only concern is to get the scope correctly focused and well lighted. This must occur instantaneously as the scope is brought up to maximum advantage.

A scope sight is easiest of all rifle sights to use, because the target image seen through the rear sight's aperture is the same optical plane, the same distance and in the same optical plane. Your only sighting concern is to align a previously sighted-in reticle on a vital portion of your target.

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and thousands are stunned by the awesome grandeur of nature's handiwork. People are amazed that something so treasured by all people felt was safe from man's grasp. One of these is the Grand Canyon of Arizona. All this while we take lands out of cultivation in other places through subsidy payments.

Even compare with it, but leaving still untouched by economic development. Schofield means maturity, we have accepted compromises. Examples of this are the Redwoods of California, the Pictured Rocks and the Dunes of Michigan and the Sleeping Bear Dunes of Michigan, California, the Pictured Rocks and the Dunes of Indiana. Schofield is seldom given to those people who enjoy things the way they are. Today natural beauty spots must be warded out of shape so that all the innert and left-footed people can have access. The great press for recreation appears to be an escape valve without too much objectivity. Some people are content with simplicity and peaceful surroundings, others want crowds, noise and confusion as a backdrop to show off their new-found sophistication and all groups have public leadership chasing its tail to satisfy all demands.

Behind this hew and cry for recreational development is an army of cold-eyed promoters and commercializers whose only motive is to capitalize on public interest. This has been done to such an extent that the more recently acquired "natural area" of about 35 acres.

Speaking of this area, Mr. Morrison said, "Here nature is allowed her freedom. Man is a bystander, observing with wonder the various stages of plant succession and bow, miraculously, the wildlife community changes as the vegetation matures. We need many protected natural areas in all parts of Florida and the nation in order to study the vital science of ecology."

Pollution Fish Kills

WATER POLLUTION killed at least 45,115 fish in Florida last year. Approximately one-half of the fish were game fish; one-half were classified as forage or rough fish. All could have provided better fishing in 1969.

The figures were recently released by the Water Pollution Control Administration of the U. S. Department of the Interior. The agency compiles an annual report on pollution based on reports from state conservation and pollution-control agencies.

Causes of the fish kills varied. Mining pollution was responsible for the fish kill in one river while waste products from citrus industry was the cause of pollution in the other river.

Fish kills were reported in the Alabama and Withlacoochee rivers and in Lake Lucerne West near Orlando.

Nature Notes

THE SKUNK USES HIS POTENT SCENT GENIALLY. HE PROMOTES IT AT THE RATE OF ABOUT 1 LIQUID OUNCE PER WEEK.

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

cording to Mr. Morrison. "Our guidebook," he says, "answers many of the questions that occur to visitors about the plants, birds and other aspects of the natural history of the Sanctuary." The newly-marked nature trail at the 120-acre Mountain Lake Sanctuary traverses not only the landscaped part of the Sanctuary but also the more recently acquired "natural area" of about 35 acres.

The Editor, 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 awarded to the applicant whose name on the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

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

APPLICATI0N 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

Type of Tackle, ____________________________

Boat or Bait Used, ____________________________

Where Caught, ____________________________ County

Date Caught, ____________________________

Catch Witnessed By ____________________________

Registered, Weighted By ____________________________

(Signature of Applicant)

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For that BIG ONE that didn't get away

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