Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON 1966-67

TWO PHASE

NOVEMBER 24 thru NOVEMBER 27
DECEMBER 3 thru JANUARY 8

SHOOTING HOURS FROM ONE-HALF HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO SUNSET

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

WATERFOWL

THRU NOVEMBER

SHOOT!

THRU DECEMBER 3

SUNRISE

POSSESSION LIMIT—20

DAILY LIMIT—10

POSSESSION LIMIT—20

- Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

In Certain Areas, 2 Scups or Wood Ducks May Be Taken in Addition to the
Regular Daily Bag Limit. See Complete Regulations Available From Your County Judge.

NOVEMBER, 1966

In This Issue

The Baldpate, because of its swift, erratic flight and willingness to "decoy-in," is a favorite target of Florida waterfowl hunters, its common name is derived from the white or "bald" crown of the mature drake, lower left figure. The hen is shown at top.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

Florida WILDLIFE is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy price: 25¢. Subscription rates: $2.50, $6.00, $10.00, $15.00, $25.00. Change of address should be reported promptly. The Commission assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts or for loss, damage or delay in delivery of unsolicited manuscripts. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without specific permission. Copyright 1966 by Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida. Table of Contents: "Regional Offices" on page 3.

Anonymous, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
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in a

Coastal Rookery

These photographs were made, on a single summer morning, in a single rookery that contained over 2,000 nests on a one-acre island off Florida's east coast near Port Orange. If you know your water birds you can pick out seven species in the photo above, including a Cormorant on its nest, in the upper right. Photos at left, and below, show the common or American Egret, a large white wading bird familiar throughout the state. It's hard to believe now that the Egret was nearly killed off in Florida by plume hunters—and it is no wonder—plumes were worth more than gold by weight.

Brown Pelicans, above, with a Louisiana Heron, were once abundant on the Louisiana coast, but hardly a single nest could be found in the "Pelican State" two summers ago. They are almost gone from Texas too, but there has been no noticeable decline in Florida—yet! The cause is unknown.

The Little Blue Heron, dark bird above, nests more abundantly inland than on the coast, but the smaller white, yellow-billed Cattle Egret, white bird at right, will nest most anywhere. The Cattle Egret probably came to Florida and the Southern United States from South America, via the West Indies. It arrived there from Africa several years ago but nobody knows how. The Cattle Egret is spreading fast and is already the most abundant Heron in Florida. It doesn't eat fish but prefers insects and spiders. They will follow cattle around to grab at the insects that jump away from their moving about. The Louisiana Heron, the dark bird with white belly; at right, does not nest far from the coast.
I sent sixteen dollars for a knife the other day—
one that I had my eye on for quite a while but knew I couldn’t afford. It is a Buck folding job with a lock to keep it open and you carry it in a soft little leather sheath you don’t even notice on your belt. Undoubtedly I could have lived out the rest of my days without a knife having gone this far with dollar dandies and their relatives although I do have a couple of pretty fair hunting knives. When I learned from the folks who build them that the folding model is pretty scarce and hard to buy I made a beeline for one I knew about, the reported scarcity causing me to throw all judgement to the wind.

This is a pretty heavy number and shaves neatly and without pulling, just as it came from the store. Even so, the Bucks are considered moderate of price by those who are not in a hurry to spend for some other custom and semi-custom makes. The heavy belt and gets a snicker from all the veterans who think I’m playing a pranks and taking long or even fish cleaning poses. The handiest filleting knives are long and bulky for hangnail trimming or even fish cleaning pocket knives are too small for many outdoor pur-

There is a lot of argument about what a fish or hunting knife should be, old timers generally scorn-\n
big bowie types as the weapons of tenderfeet. For general purposes they are too big but most pocket knives are too small for many outdoor pur-

poses. The handiest filing knives are long and slender and the easily bent honing type butcher knife is almost ideal for that purpose. Inexpensive fishing knives are okay if you stick to the longer ones. One of the disadvantages of all round han-

dles don’t stay put too well on a boat seat or sloping sitters sidewise and deposit him across a gunwale or seat. A swivel seat enables you to do a variety of boat chores with­

out getting up—cranking a small motor, digging in an anchor hole or picking up refuse on the bottom. A swivel seat with his feet down in the cushions where the spring s take up some of the worst thumps and, most of the time he doesn’t even use a boat cushion.

Many classy runabouts have well-padded seats that are comfortable in a showroom but far too low for efficient use under way and everybody is fami-

lar with the sight of an operator sitting on the back of the seat with his feet down in the cushions where his posterior would be so much more comfortable. A runabout with seats that high might look funny but there’s something wrong with the design when such a perch is preferred to the regular seat.

I have used a lot of aluminum seats which simply slip over straight board or aluminum boat seats all the same height as the sides of the boat. That gave my little gem all of the disadvan-
tages of a cuisse with none of the good points. Ocean racers, you’ll note from the pictures, stand up on a rough ride and soak up the wave shocks with their legs and bending knees. No one has worked much on shock-absorbing seats for small fishing skiffs. I recently made a bumpy 200-mile trip in a flat-bottomed one and had to stand up to keep from shortening my spine. Since the steering wheel was low and built for sitting position, it was

A good compromise for a fisherman is a sheath knife with a fairly long and slender blade which will get by for heavier chores and still do a good job of fish cleaning. But, as I say, I have a 16-dollar knife, roughly thirteen dollars more expensive than the ones I’ve used before.

Fishermen who spend a lot of time in boats, es­

pecially those of us who have reached the age where comfort is uncomfortably important, have gone to great length to buy, improvise or wish for spe­

tial types of seats.

For trollers or still fishermen—and for some casters—a swivel arrangement is fine. A swivel seat enables you to do a variety of boat chores without getting up crouching a small motor, digging in a tackle box or eating a lunch and using cars or padder in some cases. It is a fairly complex mechanism and flimsy ones don’t last long. It’s good to be able to hook such a seat into a right posit-
have been new questions about battery fish spotters. Most of them are accurate depth indicators, invaluable in shallow water navigation because they can save all sorts of groundings and bent propellers. Most of the better small boat fishermen who use them are more interested in the finding of underwater obstructions, bars, drop-offs and specific types of bottom than in zeroing in on individual fish or water obstructions, bars, drop-offs and specific types of bottom. The offshore party and charter boats locate individual fish and concentrations. Their interpretations of squiggly streaks on a piece of paper are amazing to me, but their analysis of the bottom is what makes it a fishing trip rather than a boat ride. The value of a depth indicator or depth finder (Fathometer is a trade name but I didn't know it until I read something by Jim Martenhoff of Miami) is very limited in shallow lake or river fishing where you're interested mainly in grass and weeds. Not many surface plug users work in water much over five or six feet deep (before you write me an irate letter, let me state that I, too, have seen a largemouth boom up from 20 feet to plaster a lure—but that isn't common). When you're probing deeper bottoms as in impoundments, it's a different story. So what about the listening devices that chirp, ping and twitter in recognition of underwater movements? An example of one of the first small successful models is the Pflueger dingus which transmits all movements? There are some parts of any fresh water where there are practically no fish and other sections where they hang out in good numbers. If you know what an electronic device is saying in such places it's invaluable. I doubt if you'll ever come to such conclusions as, "There's a 3-pound bass two feet west of that old stump." These same sound devices can also be used for determining bottom conformation so can be a deadly device when you aren't quite sure where the drop-off is but know there are fish if you can find it. If I have sounded less than enthusiastic about depth finders and indicators, it is only where they apply to shallow inshore or fresh water angling and there are some worthwhile applications in both areas. Take a look, read the literature and be your own judge.

The rubber audi that began as a fly rod lure is showing up more and more behind a spinner on a spinning rod. It is hard to imagine a less ornamental lure but panfish seem to love it. Personally, I never found the rubber spider much of an attractor for bass—even small ones. I think the reason why it shouldn't be. Of course one of its attractions is the softness of the foam rubber body which brings fish back for a repeat nibble.

Again someone has breached the subject of standing in a boat for casting purposes and numerous safety conscious writers have flatly stated that sitting down is the only way to fish. In addition to the direct promises that a stander will fall overboard, there is much said about the dangers of a standing caster snagging his companions with a roundhouse swing or poking their eyes out with a rod tip. Now having rowed some thousands of miles in boats of less than 16 feet of length, nearly always with someone casting in the bow and much of the time with someone casting from the stern, I can only say that, in my case, I'd much rather have a plug or fly cast above my head than on a level with my chin.

I have read that a standing caster can be instantly tagged as an incompetent greenhorn, a criticism that cuts me deeply after some 45 years of such dangerous boating on my part. This puts all of my fishing buddies in the same light. Now it all depends on the situation and the boat, of course. I've thus far been as pig-headed on the standing side as the other guys have been on the sitting side so I'll now be reasonable. There are many small waters, especially in Northern states, where the standard boats are too small for standing. Many of the little johnboats and prams used in Florida are too small for standing.

Standing in a canoe is a job for an expert canoeist and an experienced swimmer although I once fished with a St. Louis physician who would cast for hours with one foot on each gunwale of his 16-foot. Of course if he went overboard the water was warm and he was quite capable of swimming a couple of miles back to the dock, towing the canoe to boat and never draw a long breath. I simply point out that what was routinely safe for such an athlete might be foolhardy for an old gaffer like me, even for him, under other circumstances.

Some boats are made to stand in. In fact, you'd have a devil of a time sitting and casting over the high sides of some of them. I can't help remembering what Chuck Schilling of Jensen Beach once replied to criticism of a picture he was displaying. An experienced woman fisherman was standing on a broad casting platform in the bow of a sturdy boat and the critic said it was a dangerous practice to publicize. "She could easily fall out," he said. "She won't fall out!" snorted Chuck, and then he decided to make it a little stronger: "And what's more, you couldn't push her out," he added as a clincher.

The best way I know of saying it is that some people make a living walking tightrope at high altitudes and some people fall off cliffs and break their legs. Me, I stand in husky skiffs over 14 feet long. I sit in canoes, rubber boats, 8-foot prams and kayaks and stay away from surfboards.

Hook dissorgers come in many forms but aren't used by many fishermen. If you keep one handy you might save more fishy careers when you release small ones; or big ones for that matter. They aren't much help with treble hooked lures. Needle-nosed pliers are good.

Sometimes a quick jerk does a fish less harm than a lot of flubbing and poking. That's especially true of tough-mouthed specimens that aren't hooked in the gills, and plug casters for tarpon sometimes prefer hooks that will straighten out when given a healthy yank with a pair of pliers.

Standing up in some boats might be dangerous but this plug caster is doing his stuff from a broad and steady platform in bow of the boat that was built for the job.

Of all the panfish, there seems to be least said about the "fly perch." I ran into them in Oklawaha Swamp where skiff-bait fishermen were landing them, hand-size, by the dozen. Up there they are also called "green shiners" and just "shiners." They're shaped much like a bluegill with similar habits. We have quite a few of them in Florida, mainly in the northern part as nearly as I can learn.

John W. Woods, chief of the Fisheries Division, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, takes me off the hook on this one by saying the fish is called the "flyer" or "round flyer" in West Florida. Any­ways, it isn't really a shiner. Mr. Woods points out that the American Fisheries Society Special Publici­ nation No. 2 lists 65 different species of shiner—which is something else again.

And to close the subject he provides me with the Latin name, "Centrarchus macropterus (Lace- pote)."

Anyway, they'll take flies and small lures as well as bait. •

The Pflueger portable, electronic fish hunter was one of the first available and has been successful both for fish-seek ing and depth-finding. In use, the "transducer" is lowered into the water.
Often threatened, but always protected, a few acres of primitive wilderness survive a city’s ANCIENT FOREST

By JOHN FIX

Within the shadow of Miami’s towering skyscrapers is a unique area of primitive beauty: eight acres of walled-in wilderness, the last vestige of virgin forest anywhere within the heart of a great American city.

The area is Simpson Park, named for a great botanist and dedicated to the preserving of one and a half city blocks of fascinating jungle from extinction.

Simpson Park (at Southwest 15th Road and Miami Avenue) is virtually unknown to Miami’s millions of yearly visitors and far too few of the City’s permanent population are aware of its existence.

Simpson Park is Miami’s first permanent urban park. It is the FLORIDA PASCUAS of old Juan Ponce de Leon and his adventurous COMPANEROS. It is the hunting ground of the fierce Tequestas whose valor discouraged white colonization in South Florida for more than 400 years. It is the leafy lair of the buccaneers who scourged the Caribbean.

Simpson Park is not a park in any usual sense. To be sure, it has footpaths but many of these are confusingly overgrown or take erratic turns in deference to a venerable oak or a vine-entangled ficus tree. The Park has benches too—but not always discernible as such in the midst of jungle growth.

Simpson Park is an outdoor “botanical showcase” of a vanished era, where great forests (or Hammocks) covered the southern Florida peninsula and made it almost impossible of traversal.

Nowhere in Simpson Park has the delicate balance of Nature been permitted to be disturbed by the addition of plants or insects beneficial to man or by the destruction of those which might be harmful to man.

Enclosed within Simpson Park’s 4-foot-high rough coral wall is more than 125 varieties of rare and beautiful trees such as thrive only in the American sub-tropics. Some of these trees have been in danger of extinction. One in particular, the MISANTHE STRANDRA, a flowering ornamental, native to the Florida Everglades, has only two existing specimens on the United States mainland. Both of these are in Simpson Park.

Within the Park there is Wild Cinnamon, pump-"<"gant of leaf and bark. There is Fiddlewood, never used for fiddles but with a leaf resembling the out-"<"ne of one. And the Pigeon Plum and her sister, the Sea-Grape, both bearing edible fruit and both related to the buckwheat.

There is Inkwood whose sap the Seminole Indians use as a dye and which early settlers used as a writing fluid. And dried Machinice, poisonous to the touch and to the taste, used by the Indians of the Amazon Valley to make deadly their arrow tips, blow-gun darts and spear points.

Here and there throughout the Park the visitor will delight in a superb Gumbo Limbo, with shining cocoa-colored bark and sparse leafage. Someone once poetically likened this tree to a wildly gyrating dancing maiden who had been transfixed in bronze. And everywhere, clawing a rechold in the jagged coral that juts from the leafmold, or attempting to establish its deadly tenure in a rough-barked tree such as the Sahul Palmetto, is the weird Stranger Fig. All of the native trees are here, plus others which had wafted in on hurricane wind and ocean currents from lands across the sea. Many of the trees wear crowns of air-plants or are studded with wild orchids in all their exquisite blooming perfection.

Simpson Park had its beginning in 1904 when a group of civic minded Miami citizens, conscious of its obligation to future generations, induced the City to purchase five acres of rapidly vanishing hammock land to be preserved as Nature had intended it. The area purchased was christened “Jungle Park” and Charles Torrey Simpson, a noted botanist and specialist in sea-shells who had settled in the Miami area in 1904, was hired as its advisor. Later the name of the Park was changed to honor Dr. Simpson who died in 1933.

In 1937 a Garden Center, constructed of the same rough coral wall is more than 125 varieties of rare and beautiful trees such as thrive only in the American sub-tropics. Some of these trees have been in danger of extinction. One in particular, the MISANTHE STRANDRA, a flowering ornamental, native to the Florida Everglades, has only two existing specimens on the United States mainland. Both of these are in Simpson Park.

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Simpson Park, hemmed in by luxury homes and modern office buildings and of a fantastic real estate valuation, is a remarkable monument to the courage and tenacity of the women garden club members who have waged an unceasing war to save this last vestige of primeval forest from extinction. A proposal to the Miami City Council in 1955, that half the Park be appropriated for construction of a historical museum, met with howls of protest from the ladies and a hasty retraction of the proposal.

Expressway plans during 1960 called for taking a huge slice off one corner of the Park. “Sorry,” replied Expressway Planning officials in answer to protests from those who loved Simpson Park. “But nothing must stand in the way of modern progress!”

“Oh, no!” returned the women garden club members and promptly stood in the way of modern progress. They enlisted the aid of Miami’s own garden club members. These in turn appealed to Miami radio and television stations and newspapers. “Save Simpson Park!” became a familiar cry for Miamians who for the first time were being made aware of the botanical heritage within walking distance of their city hall. Expressway plans were altered and Miami’s East-West Expressway by-passes the area of the Park.

If your taste in public parks runs to broad vistas of velvety lawn, sculptured hedges, prin walks and stately trees, Simpson Park is not for you.

But if you delight in stepping into a domain where the whirr of traffic fades to an insect hum, muted by a blanket of leaves; where the Florida sunshine beaks downward on a world unspoiled by the hand of man, you will love Simpson Park.
The planning and hard work started in March 1965, when a few decided to do something constructive about their hunting—by pooling resources and working out an adequate and well-managed non-commercial program of hunting activities.

Contacts were made with hunter friends and a date set for an organizational meeting. When a nucleus of interested sportsmen had assembled, reviewed and endorsed the proposal, group attitude was "Let's do it right, or not at all!"

From the beginning, an ambitious and comprehensive program was attempted.

First step was locating and leasing suitable acreage—preferably an area with a variety of native game and possibilities for development. The hopeful hunters found it near Dade City, Florida; 800 acres in all, and a resident family to operate their leased private hunting preserve. They named their fortunate find the Little River Ranch.

For those readers who wish to know the exact location of this powder burner's paradise, the Little River Ranch is just off Florida Highway No. 301, north of Dade City. From a road intersection known as Ridge Manor, the Ranch is 3½ miles north on No. 301, on the east side of the highway.

The club lodge and recreation building, separate dormitory and dining hall can be seen as one approaches the ranch.

From the highway, there is little indication of the variety of terrain that lies east, north and south. But only a short drive east, then a turn in either of the other directions, is needed to reach a hunter's choice of grain-developed dove fields, any of four quail hunting areas interspersed with brush and palmetto growth; a lake around which duck blinds have been built and natural foods encouraged, fringe swamp land where flocks of turkeys abound, and acreage on which numbered deer hunting stands have been built overlooking trails frequently used by big bucks.

Included among the first season's objectives were such steps as pen-rais ing quail, dove, waterfowl, wild turkey and deer—all in one locality; also without heavy rival hunting pressure. The more imaginative go a little bit further and dream of being able to hunt a Shangri-la that is easy to reach, where his favorite species of game is dreamed of being able to hunt a lot of planning and hard work, produced a dream-come-true hunting domain

They Have It Made!

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

The more imaginative go a little bit further and dream of being able to hunt a variety of game—quail, dove, waterfowl, wild turkey and deer—all in one locality; also without heavy rival hunting pressure.

For a group of Tampa area sportsmen the latter dream has come true. Hunting-wise, they have it made! But their hunting Shangri-la didn't just happen. Circumstance played a part—true—but so did a lot of planning and hard work.

Circumstances contributed to the motive: Individuals, with only limited hunting time from business and social obligations, had become tired of too many unsuccessful trips and the increasing hunting competition during the short periods they could get away.

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Circumstances contributed to the motive: Individuals, with only limited hunting time from business and social obligations, had become tired of too many unsuccessful trips and the increasing hunting competition during the short periods they could get away.
For uncounted number of raccoon and opossum the Withlacoochee River. The moss-draped swamps are homes of short run or a long, twisting chase. Usually, it is only a matter of minutes until the dogs strike a hot trail that may be a short run or a long, twisting chase through bogs and briars.

Since simultaneous possession of a firearm and light in Florida woods at night is illegal, the hunters carry big nets instead of guns. When the dogs tree a coon or opossum and the lights of the hunters loom in Florida woods at night is illegal, the hunters have been made with the Huntmaster and a regular varmint caller. On rare occasions a careful hunter can entice a rare bug bites, scratches, leg bruises and wet feet. Seldom do the hunters return to their lodge without at least one catch—plus a varied assortment of red bug bites, scratches, leg bruises and wet feet. Coons and opossums chancing along creeks of the Withlacoochee Inevitably is rough going!

On other nights, a lone hunter or a twoome will slip quietly to a shooting station beside a tree trunk or patch of brush. Periodically, one of those raucous sounding "injured sea gull" varmint callers will be worked, followed by several minutes of motionless waiting in total darkness. A hand lantern will then be switched on and a powerful, penetrating beam used to scan the vicinity. Quite often the probing light will be reflected from the eyes of some suddenly surprised animal, usually a coon or opossum, but sometimes a fox or bobcat.

On rare occasions a careful hunter can entice a meal-hunting coon within reach of a long-handled net, but most times the fun of calling up wild critters constitutes the action. There are facilities at the Little River Ranch hunt club for holding special "Family Day." On each Sunday in each month of the entire hunting season, the third Sunday in each month of the entire hunting season are "Family Day." On those days, a member may bring his entire family. However, he is responsible for their conduct and group safety. Guests are not allowed to hunt until arrangements have been made with the Huntmaster and a regular active member assigned to accompany them aboard. Other guest privileges are available to a member, but he may not bring a non-family member guest until arrangements have been made with the Huntmaster and a regular active member assigned to accompany them aboard. Other guest privileges are available to a member, but he may not bring a non-family member guest to the Ranch more than three times during the hunting season.

The first week end (Saturday and Sunday) of each open dove season period is restricted to members only. Because the danger of a hunting accident increases proportionately in accordance with the number of active hunters, the club has enforced strict hunting safety rules from the very first. All shooting has to be done under the supervision of a Huntmaster. Only shotguns are permitted for bird and turkey hunting. Rifles and shotguns with rifled slug loads are allowed for deer and hog hunting only at the discretion of the Huntmaster.

Hunting parties for quail and rabbit cannot consist of more than three shooters, one of whom must serve in supervisory capacity to see that gun handling safety procedures are observed and that the hunting party maintains a straight line formation for added safety. Duck hunting is limited to a maximum of four hunters shooting at one time, divided among blinds surrounding the lake on which waterfowl alight. Each duck hunting group also has a Huntmaster.

Prior to entering the club lodge and before climbing aboard any vehicle or mounting a horse, each hunter must make sure his gun is unloaded, give it a dry firing test and, finally, open its action as a positive safeguard. Guns taken indoors are required to be racked immediately, with actions open. Dues are based on the scope of a season's hunting program, as previously scheduled and approved by the membership at the club's annual meeting, held in January of each year. Payment of annual dues may be staggered, but must be paid in full by October 1 of each year of membership. The broad scope of hunting activity now followed at the Little River Ranch hunt club requires a minimum of $400 per member per year. All membership dues are applied to operations. Officers serve without pay, and the firm of C. Graves Company, Inc., Tampa, is designated holder of legal title of club name and that of club guardian. The entire enterprise is a non-commercial undertaking...
A hard-working dog receives a refreshing drink and kind words for a good field performance.

The basic idea of the Little River Ranch hunt club’s program—combined assets, interests and group fun on a non-profit operational basis—is a hunting season setup that other Florida sportsmen’s groups could well activate on similar or smaller scale. There are many Florida farm and ranch lands that might be leased for seasonal use, if owners are approached to cooperate. Two requisites must mark any attempt, however. Combined effort and work: harmony are absolutely essential to success! The Little River Ranch hunt club group has proven that a successful hunting program, but do not despair if you cannot find an area with all the desired physical features. A small area can often be used for, say, a pre-season planted dove field or for instant cal features. A small area can often be used for, say, a pre-season planted dove field or for instant cal features. A small area can often be used for, say, a pre-season planted dove field or for instant cal features. A small area can often be used for, say, a pre-season planted dove field or for instant cal features. A small area can often be used for, say, a pre-season planted dove field or for instant cal features. A small area can often be used for, say, a pre-season planted dove field or for instant cal features. A small area can often be used for, say, a pre-season planted dove field or for instant cal features. A small area can often be used for, say, a pre-season planted dove field or for instant cal features. A small area can be carried out. A square with ¼ of a mile in four directions can be utilized. A square with ¼ mile sides and boundaries is established and marked. Quail are purchased and released in this area. Shooting begins immediately—at one corner and progresses consecutively, like a baseball player covers bases. When all four corners of the hunting area have been covered, hunters and dogs move to the center of the square and five birds released there, plus those that escaped gun fire of the corner hunts and headed into the square. Finally, the outside fringe of the square can be hunted, to harvest any strays hiding in that cover. This type of hunt, as stated, requires very little land area; is cheap and easy to stage, and permits high percentage harvest ideal. Besides hunter activation, this small scale quail hunting is one which any Florida farmer with suitable acreage could seasonally operate on a profitable sideline. The farmer could raise or purchase quail stock, for sale to, and on-premises release by, hunting parties comprising not more than three guns. The landowner could either double the production cost of his pen-raised birds and make no extra charge for a half a day of hunting on his acreage (in a boundary marked area), or, second, charge each hunter an extra flat fee for land-use privileges for that particular hunt. This would literally be a miniature version pay-as-you-go shooting preserve, but without the overhead or headaches of the larger enterprises. Not all farmers have the large acreage, capital and knowledge that profitable operation of a large paid shooting preserve demands. Another sportsmen sponsored, or farmer controlled, small scale hunting operation could be the planned setting aside of a field solely for Fall dove shooting and developing it as such by planting it with late season maturing, dove-attracting grains. Come Fall, the leasing sportsmen, or the foresters of the farmer, could make the dove field pay dividends. May your own group’s efforts to establish a private hunting club be endowed with the spirit and success of the Little River Ranch hunt club. There, close bonds of friendship exist among members; hunting jealousy and visible disappointments are notably absent. Consideration of fellow members is such that a meal is never begun until all in attendance are seated at the table. As a non-member would say, “They have it made!” But, here again, does the Little River Ranch hunt club are not unmindful of their blessings; grace is humbly said at every meal.

SHELTERED WATERS

Sheltered water is something many Florida fishermen take for granted and can be the difference between a day’s sport and a restless weather watch. In the minds of many fisherman, salt water means the open sea and big boats but many Florida visitors catch big salt water species for days from small craft and go home without ever seeing the open Gulf or the Atlantic. Any boat worth hauling to the scene will serve in much of Florida’s best fishing waters and the well salted canoe is no novelty while a pram or johnboat can be just the thing for back country tidal creeks and rivers and many good-sized bays. Perhaps the widest sweeps of protected waters are in the Keys on the lower Gulf Coast but there’s sheltered fishing all the way around. These inshore fishes aren’t ocean castoffs either and some of the most prized angling trophies are nearly always taken near shore. Salt water trout or weakfish, year around, state around favorites. Run biggest on the lower and central east coast and in early autumn for them is at its best. The angler can use almost any tackle, spinning, plug, or fly, and live bait works too. Trout are even thicker on the Gulf side although they run somewhat smaller. Right along with the trout are channel bass or redfish and, in the South, snook come on the same flats or are caught in mangrove rivers, passes and creeks. Where there are mangroves there are likely to be mangrove snapper and all sorts of inshore species. The coast is geared to this fishing and for every client of the chartered boat charter boat there are several fishermen who act as their own captains with their own inboard or outboard or rental skiffs, available almost everywhere there’s a suitable harbor. So confined to windless water is much of the fishing that one midwestern salt water angler said he thought he’d had a dandy fish. “I’d kind of like to see the ocean before I go home,” he said.

A lot of Florida fish die of old age without ever having a chance at a bait or lure. The reason is that they’re living just a little off the beaten path. Generally “off the beaten path” in Florida means small water—miniature lakes or streams or brackish bays. Often these spots are easily reached but even the local expert doesn’t know about them. One well-known east coast angling authority recently announced he’d found a whole new fishing area near his home. It was simply a series of little canals no one had bothered with and although the water was small the fish weren’t. He and his companion caught and released 118 snook on fly rods, rounding out their score by turning back 14 small tarpon too. The same type of things happens on black bass all the time. Not all isolated fishing water is loaded and it’s easy to become discouraged after stumping around the swamps for a few days without locating a fishing bonanza but a little investigation won’t hurt anyone. Many Florida visitors are so dazzled by enormous expanses of water that they never think to try little bays or creeks, exactly the type of water they might love back home and it’s generally easier to fish small water than big water. Small outboard motors and little boats are just as good in Florida as anywhere else and more and more fishermen bring their own rigs. Nothing beats a cartopper or a canoe in a narrow canal or a backwoods pool. Some of the biggest thrills in fishing are the heartfelt chug of a black bass’ strike in a quiet little pool or the blood-chilling crashes of a 100-pound tarpon leaping in a narrow creek. Down on the southwest coast of Florida you can fish for big salt water fish in creeks barely wide enough to cast in. On the east coast you can move along miles of man-made canals that seldom see a fisherman. You need a guide on some of these water but on many you can go it alone. So the moral is that if you like to fish the little water you needn’t change your ways just because you come to Florida.
Research is needed — from a fish’s eye view — to determine their natural water quality requirements

If fresh-water game fish of Florida were capable of the thought and the action, they’d stand on their tails and applaud the new Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission building at Eustis.

Called the Fisheries Research Laboratory, facilities and personnel there will take the guesswork out of the types and amounts of pollutants detrimental to the well-being of fish and other aquatic life.

Public health officials have long ago established water-quality standards for humans. Yet, odd as it may seem, some water which people can drink, ski on, and swim in with no threat to their health cannot support an adequate game fish population.

The new facility will look at the state’s fresh waters from a fish’s eye view.

One of the most foolproof ways to eliminate any species of wildlife is to change its environment — as we are doing daily in Florida by misuse of our water. Using and returning it in an undesirable state and adding vast amounts of chemicals, particularly nutrients, to our already down-graded water are showing their effects.

With tourism worth over two billion annually and with a majority of these people attracted to Florida because of their interest in being near or on the water, the continued abuse of these waters is already producing hardships, particularly in the sport-fishing industry.

But without a sound basis for determining specifically which substances are harmful, no satisfactory remedy can be presented.

This matter of pollution, or water quality, is extremely complex. For example, tolerances toward chemicals or other substances may vary between species of fish and even within the same species of fish. Some substances may cause an immediate and definite reaction. Others may be more subtle, building up eventually to affect a species. Or its propagation. Or one substance may only become harmful in the presence of another.

An architect’s presentation, above, of Florida’s new research laboratory. Construction of the mid-state facility, right, is nearing completion, and studies will soon start to solve complex problems resulting from the ever-increasing threats to fresh water: its natural quality, for fish, fish and aquatic life.

The new lab will attempt to arrive at the answers regarding the standards of water quality requirements as they pertain to fish and other aquatic life, will supply the means by which these water-quality standards may be determined, and will investigate the factors affecting these requirements.

Once standards are determined, these criteria will be of significance when it comes to legal action being taken against the polluting offenders. In a court of law, such standards can be a firm basis for legal action.

Backed by Eustis City Officials and the Lake County Board of Commissioners, and with some foresight, the lab is centrally located where it can serve all of Florida. Also, it is situated on the Lake Apopka Chain of Lakes which will be under intensive study. An up-to-date launching ramp area is nearby, and the five-acre site connects to Lake Eustis by the Sunset Island Canal. In addition to regular collection methods, plans are for a Commission float plane to collect and to deliver water and bottom samples directly to the lab site.

Anson/Grove/Hanck & Associates of Fort Lauderdale designed the building and Harvey Spears, General Contractor, of Eustis is the builder.

Cost of the 6,800 square foot building plus the 3,840 square foot storage area for boats and equipment — all completely finished and landscaped — will be in the neighborhood of $342,000. This money will come from the Fishing Improvement Fund derived from that extra dollar tacked onto fishing licenses back in July, 1963 (See Florida Wildlife, July, 1966).

About $35,000 worth of specialized equipment is planned for the building, this money partially derived through federal aid.

Essentially for chemical research, the new lab will have many features for this pursuit. Such features include drainpipes of acid-proof glass or acid-resistant Duriron, a costly vitreous ventilating hood, no-skid lab floors containing Carborundum, and accustical ceilings to keep noise at a minimum. The building will be virtually fireproof due to its concrete block and stucco construction and the stress-stressed concrete roof structures.

Air conditioning will be of the chilled water type. Hailed as a “first” in the state, the Fisheries Research Laboratory, scheduled for completion in late November, is being viewed with pride, anticipation, and thanksgiving by man and “fish” alike.
House-boating — a year around Florida fun-thing — has reached the variety level with models and performance to meet many styles of floating demands

Many dreams contain houseboats, which spell independence, relaxation, a bit of adventure and some hard to come by solitude.

Most of the dreams are just a little hazy, the dreamers being somewhat vague as to what a houseboat is, what it can do and a lot of other things about it.

Some people should own houseboats and some shouldn't and the name covers a lot of floating things from a shack on barrels to a mansion that requires tug service when it moves.

"House lighters" that line shores of some Florida harbors often stay moored for years at a time and some of them sit on the mud at low tide. Some others have hulls that will get up on top and plane like runabouts. I have friends who use the motorless type as fishing camps and some of them look a little funny but have served that purpose for a long time.

Let's talk about the kind that moves under its own power and that might appeal to Florida fishermen.

Don't confuse houseboats with offshore cruisers. Most of them aren't made for heavy seas so they have relatively shallow hulls, don't draw much water and, for the most part, won't maneuver as tightly as equally heavy craft with more complicated bottoms but these are the boats with the most living room for the money, for the length and for the horsepower. There can be all kinds of headroom and sun bathing space. The interior is apt to look a lot like home—or a fine house trailer.

We once bought a houseboat twenty some feet long for Shark River fishing. I had an uncontrollable desire to live down in the West Coast Everglades and catch snook, black bass and tarpon until my arms hurt. This was quite a while back and a 25-horse motor was about as big as they came so that's what we had on our houseboat. The idea was to tow a skiff or two some 30 miles down into the mangrove swamp from Everglades City, stay there and fish a week at a time, so we did. There were a few little hitches any houseboat dreamer should hear about.

Florida

House-Boating

For one thing, the 25-horse motor we used was fine for smooth water but didn't cut the mustard so well when the wind blew. In a test run we found we couldn't turn into the wind (too much cabin to catch and nothing but a flat bottom to turn with).

We also learned that our motor was a little sluggish when it came to backing down and the clumsy controls were lousy. When I'd try to shift into reverse, the engine would die. Since we had no electric starter, I'd then have to leap off my pilot's stool and yank frantically on the pull rope, often while the houseboat and its contents headed remorselessly toward a dock or somebody's shiny cruiser.

Many of my dockings were crash landings and whoever went ashore with a line checked for damage as soon as he had secured.

Launching that houseboat was a major operation and I spent a hundred bucks for a frame to hoist her in and out. Her plywood hull began to leak and bilge pumping became a regular chore several times a day.

She was not one of my better investments and, although we had some wonderful fishing from her and the living was comfortable we later figured we could have chartered a cruiser, crew, skiffs and guides for less money for the time we were afloat. We liquidated.

Boats are better now, of course. No one would produce a job like that now. No one would buy it if he did.

But, man, you should see some of the new ones! For about ten grand you can live it up and (Continued on next page)
It took lots of gasoline to fish for a week in the Everglades and most of it was stored on the foredeck. This is an old plywood boat that saw service almost 15 years ago. Note kerosene lantern on top.

(Continued from preceding page)

for a lot less you can get a pontoon boat with any kind of bungalow. The payments can be easy too. Most buyers or renters of houseboats are not serious sailors. Generally their experience has been limited to small outboard boats. Most users of houseboats are bent on family pleasure and a floating home for non-fishermen is fine while serious anglers are off in a smaller craft.

Although some houseboats will get up and scoot, it isn't necessary. Still, don't go underpowered for the job. You need some horses for maneuvering and reverse gear is often a weak spot when you're trying to kill headway toward a dock. Big houseboats that travel a lot can employ inboard engines with outdrive installations. Outboards are simple to install and can be removed for service and repair. Dual engines give you a spare in case of a breakdown although the controls are more complex. An auxiliary motor mounted beside a main power plant suits some users. It isn't started unless something goes wrong with Number One.

It doesn't take too much in the way of seamanship to handle a houseboat in appropriate waters and most of them are used where it's sheltered but things work much more smoothly if there's a crew member in addition to the skipper when it comes to anchoring or docking and occasionally when under way.

I once started down through the mangrove Everglades alone with our little gem and towing a fishing boat. Others were to join me later. The entitive trip was to be through sheltered rivers and small bays so a bit of wind was nothing to worry about.

The cockpit was back of the cabin itself and the operator could look across the roof to see where he was going. That's a nice arrangement in one respect because the skipper is close to the motor. However, there was no canopy over me and it was quite a shower. In fact it showered so well! A little warm rain won't hurt anything if it's anticipated and caught.

I had one brand new tarpaulin I'd spent twelve bucks for just before leaving the dock and it left its place up forward and came by within reach. With one hand still on the wheel I reached up and caught a corner of my new tarp which straightened out in the breeze with a strident crack and nearly yanked me overboard to sternward. And thus I finished the squall on foot grimly clutching the wheel, the other latched to the end of a gracefully streaming tarp. Both arms have been longer since that day.

The rain stopped, the wind quit and out came the sun. The towed skiff was heavy with rain water, the houseboat needed bailing and the outboard continued to putt contentedly. I hadn't lost my way but the new shade screens were gone forever. Another crew member would have been handy.

With that boat we had 110-volt lighting but our little generating plant had a primitive muffler and great enthusiasm. It simply sat on a bench in the cockpit and shrieked defiance to the Everglades. The vibrations from it hadn't been completely dampened either. In fact, it was hard to focus your eyes while it was running and it tended to make your teeth hurt. We also had a 6-volt battery that could be charged by the little engine but rather than listen to it run we comprised on a Coleman gasoline lantern.

We hung the lantern from a hook in the center of the cabin and somebody knocked it off once but it lived up to its reputation for safety and nothing happened. We used a kerosene lantern for a topside light at anchor.

That first houseboat business was a pretty safety equipment was concerned. Probably the chief hazard was bumping your head on a fire extinguisher.

We had sense enough to get a good anchor and plenty of good anchor line, something that's good for any houseboat user to remember. When we were out we usually anchored in small bays and set our hook in solidly by backing down a little to make sure it was holding against plenty of line. A houseboat offers a lot of wind surface and anchorage is important. We stayed away from the shoreline to avoid mosquitoes and catch the breeze. We usually lay in water just deep enough to float use at low tide. We kept a good battery radio aboard to get weather news.

Despite all of my grumbling about the hullscraping and painting we did have a lot of fun. In one of our favorite bays there was a lot of fluorescence at night and the gafftopsail catfish were thick.

You could toss bits of bread overboard and see them moving majestically up to it like overdone, futuristic fish in glowing outline. Their high dorsals and long, forked tails made the illusion better yet and on a cloudy night when you couldn't tell where the water surface began the show was especially good. I guess it was worth the trouble. We spent a week on that boat once and never saw but one other fisherman.

A disadvantage of big houseboats is that they're generally pretty rough to trailer. Some builders have met this objection with amphibious rigs which can be used as house trailers on land and then take off under their own power when launched.

Few owners of really large houseboats plan to take them from one body of water to another by trailer and most owners have no trailer, hauling their boats out for service the same as they would with a big cruiser.

Of recent years there has been a move toward renting houseboats for long or short periods and that's usually cheaper than outright purchase if you

(Continued on next page)
Without trying to discourage those who really want to buy their own I'd say you'd have to use a boat quite a bit to save money by a conventional purchase of anything this well equipped. Now then, Surfside 6 has something else in a buy and lease plan. The principle is that an individual makes a down payment on a boat and then leases it back to the company so it can be rented to other users when the owner doesn't need it.

This enables a purchaser to get abroad his own boat without a large investment; then he can get a tax break by putting it to work through Surfside 6 and at the same time use it for a maximum of eight weeks a year at a pretty low cost with the deal set up on a 5-year plan. He also sheds maintenance burdens and, of course, the company gets another boat to lease with small investment.

Probably the best part of this plan is an arrangement whereby a boat owner who doesn't want to do his cruising on the waters where his craft is located can go to another location instead and use somebody else's boat during his vacation. Thus, the Doe family might buy a boat at St. Petersburg for use in that area but might prefer to spend a vacation at Kissimmee or in the Bahamas, in which case they could pick up a boat at a new location.

Now, just how good this part of the deal is will depend on how far the operation spreads out. A short survey indicated that eight weeks is a liberal period for use by the average family. Of course the owner of a boat would have to make reservations and there are some restrictions as to the time of it, I'd say it might be a little fancy to keep cleaned up when used by active family vacationers but that's the problem of the folks who maintain it and not that of the user.

As rented this boat would cost about $10,000, complete with motors. It has walk-to-wall carpeting, butane cooking and light and can be plugged in to city current at dockside or can use 12-volt batteries. It sleeps six and when the beds aren't made up there's a lot of room in the cabin. There's a sundeck up topside and a catwalk with railing all around. This is pretty de luxe for a traveling boat in the rental class.

Extras would include air conditioning, television and a pram to be used as a tender at added cost. From Friday noon until Monday noon it can be rented for $125 and the weekly rate is $225. Now those rates appear reasonable and include all galley utensils and linens as well as liability and property damage insurance.

As I said, fishing seems to have been a secondary purpose thus far. There has been little demand for auxiliary boats. Of course many families would own a family runabout or utility that they could take along for skiing or fishing.

I see a rental unit as a good bet for a party of fishermen wanting to live with the fish for a few days. Various types of houseboats have been especially popular with Keys fishermen who are a considerable distance from a dock but in sheltered waters. Houseboats there have been used by guides as bases of operation as well as by families—both owned and rented.

Actual fishing from the deck of a houseboat isn't exactly a flexible method but I've seen houseboats trolling for shad, drifting for crappie and anchored off black bass schooling grounds. I have seen school bass fishermen who stayed aboard a houseboat and kept a lookout posted. When the "jump bass" got busy the fishermen would stage a combat stations maneuver and grab their rods previously located somewhere on deck. We've hooked tarpon from a houseboat and have caught fish on lines trolled while under way but that's not what they're made for.
Along the entire coastal regions of Florida, skindivers can seek and find whatever may interest them most.

DOWN DEEP VIEW

highlighted by the only underwater state park in the United States, Florida offers skindivers a rich variety of diving thrills.

The Sunshine State has the only live coral reefs in North America, outstanding visibility, literally hundreds of wrecks and some of the finest diving springs and snorkeling rivers in the world. The favorite of thousands of amateur and professional divers each year is John D. Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in the Atlantic along the northern Florida Keys.

The reef is so close to the mainland that commercial shell collectors, tropical fish hunters and, finally, spearfishermen threatened to destroy the ecology. Conservationists and organizations such as the National Audubon Society supported a movement to make the whole reef a protected area.

The park was proclaimed a permanent preserve in 1959 and in 1963 was opened to the public. Forty species of coral are found in the park as well as great numbers and varieties of fish.

The reef park is just one spot for salt water diving along the thousands of miles of coastline. From the ocean near Jacksonville where the giant jewfish peer from caves to the groupers and cobia areas of the Panhandle, skindivers can find whatever interests them most.

Although ocean diving starts off the northeast coast, the water becomes warmer and clearer the farther south the diver goes. Favorite diving and spearfishing spots are Daytona Beach, Cape Kennedy, Sebastian Inlet, Vero Beach, Fort Pierce, Stuart, Palm Beach, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton and off Fort Lauderdale.

The string of islands which make up Miami Beach and the residential and park areas to the south are favorite spots for both novice and experienced divers.

Visibility is fair down to the lower east coast and then conditions vary with the state of the tide. From the middle of the Miami Beach area south visibility increases. Just north of the Coral Reef park very clear water begins with visibilities up to 100 feet normal.

This condition prevails all down the island chain known as the Florida Keys. In this area are places inaccessible except by boat and the sightseeing and spearfishing is unexcelled. Thirty miles west of Key West are the Marquesas Islands and 40 miles farther are the Dry Tortugas, both excellent skin diving areas.

Gulf diving actually starts in this area and for the most part the bottom is fairly shallow with rocky patches. Farther north along the Panhandle coast the diving is better with reefs and an abundance of game fish.

The visibility is very good in the summer, ranging from 60 to 100 feet, but in the winter the water is murky with visibilities decreasing to 15 feet. From May to October, this area rivals any other in spearfishing and wreck diving.

For the adventurer or the amateur or professional archeologist and paleontologist Florida fresh water diving is unequaled.

Springs, rivers, lakes, underwater caves and giant sinkholes are found throughout the northern and central part of the state.

Water temperature requires the use of a wet suit, varying from 68 degrees in springs and caves to only 75 in rivers and lakes.

Springs, caves and sinkholes attract the most divers because of the adventure and underwater scenes.

North and central Florida has a limestone base, honeycombed with underground rivers containing the runoff from the land masses to the north. These subterranean waters come to the surface in the springs or are revealed when the limestone falls in form caves and sinkholes.

Crystal clear surface water often conceals thousands of feet of twisting caverns. A small pool in a pasture may conceal a huge grotto. In most of them can be found prehistoric fossils.

The rivers and springs were the routes of travel and sites of settlements for Indians and white men when the New World was man's frontier. Artifacts from the past are found by every diver.

For the amateur or the professional, Florida offers the widest variety of underwater excitement. Winter or summer the salt and fresh waters of the Sunshine State provide all that can be asked of them.
Autumn Camping

VACATION TIME FOR MANY families is now a thing of the past, but some smart folks have managed to restrain themselves until the cooler, quieter days of fall.

Campers who saved their vacations until now are really in luck at Florida State Parks. For a camper who wants to get away from it all, there are state parks tailor-made for the job.

And for a budget vacation they're just the ticket—a campsite costs only $24.84 for a two-week stay.

Griffin State Park at Fruitland Park three miles northeast of Bristol, are among those less frequented by campers, especially on weekdays during the season—just after Labor Day through April. They are ideal for the camera, you may get some great nature and wildlife shots.

Fresh water fishing is a feature of all four of the parks (state license required) with boat ramps provided at all but Torreya, where bank fishing in the river below the dam is available. Fresh water fishing is a feature of all four of the parks (state license required) with boat ramps provided at all but Torreya, where bank fishing in the river below the dam is available.

All four of the parks are somewhat off the beaten path and away from busy beaches and large cities, so are among those less frequented by campers, especially on weekdays during the "off" season—from just after Labor Day through April. They are ideal for the camera, you may get some great nature and wildlife shots.

Nature trails lead through the woods (there is even a water fall) and visitors frequently catch glimpses of wild turkeys which inhabit the area in large numbers. There are 45 campsites at Torreya, and the added fun of playground equipment for the children at the picnic area.

Visitors can enjoy skin and scuba diving at Suwannee River and at Three Rivers, and swimming facilities are being readied for next year at Suwannee River Park.

Lake Griffin is one of the largest lakes in central Florida and lies into the Oklawaha River and Silver Springs. It is famous for its "floating" islands—masses of vegetation which actually move about in the water. Water skiing is allowed here, too, and the surrounding marshes are a bird watcher's paradise. There are 46 campsites in the shady campground.

Camping with the 40 campsites at Suwannee River Creek can gratify their taste for history, scenery or just plain outdoor fun in the park's 1,838 acres which take in some well-preserved earthenworks of a Confederate fort which guarded the railroad bridge over the Suwannee, objective of Federal forces from Jacksonville which were finally repulsed in the Battle of Olustee to the east.

There are nature trails thru the varied terrain including a bridge over a woody glen called "Lime-sink Run" just upstream from the picnic area.

A campsite costs only $24.84 for a two-week stay.

Lake Griffin State Park is tailor-made for the job.

Florida Board of Parks at Tallahassee will be glad to answer questions and furnish additional information on these or any other Florida State Parks.

MIZUZZLE FLASHES

EVEN A CASUAL observer in any heavily hunted deer hunting area in Florida is sure to note the preponderance of 12 gauge shotguns in the hands of hunters.

For hunting white-tail deer in the thick woods and swamp lands of the South, the versatile 12 gauge has always been a popular weapon, and rightly so.

The shotgun is admirably adapted to the short range, snap shooting style characteristic of deer hunting in the thickly wooded South. Loaded with buck shot or rifled slug, it is an effective big game weapon.

Aside from personal choice, shotguns are also frequently being used for necessity of deer and black bear hunting.

Lamentable though the trend may be, the fact is that more and more states are putting the taboo on buck shot or rifled slug use of shotguns only. Projectiles may be either rifled slug type or buck shot or a combination of both.

The theory is that use of shotguns with either rifled slugs or buck shot in a hunter-congested area is safer than use of high power rifles. The theory is fine, but actual hunting doesn't support the theory.

It is true that a bullet from a high power rifle can travel much further than a rifled slug or a load of buck shot. But at the average deer or bear hunting ground level over which shots are made, a bullet has a relatively short flight, because of trajectory and possible deflection by leaves or trees.

The same is true of a rifled slug or a charge of buck shot. A rifled slug can travel as much as 1/4 of a mile, and a load of Size 00 buck shot cover 561 yards, but like a bullet fired almost parallel to the ground at a target usually under 100 yards, seldom do.

However, within average deer and bear hunting ranges, either a rifled slug or a load of buck shot can be very potent. At short range, a rifled slug (actually a bullet of about .48 caliber) has enough energy to penetrate an automobile engine block. The lead pellets contained in a 12 gauge shell loaded with Size 00 buck shot are each larger in diameter than a 30 caliber bullet and as deadly, even though they do not weigh as much individually nor have as much energy. Buck shot tends to scatter in a wide pattern seeking a target, and find paths through thick brush. Those pellets that connect with live tissue at close range deliver shock and energy that is squared progressively.

Also, any hunter concealed in, or on the other side of, brush into which a load of buck shot is fired, must be lucky to escape dangerous contact with anywhere from nine to 27 lethal pellets—depending on shotgun gauge and size of buck shot used! Compare those odds with the contact possibility of a single projectile, like a bullet or rifled slug. . . .

The gun manufacturers have been quick to note increasing hunting restrictions on high power rifles, and in self defense have been fast bringing out a new breed of guns especially designed to handle rifled slugs and buck shot.

Ibaca makes the "Deerslayer" pump-action repeater model, in 12, 16 and 20 gauge, and with a choice of either 20 inch barrel or one of 20 inches, bored especially for rifled slugs. The "Deerslayer" comes with further choice of either open rear sight or adjustable receiver type peep sight. Sling swivels are standard equipment.

Remington's Model 870 "Brushester," slightly different version called the "Deer Hunter," is really a 12 gauge, and with a 20 inch length barrel bored to handle both rifled slugs and buck shot in reliable manner. The model is available in 12 gauge only, and comes fitted with rifled type open sights. For those who prefer an auto-loader, Remington makes the Model 1100 in deer

(Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page)

gun version, for optimum results with rifled slugs or buck shot.

Browning has a "Buck Special" model autoloader, complete with rifle type sights and leather carrying sling.

The Franchi (Italian import) line includes an autoloader with a barrel made expressly to handle rifled slugs with accuracy. There are other shotgun models made especially for use with rifled slugs, but those described are generally the best known and used most.

Actually, many regular model pump and autoloading upland game guns of Improved Cylinder or Modified choke barrel boring will handle rifled slugs with surprising accuracy, when fitted with rifle type peep sight and correctly sighted-in. Side-by-side doubles, with tubesfactory adjusted to match chambers of shot charges merge approximately to point of aim at 40 yards, cannot be included. The offset of the axis of each bore, and the resultant change of point and shot pattern at 40 yards, usually means erratic slug performance.

There are exceptions. Sometimes one barrel of a double will put a rifled slug to point of aim at 40 or 50 yards. But it is a rare double barrel piece that will give reliable slug performance from both barrels to a common point of aim.

From a single barrel shotgun fitted with good and readily adjustable sights, a rifled slug will often deliver almost rifle accuracy up to 75 yards. If the shotgun is sighted-in for a hunting range at 50 yards, flight path of a rifled slug will be only about ½ inch high at 25 yards, and only about 1½ inches low of impact at 75 yards, and about 7 inches low at 100 yards. Trajectory thus would not be much of a problem until the range exceeded 80 yards. If the shotgun were sighted-in so that slugs hit 2 inches high at 50 yards, it should shoot rifled slugs only about 1½ inches low at 100 yards and probably make hits of aim somewhere around 90 yards. The figures are based on trajectory from 26 inch or longer shotgun barrels, but are acceptable accuracy for the slightly lower velocities resulting from use of shorter barrels.

In all, there are at least twenty different styles of shotgun slugs currently on the market, but the American manufacturers and the German-made

Brenneke are best known and more readily available. The two types will do whatever might be required under normal hunting conditions and ranges. The American slug is too well known to need description here.

The R. W. S. German-made Brenneke has a gas-sealing wad permanently screwed to the base of a conical, straight shouldered lead slug slightly larger in diameter than American rivals. The base of the Brenneke, like most American slugs, has a hollow. This hollowed base assures safe and easy swagging in shotgun bore and also helps keep the slug's heavier nose head on during flight. Also, like most American rivals, the Brenneke slug has slightly angled swaged ribs, to give the slug slow rotation and to better stabilize the projectile in flight. Some authorities regard the Brenneke as being a bit superior in accuracy to American-made rifled slugs.

Several of the better quality cheap style shotgun sights are of detachable type, to permit conversion of weapon from deer hunting class to gun for upland game.

Shooters often worry about choke damage that may result from firing rifled slugs through tightly choked shotgun barrels. They needn't . . . .

In the cement industry it is customary to fire rifled slugs to loosen slag that accumulates in hot rotary kilns. So far, there have been no reports of shotgun barrel choke boring being affected by abnormal daily firing of more rifled slugs than the average shooter ever uses. . . .

The average inside diameter of the Tightest boring in an 12 gauge is .729", while the overall diameter of our largest commercially-made rifled slug is around .690" size. This means that a rifled slug of correct gauge is considerably smaller than the average shotgun barrel of corresponding gauge, and can easily pass through the tightest choke.

Also, if there were any real tightness at all, the soft lead and readily compressible ribs of the hollow rifled slug would easily swage down without hurting choke one bit.

The only real trouble that might ever be encountered would be the rifled slug striking the compensator vents of an improperly aligned choke muzzle device and even that would be more in the nature of a scraping contact rather than destruction. Also, the installation of the muzzle-attached choke control tube would have to be a pretty sloppy garrulous job for any damaging action to take place.

How do the special slug-shooting models perform when used with loads of small size shot—say, Size 7½—for upland bird hunting? Performance depends on which make of slug-shooting shotgun you choose to also use with small shot.

Browning advises that the equivalent of Improved Cylinder patterns will be obtained from its model. Remington says the same. High Standard reports likelihood of more and shot patterns—the equivalent of standard Cylinder barrel boring. Browning claims its small shot patterns will be about as tight as obtained from normal Modified choke. Mossberg reports experiment with performance of 35 percent at 40 yards. Winchester and Franchi failed to answer my inquiries, but a few pattern targets will quickly tell the performance story for each make.

Common center of shot patterns obtained with small shot over a 40 yard test range will rarely correspond with the same center of pattern for a group of shots made with loads of small size shot. Buck shot, heavier than bird shot but still lighter than a rifled slug, have a flight time between that of slugs and small shot, again with a difference in registered center of pattern impact.

Whatever the make, model and choke boring of shotgun used, you cannot fire a single rifled slug at a pattern target, then assume that a pattern of small shot will automatically take the slug's hole as common center or impact, or that buck shot and bird shot will register in like manner. The only way to truly evaluate performance is to fire the different loads—rifled slug, buck shot and small bird shot—over the same distance at a common target or on which hits will register and can be studied.

A READER writes asking if there will be any felt shortage of sporting guns and ammunition because of the increasing seriousness and scope of this country's embroilment in the Viet Nam conflict. The answer is definitely "Yes!"

For some 25 years previous, the United States literally wasted its supply of surplus, but serviceable, shoulder arms by giveaways to friendly foreign nations and by destroying surplus inventories. We even gave away most of our fine Garand M1's.

The Viet Nam conflict found the United States with a serious shortage of small arms. In consequence, the Colt Company has been hastily producing the M-16 rifle, and has just given an order for another 190,000. Remington Arms and Federal Cartridge companies have been called on to produce millions of rounds of ammunition. Other firearms and ammunition manufacturers are sure to get Government contracts. Obviously, war needs are fast taking precedence over manufacture of sporting arms and ammunition.

Retail dealers say that traveling Smith & Wesson representative is now making what practically constitutes "mere courtesy calls." The representatives reportedly will take an order, but make no promise of delivery. Some dealers say they haven't had any new Smith & Wesson target grade .32 and .38 caliber handguns in months.

There are still plenty of hunting rifles and shotguns in retail sporting goods stores' stocks, but there may not be abundance of all models, and some models are already scarce or absent entirely.

If there is a moral to this sad story, it is to pursue the gun of your dreams now, while it can still be had, along with a reasonable supply of ammunition for it.

The Redfield model receiver sight will bring out maximum accuracy of shotgun firing rifled slugs. It readily detaches when one is ready to change back to bird hunting.
CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

in helping to educate the very young on the wonders of nature, wildlife, and the world around them."

McGregor pointed out that there are 35 million boys and girls in this age group throughout the United States. He emphasized that leading educators are convinced that a child achieves seven out of ten Americans now living every ten years of age.

He is convinced that a child achieves seven out of ten years of age. Each issue of the magazine will be issued a membership card in their own neighborhood, as well as be provided with opportunities to acquire outstanding books on nature and conservation, plus other educational materials.

To be issued each month except July and August, Ranger Rick's NATURE MAGAZINE will be patterned after NATIONAL WILDLIFE magazine published by the Federation for its 220,000 associate members. Due off-press by mid-December this year, the first issue will feature articles about Alaska brown bear cubs, the work of snow rangers employed by the U.S. Forest Service, animal hibernation, and other entertaining, educational aspects of the outdoor world. Each issue of the magazine will contain suggestions and instructions on things to make and things to do in nature study and conservation, plus games, puzzles, riddles and other proven learning techniques enjoyed by youngsters.

Complete details and information about this new educational program and Ranger Rick's Nature Club in their own neighborhood will be issued a membership card, pin and decal. They will be encouraged and shown how to organize Ranger Rick's Nature Club in their own neighborhood.

Children enrolling in the new program will be issued a membership card, pin and decal. They will be encouraged and shown how to organize Ranger Rick's Nature Club in their own neighborhood, as well as be provided

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November, 1966

Park Construction

The State Cabinet recently committed to the Florida Park Board $60,000 for a new construction project at Bahia Honda State Park and $84,975 for a new construction project at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

State Parks Director Bill Miller said construction for Bahia Honda State Park will include 2 campers' comfort stations, an entrance station and a shop and equipment shelter.

Construction for John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park will include a combination bathing house and concession building, picnic shelters and a shop and equipment shelter. Also included in the project will be a bathing beach.

The project at Bahia Honda State Park is part of a $95,000 improvement program now underway there. Improvements planned for John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park this year will cost $187,000.

Both parks are located in the keys and Monroe county. Bahia Honda is the southernmost state-owned campground and wildlife reservation in the continental United States. There are rare tropical plants here that can be found nowhere else in this country.

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park is 55 miles south of Miami on Key Largo off U.S. I. WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Through the generosity of W. T. Cox of Orlando and his wife, Bertha H. Cox, the Florida Audubon Society has been deeded 43 acres of woodland in the northern part of Orange County for use as a wildlife sanctuary and nature center. The land is a part of the Audubon project at Bahia Honda State Park.

Mr. Cox expressed himself delighted that he could present this desirable wildlife habitat to the Florida Audubon Society for he has watched the Bobwhite and other birds make use of it over the years, and he believes future residents of Holiday Highlands will welcome this spot of green near their properties.

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE
For smooth docking operations, it takes patience plus knowing how to “use” the wind and water currents

**Boat Docking**

By ELON WHITE

This is the time of the year when traffic on the famous Intracoastal waterway starts getting a little thick.

And, as is the case with auto traffic in this wide land of ours, the fantastic increase in the number of pleasure boats in America will soon make the “intracoastal” as busy as Times Square at five o’clock.

With improved waterways and facilities all along the Florida coast, the day is long gone when boaters were somewhat wary of bringing their craft to Florida via the waterway. Time was, and it wasn’t too long ago, either that yacht owners just moth-balled the big cruiser in the winter and headed for Florida via train and car. Nowadays, he can arrange for everything from delivery of the morning paper to assist his boat up a leisurely trip down the aqua-ribbon, and finds more than adequate ports of call all along the way.

And usually, upon arrival in south Florida, he finds the finest lineup of marinas that can be found anywhere in the world.

One of these marinas, and probably one of the better known in the world, is famous Bahia Mar in Fort Lauderdale. Irv Deibert is GM of BM now, and finds more than adequate ports of call all along the way.

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One of these marinas, and probably one of the better known in the world, is famous Bahia Mar in Fort Lauderdale. Irv Deibert is GM of BM now, and finds more than adequate ports of call all along the way.

High spot on the long list of improvements at the 390 -boat marina is a $3.3 million, 115 unit Motor Inn, which opened November 1, 1966.

Also new at Bahia Mar is a complete revision of dockage rates, the first in the industry to take into account the considerations of long-term guests. Included in the rates is a list of services which provide for everything from delivery of the morning paper to 110/220 power and even twenty-four hour security service.

Old Bahia Mar is wearing a new hat, and new and old-time visitors to our south Florida “Venetian” will be pleasantly surprised this winter.

Carl Kiekhaefer, the spirited and enigmatic Dutch genius who made Mercury motors a by-word in the outboard industry, has always been a pretty fine fellow when it came to the nation’s press. Kiekhaefer initiated the famous Mercury press parties where approximately 150 of the country’s top outdoor and boating writers were invited to some enchanting place somewhere under the sun and given a royal treatment for three days the likes of which are seldom seen anywhere.

This year’s extravaganza, which is also used to introduce the coming year’s line of Mercury Motors, was at Port-O-Call in St. Petersburg, and plans are to give a running account of what went on in the next issue, after attending the shindig. Magazine production being what it is, we have to mention it about a month before it actually happens, so we’ll let you know about Mere’s impressive line for 1967 in the December issue.

A couple of months back we wrote that Chrysler Corporation was coming into the outboard field like hungry relatives coming to Sunday dinner.

The new 1967 lines being shown by Chrysler all over the nation are ample proof that what Buck Wright told at the Outdoor Writers of America convention last June wasn’t just a publicity man’s line of chatter.

Usually, as in automobiles and boats, when a manufacturer announces a “new” line for the coming year, the “new” will mean some different paint job, a few new mechanical innovations, some new pictures with different girl models, and perhaps some technical changes.

But Chrysler, in announcing “new” boats for the 1967 model year, wasn’t kidding. Their new boats are NEW from top to bottom and from bow to stern.

The biggest eye-opener, to me, is Chrysler’s new Hydro-Vee hull on the Charger and Courier models. According to Adam Koch, prexy of Chrysler’s boat division, this is not a modified V- hull or a fresh name for the same old shoe.

“The hull is 100 percent new,” Koch reported. “We selected the name Hydro-Vee because this extremely fast, efficient, and stable hull embodies for the pleasure boater the best features from three-point hydro hull and deep-v hulls. To over simplify what’s been accomplished is a combination of the stability from sponsos such as appear on hydroplane racers and the high speed and soft ride delivered by ocean racing deep-v, or stepped bottom craft.”

Even the travel people are begrudgingly admitting that the three most popular sporting activities of U.S. adults in their increasing leisure time are fishing, boating and boating.

These findings were divulged by Travel Research International, Inc., in their latest issue of Travel Capsule. Based on TRI’s continuing survey of 30,000 different U.S. adults every year, this comparison of the use of leisure time is detailed in Travel Capsule.

Among all U.S. adults, the percentage of those participating in the nine most popular recreational activities and sports are—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<td>Bowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>12%</td>
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</table>

When they figured those ice skating statistics, they weren’t interviewing any Floridians. But it is quite conceivable that several of the “interviewee” were from Florida, and that gives an added boost to the fishing, boating and camping totals.

So, there are the figures, friends. You can see where fishing and boating far exceed any other outside activity in this country.

For many years I have gotten a special kind of “kick” watching various skippers dock their boats.

In what looks like the simplest maneuver in boating, docking in actuality scares more people than Franklinstein on the loose. In particular does it give many lady skippers the heebies, but I have seen some of the gals make pikers out of us guys who think we know all there is to know about docking a boat.

All I can say is, the fellas that invented boat fenders should be placed in boating’s Hall of Fame at the top of the list.

One of the easiest methods of judging the ability of a skipper is to watch him dock his boat. No matter what the weather, the skillful outboarder always seems to be able to get his boat to the dock gently, and with a minimum of backing and filling.

While docking is not something you can master by reading a few paragraphs, the experts do have some tips which will make this chore less troublesome, and these experts passed on the info to me.

The key to smooth docking, they say, is patience. Many outboarders will spend a long day on the water and then try to dock a boat and unload its contents in five minutes. Take your time and try to learn to let the wind and water currents assist you.

One of the biggest mistakes beginners make is coming up to a dock at a rapid rate and then relying (Continued on next page)
(Continued from preceding page)

on the reversing of the engine to slow down and stop the boat. Just as they are about to apply limited power to nudge them to the dock, the wake catches up with the boat and throws it against the side of the dock. Always allow plenty of room to slow down.

Some outboarders come to a complete stop about 50 yards from the dock and then start again, making the docking procedure a completely separate maneuver. This method has the advantage of allowing them time to judge wind and current conditions as they exist in the immediate vicinity.

Always approach a dock against the current, for it will act as a helpful brake. Working against it with your motor running will give you better steering control.

When winds are brisk, they can have a strong influence on the handling of a boat. If the boat has a fairly high cabin, it presents more surface to the wind than it does to the current. Practice offshore to learn the effects of various wind conditions and how to allow for them in controlling your boat.

Actually, docking a boat throws more unnecessary fear into novice skippers than anything else. It is sorta like the gal learning to drive a car... she can do everything right on the button 'til it comes to parking, and there is where a lot of them push the panic button.

Many "cowboys" who feel they know all there is to know about handling a boat are among those who charge into a dock at full speed, counting on a quick reverse to pull them up to a classy stop, just inches away from the dock. I have seen these cowboys haul into the dock at full speed, get within boat length range and then power into reverse. On many occasions the motor quits and you can imagine what happens. Well, one thing... sure keeps the dock repair men busy!! Not to mention insurance adjusters.

WANT TO TAKE a magnificent boat trip that is for "teeny weeny" boats only? Then come with us as we cruise the beautiful waters of the St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers, just south of Tallahassee at St. Marks.

We will have a complete yarn on this cruise in an up-coming issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, but in between now and then, if you want to take a small boat (and it has got to be small) up the St. Marks and Wakulla, don't pass up the opportunity. It isn't a long trip... barely 16-15 miles up the St. Marks from the launching ramp (and a fine one, too) at Newport on U.S. Highway 319, and a mere 10 mile run up the Wakulla from the confluence of the two rivers at St. Marks... but such scenery you didn't know existed outside a Tarzan movie. Fact is, some of these Tarzan scenes were filmed up the Wakulla River.

But you must take a small boat. Oh, it isn't absolutely mandatory, as I went up the Wakulla in a 20 footer with a 20 horse Johnson on it, but we did a lot of backing down to clean long grass off the prop. That grass simply flows right along the surface of the water on the Wakulla, especially, and you'll get all tied-up occasionally, even with a small boat and motor. But it isn't impassable... only may be, but not impossible. It is a trip you'll rave about. More about it in the full feature we plan for later on.

A cruise up the narrows of the St. Marks River will reveal some of the finest wilderness boating waters to be found.

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**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

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<tr>
<td>CHAIN PICKEREL</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLUEGILL (BREAM)</td>
<td>1½ pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHELLCRACKER</td>
<td>2 pounds or larger</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BLACK CRAPPIE</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED BREAST</td>
<td>1 pound or larger</td>
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</tbody>
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For that BIG ONE that didn't get away

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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 application citations received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

---

**APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION**

Name (please print):
Address:
City, State, Zip No.
Species:
Weight:
Length:
Type of Tackle:
Bait or Lure Used:
Where Caught in County:
Date Caught:
Species:
Bait or Lure Used:
Where Caught:
Date Caught:
Species:
Registered, Weighed By:
Signature of Applicant:

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK