**Florida Wildlife Scrapbook**

**Florida Wildlife**

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**In This Issue**

- Busy Broadtails
- Coarse
- Anglers Afloat
- Win By A Nose
- Shellcracker Fishing

**Departments**

- Fishing
- Game Management Notes
- Hunting
- Wildlife Officer Notes
- Conservation Scene

**The Cover**

Found across the northern part of Florida, the Beaver can hardly be mistaken for another animal. Its paddle-shaped tail is used for making warning snaps, and as a rudder while swimming. See page 4.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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**Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission**

**Tallahassee**

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**ROSE TALLAHASSEE**

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Florida Beavers
Blessed, Blasted—or Both?

busy broadtails

By GENE SMITH

Florida's beaver population wouldn't exactly put the Hudson Bay Company back on its feet but there are enough of the furry, paddle-tailed engineers living between Pensacola and the Suwannee River to make their presence known. And to some, the beavers aren't welcome.

In many instances, landowners frown on the damming projects so energetically undertaken by beavers. There is no denying they cause some damage to crops already planted while also flooding arable land and preventing its being planted. Too, roads are occasionally flooded and caused to wash out by the effects of beaver dams. Even more frustrating to the farmer, beavers cut down or girdle valuable timber—and sometimes, fruit and nut trees.

But whatever their faults in man's eyes, beavers are still among the most interesting and useful of all wild animals. Also to their credit is their role in helping early settlers and explorers survive and earn livelihoods in their wild young nation, whose economy was virtually founded on the beaver fur trade.

Because beavers are mostly active at night, not many people see them. Signs of their presence in an area are unmistakable, however. Felled saplings, cut away bark from standing trees, conical stumps, stick and mud dams and beaver dwellings, called lodges—these all spell "beavers at work."

A typical colony is a family of beavers consisting of two adults, a few sub-adults—maybe four—and one to four young of the year, called kits. After predators, disease and accidents have taken their normal toll, the colony may total about five to seven animals instead of the nine or ten which are sometimes found. (Even a small colony can do enough work to make it appear there are more beavers in the vicinity than there really are. A system of dams may be built over a fairly wide area—usually after completion of a main dam.)

Beavers produce only one litter per year. They breed in January and February; the young are born in the lodge or den (beavers also tunnel and occupy bank dens) in May and June.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE
FEBRUARY, 1970
seen any wildlife lately?

There's a lot of that water that's too choked for fishing, of course, but there are a surprising number of spots where you can cast with something weedless. Most newcomers to weed fishing keep looking for completely open pools that aren't there and wouldn't hold any fish if they were. Heavy weed cover works two ways as far as your approach is concerned. If you're cautious enough the vegetation can conceal you from fish; if you wade or pole recklessly, you'll move the shrubbery for yards around the fish and make them suspicious. Even though there may be a heavy crop of water stuff all over the place, the fish often tend to lie next to extra thick spots where there's heavy shade and protection from birds. This bird complex seems to follow fish no matter how big they get, and a fish big enough to choke a "pterodactyl" will sometimes shrink from a kingfisher's shadow. Anyway, if you've fishing a heavy stand of submerged weeds, the occasional patch of bonnets or a solid bank of cattails are especially good spots.

If you'd use polarized glasses and look carefully you can often see spawning bass from a dike, well above the fishing territory. You probably can't splash right in and catch them from there, but it'll give you a good idea as to the best spots in the vicinity. Even if you don't see fish on the beds you'll

(Continued on next page)

Covered Waters

there are several ways to try fishing the "weedy waters" that generally work well, especially down in the more southern flat sections

By CHARLES WATERMAN
probably spot the cleared nests which generally appear a little lighter than the surrounding bottom. I fish to pockets all right, but if I don't see any and my lure is weedless enough, I throw it right into pretty thick stuff. Probably the most popular of all weedy water baits is the pork chunk or strip with a wobbling spoon. Best known of the wobbling spoons, I suppose, is the Johnson. The Weed Wing, a spoon with a spinner, is also very popular. Personally, I prefer plug casting tackle to spinning outfits for this fishing because yanking loose from the hangups is heavy duty and the fish must be hosed considerably. There are not too many plugs suitable for weedy work. The Doofer, no longer made, was a dandy and I bought a bag full of them for this kind of tackle the skipper recommended.

New part of my leering attitude toward sailfishing on fly rods is sour grapes since I have never had the wherewithal to pursue them except briefly—and when I did it I figured it should stick to the kind of tackle the skipper recommended.

Now, call it a stunt or not, catching a sail on fly tackle is a sporting proposition. Any fly fisherman who has watched sailfish ballet in the bait in late winter has undoubtedly wished he could give them something besides a trolled bait. V aldene does that. Then, if the sails don't show on top, V aldene and his fishing associate, Gil Drake, Jr., use plastic squid, trolled as hookless teasers from casting rods, and sometimes cast to fish that veer away from the boat. All of this is obviously a highly skilled and well rehearsed operation, and not for anyone who doesn't have some time and equipment.

Forgive me for inferring the whole thing is a stunt. I guess a moon shot is kind of a stunt too.

Along the lines of boat safety have been some pretty scary conclusions about the results of exposure to cold water. Starting with the macabre Nazi experiments with doomed captives during World War II, quite a few conclusions have been drawn about the shock of cold water and just how long a man can live in it. Generally, if it's really cold, a life jacket won't help for long. In Florida waters, this is not often a problem but there are times when the water gets pretty chilly.

For years we've been seeing pictures of faddists who stage annual shoreoffs in near freezing waters, apparently with no ill effects. Of course their exposure doesn't last long. But the experts tell us that when the water temperature gets down around forty you'd better stay dry if you can. Naturally the results would depend largely on the physical condition of the subject.

A couple of years ago I went duck hunting in a new kidskirt wind in South Florida when I couldn't retrieve some downed birds in any other way, I peeled down to my shorts and went in after them. The first feeling was one of shock, then a prickly skin sensation and a little difficulty in breathing, but I never realized how much of a wallop it was to my aged system until I read about it recently. Don't think I'd do it again.

When someone starts talking about fishing luck I usually tune him out since I have heard such yarns several times in the past fifty years. Most of us have been on the winning or losing end of an odd-ball occurrence with one guy catching all of the fish. I'd love to make a statement that such results come from great skill and deep thought, but it isn't always the case. The sail fishing phenomenon is the most interesting one to me and I have repeatedly heard of two trollers, one of whom cleaned up while the other couldn't get a strike.

Last winter, while trying to learn something about shad fishing with flies, I overheard the discussions of quite a number of trollers, talking loudly above the mutter of their idling motors, and after they quit discussing the jerk trying to catch shad with flies, they would often turn to the subject of one line that was catching all the fish from their boat while the other was catching nothing. This is standard procedure in shad fishing. Even with two fishermen using exactly the same lure, one is likely to get all the action.

I have watched this shad business several times and my favorite story concerns the night I went home fishless after my partner caught shad at will, using the same flies and frequently changing places with me. I confess I was so buffed that I went back alone the next day and stared at the water where the shad were "washing" happily, so short of confidence that I hesitated to start fishing. I needn't have worried. It was my day and the fish latched on merrily.

When you fish from those inflated "bubbles" or inner-tubes, sometimes made of plastic, sometimes made of canvas and a truck tube, locomotion is gained by several methods. As you sit there inside your doughnut in your little canvas seat, your feeling of grandeur can slip a little if the current or wind is strong. Perhaps the best known method is that of the paddles that you fasten near your ankles. As you "walk" through the water, the paddles hinge out and give thrust. They swing out as you bring your foot backward, and fold to go easily as you stick your foot forward again. Then there are the regular swim fins with which you can go backward at a pretty good clip. One fellow who fishes in weedy water uses a short stick with a blunt hook to pull himself along where he can't touch bottom. Ping-pong paddles are pretty good gadgets for gentle maneuvering. Just fasten them to your craft with a piece of string and you can lay them down when they're not needed.
AN UNUSUAL antlered doe (?) deer—previously named "Shim" by onlookers—was killed in Calhoun County in December 1969 by Charles C. Copp of Blountstown, hunting in the Alx Springs section of the county off State Road 275.

The 181-pound deer sported a well-polished, 7-point rack—but none of the other normally evident characteristics of male deer. Its external sex organs were typically female in appearance. Internal examination when the deer was dressed revealed both male and female reproductive organs, parts of which were presented by Game and Fish Commission personnel for study by wildlife biologists.

Antlered doe deer have been reported occasionally in the past in Florida, but their antlers were said to have been stunted spikes that usually stayed in velvet, a condition attributed to abnormal sex hormone secretion. The Calhoun County specimen, however, produced sufficient sex hormone to stimulate full antler growth and hardening.

According to the literature, researchers have produced artificial antlers experimentally by injecting them with testosterone, the male sex hormone, produced by the testes, which controls secondary sex characteristics.

A study in Michigan showed one antlered whitetailed doe in 20,000 to 30,000, though the abnormality may have occurred more frequently. Some cases probably were not reported to wildlife authorities by hunters—and some remained undetected, of course.

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST Larry H. Barwick, 26, joined the Commission's technical staff in December. He is assigned to the Wildlife Research Projects office at Gainesville.

Larry, who is married and the father of two children, is a graduate of Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama (B.S., '66; M.S., '69). During the course of his studies he gained considerable experience in trapping and marking wild birds and mammals.

He is an assistant project leader and the principal investigator on a new life history study of gray and fox squirrels, which, according to Barwick, should eventually involve collections and other work with squirrel populations all around the state. Only limited research on squirrels has been done in Florida, he notes, and none in recent years.

Live trapping of greys is now proceeding in selected hardwood hammock study areas near Gainesville. Marking of captured animals is by the ear tag method, after which the squirrels are released—many to be recaptured again and again. By pecans, the best bait Barwick has tried for coaxing wild squirrels into his wire traps. Eventually, other marking methods will be tried, says the biolo-

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

These unusual sightings are an indication of the species' adaptability. They have learned to take advantage of the man-made habitat that has been created in Florida over the years. This adaptability has allowed the species to survive and thrive in the state, despite the challenges posed by habitat fragmentation and human activities.

Short Time For Shad

IF YOU'RE CASTING for a kind of angling in which everyone can catch fish, look no further. The yearly shad runs are on in several Florida rivers. Now is your time to shine.

For years these spectacular spawning migrations of hardbiting, good-tasting fish—of shad roe fame—have brought swarms of sport fishermen to the upper (southern) region of the St. Johns River. The predominant species is the American Shad, called white shad locally. They are present from one to five pounds. The largest ones invariably being ripe females, or roe shad, heavy with their well-known seafood delicacy. The Atlantic coast rivers have some Hickory Shad, too, which are smaller than white shad but otherwise about the same.

These fish are in the St. Johns—and the St. Marys River—from November to the middle of April. Peak fishing comes during peak spawning—in January and February, normally. (Cold spells turn off all spawning activity temporarily. March is a good shad fishing month too, particularly if February is unusually cold.)

Light and ultralight tackle are favored on the shad fishing grounds. Spin fishermen have a ball with these strong swimmers andjumpers. Fly outfits are seen, too, along with simple cane pole rigs with long monofilament lines—say, four-pound test—and small jigs or spoons. Shad will take just about anything thrown at them, including beer can openers and bare gold hooks. But there are lots of small, flashy lures made just for shad fishermen.

In the St. Johns River, trolling is a favorite method of shad fishing. Boat traffic is so heavy at times the pilots automatically fall into follow-the-leader-type trolling patterns, which helps avoid too many fouled lines. But shad fishermen are gregarious and talkative anyway. They don't mind a bit of crowding. If boat traffic is heavy, so are the stringers and ice chests.

In Florida, sport fishermen are allowed 15 shad per day. Some trollers employ tandem rigs and hook fish two at a time, which is quite a thrill.

Across the state in two notable panhandle rivers—the Apalachicola and Chipola—another small shad species provides a relatively untapped sport fishing resource. This is the Alabama Shad—for all practical purposes the same as its Atlantic side counterparts. It hits as hard, runs as good, tastes as good, and looks about the same—white, or silver, sided with forked tail and razor-thin belly. Top weight for this one, 16 pounds. However, some think it is an even better-yielding food fish.

There are two hotspots for taking Alabama Shad—tried and proven: in the tailrace of Jim Woodruff Dam on the upper Apalachicola River, near the town of Chattahoochee, and below Dead Lakes Dam on the lower Chipola River, near Wewahitchka in Gulf County.

There is one major difference between Atlantic coast and Gulf coast shad that is important to fishermen: their timing. Alabama Shad don't arrive in their home rivers until February. Peak fishing at Jim Woodruff and Dead Lakes dams comes in March. The adult shad are all gone by the end of April—back to the Gulf of Mexico, where they remain until their return trip the following February. (Incidentally, studies show that American Shad in the St. Johns River all die after their one and only spawning.)

Many shad fishermen have a nasty—and illegal—habit of removing only the roe and discarding the rest of their fish, tossing them on the bridge or bank, or back into the water. This is not only un­

The feasibility of using electronic transmitters to study these animals is being investigated. Radio tracking—wifilo-telemetry—has been highly successful in other life history studies in Florida—involving such species as deer, bear and wild turkey. And some solar cell-powered telemetry work is being done experimentally with bobcats and whitetails.

But why study squirrels?

Assistant Chief of Game Management Gordon Spratt of Tallahassee cited some reasons in the February, 1970 issue of Florida WILDLIFE:

"Small game species are most important with respect to satisfying the greatest number of hunters and in terms of hunting opportunity, or men-days, and harvest.

"Dove is the top small game species by all measures, and although more quail are harvested than squirrels, squirrel hunting provides more men-days of recreation than quail hunting. Therefore, squirrel may be considered the second most important small game species, at least in terms of hunting opportunity afforded Florida hunters. Squirrel harvests are diminishing as habitat destruction continues." (Emphasis added.)

Alabama Shad, found mostly in two northwest Florida rivers, have not yet gotten fever with the sport fishing frenzy, somewhat of a puzzle in view of the popularity generated by almost identical species taken in sections of the St. Johns.

Both shad species provide a relatively untapped sport fishing resource. This is the Alabama Shad—for all practical purposes the same as its Atlantic side counterparts. It hits as hard, runs as good, tastes as good, and looks about the same—white, or silver, sided with forked tail and razor-thin belly. Top weight for this one, 16 pounds. However, some think it is an even better-yielding food fish.

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The veterinarian found the shoulder and wing injured by a blow on the shoulder—delivered by a huge, tough looking, white tom cat. The boys hastened to assure me the bird had been brought back for a checkup. Young of these owls are brought in several times a day to become a professional. He is fortunate in having his wild creatures around.

An unfinished, unenclosed porch at the rear of the house is Mark’s clinic and this was Caesar’s domain for the next several weeks. After the first week or so he was not caged.

Sharing the space with him from time to time were two immature screech owls, which had the freedom of the yard during the day. The family cat, a huge, tough looking, white tom with the rather incongruous name of Snowflake, considered the porch a part of his own territory and spent much of his time there. Oddly enough, though the cat was not above catching some unwary bird or small wild animal in the yard, he never attempted to molest any of the creatures Mark brought home.

Snowflake and Caesar had many a glaring contest, and when Caesar made one of his early unsuccessful attempts at flight, he inadvertently landed on the doorstep within three feet of the sleeping cat. Nothing came of this, and on the whole, the owl and the pussy cat kept an uneasy truce.

For the first few weeks, Caesar was fed four times a day on raw chicken heads, necks and other waste parts—a half pound per feeding. As he grew, his meal hours changed and he was fed at night. He never cared for the daytime meals anyhow and would frequently leave most of it to eat later. Though he seemed to prefer chicken, he also enjoyed a raw beef bone, which he would pick clean then finish off entirely—bone and marrow!

By MARGO MOSFORD

CAESAR

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Later, Mark caught toads, rats, lizards, and even rabbits for him and he would eat them all.

Even though the owl had full freedom, he was always reluctant to leave the porch. It had become his home base and he was uneasy away from it. And the human family must have meant safety to him for when Mark took him away from the house to give him “flying lessons,” if he suddenly caught sight of people in the yard he would head for them at once, not even trying to fly but with wings slightly raised, and strikingly ungracefully, he would awkwardly “galumph” across the lawn to join them. Apparently, Caesar just did not want to fly. But Mark persisted, both with the flying lessons and in caring for him.

Considering the horned owl’s raptorial nature and its reputation for being fierce—“the tiger of the air”—the boy did a fine job on Caesar, though he still claims the bird was never truly gentled.

Mark’s mother became accustomed to having the owl sit on the narrow window sill and watch through the screen as she prepared dinner at night or washed the dishes. But he startled some of the neighbors by playing the “peeping Tom” at their windows.

The boy had kept up the flying lessons until, when tossed into the air, instead of tumbling ignominiously into a flower bed or a shrub, Caesar would take short flights. Soon he was taking off of his own accord from an arm or shoulder, sometimes striking Mark with his big wings hard enough to cause a real headache.

And so “the tiger” progressed from the porch to a pine tree near the house and, for a while, was satisfied to spend his days there, coming back to the porch only at night.

Caesar was growing up. He had lost the last of his woolly baby down and was feathering into a handi­some bird. He was also becoming more and more independent, at times refusing to come down from his tall perch. The boy had kept up the flying lessons until, when tossed into the air, instead of tumbling ignominiously into a flower bed or a shrub, Caesar would take short flights. Soon he was taking off of his own accord from an arm or shoulder, sometimes striking Mark with his big wings hard enough to cause a real headache.

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Caesar was growing up. He had lost the last of his woolly baby down and was feathering into a handi­some bird. He was also becoming more and more independent, at times refusing to come down from his tree. For a time Mark could climb up and coax him to perch on his arm and so bring him down. Soon he refused to let Mark get to him, moving just out of reach each time the boy came near.

On two occasions Mark’s father went up the tree and, with bare hands, untangled the owl from clumps of Spanish moss—meeting with no resistance. Later, when clambering about in his favorite tree, Caesar encountered a heavy mass of moss and, using both feet and beak, parrot-style, attempted to climb it. His feet became so entangled he could not move, and in struggling he lost his balance and fell, swinging head down in a most undignified manner for such a noble bird. This time, with the help of a long pole, the whole mass and its prisoner were slipped to the ground, where the hapless fellow could be safely handled and released.

The last time the veterinarian checked the injured wing his verdict was again that the owl probably could not survive in the wild. He suggested that it be placed in a zoo. Letters were written to several places but brought no response, so Mark continued to care for his pet.

Then one June night, when he was thought to have been just over six months old, Caesar spent his first night out—away from “home.” His world suddenly had grown larger. From then on he was on his own, though for a while he continued to come back for the snacks which were still put out for him.

In his forays from home base he had discovered the wild area behind the house, a combination of swamp and woods, and this is where he established new headquarters. It was a fine hunting area, with numerous smoky mantids, snakes and birds, his natural foods. Mark saw him there many times after that night when he left for good. And to make it perfect, he was spotted one day in a tall pine in the company of another horned owl.

Even after this, once in a while the big bird would come to his old tree in the Pasill’s yard and watch the boy perform. But never again did he come down to the ground.

Caesar was a wild bird, after all. Even after more than three months of close association with the human race, Bubo virginianus, great horned owl, Caesar—whatever you call him—had gone back to his own, and was once again “the tiger of the skies.”

Caesar was first a ball of disheveled feathers, left, with wild and glaring eyes. When full grown, below, the great horned owl went back on his own—“a tiger of the skies.”

Drawings: By Wallace Hughes

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

FEBRUARY, 1970
there are all kinds of quadjets and boats available for fishing

Anglers Afloat

By CHARLES WATERMAN

The very best outboard fishing boats are specialized because the very best fishing is specialized. Top choice for an Okeechobee grass flat would be 'way down the list for Gulf Stream trolling. Nevertheless, most fishing boats are compromises and intended to adapt to several kinds of fishing; many of them serve also for family cruising; many of them are chosen after earnest family discussions and don't quite satisfy anyone. The two-boat family is quite common. The boats I use most are for protected water fishing, at which they are pretty good. A majority of the pleasure boaters would sooner be caught poling a cypress raft than riding in one of them. Unless you're pretty serious fishermen you sure won't find much status there.

After twenty years of a boating craze I predicted wouldn't last five, I find that the majority of boat buyers are either gung-ho sailors who use nautical terms most fishermen wouldn't understand (many of them scorn fishermen) or people interested mainly in the computation of horsepower and miles-per-hour. There is another contingent that wants to sleep on board a boat whether they ever go anywhere or not. Boat and motor quality are now excellent. A few years back the customer did a lot of the testing on new models. I knew one outboard boat manufacturer who didn't own a motor. He said he was sure his brain child would work and there was no use in testing it.

You'll seldom see two fishing boats exactly alike even in the same waters. Fishermen are individualists with definite ideas. Here goes for some of them that make sense although not all of them could be incorporated into any one outfit. We'll consider some other things that don't quite score with me but are making boat builders rich. Although fiberglass goes great guns for general boating use, aluminum is the current leader for very light fishing boats. There is aluminum that serves fine in salt water, is quite light and will withstand constant oyster bar scraping that is quite hard on glass. I believe the most cartop boat for the money is a 12-foot, lightweight aluminum johnboat (square-ended). This holds more people and fishing tackle well and is usually made with low sides. Not much beauty, lots of go.

If you can get a 12-footer that will take a 9-horse motor, you'll have an engine that will plane most rental boats, something that deserves a lot of thought. A 9-horse (or something in that class) will also serve as a "get-home" motor on a pretty husky big-water boat. It is too large for canoe use, although I have seen a 9½-horse motor used on a big canoe—on a side-bracket yet! Touchy business. The very small spare motors, less than 6-horsepower, are sometimes not capable of turning a big outboard boat against the wind and not quite enough for "get-home" insurance on a very large lake or offshore.

Where water won't be rough, a 14-foot johnboat is still light enough for cartopping, although it won't work inside a station wagon. The under-ten-horsepower motor will still hump it along at plenty of speed for most fishing. A spare motor that can also serve for trolling can still be quite small with that boat. For that matter, almost any outboard will idle well enough for considerable trolling those days.

One of the real marvels is the 16-foot aluminum johnboat, tremendous load-carrying capacity and amazing speed with something in the 20-horsepower class or a little bigger. That's so large a boat you need a trailer, of course, but it is something to think about. Not much beauty, lots of go. It rows fairly well and is usually made with low sides. Low free-

(Continued on next page)

One of the more popular fishing boats is the square nosed johnboat, for left. Lightweight, easily handled aluminum models can be carried on top of a car or in back of station wagon. The canoe, left, is a popular pleasure craft. and stream

Florida State News Bureau Photo

Photo By Wallace Hughes

Charley Waterman

Florida State News Bureau Photo

Photo By Charles Waterman

FEBRUARY, 1970
boarding is one of the first requirements of many fishermen who don't want something the wind will shove around.

About that freeboard: High sides are a big selling point for family boats. They are truly helpful in the protection of small children but don't aid a great deal in seaworthiness as long as a boat is under power and can be headed into heavy seas. As long as the bow is high enough to lift over the waves without diving into them, freeboard is less important than commonly thought. High freeboard is in the way for most fresh water fishing, catches the wind and makes some boats virtually impossible to row—something most owners don't expect to do anyway. They might catch more fish if they did.

A novel Florida type of boat is the Skipjack and its imitations, a very fast plywood skiff with a very high bow, tapering back to low gunwales. It made its big score with commercial fishermen who had to cross fairly rough water but needed the low gunwales for their trotline and net operations. Some salt water commercial fishermen use a similar design with the outboard motor mounted in a well so that the stern can be used for hauling nets and traps.

I won't fault the Skipjack design for most fresh water fishing. It rows well and goes with moderate power. A big 16-footer with a motor in the 50-horse class really streaks, but plywood is definitely on the losing end these days because of the maintenance necessary. However, I know a guy who recently got rid of his pretty glass job and had him a Skipjack built.

The tri-hulls, cathedral hulls and their ilk are easy riding, especially in moderate chops, are very steady for fishing and pretty fast if you can give them enough power. The Boston Whalers are the best known of those boats, very expensive, tremendously tough and safe. Some of them can't be rump even though filled with water. I don't think much of them for rowing although I've done quite a few miles that way. Most of them draw a little more water than do conventional hulls when pol ed on the flats. I name the Boston Whaler because it was the first big winner in that type and is still a leader. There are dozens of other boats of the same general construction (some of them bold copies) that cost less and are adequate for most use. Almost all of them are good buys and made of fiber glass. There are a few in aluminum. There is nothing magic about the trick bottom when the big waves really roll. A Boston Whaler will boom loudly when it comes off a water mountain, but there are a lot of fine features about these boats. Look at the room you have for the length. For big water, the Florida-made Aqua-Sport is built with lots of Vee up forward and a flattened stern so it will work over shallow flats. This is a big boat, coming in two sizes, and is made of fiber glass. It is a wonderful outboard in rough water, and nice to cast or troll from, but too much boat to row. It can be pol ed a little. It costs plenty but is inexpensive when compared to big inboard cruisers. I would say that it is too much boat for 90 percent of our fresh water fishing.

In the Florida Keys, many of the guides are running big, open outboards with at least 100 horse-
never happened to me. There is no doubt the Skeeter is rugged and fast with moderate power. It’s nice to row and those who sell it also sell lots of how-fastened electric motors with foot operation.

Some of those big, fast, deep water boats with deep Vee bottoms ride beautifully and are excellent for trolling or casting in deep water but have definite limitations in small lake, river and flats applications. They also require considerable horsepower to do their snappy stuff. Most of the big water outboards carry more power than necessary, the owner generally saying he wants lots of speed for getting home in bad weather. Usually this is just an excuse for a love of lots of power because few boats are operated at full throttle in rough seas.

If I had to use one boat for all of my Florida fishing, I’d decide against the offshore bit and settle for something in the fourteen to 16-foot class with a casting platform forward and a place to cast from at the stern with an oarsman in the middle. Right now, I have two boats which fill that bill, both of them ancient aluminum Orlando Clipper models that are no longer made. Both are about sixteen feet long, one using a 55-horse motor, the other a forty. The larger of the two takes a long-shaft motor and is safe in pretty big water, although the bottom is too flat for high speed in a heavy sea. Although it can be rowed with big oars, the sides are too high for safe in pretty big water, although the bottom is too

And some of the fast houseboats now available are a far cry from the leaky plywood “lighter” we used to shove down into the Shark River country with an outboard motor, towing a couple of fishing boats behind. About the only advantage of our boat was that it was shallow draft and the screens kept out the mosquitoes. As an investment it ranked along with sweepstakes tickets. I suspect a later owner finally chopped a hole in the bottom (no great task) and let her sink. Nevertheless, she kept us on top of a lot of fish we’d have missed otherwise.

The Sea-Camper, a really deluxe thing now built in Jacksonville. It costs almost $31,000, but it is a combination of travel trailer home (really mounting solidly to a special trailer) and fast cruiser, doing between 30 and 30 miles an hour on the water. The power is inboard-outdrive. The accommodations are really first class with plenty of sleeping room in the 24-foot “cruiser.” There’s toilet, shower, efficient galley, lots of storage space inside and room topside for almost anything. I’d be inclined to figure a way of hauling a small fishing boat up there.

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Now you could go into back country with that outfit, towing a fishing skiff, and have it made in luxury. The only hitch would be that you’d have no place to tow a sizable fishing skiff when on the road with your “house trailer.” The Sea-Camper looks as if it would last forever, mainly constructed of fiber glass. The propa ne tank, for example, is made of aluminum. One guy turned in a sea-going cruiser and a first line travel trailer, figuring he could boat both of his former possessions with one unit. Launching is efficient.

I don’t say the Sea-Camper is the only fine out-drive cruiser or the only roomy houseboat, but it is easy to row and wonderful to fish from. The bottom at the stern is only four feet wide—too much of a good thing because it doesn’t plane high with a heavy load.

Both of these boats are heavy duty jobs—ugly as turtles but seemingly indestructible in normal use. The older one is ten years old. Now although they will take endless scraping over rocks, gravel and oyster bars, it is quite possible that sustained operation in chopp y waters would loosen their rivets. I give them nothing but hard use although I do take it easy in heavy seas and try not to pound the bottoms too hard. Both are flat enough to shorten your spine anyway if you race over rough water.

There are some wonderful aluminum fishing boats made these days, most of them coming from the south or south central part of the country. Missouri and Arkansas are home for lots of aluminum builders and welding is taking the place of lots of riveting. Some of the best aluminum boats of a few years back proved too expensive to build. The majority of the aluminum fishing boats are made for lower-powered outboards but there’s really no limit to outboard power for aluminum. There are lots of excellent aluminum houseboats and cruisers.

Although they are not properly light-tackle fishing boats in themselves, some of the live-aboard cruisers are especially adaptable to inshore use with the fishing skiffs towed or mounted on top. This kind of operation makes for some of the best fishing because you can anchor at a good fishing spot and be ready to fish in early morning and late evening, generally the best times. My experience is that you’ll simply catch more fish with such a combination.
If you know an animal's capacity for smelling, you may know something of its worth to man and its standing in the animal kingdom. The nose often determines the animal's personality, its way of finding a mate, making a living, and protecting itself.

Noses come in all sizes and in the most fantastic designs and places. You cannot look a creature in the face and tell how well it can smell. You have to study it in action.

The sphinx moth has a nose four times as long as its body. On the other hand, the noses of some birds and fishes are so inconspicuous you may doubt that they have them.

Noses are designed for use under all kinds of circumstances. The swift, to fly as fast as it does, must have its nostrils point backward.

I have smelt disturbed snakes at a sufficient distance to serve as a warning, and it seems likely that snakes can smell humans—which may be a good thing. It would seem to be our odor, at least in some cases, that causes rattlesnakes and others to set off their wranglings, because their senses of sight and hearing are considered to be comparatively dull.

Trailing ability in some snakes seems proof of their keen sense of smell. When a poisonous snake strikes a sizable animal, the victim may escape and travel a considerable distance before the venom kills it. But the meal is not lost. The snake trails its prey and catches up with it by scent.

Many of the little creatures are big on smelling. The ant, in some respects, is representative of numerous insects that depend heavily upon their sense of smell to obtain food and to warn against enemies. It has two protruding, maneuverable noses up front. And, like many other insects, it has series of nerves masses scattered in a chain down the length of its body that play some part in smelling. An extensive traveler, it is an excellent trailer and conducts involved colony business by the sense of smell.

Possibly nature has never been more generous than when equipping honeybees for smelling. For a creature that spends its life amidst the varying perfumes of flowers, a thoughtful nature has provided it with thousands of olfactory sense organs—5,000 for the female workers and 74,000 for the drones.

Many flying insects can trail through the air. Some male moths can detect the presence of a female with a range of several miles. Some male moths can detect the presence of a female of his species up to a distance of a mile. And so efficient is his olfactory equipment, it tells him very subtle and useful things—like whether or not the female has been mated, or wants to be.

Certainly the nose is not the crowning asset of every animal. But for many—possibly a majority—the margin for winning—a living, a mate, safety—is by a sensitive nose.
Fishing For Shellcrackers

By ART HUTT

THE SHELLCRACKERS? Why, it’s one of Florida’s most vicious fish!

Thus spoke a central Florida camp operator. And, while I’d never thought of this brawler in that light, upon recollection it is the fish most likely to jerk an unattended cane pole out of the boat or flex it close to—and frequently beyond—the breaking point.

Looking back, there have been times when I thought it was impossible for any fish of that size to pull that hard. Thick-bodied, broad-sided, full-finned—a shellcracker uses all of these features, plus surrounding vegetation, to discourage its captors.

While shellcrackers should, at least theoretically, be a year around quarry, fishing for them hits high gear when they migrate to the shell bars, then continue on into shallower weedy places to spawn. These conditions, depending upon water temperature, usually become most evident in March, April, May and June.

Worms are the best bait for these pole benders. Digging your own (they’re tougher) is up to you, but the conveniently store-bought African nightcrawlers seem to be more appealing to the shellcracker palate.

Pierce the worm through its collar to allow both ends to wriggle freely. Keep a live one on your hook to attract more shellcrackers—a dead one is no good. If action is slow, add another worm or two.

In open water, and ideal rig is light spinning gear with a slip-sinker and a small hook, about No. 8, either gold or bronze. While many anglers use short-shanked hooks, I prefer the longer handled model as it (for me) is easier to pay out of a shellcracker’s sturdy mouth.

You’ll be bothered by nibblers on the bottom but a serious shellcracker will take a couple tags at your bait, then settle down for some serious munching. This is when you should strike.

For shallow water fishing, use a cane pole, float, and line with a small hook. Set your outfit so it will fish toward the bottom. Bobber fishing for shellcrackers demands a special kind of alertness. They’re usually nibblers. But frequently a shellcracker will assert itself and do a definite disappearing act with your float. There is no doubt what to do here—jerk! But commonly, too, the shellcracker will make a noble approach. You’ll suddenly notice that your float is riding a little deeper—or higher. Or it may even be lying on its side as though your split-shot were pulling it that way. Don’t hesitate—haul back on the cane pole. Chances are it won’t come up empty.

To locate a bed of shellcrackers, you can follow the crowd—or find your own.

If you have a sensitive nose, you can sometimes smell them. As a youngster, I scuffed at this possibility but now I know that it works. Apparently the oily milt of the male rises to the surface, emitting a fishy odor—not unlike that of a dead garfish! One veteran states that he can even detect an “oil slick” on the surface when there is abundant spawning activity.

Anyhow, bloodhound this odor down and commence fishing.

While easing through the pads, you can also watch for fresh cuttings which suggests shellcrackers are at work making beds. Shoveling and jerking pads very likely means shellcrackers are present, too, and are bumping into or snatching snails from lily pad stems, incidently signalling their presence in the meantime.

As table fare, I’ve never been thrilled by shellcrackers, on opinion affirmed by one of my fishing friends who swears they taste “like wood.” Most folks consider them a treat, however.

Whatever differences there may be regarding their taste-appraisal, opinion is unanimous that the shellcracker is a rough-and-tough customer on the end of a fishing pole.

Gun Recoil

hunters are becoming more concerned with possibilities of suffering gun recoil “punishment” and fail to apply accurate shooting techniques

By EDMUND MCLAURIN

SHOOTERS HAVE ALWAYS been complainers. They complain about missing too many birds, failing to bag a buck or down high-flying waterfowl—or simply about not having enough free time to enjoy more shooting.

A current complaint is that guns are kicking harder than ever. As one shooter expressed it, “Either my Winchester Model 12 is kicking harder or I’m beginning to feel my age.”

For him, as with many others, there is considerable truth in both suppositions. Our old guns, firing modern loads, do kick more, and we shooters, as we add years, do feel more gun recoil than formerly.

The recoil, or kick, the shooter feels is directly related to gun weight, the energy expended by the burning powder charge, and the weight, or mass, of the projectile being fired. It is simply Newton’s law at work.—“For every action there must be an equal and opposite reaction.”

To what degree this equal reaction (recoil) is felt by the shooter is influenced by many factors besides those already mentioned, however—the manner in which mechanical operation of the gun’s action absorbs or brakes some of the recoil (as with some of the autoloaders); stock fit, especially comb height and straightness of stock; how the shooter holds and controls his gun, what he wears when firing; his experience with, or fear of, gun recoil; and whether or not he is more gun conscious than target conscious, the latter being the correct approach to shooting, of course.

Many shooters are so concerned with the possible punishment of gun recoil that they do not apply the basic shooting techniques necessary for consistent accuracy.

Next time you’re on a trap range take time to study the mannerisms of the different shooters on the firing line. Observe how some take great pains to press gun hard to shoulder and invariably bring face down to stock comb—in an effort to make sure they’re all set for anticipated gun recoil. Invariably, these shooters are decidedly recoil-conscious, either from poor gun fit or inexperience.

On the other hand, there will be others who properly bring gun stock comb to face and fit shooting to gun, while obviously concentrating on the appearance of the target. Anxiety about firing recoil is not evident in either stance or manner.

It goes without saying which shooters get the most hits.

Most experienced shooters can handle a 12 gauge shotgun without being bothered by recoil even though a 12 gauge firing one of the modern powders has more recoil than a 30-06 rifle. Yet some of those same experienced shooters admit dislike of a 30-06’s recoil! The difference in the felt recoil is in the shooter’s mind.

When shooting the 12 gauge he is generally target conscious, with greatest concentration on target flight path instead of the gun at his shoulder. When using the 30-06 he is apt to be more mindful of his powerful rifle, its sights, and anticipated recoil than on a distant target.

The mental attitude can make a big difference in one’s tolerance of recoil!

However, anxiety about recoil can result from more than just mental attitude. Many guns do deliver bruising kick-back blows to face or shoulder when fired.

A very common reason why some shooters get punched in the nose or lip just about every time they fire a hard-recoiling gun is that they do not press the cheek firmly against the comb of the gunstock. When fired with the cheek only lightly touching the stock, with the face unsupported by the comb, the gun comes back sharply but the shooter’s head does not, and the shooter may get smacked in the face or have his shooting glasses broken—sometimes by his own stock-grrippng hand.

Much the same can happen if length of pull is too short, with the result that the shooter’s aiming eye and face are initially held too close to the gun breech, the bolt knob, the hammer, or to his own prominent thumb knuckle.

Here’s when a shooter gently but firmly presses his cheek to a properly fitting gunstock comb, his face will remain in position when the rifle or shotgun jounces back from recoil. The two will recoil as one.

This is why one shooter may fire a gun with hard recoil and never be bothered by the noise and fury, while another may be jarred to the roots of his wisdom teeth if not actually bruised.

Quite logically, a properly shaped gunstock and face-supporting comb will do much to reduce consciousness, and fear, of recoil by stemming up gun and (Continued on next page)
shooter and giving the latter confidence in both himself and his firearm teammate.

Many shooters so dislike the recoil of a 12 gauge shotgun with modern loads they change to 20 gauge seeking less recoil. They usually do not fully gain their objective. The 20 gauge shotshell is smaller than one of 12 gauge size, contains less powder and fewer shot, and develops less recoil. But the average 20 gauge usually weighs at least a pound less than the 12. Some 20 gauge guns are notably lighter. So, though there is less developed recoil on firing, there is less gun weight to absorb the volume of recoil.

In round figures, a 20 gauge shotshell weighing 31⁄2 pounds and firing a 7⁄8-ounce load of shot backed by 21⁄2 drams equivalent of powder kicks just about as hard as an 8-pound 12 gauge gun firing 1-1⁄4 ounces of shot, backed by 3-1⁄2 drams equivalent of powder. In the end, there is little benefit from changeover to the lighter 20 gauge, so far as feeling recoil is concerned. Better that the shooter seek a 12 gauge model with a hand-fitted stock and modified felt recoil. If the shooter wants to go even further, he can get his gun fitted with a special stock that incorporates hydraulic fluid and powerful springs, in butt end, to reduce felt recoil. Patented and first marketed as “Hydra-Coll,” the recoil reducer—which works much like an automobile shock absorber—has been taken over by Winchester, and given the Winchester designation WRRS, denoting “Winchester Recoil Reduction System,” the new trade slant on a patent that earned good reputation under its own name.

At muzzle end, installation of a Lyman-Cutts slotted-cage style selective choke device and recoil reducer will, by itself, bring about almost 25% recoil reduction.

The ventilated type Poly-Choke will also reduce felt recoil measurably—but not quite to the extent of the Lyman-Cutts, I would venture to say without making actual dynamometer tests. Leading ballistics laboratories that have conducted dynamometer tests of various brand name shotgun muzzle attachments give the Lyman-Cutts good performance rating, without exception. Evidently, Colonel Cutts, the inventor of the muzzle brake attachment made and marketed by the Lyman Gun Sight Company, knew his physics.

The old zig-zag ribbed Power-Pac is another practical shotgun recoil reducer, if you can still find one around, of proper size for your barrel’s inside diameter. Like the ventilated Poly-Choke, which comes in different barrel diameters in 12 gauge alone, the Power-Pac was made in different diameters, as well as gauges. My advice to the shotgunner anxious to minimize the effect of firing recoil is to start with a good fitting Remington Model 1100, already noted for its superb mechanical handling of recoil. I would install a Pachmyr pad on butt end; fit muzzle end with either a Lyman-Cutts slotted-cage style Poly-Choke, and utilize a shooting coat lightly padded at point of gun butt placement.

The total investment will figure much less than a special gunstock incorporating the present day version of Hydro-Coll. Also, from my viewpoint, the Cylucal (plastic) stock material used to house the novel recoil braking system lacks the beauty of a good grade walnut stock.

Besides the more powerful small shot loads now being used for trap, skeet and upland gunning, many shotguns are seeing service with rifled slugs for deer and other big game fired on at fairly close range.

In order to get maximum benefit from combination of shotgun and rifled slug load, it is necessary that the shotgun be fitted with an adjustable rear sight, that will permit adjustment of rifled slug to desired impact point by changes in rear sight elevation and windage. Once the shotgun is sighted-in, sure hitting will likely be had over the average short ranges for which the rifled slug is most accurate and effective.

This correlation of point of aim and of slug impact point is best achieved by sighting-in from a solid and firm surface. The shotgun is charged, fired from a solid support, and allowed to sit down. The slugs are fired at a shooting bench, gun fore end resting against the bag, three inches forward of the sight base. After the shotgun is sighted-in, the shooter is ready to exert his skill in getting his shots close to the mark. The shooter should use a straightest stock he can handle, that is much more relaxed for me, if not less noisy. Fifteen rounds during a single shooting session is just about all the jarring my system can take from a .460 Weatherby Magnum. However, I have a better position to position my head to obtain maximum benefit of scope eye relief; otherwise, the heavy recoil (when firing from bench or sand bag rest) may bring my shooting glass and scope tube end into harsh and damaging contact.

Rolling shot of the .460 Weatherby Magnum is much more relaxed for me, if not less noisy. Fifteen rounds during a single shooting session is just about all the jarring my system can take from a .460 Weatherby Magnum, however, I have a better position to position my head to obtain maximum benefit of scope eye relief; otherwise, the heavy recoil (when firing from bench or sand bag rest) may bring my shooting glass and scope tube end into harsh and damaging contact.

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for the sportsmen

**Something To Think About**

*By JOHN MARSHMAN*  
*Savages Aren’t Gentleman*

The arrival of a New Year traditionally calls for an evaluation of vandalism and other acts indicating disrespect for the rights of property owners occurred during the 1969-70 hunting season.

The problem is statewide, but Maj. R. M. Brantly of Lake City, northeast region manager, cited incidents in the Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area that illustrate what landowners—and law-abiding outdoormen—are up against.

Someone shot holes in several pieces of heavy equipment belonging to Georgia-Pacific Corporation and to a private logging contractor. Actual damage was estimated at several hundred dollars. Loss of work for some work crews boosted the total cost to the community.

Elsewhere in Florida, reports of cattle and hog shooting and theft—including the utterly senseless destruction of a shetland pony by gunfire—fence and gate damage, littering, and other misuse of private property, have been cause for great concern to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, particularly when the acts have been perpetrated within any of the wildlife management areas it operates.

"Understandingly, landowners are becoming more reluctant to participate in the state’s public hunt area program. Vandalism and disregard of the rights of others could, in some cases, be the deciding factor that causes thousands of acres of hunting lands to be withdrawn from use by the general public," said Brantly.

The Game and Fish Commission urges hunters, fishermen, and all outdoormen to exercise mature judgement while afield or afloat. Be a good citizen. Report witnessed cases of vandalism and other law violations to the proper authorities. But better still, be a self-controlled, and courteous. Then there will be fewer cases that need reporting.

Give a damn . . . please!

**Wildlife Officer Notes**

A newly formed Game and Fish Commission pistol team in the Northwest Region won third place in a match between military and state law enforcement personnel in December. The competition was sponsored by Tyndall Air Force Base, near Panama City, and held at a base firing range.

Wildlife Officers B. L. Timmons of Marianna, R. W. Hilton, Wewahitchka, D. E. Barber, Niceville, and R. L. Kelly, Milton. Preficiency with the service revolver is their aim. Florida’s 26-hour Police Standards School, required of all new officers, devotes 24 hours to firearms training, including firing 550 rounds and qualification on F.A.I. practical pistol course.

He came to work with the Game and Fresh Water Commission October 1, 1946. Perryman, who was born in Levy County, was 65 in September.

In the special course each officer fired 75 rounds, all timed firing, from prone and sitting positions at 50 yards range; right and left hand barricade at 25 yards; one hand, standing, at 25 yards; double action, from crouch, at 15 yards; and rapid fire, from crouch, at seven yards.

The Tyndall Air Police team captured top honors, winning the pistol team trophy. Second place in the competition, from crouch, at 15 yards; and rapid fire, from crouch, at seven yards.

Two Florida wildlife officers with service totaling nearly half a century retired in late 1969.

Allen "Pete" Legrone of Wewahitchka, who was 65 in October, stepped down after 26 years in game and fish law enforcement work. He was employed by the Commission November 20, 1943.

Pete was assigned to Gulf County in the Northwest Region won third place in a match between military and state law enforcement personnel in December. The competition was sponsored by Tyndall Air Force Base, near Panama City, and held at a base firing range.

Wildlife Officers B. L. Timmons of Marianna, R. W. Hilton, Wewahitchka, D. E. Barber, Niceville, and R. L. Kelly of Milton, were shooting together competitively for the first time.

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**CONSERVATION SCENE**

Mr. May told some 990 delegates to the Keep America Beautiful annual meeting that the anti-litter campaigns of KAB, the state highway departments, and the thousands of cooperating organizations “are obviously cutting into what has been a steadily growing national litter problem.” He urged redoubled efforts to convince Americans that littering is one blight on the environment that can be licked through “personal responsibility.”

**DU-Waterfowl Conservation**

A new “proof mark” of conservation participation is making its colorful appearance in this state and all across the U.S. and Canada. Each sportsman-conservationist who contributes to Ducks Unlimited's vital ‘ducks factory’ construction programs during 1970 receives an attractive wildlife conservation identification which will produce a single offspring each year, and of these only a small percentage survive to adulthood. The duck hunter is the great educator of wildlife conservationists.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**Two cases of gun possession violations came to light this past fall that illustrate the point. One involved the arrest of a Wyoming gun collector in Denver, Colo., on charges of violating the Gun Control Act of 1968. The other involved the arrest of a suspect in Detroit, Mich., on charges of possession and sale of marihuana.**

**Notes**

They also saw evidence that hibernating bats had been killed by persons using stones and clubs in Old Indian Cave.

**FLORIDA Caverns State Park**

Florida Caverns State Park at Marianna does not have “bats in its belly” but has taken steps to protect the rare flying mammal's population undergound. The park is the only hibernating area in the state for gray, Keen and Indiana species of bats. To ensure the preservation of these bats, Old Indian Cave, one of 26 caverns in the park's underground cave system, has been closed to the public until early spring. The main entrance to the cave has been covered with steel mesh large enough to allow passage for bats but an effective barrier to man. Naturalists and biologists became concerned when they noticed the dwindling numbers of the bat colonies at Florida Caverns during the past ten years.

**old Indian Cave was closed this year until early spring. It also will be closed each year from September to early spring to give the bat colonies a chance to hibernate.**

**Gun Law Hypocrisy—Example**

Smoothing the arguments forelor laws, that the lawful owner of a firearm, not the criminal, suffers most of the penalty, according to John Marshman of Savage Arms Company.

They have pointed out that persons bent upon illegal gun registration and licensing laws, that the lawful owner of a firearm, not the criminal, suffers most of the penalty, according to John Marshman of Savage Arms Company.

**Apologies!**

For several reasons production and mailing of Florida Wildlife are behind schedule. Please accept our apologies!

**February, 1970**
Glass is First Class in Litter Prevention

The companies that make pop bottles, baby bottles, shampoo, beer and catup bottles, and all of the many other containers made of glass for thousands of different products, were named America's outstanding industry in litter prevention for 1969. Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the national anti-litter organization, presented its annual Business Award to the Glass Container Manufacturers Institute, the trade association that represents more than 90 per cent of the industry.

The award, made during KAB's national awards luncheon in New York City on Nov. 17, was the first event of a two-day annual meeting attended by some 500 litter prevention enthusiasts from the U.S. and overseas.

Allen H. Seed Jr., executive vice president of KAB, said the year-round litter prevention activities of glass container manufacturers are "outstanding examples of what an entire industry can do to arouse public support for preservation of our nation's beauty." He praised the energy and resourcefulness of individual companies in their plant communities, and said that "the stimulation of such enthusiastic and active support from such broad cross sections of people in their home towns and cities has established a goal of excellence for other industries throughout the country."

Conservation For Survival

By JOHN MARSHALL, Savage Arms

Our natural environment. Just a term to most people—abused, spoiled, desecrated, polluted, ignored, taken for granted. Some experts who were concerned about the environment long before such terms as conservation and natural resources commanded the attention they now do say we are rapidly approaching the point of no return.

This means that unless man, as he continues to multiply in astronomical numbers, takes stock of the environment he needs for survival, he will perish. It's as serious as all that! Almost.

Fortunately, there are people in these United States who are cognizant of the threat and have taken steps to do something about it. New York is one example, where voters recently approved a "Conservation Bill of Rights" in a general election. To do so, they added a new amendment to the state's constitution, making it a policy of the state to conserve and protect the natural resources and scenic beauty; improve agricultural lands; preserve air and water; protect shorelines and wetlands; develop and regulate water resources and reduce excessive noise.

Truly an awesome task, as State Conservation Commissioner R. Stewart Kilborne admits, but it must be done. In commenting on the voter action, Commissioner Kilborne said, "With predicatable population growth and increasing urbanization, it is essential that conservation action be directed for total management of the natural environment."

"This will require a much closer evaluation of all natural resource values," he added, "and can be achieved through long range natural resource planning keyed to ecological relationships."

The approval of New York's "Conservation Bill of Rights" will add impetus to the State Conservation Department's work already underway. More importantly, it calls for implementation of such programs at all levels of government and by the people themselves.

Proper management of our environment is a major crisis facing the American people today. Full realization of the benefits of our natural resources, and what the consequences will be if our environment is not properly managed, must be made the concern of every American citizen.

Public reaction to the problem in New York is a major step in the right direction. Hopefully, other states will follow suit in adopting similar amendments to their respective constitutions. Sportsmen should make it their business to be among the leaders in such action.

Mr. Seed gave particular attention to the glass container manufacturer's National Anti-Litter Week programs, which were conducted July 1-7, and to a special program designed to involve youngsters in litter prevention, an anti-litter letter-writing contest, with anti-litter suggestions addressed to television comedian Henry Gibson.

Accepting the KAB award on behalf of the industry was Franklin B. Pollock, president of the Glass Container Manufacturers Institute and chairman and chief executive of Thatcher Glass Manufacturing Company.

The day after the awards luncheon Richard E. Fisher, director of the Institute's public affairs department, told delegates to the meeting how the industry's prize-winning litter prevention programs were developed and executed. Mr. Fisher's office counsels and assists glass container manufacturers with their anti-litter efforts.

Keep America Beautiful, Inc., founded in 1953, is the national nonprofit, non-partisan, public-service organization dedicated to prevention of litter. It conducts continuous programs of public education designed to stimulate individual responsibility and pride in clean, safe, healthful and attractive surroundings.

KAB provides assistance to thousands of groups and communities in the 50 states.

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<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>LARGEMOUTH BASS</td>
<td>8 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHAIN PICKEREL</td>
<td>4 pounds or larger</td>
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<td>BLUEGILL (BREAM)</td>
<td>1 1/2 pounds or larger</td>
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<td>SHELLCRACKER</td>
<td>2 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLACK CRAPPIE</td>
<td>2 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td>RED BREAST</td>
<td>1 pound or larger</td>
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All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness. The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle shop within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.