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IOWA STATE TRAVELING LIBRARY
APR 21 1969

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April, 1969
Volume 28
Number 4
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1969 Outlook Good For

All Kinds of Fishing!



It's that time of year again. Anglers of all ages are hauling out tackle boxes, cleaning reels, checking line, rods and other fishing equipment.

It's spring fishing time in Iowa. After a long hard winter, Iowa anglers are looking forward to pleasant days in their favorite fishing areas.

Iowa offers a variety of fishing to test the angler's ability. Take the Mississippi River for instance—considered by many to be a fisherman's paradise.

Slab-size crappies are common for the ring angler. Below the locks and dams there are good populations of walleye and sauger. Largemouth bass and bluegill fishing is good in the back water and rough areas.

Northern pike are numerous and waiting to test an angler's skill, while rappy white bass are available to provide plenty of fast action. Channel catfish are abundant. Bullheads are also found

in the river although not in great numbers.

Don't be surprised if you catch an unusual character such as a fresh water drum, mooneye or bowfin because there are many different species of fish in the "Father of Waters." Yes, the Mississippi is quite a fish factory.

For the angler not acquainted with the Mississippi River, it's a good idea to contact the local conservation officer or boat livery operators for fishing tips.

These people usually can tell you where the so-called "hot spots" are and what baits are producing the best results. All fishermen have their own secret or special baits and angling methods, but it can pay dividends to ask the local people for current information.

Another very important factor to keep in mind when river fishing is the water conditions. Fluctuation of water levels due to above normal rain or snow and reasons can drastically affect the fishing.

So again, it would be wise for the fisherman to ascertain the water conditions prior to venturing out. This is especially true for fishermen who would have to travel any great distance.

There is an open season on all species of fish in the Mississippi River the year round except for rock sturgeon which is closed.

On Iowa's western border are two other rivers—the Big Sioux and the Missouri. Channel catfish are the prime contribution to the sports fishermen on the Big Sioux River.

The Missouri River with its oxbow and cutoff lakes should again provide some top angling. Crappie, catfish, northerns, largemouth bass, walleye and sauger are available. Crappies and largemouth bass in particular are often overly cooperative to the early angler, especially in the oxbows such as Brown's Lake west of Salix,

(Continued on page 28)

Iowa Conservationist

Vol. 28 April, 1969 No. 4
Published monthly by the Iowa Conservation Commission, State Office Building, 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579, manuscripts, mail items) to the above address.

Subscription price: two years at \$1.00
Second class postage paid at Des Moines, Iowa
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COMMISSION MINUTES

State Conservation Commission Meeting
Held in Des Moines, Iowa,
February 13-14, 1969

Two projects were approved for submission to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation: Hamilton County Conservation Board—Brigs Woods Park Golf Course—Development. City of Boone—Blair Park—Development.

The following County Conservation Board land acquisition projects were approved: Black Hawk County Conservation Board—Cedar River Green Belt Addition—60 acres. Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board—Shell Rock River Green Belt—77 acres. Monona County Conservation Board—Oldham Recreation Area—12 acres.

The following County Conservation Board development plans were approved: Buchanan County Conservation Board—Jakway Forest. Davis County Conservation Board—Pulaski County Park.

Approved the request of the Linn County Conservation Board to establish special regulatory rules for the use of 36 acres, Matsell Bridge Access Area.

Exercise the option for 92 acres of land at Cone Marsh, Louisa County. Exercise the option for 20 acres of land at Riverton Area, Fremont County.

The State Highway Commission made available to the Conservation Commission the acquisition of the following tracts under a mutual benefit lease arrangement for planting of wildlife cover and public hunting. Dallas County—77.13 acres. Pottawattamie County—11.65 acres Commission approved acquisition of these tracts under the lease agreement.

Approved the expenditure of \$4,500.00 in Fish and Game Capital Funds to cost share an impounding structure on Silver Lake, Dickinson County, in accordance with the terms of an Erosion Control Agreement.

The following purchase options were approved: Crystal Lake, Hancock County, 130 acres. Volga River Project, Fayette County, 5 acres. Shimek State Forest (Croton Unit), Lee County, 154 acres.

Our Readers Write . . .

Dear Sirs:

I'm serving in the field in Vietnam. I have been receiving the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST from my father. I enjoyed the article "Late Season Pheasant Hunts" by David Evans, and am looking forward to next season around Ruthven. The men in my platoon also enjoy the magazine.

Sincerely,
Lt. Robert H. Drum
Serving in Vietnam

Dear Sirs:

We appreciated your cartoon reminder (January issue) about a subscription renewal. My favorite husband got quite a chuckle out of it and called mom to "come see" . . .

We've taken the CONSERVATIONIST quite a spell now and we would miss it if it was to expire. (But too seldom do we express our sentiments!)

We're both native Iowans, neither having traveled more than 300 miles outside our state. *We like Iowa*, snow and cold, humidity and heat, no matter what.

Remember that song, popular during World War II: "Iowa, it's a beautiful name; when you say it like we say it back home. It's the sumac in September; it's the squeak of your shoes in the snow, etc., etc."

So lets' "keep on keeping on", and let's work to make Iowa the best of the fifty. God Bless us, everyone.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Clifford Lambert
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Sirs:

After many years of fun hunting in Iowa on the farm near Honey Creek and later at Sioux City, I really appreciate your really great little magazine, and it brings back many happy memories.

Thanks,
C. H. Deters

Dear Sirs:

I shall be obliged if you will send all future issues of the IOWA CONSERVATIONIST to me at the following address . . .

Also, I would like to express my appreciation for the excellence of your reporting conservation matters, and for the fine work being performed in Iowa in this important area. In passing, I do have a bit of a peeve in respect to the CONSERVATIONIST—I miss the interesting little items on the characteristics of wildlife, that formerly were interspread throughout the paper.

Sincerely yours,
John F. Heathershaw
Alameda, California

Dear Sirs:

I am a long time and enthusiastic subscriber to your (our) IOWA CONSERVATIONIST magazine. Noticing your concern over lack of funds for park maintenance, I wonder that you have not increased the subscription price of the publication to, say, 1 or \$1.50 *per year* and let us subscribers get in the act in a small way. Surely the magazine is well worth the suggested price.

I note that the funding problem for the operation of the Conservation Commission, including land acquisition is now before the Legislature. I certainly hope that our representatives keep in mind the far reaching effect their present actions will have on the facilities for future generations.

My particular interest lies in the proposed project on the Maquoketa River in the Picture Rocks area in Jones County.

From prior correspondence with you on this project, you have stated that you propose to maintain this area in its present wilderness character. This would require modest expenditure for maintenance and add to its appeal.

Hopefully, I expect to enjoy the use of this area for a few more years, but much more important, my three young grandsons have started to enjoy it, too. I would hope that they may continue to have it as it is, they, their children and theirs.

Each reference to this project in the press touches on a proposed dam probably in the Eby's Mill area. By all means, all possible should be done to discourage this concept. To drown the series of natural rapids and erode the narrow valley by boat wave action would go far in destroying the existing recreation values, without appreciably adding new ones.

The citizens of Iowa owe you much for the important work you are doing so well. You certainly have my personal gratitude.

Yours truly,
Ralph R. Mills,
Marion, Iowa



AN ANGRY MAN

I am an angry man. I've had 25 years to detest the word "compromise" with a passion. We've used the word as a vehicle to sell wildlife down the river.

Tell me, how do we compromise pure water, clean air and wild creatures?

Oklahoma is losing 100,000-plus bobwhite quail each year. In Saskatchewan and the north-central states, the ability of the prairie marshes to produce ducks decreases about 80,000 birds each year. In Wyoming and Montana, antelope show a precarious trend and may be living on borrowed time.

Some of the best saltwater ecologists in the country tell us the Mississippi River drains the chemically polluted waters of thousands of tributaries into the gulf. Here many of the more stable chemical compounds threaten to break the basic food chain necessary to maintain the gulf as one of the world's great natural fish traps.

Even the wily trout has a problem. In the Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota, 2,600 miles of trout streams have declined to less than 200. And in other states, dwindling stream flows give evidence of future problems.

Also study the prairie state of South Dakota. Just a few years ago this state carried 300 pheasants per square mile within the better range. The population skid started in the 1940's and plunged to a low of about 2 million birds by 1966—the lowest level in 30 years. The decline was classed as a public disaster.

What happened? After a long, drawn-out hassle, we come to the real culprit. And a feeble voice of the minority suggested that, perhaps, clean farming with its multitude of chemical sprays just "might" be the problem. Might be? It *was* the problem. It always has been.

It's time we recognized that, all over the United States, with all kinds of wildlife, the clean, antiseptic, manicured and single-purpose environment—all under the guise of good conservation—is destroying wildlife 10 times more efficiently than rifles or shotguns ever did.

Throughout much of Texas and north through the Dakotas to the Canadian line, programs are being designed by federal, as well as private interests, to change a varied habitat of shrubs, trees, forbs and grasses to pure waving strands of introduced and domestic grasses. It's a beautiful sight to a whitefaced cow but the death knell for antelope, deer and sage grouse.

Further west, in our Rocky Mountains, old forest fire burns, with their unsightly dead snags, nothing but grasses, chokecherry, kinnikinnick and aspen glades, offend the eyes of forest managers. So, what do we do? We bulldoze the dead trees littering the ground into neat windrows and we plant evergreens to speed up nature's processes. From game range to pulpwood in a decade. Was it a good trade?

It's a simple function of economics. It's a sight easier to place a price on a board foot of pine than a cubic foot of water or a ruffed grouse.

It's a well-documented fact that modern and scientific wildlife management, paid for by the hunters, has restored more wildlife than has ever been lost, but only in those areas where the habitat is suitable. Unfortunately, we are losing habitat a lot faster than we can adjust or find solutions.

The list of species in trouble grows annually and the problem compounds itself. Is it because wildlife is not worth saving? If we accept the idea that we can't favorably equate a bobwhite with a pound of beef or a pheasant with a bushel of corn, then perhaps we are lost.

From an article in the Missouri Conservationist by Wendell Beaver, former director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

**IOWA CONSERVATIONIST
SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

YOUR NAME _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip Code _____



Many of our readers has pointed out a proof reading error in the "Campfire Cookery" column which ran in the March issue.

It seems our "Perfect Cornbread" was somewhat imperfect when the list of ingredients called for 4 teaspoons of baking soda. The directions below gave the correct ingredient—BAKING POWDER.

Our apologies to those who tried the recipe and found that the cornbread fell very short of being a tasty addition to your meal. You may wish to try the recipe again to assure your family and friends that you really are a good campfire and kitchen chef.

* * *

The chefs whose families are planning a summer vacation of "roughing it in the wilds" have quite a bit of planning to do themselves.

Campfire cookery involves a touch of ingenuity and a flare for creativity to make meal time a success. After a day packed with all types of outdoor recreation, your gang will be ready to sit down to a hearty meal prepared with them in mind.

Indian Corn Stew

- 2 tblsps. butter or margarine
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1/3 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 lb. coarsely ground beef
- 2 to three cups fresh corn
- 1 10 1/2 or 11 oz. can condensed tomato soup
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 tblsp. Worcestershire sauce

Melt butter in heavy skillet. Add onion and green pepper. Cook until soft. Add meat, and brown well, stirring frequently. Add corn and tomato soup, sugar, salt, and Worcestershire sauce. Simmer one hour. Makes four to five servings.

For those who feel that beverages with a slight alcoholic content (used for marinating purposes) add a robust flavor, "Beer-ded Fish" is a main course that especially fishermen will enjoy.

This type of dish serves as an interesting variation from the old stand-by of pan fried fish. (Note: Alcoholic beverages used for cooking purposes are legal in Iowa's state parks.)

Beer-ded Fish

Mix together one can of beer and enough Bisquick to make a very sloppy batter (about the same consistency as

(Continued on page 31)

Rivers, Lakes, Streams Promise Good Angling

(Continued from page 25)

Blue Lake near Onawa, DeSoto Bend near Missouri Valley, and Lake Manawa near Council Bluffs.

The old reliable nite crawler will once again be the downfall for thousands of bullheads in Iowa's natural lakes. Bullheads dominate the angler's catch in these northern lakes.

Perch, yellow bass, black bass, panfish, northern and walleye will also provide plenty of action. Good populations of walleye exist in Cedar, Lost Island, Storm, Spirit and the Okoboji chain of lakes. The official opening date for walleye and northern pike in Iowa's natural lakes is May 3.

Iowa's state owned artificial lakes, located primarily in the southern half of the state, produce some superb fishing. Largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, catfish and bullheads are the chief species that fill stringers.

Walleyes are also found in manmade impoundments such as Lake MacBride near Iowa City, Green Valley Lake north of Creston, Lake Wapello near Drakesville, Lake Ahquabi south of Des Moines, and Geode Lake near Danville.

Artificial lakes rank high in the Iowa Record Fish statistics compiled by the State Conservation Commission. Rock Creek Lake near Kellogg in Jasper County has yielded a hefty 25-pound, 3-ounce channel catfish. (Fishermen should note that due to spillway repair, Rock Creek Lake was drained last fall. Restocking the lake will take place this spring with improved fishing expected by 1970.)

Lake Darling in Washington County has the distinction of producing two record breaking four-pound crappies. Cold Springs, a small lake south of Atlantic in Cass County, had a trophy size 9-pound, 15¼-ounce largemouth bass taken from its waters during the spring of 1968.

But, don't be disappointed if you are not in the big league statistics as far as trophies are concerned. The majority of fishermen catch the "good eating size" anyway!

Coralville Reservoir in Johnson County will be joined in the near future by three new federal impoundments—Rathbun Reservoir in Appanoose County, Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County, and

Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County. These areas will produce additional recreational waters for the fisherman, although their chief purpose is flood control.

Approximately 30 municipal reservoirs, located mostly in southern Iowa, are open to the public and provide good catfish, largemouth bass, and panfishing.

Farm ponds number over 30,000. Of course, one must ask permission to fish these areas. These ponds have amazed many anglers by their very good productivity. Additionally, there are approximately 70 County Conservation Board lakes and ponds which receive the attention of the fishing enthusiast.

Many people are surprised at the mention of trout fishing in Iowa. But, Iowa has over 40 excellent spring-fed streams in nine northeastern counties. Rainbow and brown trout are stocked regularly from spring through fall, with fishing open the year round. A trout stamp affixed to the fisherman's fishing license is required for angling in Iowa's designated trout waters.

Iowa's inland rivers provide some good fishing with the channel catfish the most popular. Fishing below dams or riffles and around snags produce the best results. Streams such as the Little Sioux, Des Moines, Wapsipinicon, Cedar, Iowa, Skunk and Raccoon are good catfish waters. There are also many other small tributary streams throughout the state that offer good catfishing.

Many other streams throughout the state offer good fishing also. Iowa's best noted smallmouth streams, located in northeast Iowa, are the Upper Iowa, Volga, Turkey and Yellow Rivers.

The following informational brochures and booklets pertaining to Iowa fishing areas and other interesting material for the fisherman are available by writing to the State Conservation Commission, State Office Building, 300 4th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319: "Your Guide to Iowa Trout Waters"; "Iowa's Public Fishing and Fishing Access Areas"; "1969 Iowa Fishing Seasons and Limits"; "Iowa Hunting-Fishing-Trapping LAWS SYNOPSIS"; "Fish Factories—Walleye and Northern Pike"; "Improve Your Knowledge of Iowa Fish"; and "How to Catch Fish in Fresh Water."

'Old Man Winter' Helps Fishermen

Repeated ice storms and heavy snows have caused many Iowans to wonder just how much the long, hard winter has effected fish populations.

Excessive snow cover, long seasons, and other elements set up conditions that promote biological and chemical activity depleting the oxygen content in some of the streams and shallow lakes in Iowa.

In turn, many fish die due to the lack of oxygen in these waters. Often, this "winter kill" can be massive, but it never completely eliminates fish species in an area. Adequate brood stock fish always survive.

The drastically reduced population is an abnormal condition and nature wisely will begin to balance itself. In re-establishing an adequate fish population, nature actually helps the fishermen.

After a winter kill, the small number of a particular species that survive live in a habitat with great void. Nature compensates by an immediate response to fill this void. The remaining fish find the habitat enhanced, and their reproduction is excellent, survival of the young is high and their growth rate is accelerated, rapidly reaching maximum size.

In the situation where there has been no winter kill, reproduction is low, and the young do not grow as much. Often over-population takes place causing little or no growth, poor quality species and thus, poor fishing.

Occasional winter kills can be good. Obviously, an annual kill would be detrimental in that the young would not reach maturity before dying off in the next winter kill.

On the other hand, a long, hard winter periodically, gives nature a chance to "thin out" areas where species are approaching an overly populated condition.

In areas that are stocked, the Conservation Commission has the opportunity to provide better populations following a winter kill. In the unstocked areas, the individual species will take care of themselves and repopulate by "balance of nature."

But, what does all of this mean for the fisherman?

There will be fewer fish for a while but the individual size will be larger.

Thus, winter kill results in **quality**, not quantity fishing!

According to Harry Harrison, superintendent of the biology section, the chances are "better than good" that fishing will be improved, although there may be a period of reduced fishing immediately following a fish kill.

Shallow lakes, especially, have a tendency to over-populate with very small

(Continued on page 31)



A pleased hunter displays proof of a successful day in the field.

A Birds-Eye Look At Bays Branch

... A Game Management
Area That Provides a
Variety of Outdoor Recreation

What goes on at a game management unit when there are no hunting seasons open? A heck of a lot of activity, that's for sure.

Take Bays Branch Game Management Area in Guthrie County. It's a popular hunting area and was a hot fishing spot in the early 1960's after the dam was first constructed. In addition, many people visit this State Conservation Commission area for sightseeing and camping.

Bays Branch was paid for and developed by the revenue from hunting and fishing licenses and federal aid to wildlife funds. Another example of the hunter and fisherman paying for more than their share.

Bays Branch provides some excellent pheasant hunting, good rabbit and average waterfowl hunting. The southern part of the area is a wildlife refuge and thousands of people visit Bays Branch to view the spring waterfowl migration flights.

Sportsmen are certainly familiar with activities at the unit during the hunting seasons. Game Section personnel make tag checks, direct visitors, keep weeds mowed, and maintain the areas.

But activities don't slow down when the winter winds pile snow up around the headquarters and service building. One of the most important tasks is drawing up cooperative farming agreements. Under these agreements, the State Conservation Commission leases state-owned agricultural lands on game management areas to farmers.

However, the land must be farmed to provide food and habitat for wildlife. The various stipulations include such items as when crops are to be planted and harvested, and what sections should be left for wildlife. There are two such agreements on the Bays Branch area and six similar agreements on other areas in the unit.

Another vital task is checking the oxygen level in the lake. Ice and snow covering on lakes will shut off sunlight which

provides needed oxygen for fish.

An even less known winter job is building signs for the Game Section.

A never ending task is maintaining equipment. Repairing and painting requires many hours during the winter months. These are just a few of the activities that go on at Bays Branch and other game management units during the winter.

Bays Branch contains over 797 acres of which 275 are water. It was originally a marshy stream that provided some good duck hunting in the wet years. In 1956 the State Conservation Commission began acquisition of the land for the unit.

A large dam and control structure were built in 1958-59 at the lower or south end of the area. Other projects included building a service road to the headquarters, relocating a road that pre-

viously ran across the south end, and raising the county road which runs through the middle of the area.

Anglers enjoyed some excellent fishing when the dam was completed, which is typical of a new lake. Limit catches of largemouth bass and northern pike were taken for the first few years. The heavy fishing pressure in 1962-63 necessitated the construction of camp grounds and facilities near the parking lots.

Lakes, like other things, have their ups and downs. And in 1967 carp infestation causing poor fishing necessitated the draining of the lake to remove the rough fish. It was refilled and restocked and is expected to provide good fishing in 1969.

Today Bays Branch stands as a tribute to good management and development. It is a valuable addition to Iowa's outdoor recreation areas.



Jack Miller points out an area in the Bays Branch management unit where he found his limit last fall. Listening to his "hunter tales" are (left) Les Flemming, first manager of the unit who currently works in the Planning and Coordination section of the Commission, and Robert Moore, the present manager of Bays Branch.



Above: A close-up view of the morel mushroom carefully hiding itself among fallen oak leaves.

Below: These spring hunters carefully search along the banks of a stream for the mushrooms that will garnish the table at meal time.



MUSHROOMS —

The 'Game' For Spring Hunters

By Charles "Butch" Olofson
Hunter Safety Officer

When spring, once again, begins to appear, one of man's simplest yet most rewarding pastimes is searching for the first signs of the season.

To most people it is the sight of a robin hopping around on the front yard. To others it is the sound of the spring peeper frog singing from puddles along side of the road, or the appearance of the dainty white bloom of shad bush and dwarf trillium in Iowa's oak timber.

But, there is one more unmistakable sign of spring. As you are driving down a timbered road, you might see a man leaving a parked car, heading for the timber with a folded up paper sack in his hip pocket and perhaps, carrying a long stick or pole.

You will know for sure that spring is here, for these men and women are a special breed of spring hunters and their "game", of course, is . . . MUSHROOMS!

"Mushroom season" is that time of the year when nature provides man with some of the finest eating that is imaginable, plus . . . offers some early spring recreation fun.

The true morels or "sponge mushrooms" as they are commonly called, are

found fairly early in the season. In Iowa, the last week in April and the first two weeks in May are the most successful times for the "hunter."

In mushroom hunter terminology, "the little grey ones" are the first sponge mushrooms to appear. As the season progresses the hunters start finding "the big yellow ones." Actually, these are two different kinds of morel mushrooms.

Experienced hunters express varied opinions when they are asked to suggest good places to hunt the morels. One can find mushrooms in the hardwood timbers, in the river bottoms, in willow bats along rivers, and in sparsely timbered pastures.

Some hunters check around the bases of elm trees; others swear by river birch trees, while some hunt around and in clumps of May apples.

This is the fun of mushroom hunting—walking through a pretty timber area, and observing the birds and spring flowers while gathering these table delicacies for continued spring enjoyment at home.

It should be stressed that hunters know what they are looking for prior to the trip, and then during the hunt, be **extremely careful** in what they pick. If there is any doubt as to what the mushroom is, **do not eat it.**

For the beginner, an outing with an experienced mushroom hunter is very beneficial. If this is not possible, one should get a good mushroom book and learn the different species before attempting a spring hunt.

But the actual trip to the woods is only half the story. Now that you have picked a mess of mushrooms, how can you prepare them?

The most common way is to clean and split the mushrooms and then soak overnight in salt water. Then, make an egg batter, crush up some soda crackers, and dip the mushrooms in the batter and crackers. Fry the mushrooms in either butter or oil (depending on personal preference) until they are nicely browned and tender.

Fresh mushrooms supplementing a favorite meat dish or just by themselves will delight the whole family at meal time.

The measure of success of a mushroom hunt, of course, is the tasty addition at supper. But the greatest satisfaction comes from the unmeasurable pleasures of being in the outdoors and discovering the beauty of springtime in Iowa.

EFFECTS OF WINTER KILL

(Continued from page 28)

an fish. The logical way to correct this situation is to reduce the population.

"If winter kills never occurred and we had to assume total control, we would, and sometimes do, carry out 'man-made' fish kills," Harrison emphasized.

Fishermen may experience poorer fishing for the first few months following the winter kill. Later in the season, fishing will improve markedly.

The following year and in successive seasons, fishing will be even better with larger fish, somewhat higher populations, and generally improved species.

Harrison mentioned that if one area was particularly effected, the species in another lake or stream nearby might not have had a serious kill. This area, then, could assume more fishing pressure until the more effected region has repopulated to adequate levels.

Harrison stressed that these conditions apply to periodic winter kills. Fortunately, recent Iowa winters have not been severe enough to cause annual kills.

However, this year certain areas did experience heavy snow and ice which resulted in some fish kill. The mild winters prior to this season set up conditions where populations were reaching maximum levels, and in need of this "thinning out."

Thus, fishermen need not be overly concerned but can consider this winter kill as nature's means of giving the angler quality fishing in Iowa's lakes and streams.

Book Review —

Tilden's 'National Parks'

By S. G. Scott

Freeman Tilden, a devotee to the cause of proper natural resource management, has published another fine book dealing with conservation—*The National Parks*.

This book serves as a guide to and is in praise of one of America's greatest assets—her national parks, through which our vast wilderness heritage is preserved and protected for the present generation and posterity.

Through the keen eye of the naturalist, backed by the experience gained from many years as a consultant to the National Parks Service, the reader may explore every national park in detail. His personal impressions provide the reader with spellbinding natural and historic lore which make for a very pleasurable reading experience.

In addition to practical information about the parks, Mr. Tilden describes the historic buildings and sites — national monuments to our colorful past. The reader travels from the cliff dwellings of the pre-Columbian Indian to landmarks of the American Revolution and the Civil War, stopping along the way at the birthplaces and homes of those Americans who have made our country great.

He makes the reader understand why these parks are what they are and why

they should remain so, immune to the industrial and mercantile businessmen. Every citizen interested in the salvation of this valuable part of America's heritage should read and heed this pictorial commentary—*The National Parks*, by Freeman Tilden.

CAMPFIRE COOKERY . . .

(Continued from page 27)

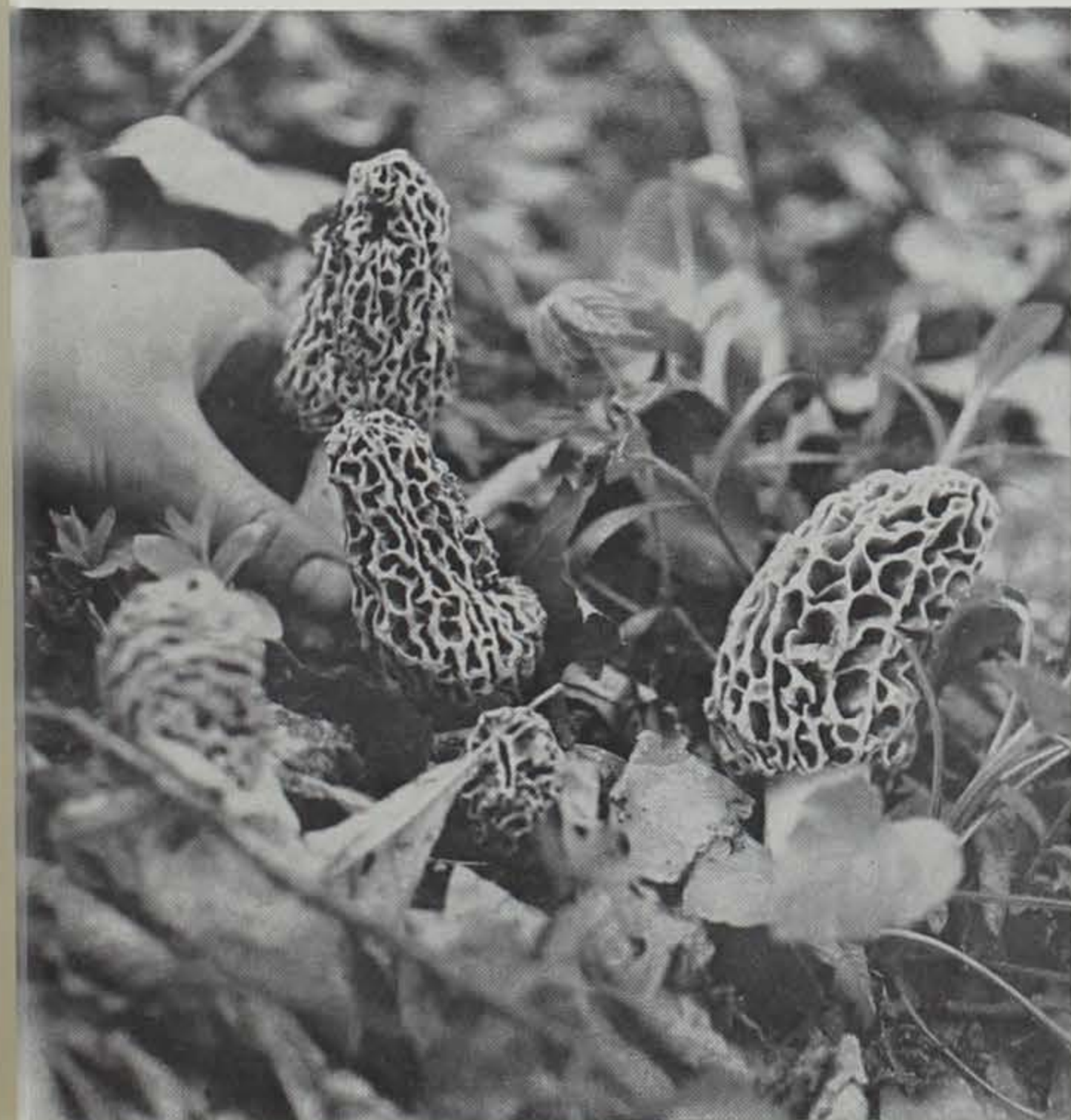
pancake batter).

Place the cleaned fish in the mixture, allow the fish to marinate for a **maximum** of five minutes so the batter will adhere and the fish will retain a slight flavor.

Then, either french fry or pan fry, depending on preference and/or cooking facilities. The fish can be a whole fish—cleaned and scaled—or filleted, steaked, or pieced.

The amount of batter and proportion of ingredients will be determined by the number and size of fish. Use the consistency of the batter as your guide—making it quite sloppy, yet thick enough for a thin coating to adhere to the fish.

Both of these recipes are guaranteed to endear you to the hearts of your camping party.



Hunters usually find the morels or "sponge mushrooms" in clusters or groups like these sighted near Polk City, Iowa.



"Gotta minute, Dad?"

Boaters Contribute Financial Support, Deserve Return, Consideration

By Roy Downing
Supt. of Waters

It is a beautiful summer evening and a speed boat goes by pulling a pair of water skiers. The fisherman swears because the wake rocked his boat, and the picnicker is grumbling because he doesn't like the whine of the big motor.

Again in the fall of the year as the speed boat goes down the channel of the river every hunter in the country shakes his fists and swears as the boat goes by.

Now on a cold wintry day we read a piece of fine print on the back page of the newspaper which gives us some facts and brings about an opinion which we feel should be shared with all conservationists and outdoor recreationists.

Most of us are familiar with the Lands and Waters Conservation Fund Act which is administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and provides cost sharing to the states, counties, and municipal departments to provide outdoor recreation for the people of Iowa.

These areas and facilities, which are made possible through this cost sharing program, benefits the picnicker, golfer,

fisherman, swimmer and just about every phase of recreation in the out-of-doors.

As we look at the figures we note that the largest contribution by any single segment of our society or group of individuals comes from the nations' boaters. The final figures compiled by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation shows that last season the federal tax paid by boaters on marine fuel contributed 28.8 million dollars of the 106.1 million dollars allocated to the Land and Waters Conservation Fund for the fiscal year, 1968.

The sale of surplus government property brought in 66.2 million dollars; users permits for federal recreation areas brought in 4.8 million, and individual users fees accounted for 6.1 million.

Since the funds inception, Marine Fuel Tax has accounted for 92.1 million of a total of 339 million dollars. A thorough study of the program supported by the Lands and Waters Conservation Fund will show that the boaters contributed a much higher per cent of the funds than that which is expended for the benefit of the boater.

In addition to the Federal Marine Fuel Tax which is paid by the boater and placed in the Lands and Waters

Conservation Fund, the Iowa boater also pays 7 cents per gallon state tax which goes into Iowa's road use fund. Surveys indicate that this may exceed one million dollars annually.

In at least 26 states a portion of the state marine fuel tax is diverted into a program which provides boating facilities and services for the boater. At this point the Iowa boaters, as well as boaters over the nation, ask that they receive a fair consideration on both the state and national level.

At the national level the boating representatives are requesting that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation take a good look at their cost sharing program, with the hope that they will look more favorable upon water-oriented project proposals.

At the state level the boaters are requesting that our legislators consider a bill which will divert the state marine fuel tax into a program which will provide water-oriented development and an adequate water safety program.

It is hoped that a program can be developed which will add to the overall outdoor recreation development giving the boater a "fair shake."

I'm on pins and needles!!



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THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S OFFICIAL BIG FISH RECORD

The Conservation Commission is anxious to establish the record for fish caught in the state and boundary waters. All species commonly caught by hook and line fishing are eligible.

If you have a fish suitable for submission as a record fish, please fill out this entry blank. Two witnesses **MUST** attest to the weight of the fish to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade. Length is measured from tip of snout to tip of tail (total length). The entry blank should be filled out (please print), then mailed with a **GLOSSY PHOTO OF THE ANGLER AND HIS FISH** to:

Fish Records, State Conservation Commission
State Office Building, 300 4th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

ENTRY BLANK FOR IOWA RECORD FISH (Please print)

Name
Address
Species
Date County
Where Caught
Total Length Weight
Method of catch

WITNESSES

Name
Address
Name
Address

(Entries of fish caught during the year must be in the Des Moines Office of the Conservation Commission before December 31.)