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Conservation Club Holds Wildlife School

BUCHANAN COUNTY WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION PIONEERS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR YOUNGSTERS

By Erwin H. Wackerbarth

THE Buchanan Wild Life Association, Inc., is a firm believer n Jay N. Darling's slogan, "Conervation by education", and last ear we decided to do something bout it. The "do something" deeloped into a three-day wildlife chool for 42 boys from the vaous parts of Buchanan County. t was successful from every tandpoint—so successful, in fact, hat the editor of the "Iowa Conervationist" has asked me to rite this article in the belief that ther clubs throughout the state ill pick up the idea. But let's o back to the beginning.

Maybe it was Confucius who rst observed that "only a fool ould feed strawberries to a jackss." Nevertheless, whoever made he statement, we agree with him. Here in Buchanan County considerable progress has been made n sound conservation during the ast decade, but too often our rogram has been offset by a few who, through ignorance or peronal greed, have cheated their eighbors by violation of the fish nd game laws. They got the trawberries we grew for them n the nursery ponds, hatcheries, tc.

Education Pays Dividends

Through the club a program of ducation in the purpose of game aws was carried on, and it is ratifying to note in the court recrds of the last five years that ame law prosecutions decreased n Buchanan County in direct proortion to the intensity of our edcational efforts.

It remained, however, for Con-

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At the Buchanan County wildlife school there was time for study and time for play. Here the school students are having a songfest led by Reverend Brown of Jesup. The intensity of these youngsters is vividly shown in this group photograph.—Photo by Jim Sherman.

Moderation Urged in Wild Flower Picking

By George R. Bowne

AS the early wild flowers come into bloom, it is well to mention conservation of our wonderlands of flowers. As one tramps along the hillsides or through the woods, on field trips, picnics or other outings, even the least observant will see many different species of flowering plants. Many people, without thinking much of the beauty of these flowers in their natural habitat or their lack of abundance, will pick large bouquets.

Indiscriminate wild flower picking should everywhere be discouraged. There are certain flowers that because of rarity should not be picked at all, and others that should be picked sparingly. Let me state emphatically now that no wild flower should be picked merely for the sake of picking something of beauty and be thrown away before arriving home.

One can enjoy the beauty of flowers and at the same time leave them undisturbed in their natural habitat for others to enjoy also; and yet there are many wild flowers that are satisfactory cut flowers, of which rational picking is not antisocial.

In general no flower should be

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Angling Definitions and Expressions

(Editor's Note: The first report of the committee on tackle terminology of the National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs contains many interesting definitions and facts. The committee was appointed by the Association to collect words and expressions concerning casting, angling, and fishing tackle with proper definitions and explanations of their meaning, and to compile them as a book or lexicon. A selection of some of the definitions is given in the following article.)

ANGLING, fishing practiced not as a means of obtaining a livelihood, but as a source of recreation and pleasure.

ARTIFICIAL FLY, an imitation of a real or imagined fly or insect. Roughly divided into five groups: Wet, Dry or Floating, Nymph, Streamer and Bug. The first description of an artificial fly is by Aelian, 170-230 A. D., who wrote that the Macedonians when fishing in the river Astraeus for a fish with speckled skins used an artificial fly tied as follows: "They fasten redish wool round a hook and fit on the wool two feathers which grow under a cock's wattles, and which in color are like wax." There is no reason to believe, however, that this practice had not been going on for some years previous. In fact, over two centuries earlier, Martial wrote, "Who has not seen the scarus rise, decoyed, and killed by fraudful flies." So far as is known, these two lines are the first mention of a fishing fly.

BACK or BACKWARD CAST, the casting motion or cast made to cast the fly or plug to the back of the caster.

BACK LASH, an unexpected termination of the forward cast in bait casting, caused by the spool traveling faster than the pull of the line, which in turn causes the spool to overrun, thereby causing a snarl or "bird's nest" on the

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*Killed in action.

Beside an Indian river
Me and the sergeant stand;
Odd fishes break the water;
'Tis a strange and foreign land.

A Hindu casts his bait
Out where a big one lies.
The line goes taut, the tight line
breaks—
Strong Indian words arise.

Then awesomely he gazes at
The frayed line in his hand;
A mighty fish has done the deed—
A whale he could not land.

The fisherman repairs his line;
The sergeant says to me,
"I reckon fishing's all the same
Wherever it may be."

—Conservation Officer
Pvt. Elden Stempel,
Care Postmaster,
New York, N. Y.

FISH-EATING BIRDS

"Fish-eating" birds, such as gulls, terns, herons, osprey, and comorants, have gained a bad reputation from both sport and commercial fishermen, who attribute many of their fishing failures and fish scarcities to these birds. It is true that many of these birds make fish the principal part of their diet, but they usually take the abundant, more sluggish-surface-feeding fish, the types that are of least importance.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has repeatedly shown from stomach examinations of fish-eating birds that only rarely do they eat game fish or species of outstanding economic importance. In fact, it has often been found that these birds are of great value, since they eat insects harmful to some young fish and to land crops. A beautiful sea-gull monument has been erected in Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah, in remembrance of the California gull which rescued the pioneer settlers from a cricket plague.

Frequently birds do take commercially important fish when greatly concentrated together as in a hatchery or a net. Pound fishermen often complain that birds rob their nets before they can be fished and that to prevent such losses they must fish at dawn.

Birds that normally cause little or no harm may become exceptionally abundant and, hence, troublesome. Such an unnatural condition has developed off the coast of Maine, where the double-crested comorant population has greatly increased during recent years. In order to study this situation, the Fish and Wildlife Service has conducted a survey of the sea islands where the comorants nest. It was found that during 1943, the comorant population doubled or tripled on some of the islands, and even increased four times on a few of the islands. These birds normally eat scrap fish and cause no great trouble to the fishermen, but since any species may become harmful if present in too great numbers, the Service introduced control measures to check any further increase in the comorant population. Beginning with the 1944 breeding season, the eggs were sprayed with an oil emulsion. This kills the young birds inside the eggs and, since the parent birds continue to incubate instead of producing new clutches, in turn checks further increase in the number of comorants. This humane method does not harm the adult comorant nor the eggs of other birds, such as the American eider, which nest on the same islands and which are neither harmful nor too abundant.

Ordinarily, such control measures are not necessary. They are resorted to only when birds are abundant enough to be harmful to the commercially valuable fish.

—Tidewater News.

Stomach examination of fish-eating birds show that only rarely do they eat game fish or species of economic importance. At the same time their esthetic value is tremendous. Here a gull is picking up a dead bait minnow thrown to it.—Photo by E. B. Speaker.

NEW DUCK STAMP PICTURES SHOVELLERS

The 1945-46 Federal Duck Stamp, which will go on sale at all first and second class post offices on July 1, will carry as its central design an illustration of two male and one female shovellers in full spring plumage. The original sketch, in black and white water color, is the work of Owen J. Gromme, Curator of birds and mammals at Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

All migratory bird hunters over 16 years of age are required by law to purchase duck stamps, which sell for $1.00 each. Ninety per cent of the resultant income is used to supplement other funds for the acquisition and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country. The remaining 10 per cent is used for the printing and distribution of the stamps, enforcement of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, and other federal migratory bird conservation activities.

Famous Iowa Trees

From Local Legend and Historical Fact

THE CHURCH TREE

The "Church Tree" is an ancient elm growing beside the "old river road" near the mouth of Chequest Creek in Van Buren County. This tree reached its prime more than a hundred years ago, and legends tell of Indian dances, feasts, and races held in its shade many years before the Black Hawk Purchase opened the region to white settlement.

The first church service in Iowa west of the Des Moines River was held under this tree on the banks of this stream in August, 1837. More than a hundred toil-worn settlers in homespun and buckskin, as well as grim-visaged Indians in breech clouts and blankets, gathered for the service. It is said that Black Hawk, the great war leader of the Sac and Foxes, was among the Indians in attendance at this first church meeting.

The great old tree, accustomed for ages to the songs of the wind, the melodious call of the wood-thrush, and the muffled throb of the tom-tom, must have learned with surprise that the sweet, cool soil at its feet harbored hell-fire, brimstone and tortured human souls, for as the Baptist preacher opened the "prayer meeting," he swept an agonized gesture toward the old tree's roots and screamed, "Oh, sinner, look while I take off the hatch of hell!"

One hundred years have passed since the Church Tree's christening—one hundred years of historic human progress—and in that short century the old elm has waved a leafy goodby to four generations of soldiers as they passed by on the road to battle. It has welcomed the victorious return of three legions, and it now waits to salute with tired skeletal arms the return of the fourth.

NATURE'S FASCINATING UNDERWORLD

Holes are fascinating doorways o an underworld which lies di-ectly beneath our feet, a world of nts and moles and night-crawlers, world which man only shatters hen he attempts to examine it.

Holes which attract the most at-ention from mankind are those ith an entrance diameter of about n inch or more. "Snake-holes," hese are called, but they aren't. t least, the snake didn't make the ole himself; he only borrowed it

The kingfisher is an expert hole-digger. With his shovel feet he digs a burrow into a perpendicular bank, hollows out a room at the far end in which its eggs are laid and young are raised.

n a moment of danger, slid into its protective dark depths, and waited until it was safe to emerge. A snake is not constructed to dig a hole in the ground. He would need a nose like an augur to make a hole as big as his body several feet deep in the ground. No, a snake doesn't dig his own holes; some-thing else did it for him.

Crayfish Use Underground Coolers

One of the most energetic dig-gers of "snake-holes" is the silent crayfish. It spends a good deal of time in the water, but not all of it. Around the pond and along the river, often far away, the crayfish digs a well which promptly fills with seepage water. Around the mouth of the hole he usually piles up the grains of earth which he dug out, to make a sort of mud chimney. In dry weather the cray-fish puts a mud cork in the chim-ney and there below ground, in a nice dark little pool of cool water, the crayfish sits in comfort and waits for rain.

The ground squirrels with their maze of underground burrows in open country are other busy dig-gers of holes often used by snakes. Larger holes are made by musk-rats that burrow in banks of lakes or creeks, tunnels that go far into the earth where a den is made and the young born. And there is the woodchuck with his deep cave, the chipmunk, the mole, the fox, and the skunk, all of which dig holes in the ground.

Numerous Digger Birds

Even birds make holes. These diggers prefer a fine upstanding clay bank along a road or above a body of water. Here the king-fisher with his shovel-feet digs a burrow straight into the bank, and hollows out a room at the end where the eggs are laid. Often in the same clay bank the bank swal-lows in mysterious fashion dig quantities of small holes little bigger in diameter than their bodies, and make nests at the ends.

Smaller holes belong to the deni-zens of earth and air. Into the soil burrows the cicada-killer wasp where she brings a paralyzed cicada as food for her young. Other wasps dig into the ground; so do yellowjackets. So, in fact, do many insects—the ant lion, the burying beetles, the cicada, hawk moths and June beetles, and many more. And there are the worms that live in the soil and which sometimes come out of their small, neat holes. In grassy places there lives the big night-crawler, an earthworm with almost the pro-portions of a young snake, huge and pinkish, that comes out at night. It is a swift thing; with a zip it pops back into its hole.

Subterranean Ant Cities

And there are ant holes, too, neat holes with their little mounds of fine earth-grains around them like miniature volcanoes. Under-ground, the burrow branches into many passageways with rooms for the young, for storage, and for sleeping. They are efficient bur-rows, perhaps the most wonderful of all holes in the ground.

These are some of the makers of holes in the ground . . . tunnels that not only provide shelter for many wild things large and small, but bring air into the earth and prevent packing and stagnation. Holes have their purpose; they also have their element of mystery and surprise.

—The Living Museum.

Rhyme it with wine. That's the way to pronounce carbine, ac-cording to Winchester, developers of the army's five-pound spitfire that will fire fifteen slugs as fast as you can pull the trigger. Some of the military personnel who use the carbine often call it car-bean or car-bin, but the army, navy and marine corps prefer to rhyme it with wine. The Nazis and Nips just pronounce it "deadly" and let it go at that.

—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

TEMPORARY

Hunter: "Have you ever been lost in the wilderness?"

Old Guide: "Nope, I never did get lost, but I was bewildered once for four days."

"Our lands . . . were originally very good, but use and abuse have made them quite otherwise."
—George Washington.

Garden Protection From Rabbits

By George O. Hendrickson

"HOW can I get rid of the cot-tontail rabbits in my victory garden?" That is a question which has been asked a million times in recent summers when so many of us must live out of our gardens and can a surplus for winter. Cot-tontails are more fond of fresh new vegetable leaves than they are of older growth. Hence when they have eaten the first leaves of peas, beans, or lettuce the animals re-turn to nibble repeatedly at the new leaves which grow out to re-place the old ones. Then the stunted vegetables yield little or nothing for us. We might suggest growing enough for both rabbits and ourselves. But in these busy times and with the small garden space available to many of us, that is not a practical recommendation.

Best to Fence Small Gardens

Rabbits may be fenced out of small gardens. Strong building paper may be obtained and set up as a fence around the garden. Tight woven wire or lath fence will protect the vegetables. Such fencing can be taken down, rolled up and put away for another season.

If possible, keep grass and weeds clipped closely around the edges of the garden. Then often the rab-bits will munch on dandelions and other food of which they are fond before getting to the open garden. Sometimes legumes such as alfalfa and clover near a garden are so attractive to rabbits that the veg-etables are neglected or well grown before the rabbit become aware of them. Such bait crops are not always dependable in protecting garden crops, for sometimes it ap-pears they attract additional rab-bits, and the garden is attacked more quickly than without the bait crops. Gardens distant from shrubbery and other cover in which rabbits usually hide are troubled less than vegetable plots closely surrounded by protective cover.

Protection of garden crops from cotton-tails is a necessity, but it is well to re-member that when the adult rabbits are destroyed in gardening time, it is almost a certainty that a nestful of nearby young will die from starvation. Use of repellents to protect victory gardens is encouraged rather than poisoning, trapping, or shoot-ing cottontails.—Photo by R. F. Trump.

Even when shooting is permitted, nearly always another rabbit comes in from a neighboring lot to take the place of the one shot. Trap-ping in summer is almost impos-sible, for food and shelter cover are so abundant then that rabbits are not easily lured to a trap. And it is unlawful to put out poison bait in such manner and quantity that a rabbit might take it, for such poisoning endangers the lives of small children and their com-panion dogs.

Recommend Chemical Repellents

Let us suggest that you try something to discourage rabbits from eating the garden crops. Try putting something on the plants that is distasteful to the rabbits, a chemical repellent which the ani-mal does not like to smell or taste.

The Pennsylvania Game Com-mission, the U. S. Fish and Wild-life Service and the U. S. Depart-ment of Agriculture, after con-ducting a series of tests, suggest the following repellents. These non-poisonous materials may be washed easily from leaves and other upper parts of plants used for human food.

First, let us tell about dried blood. As cottontails seldom eat animal matter, except possibly an occasional insect or snail, dried blood is not tasty to them. Mix dried blood with wheat flour (20 parts of blood to one part flour) and sprinkle on the plants. If you haven't or can't get a mechanical duster, a cheesecloth bag may be used to sift the repellent mixture onto the foliage. Sprinkle the dust on the plants when they are moist with dew or rain so that the re-pellent sticks on the plants. Cover the leaves well, and generally eight ounces will cover a 25-foot row of vegetables.

When plants are not wet, dried blood may be used in a water-spray. Mix 100 parts of blood with one part of flour or mild soap pow-der and put the mixture into a sprinkler with sufficient water to make the repellent spread on the vegetables and leave a good coat-ing. A whisk broom or brush dipped into a bucket of water and blood mixture may be used to shake the repellent onto the plants if a sprinkler is not available. Flour and soap help to stick the blood on the leaves. After a heavy rain you probably will need to sprinkle or dust again. Dried blood, an ex-cellent fertilizer, if applied too frequently, may build up an over-supply of nitrogen in the soil.

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Conservation Club . . .

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servation Officer Harry E. Rector, at present in the armed service, to lay what we sincerely believe to be the most solid foundation for all conservation work, that is, the proper training of the coming generation of sportsmen in a system of summer conservation schools. To Harry Rector should go much of the credit for the success of our first school.

Bruce F. Stiles, Chief of Fish and Game for the State Conservation Commission, is explaining the balance of nature to these two youngsters and pointing out that even this little red-barred gartersnake has a definite part in the scheme of things.—Photo by Jim Sherman.

It was my privilege to work with Rector and many other active cooperators before and during the school, and this is the reason that I have been asked to give you some idea of the programs and methods we used. Please bear in mind that this is not written in the spirit of "We know how", but in the hope that it may give assistance to any club interested in a similar program of their own.

Public Support Vital

Remember first that public support is an absolute necessity. Enlist the aid of the ministers of all denominations and arrange that some of them be with you, especially at mealtime. Secure the support of county and city officials. Your county superintendent of schools and the officials of city schools especially can be of much help. Your county agent's aid is especially needed, for he knows the relationship between good farming and proper fish and game management. All civic groups will give their assistance if you take care in explaining the purpose of your efforts.

Select a spot for your school as close to nature as possible. Our school was held near the town of Littleton on the Wapsipinicon River.

Arrange with some responsible group to feed your charges. Our kids and instructors were fed by the ladies of the Pleasant Grove Church. They fed us like kings, and we ate like threshers.

Proper sleeping quarters are a necessity. Fortunately, along the Wapsipinicon where our school was held there are numerous summer cottages, and these cottages were loaned us by their owners to use for sleeping quarters. We used a nearby church for indoor classes and a lecture room, although much of our "schooling" was held in the woods and fields along the stream.

Competent Supervision at All Times

Be certain of adequate and competent supervision at all times. A serious accident at a school of this kind would be disastrous. Close and strict supervision by clean-minded men is an absolute essential. True sportsmanship is clean, first, last and always.

Select the instructors for your school carefully, and in cooperation with them work out a fast, steadily-moving program of events with time for play and time for work. The energy of these youngsters will keep you on your toes, but serious boy trouble can be avoided by a minimum of idle time, and make no mistake, these youngsters can and will detect any weakness or lagging of the program.

The subjects we used in our first school follow in the order of their popularity as revealed in a post-school questionnaire:

The fur management program, with emphasis on muskrats, was best received. The boys waded waist-deep in a muskrat marsh, examined the houses while lecturers explained the natural history of muskrats and told of the modern fur management practices used to increase these valuable rodents.

Fish management was second on the list. Students actually rescued game fish stranded in an overflow bayou and returned them to the safety of the river. They were taught to be able to identify the common fishes.

Soil conservation was the third most popular subject. Abused farm land was located (not a difficult task), where minor corrective measures were made and major practice changes needed were explained to the groups.

Game bird management followed in popularity, with examples of good and bad habitat studied and standard practices of game management explained.

Other subjects in the order of popularity, each with field trips and explanatory talks, follow: migratory waterfowl, songbird appreciation, bird identification, and historical conservation facts.

Suggest Additional Study Subjects

When asked what other subjects they would like to have included in the curriculum the following year, these lads had plenty to say. Among the most important subjects were: safe handling of firearms, use of boats and canoes, first aid work in the open, camp cooking and methods, fur farming, bait and flycasting, handling hunting dogs, use of duck calls, and a host of other practical outdoor programs.

The selection of candidates for the school may bring its difficulties, but any lad interested should be encouraged. Essay writing contests, game bird feeding programs, tree planting projects, or many other related conservation activities may be rewarded by admission to the school.

Our local papers printed application blanks along with editorial comment in the regular issues for several weeks. As each application was received, it was answered by a form questionnaire and a form letter to be signed by the parents of the pupil.

Pick a fair representation from the territory covered by your club. Sons of servicemen are missing out on Dad's training and should receive special consideration. Farm and city boys work well together, and their relationship will be important later as adults in cooperative conservation work. Remember that men and boys of truly sportsmen caliber are found on both sides of the railroad track.

Our experience showed that boys in the 13 to 16 age group derived most from the training. We also found that it was well to give each boy and instructor a tag with his name on it to be worn at all times.

No Financial Burden

The financial end of our school, while important, need not worry any active sportsmen's club. We begged and mooched the cots, cottages and "professors." The boys brought their own bedding and were charged a registration fee of a dollar each. We served 269 meals at 45 cents each. This was our major expenditure. Other items brought the total cost to the club to $177.50, less $42.00 in tuition fees, or a total of $135.00. The per student cost to the club therefore was $3.20.

To any conservation group interested may I give my humble say—there is no better way to spend your conservation dollars than in a project of this kind. If you could have been with us to see the eagerness of these youngsters to learn the basic conservation facts it has taken you and me years to get through our heads, you would understand my sincerity. I am absolutely confident that with the proper training of this sort on a unified and statewide scale, the coming generations of sportsmen will be able to handle the hot ones you and I have muffed. The Conservation Commission will, I am sure, back any program of this kind you may decide upon. Talk it over and let them know your sentiments.

"Off with the pants and on with the lectures!" the kids yelled as they waded out into a muskrat marsh to study the habits of this fur-bearer. Here an abandoned muskrat house is opened and the various types of stored food are examined and identified.—Photo by Jim Sherman.

Shades of Izaak Walton. Just what's the world coming to? The other day we dropped into one of these super food emporiums and there, staring us right in the eye, was a large sign which read: "Bullheads, 48 cents per pound."

War certainly has glorified this "kid's" fish. If Johnny goes fishing this summer and brings home a string of bullheads, Mom probably won't even scold him for getting his feet wet. In fact, he'll probably get an extra nickel or two for being such a good provider. Yes, indeed, the bullhead is now the glamour boy of the fish family.

—The Nomad,
Davenport Democrat.

A serviceman's poll indicates that the returning soldiers of the central states want more places to camp, more public shooting grounds, especially for pheasants and ducks, and more trout fishing opportunities.

SERVICE MAN POLL INDICATES 40 PER CENT CONVERTED TO OUTDOOR INTERESTS BY WAR

AN architect named Uncle Sam has built an outdoor living room into the postwar design for living of nearly 40 per cent of the 1,503 service men from 37 states recently interviewed by the New York State Conservation Department. Such was disclosed by the tabulation of statistics obtained by the Department's Bureau of Conservation Education at the National Sportsmen's Show in New York City. The service men were interviewed in an attempt to determine how much added pressure can be expected on the state's outdoors resources after the war by men who, prior to training in the use of arms and camp equipment, never had handled a rifle, shotgun or a tent stake.

"The interviews show," said Commissioner Skiff, "that our postwar conservation plans are on the right track. The boys in general plan to spend more time outdoors. The majority want to hunt pheasants and deer, fish for trout and have plenty of places to camp.

"The Army says," he added, 'that less than three per cent ever handled sporting arms before the war. That one was hard for us to take; but we believe it now. Furthermore, they're so anxious to try their new skills that a surprisingly large number of those interviewed said they thought Uncle Sam either should give 'em first crack at the government's huge stock of outdoors equipment when it's available for sale or retain special reserve supplies for service men. A lot of the boys are just plain worried that, by the time they get out, the cream of the equipment already will be in civilian hands."

Most controversial of the issues mentioned by the service men was that concerning the use of the government's automatic rifles for deer hunting. A total of 62 men raised the question and almost exactly half expressed the belief that, regardless of whether these rifles were suitable for deer, they should be banned anyway because of "potential danger in unskilled hands."

Sectional preference of the service men were at variance. The boys from California and some of the other far western states seem to agree that more funds for fish and game restoration was the postwar need. Those from the central states seem to want more places to camp, more public shooting grounds, especially for pheasants and ducks, and more trout fishing. The Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota group apparently desire more development of agricultural lands for public hunting. The south-central group was surprisingly interested in garfish control and in more bass fishing. The northeasterners will use the big woods more for camping and canoeing, will do more deer hunting and want more pheasants. Heavier trout-stocking and reservation of more streams for fly fishing were equally popular requests. The boys from the middle Atlantic states want more public hunting grounds and waterfowl areas, more trout and more places to camp, while those from the southeastern region want turkeys.

A surprisingly large number, having seen European land management practices for soil, forests and even fish in operation, expressed the desire that more states launch active programs of soil conservation. This same group generally thanked their lucky stars that America was still a land of free recreational opportunities outdoors. They urged states to adopt wider programs of land and water acquisition to assure the public of extensive areas to hunt, fish and camp for all time.

—Maryland Rally Sheet.

Garden Protection . . .

(Continued form page 131)

Alum "Puckers Up" Rabbits' Lips

Alum as a repellent on vegetable leaves probably puckers up the rabbit's lips as it does ours. Common alum (potash alum or ammonia alum) may be purchased in powdered form at drug stores. For a dust mix two level tablespoonfuls of powdered alum with one quart of flour, and thoroughly cover the plants when wet with dew or rain.

Distasteful to rabbits, fine tobacco dust of the ordinary insecticide grade, may be dusted thoroughly over the plants. The tobacco dust may be mixed eight parts by weight with one of powdered alum and used as a repellent dust.

A vile smelling repellent, tincture of asafoetida, obtainable at drug stores, may be used in spray form. Mix three tablespoonfuls of asafoetida with six tablespoonfuls of powdered alum in one gallon of water. Apply thoroughly to the plants, but not enough to cause dripping from the leaves.

While we are on the topic of rabbits and crops, we may offer advice on how to prevent winter damage. In winter cottontails are in season as game, and they may be shot down to low numbers safely. Only about one-third of their numbers need be left as seedstock.

To take care of young fruit trees and shrubs in winter ask your County Extension Director for Conservation Bulletin No. 11, "Rabbits in Relation to Crops." It is published by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Illinois. The bulletin tells about repellents to be painted on trees to keep rabbits away.

WAR HAS GLORIFIED AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL PEST—THE RABBIT

Early settlers brought rabbits from England. Australia spent millions of dollars trying to get rid of them. They have been hunted with guns, traps, poison bait, ferrets and gas. A transcontinental, supposedly rabbit-proof fence was built from north to south in western Australia years ago. But still the rabbit increased.

Today Australia is almost reconciled to the pest. The animals are entirely free of disease. Rabbit meat is coupon free, and even the more select restaurants are now serving rabbit. Export of pelts to the United States is increasing.

—Nonpareil, Council Bluffs.

America's Bird Dogs

A THING OF BEAUTY— THAT'S IRISH SETTER

By Jack Hewins

Red fire racing in the golden stubble, a torch questing along the fence row, a live red leaf stirring in the limp red leaves of autumn's sumac—that's Big Red, the Irish setter.

He's a thing of beauty and a gentleman of intelligence, is Big Red. Tall, lean, majestic, he is a proudly-strutting breath-taker at the bench shows. In the field where the quail and pheasant hide and the shotgun barks the season's exclamation point, Big Red is a free-wheeling, happy companion.

If the pointer and English setter dominate the field trials, certainly this Irishman presses them closely. He is not as widely represented at the trials as those rivals, possibly because he is often individualistic and may rebel at the stern rules of competition.

But to a man with a gun, an afternoon off and a spot to hunt, the big red speedster is all the pal he needs. The busy fellow will find birds if birds are there, hold them on point until the boss comes up for the climax shot, then share the joy or disappointment of hit or miss.

The Irisher, with his long, rich chestnut hair sleek against his gaunt sides, is usually taller than the other setter breeds, standing about three inches above knee height—24 to 36 inches.

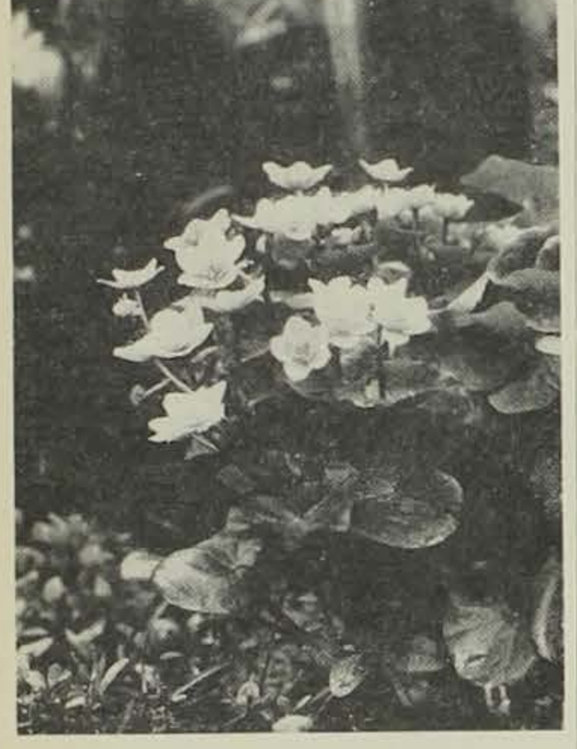
Big Red comes straight from the Ould Sod and brings its humor with him. His excellent disposition has made him a favorite among the larger hunting breeds as a huntsman who can play a secondary role as family companion.

—AP Newsfeatures, reprinted by permission of the Des Moines Register & Tribune.

Moderation Urged . . .

(Continued from page 129)

picked where the entire plant above ground is taken with the blossom. Plants that are extremely common in one region may be rare in another, and when rare, flowers should never be picked. Plants that are close to roads or growing along paths should be left for others to enjoy. And last, but not least important, pick no flowers in state or other public parks where they are legally protected.



The beautiful marsh marigold is rare in some localities, tolerably common in others. In the pioneer days the plant was used as greens, but, in the words of Blanchon, "What sacrilege to reduce these glossy beautiful leaves into a slimy mess in a pot."—Photo by Cornelia Clarke.

The following lists of plants found in this region are for the most part taken from a published list of the Wild Flower Preservation Society:

Wild Flowers Which Should Not Be Picked

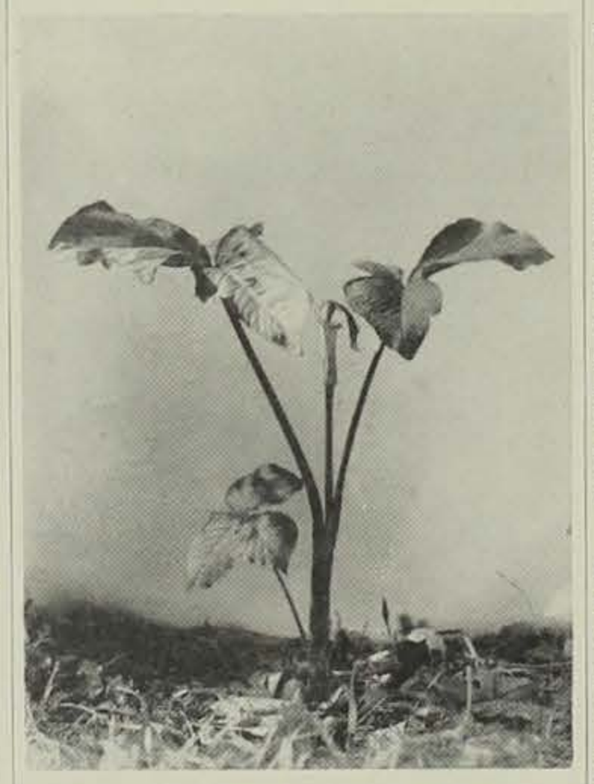
Adder's-tongue
Arethusa
Bellwort
Birdfoot Violet
Bluebell
Cardinal Flower
Clematis
Columbine
False Solomon's Seal
Gentians
Grass Pink
Hepatica
Indian Pipe
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Jacob's Ladder
Lady's Slipper (all species)
Lobelias
Orchids (all species)
Pipsissewa
Shooting Star
Solomon Seal
Spotted Wintergreen
Trailing Arbutus
Painted Trillium
Trilliums

Wild Flowers That Can Be Picked in Moderation

Anemone
Baneberry
Beard-tongue
Bloodroot
Butterfly Weed
Dog-tooth Violet
Flowering Dogwood
Dutchman's Breeches
Fringetree
Golden Ragwort
Loosestrife
Marsh Marigold
May Apple
Meadow Sweet
Purple Milkwort
Rose Gentian
Rue Anemone
Saxifrage
Skull Cap
Spring Beauty
Squirrel Corn
Star of Bethlehem
Turtle Head
Violet Wood-oxalis
Violets (Entire-leaved)
Wild Geraniums
Wild Bergamot
Wild Roses

Wild Flowers That Can Be Freely Picked With No Danger of Extermination

Agrimony
Arrow-head
Asters
Black-eyed Susan
Boneset
Bouncing Bet
Butter and Eggs
Buttercup
Starry Campion
Bladder Campion
Chicory
Cinquefoil
Clover (all species)
Cone-flower (all kinds)
Daisy Fleabane
Daisy
Dandelion
Pearly Everlasting
Evening Primrose
Golden Aster
Golden Rod (all species)
Hawkweed
Ironweed
Jewel-weed
Joe-pye Weed
Milkweeds (except whorled)
Morning Glory
Yellow Mullein
Queen Anne's Lace
Flowering Spurge
St. John's Wort
Sweet Clover
Yellow Melilot
Tansy
Toadflax
Vervain
White Snakeroot
Yarrow
Blazing Star (except Prairie Blazing Star)



The jack-in-the-pulpit is familiar to everyone in the wooded parts of the state. It is often called "Indian turnip" because its turnip-like corm or bulb was boiled or dried by the aborigines to remove the stinging, poisonous juices and used as food.—Photo by Cornelia Clarke.

INVERTED PERISCOPE LOCATES FISH

When most of us hit the trail in quest of piscatorial pleasure, we move about on lake or stream until we find what might be the right spot.

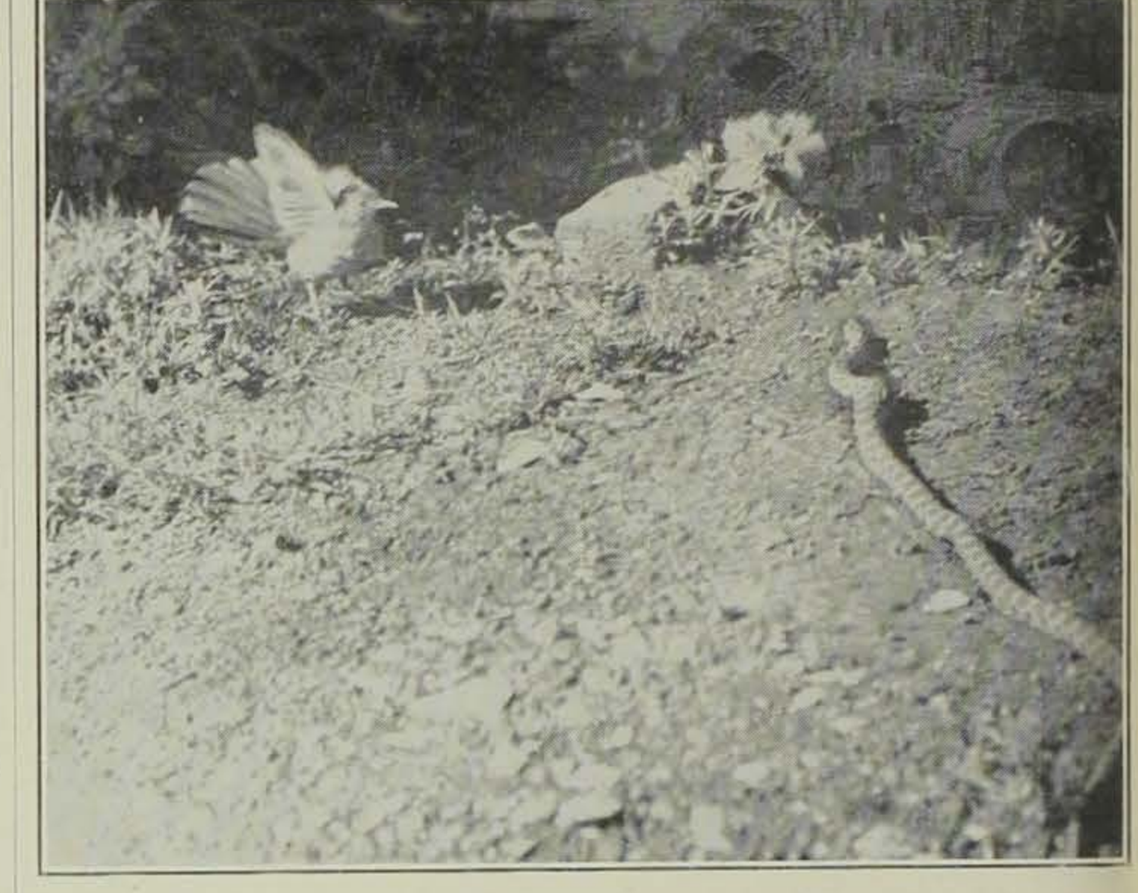
That method of locating the finned fighters is much too slow to suit old Doc Carpenter of Surry, Maine. Doc says that dunking and trolling bait to locate fish takes too much time. So he rigged up a device that works like a charm. He goes fishing two or three times a week, and if the fish are feeding he gets them, and quickly.

Doc calls his fish-finding gadget a waterscope. It's a simple rig consisting of a two and a half foot metal cone or tube which is fitted with a lense on the bottom. Crouching in his boat, Doc pushes the scope about four inches into the water, then shoves his face into the top opening until all the light is shut off. It's surprising, he says, how clearly you can see the bottom of the lake and any fish that happen to be swimming about.

The rest is easy. If there's a blow on the lake he carefully lowers a small iron anchor to hold the boat, then drops his baited lines.

The gadget, he says, also is tops for finding rods, outboard motors and other pieces of equipment that have fallen overboard.

—Dubuque Telegraph-Herald.



The photographer was attracted to this scene of battle by the frantic cries of the brown thrasher. The bird was able to distract the fox-snake intent on making a meal of young birds in the nest above long enough to enlist human aid in her battle.—Photo by Allen Green.

BROWN THRASHER BATTLES FOR YOUNG

By Allen Green

WE consider the brown thrasher, in addition to being one of the most beautiful singers, the most courageous of our native songbirds. We have seen them fight snakes until completely exhausted, sometimes driving the snake away from its intended prey, but never being able to kill a large one. Living up to its name, the thrasher will give the snake a real thrashing with his wings and sharp bill. They are an outstanding warrior.

We'll have to hand it to one particular thrasher because she did her bit by rearing eleven young in one season. She built three nests at different times in a bush near the house, hatching four in the first nest, four in the second, and three in the third. The three nests were within a three-foot radius. Not only is this unusual (and perhaps a record), but this thrasher had to battle for the lives of the three little ones in the last nest.

We heard her frantic calls one day and ran, camera in hand, to see what was the cause. There we found her a few feet from her nest fighting a large fox snake that insisted on climbing up the bush in an attempt to swallow the tiny birds. What a battle it was! The infuriated bird dove on the snake, beating it with her wings and using her bill on the tough hide of the serpent. She fought until she injured one of her wings, whereupon she gave up and appeared pleased as she watched us dispatch the enemy she had failed to kill.

After the episode, although injured, she managed to hop from one limb to another until she was back on her nest again. It was only through our aid that the baby birds were saved, because this snake was much too large and powerful to be killed by the mother. Anyway, we feel justified in awarding this brown thrasher a war medal.

And then there is the story about the Ozark family that had a fine baby boy born to them, but who, as he grew up, appeared to be a deaf-mute, much to the sorrow of his parents. But he seemed to enjoy life nonetheless. One day when he was about 17 he was helping his dad hoe the cotton, both of them bare-footed, of course, when he noticed a large copperhead snake lying under a cotton plant his father was about to hoe. Letting out a yell he warned his old man, "Pa, you're agoin' to git bit!"

His father killed the snake and then fell on the boy's shoulders with tears in his eyes. "Son, ya talked. All these years me and your ma thought ya were deef and dum. Tell me, why ain't ya never sed nuthin' afore?"

The son thought awhile and answered, "Wal, Dad, guess up to now I ain't had nuthin' to talk about."

—Frank Powers,
Cedar Rapids Gazette.

It looks from here as if the big innovation in fishing tackle after the war is going to be a bamboo rod impregnated with some kind of plastic. Manufacturers are working on it, and the big problem is to get it down to the place where the rods can be sold at a reasonable price. If it does what is claimed and expected, then the owner of such a rod won't have to worry about varnish chipping off, the glued sections coming apart or the rod taking the usual set from use. Sounds like quite a deal, doesn't it?

—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

The National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs' committee on tackle terminology have advised us that "an unexpected termination of the forward cast in bait-casting caused by the spool traveling faster than the pull of the line, which in turn causes the spool to over-run, thereby causing a snarl", is to be called officially a "back-lash." That ain't the !*$?!*!! way we heared it!

Angling Definitions . . .

(Continued from page 129)

pool of the reel. The two chief causes of a backlash are the improper thumbing of the reel when casting and the careless laying of the line on the spool when retrieving the cast.

BAIT, generally understood to mean natural lures used to catch fish. However, when preceded by the word "artificial" can mean any lure other than a fly.

BAIT CASTING, a method of angling whereby the lure is cast from the reel, the momentum of the lure in the air pulling line off the spool.

BAIT CASTING ROD, generally not over six feet long, having the reel seat above the hand grasp and a series of solid ring guides leading from the reel to the tip top. Usually in one or two sections.

BAIT ROD, generally seven to nine feet long having a grasp both above and below the reel seat and a series of solid ring guides leading the line from the reel to the tip top. Usually in two or three sections.

BASS BUG, an artificial floating bug usually tied on a hook size six or larger. Anything smaller than this would be a trout or pan fish bug.

BULGING, a type of underwater rise causing a bulge on the water's surface, made by the sudden turn and consequent swirl of the fish's tail when chasing subaqueous insects in shallow water, generally over or near weedbeds. Sometimes the bulge is accompanied by a torpedo-like wave.

CASTING LINE, the line that is cast and to which the leader, in fly fishing, or the trace, in bait casting, is attached. Years ago, but no longer so used, the words 'casting line" described what is now the leader.

DAPING or DEBBING, the term applied to angling with the fly, natural or artificial, just off the tip of the rod so that nothing but the fly touches the water. Generally but three or four feet of leader extend from the rod tip, and of necessity a fairly stout outfit is required.

DIMPLING, a type of surface rise whereby the fish sucks in his prey with the least possible disturbance, showing only a dimple; usually indicative of a large fish. The very opposite of this is the explosive type of rise caused by a fish catching or attempting to catch an insect that is just about to leave the water. Between these two extremes, there are numerous variations of surface rises, having no popular names by which they are generally known.

DROPPER, a fly suspended by a piece of gut from the main leader, between the terminal fly and the line.

DRY FLY, an artificial fly so constructed that it floats easily. Usually the hackles and tail fibers are its main support. The earliest references to the floating fly appeared in The Improved British Angler by Robert Huish, 1938. See EYED FLY.

EYED FLY, an artificial fly tied on a hook having an eye for attaching directly to the leader. Mr. Henry S. Hall of England is generally credited with having evolved the eyed hook in 1877 together with the method of tying split-winged dry flies. Actually, Mr. Aldam's "Quaint Treatise," published a year earlier, contained plates of Mayflies tied on eyed hooks. It remained, however, for Mr. Hall together with Mr. George Bankhart to design a better hook and publicize this new method of construction.

FALSE CAST, a cast in the air in which neither the fly or line touch the water. This cast is used both to dry the fly and vary the length of line in dry fishing.

FERRULE, the metal plug and cap which when fitted together, male and female, on the joining ends of the sections of a rod, assemble the rod.

FLY ROD, generally from seven to nine and one-half feet long, having a reel seat below the hand grasp and a series of snake guides starting with a solid ring "stripper" guide 18 inches or so above the hand grasp and terminating at the tip top. Usually in two or three sections.

FLY TYING, the art of fixing various materials on a hook to represent real or imagined flies or other objects which deceive or attract fish.

FOUL HOOKED, a fish hooked outside the mouth.

GAME FISH, fish, which by reason of courage, strength, beauty and solidity of their flesh are sought by those who angle for sport with delicate fishing tackle.

GUIDE, a ring, a series of which direct the line from the reel to the top of the rod. A guide on a bait casting rod or a bait rod is a solid ring; on a fly rod is usually a split ring, called because of its shape a snake guide. Some imported fly rods have small ring guides called bridge guides, of which there are two types, one being a miniature ring guide, the other a type of ring guide set on the rod at about a 45-degree angle, resembling a snake guide in outward appearance.

HOOK, a piece of metal bent into a curve for catching fish. The ancient fishermen used hooks made of various materials such as bone, ivory, flint, shell, stone and even thorns of a proper shape. However, as early as 4000 B. C. the Egyptians were using quite refined hooks made of copper, which was a harder material than the copper of today. How long after this hooks suitable for tying artificial flies were made can only be conjectured. The most interesting modern development of the hook was in the 1870's when the eyed hook was evolved.

HUMPING, is a variation of the bulge caused by the head and tail rise of a fish just below the surface when intercepting a rising nymph. To summarize, the BULGE is caused by a fish feeding on insects traveling horizontally, while a HUMP is caused by fish feeding on nymphs traveling vertically, or rising to the surface.

NATURAL GUT, sometimes called "cat" (caterpillar) gut. It is the stretched and dried fluid from the silk sack of a moth caterpillar or silkworm.

POLE, a rough article in its natural state used for angling; for instance, Calcutta Bamboo, Japanese Cane and Southern Reed. They are really gigantic grasses.

REEL, a spool set in a frame, which is attached to the rod-butt near the hand, for convenience in controlling the length of line, when angling. The first mention of a reel, called "wind" by T. Barker in his "The Art of Angling," occurs in 1651. The earliest picture is in his enlarged edition of the same book, 1657. Walton first refers to the reel as a "wheele" in his second edition of 1655, chapter VII, "which is to be observed better by seeing than by a large demonstration of words."

STREAMER FLY, an artificial fly having a longer wing than usual. Usually tied on a long shank hook to imitate a minnow.

STRIKE, a twitch given to the rod by wrist or forearm, to aid in setting the hook. Also, when a fish hits the lure with force.

THUMBING REEL, a bait casting term designating the controlling of the speed of the spool when casting, by means of the thumb's pressure on the spool.

TICK, when line, leader or fly strikes the water in front of the caster while false casting.

TOURNAMENT PLUG, a hookless plug used in tournaments or for practice casting.

TRACE, in bait casting, the connecting link between the lure and casting line. May be of line, gut, wire or other substance.

WIND CAST, an overhead cast into the wind, in which the downward acceleration of the forward cast is emphasized and terminated at a lower point than usual.

WE LACK SO MUCH OF FISHING GENERALSHIP

Fishing is really an art, though a considerable portion of good luck is necessary to make the venture an unqualified success. In days when we lived near Iowa's great lakes we made more than occasional sojourns to the abode of the finny beings. A string of even a few of the smaller variety will usually keep most of us coming back, but we decided early in our fishing career that we were not endowed with sufficient good fortune to ever achieve fame as an outstanding pursuer of the inhabitants of the water.

It seemed we always arrived at the lakes a week late. Without fail they had been grasping the hook almost feverishly the week before, but were understandably shy about approaching the alluring morsels we attached to the hook after our arrival. Points and reefs and coves, so fertile in their yield of fish all summer—according to the natives—became astoundingly barren after we pitched tent and took to a boat. June bugs had been attracting them wholesale and pork rind had landed a big one the day before, but not for us. Our tackle should always have been something else.

And then when we did snare a really outstanding walleye, evening was at hand and the return trip across the lake impossible because of the high bounding waves.

The slightest suggestion will still coax us out for a fling at casting or trolling if it is possible to get away, but you will never see our name among the lists of experts. We seem to lack the good luck that is necessary and also to know little or nothing about the art of fishing.

—Marengo Pioneer Republican.

AND HUNTERS

What is it that makes America so great? For one thing it's freedom of life, its opportunity for man to exercise his individual prowess. We have in this country 20 million anglers and hunters. They spend about three billion dollars a year on sports on field and stream. A fisherman thinks nothing of spending a roll of bills for tackle, traveling hundreds of miles, camping out for a week or two, and thus exhibiting his desire to live with nature and measure his skill against the wildlife he finds. It has been this desire to excel and live the life of freedom that makes it possible for us to raise an army that is superior to any other we have ever met. We have the knack of superiority when it comes to physical and mental contest.

When the men come home from the war we want to have plenty of opportunity for them to enjoy the sportsman's life. They will want to get away at times into the fields and along the streams and lakes. This is an essential part of America.

—Centerville Iowegian.

A PROBLEM IN TIMBER, TROUT AND EDUCATION

By Raymond R. Phillips
Farm Forester, State Conservation Commission

Everyone in this day and age turns to specialists for detailed information on managing the crops or resources in which they are interested. For advice on fish they turn to pisiculturalists; on agricultural crops, to an agronomist; and for tree crops, to a forester. As the large timber tracts of the country continue to decrease, the small farm woodlots increase in importance. Values derived from these tree crops have increased to the point where farm woodlot owners are turning in increasing numbers to farm foresters for advice and assistance. The large majority of these "tree farmers" gladly accept and follow the recommendations of these farm foresters, of which there are only five in Iowa. However, there are a few individuals not interested in the welfare of others and who are too short-sighted to be able to visualize their own future. It is my experience with one of these latter persons that I wish to describe.

Farm Forester in Action

Not long ago I received a request from a farmer, living on the headwaters of one of our good trout streams in northeastern Iowa, who wanted advice on timber. The conservation officer of this county accompanied me in my visit to the farmer. In presenting his problem, it developed that the farmer was worried about not being offered what he thought was a satisfactory price for some timber he wanted to sell. He asked my opinion as to the price he should receive. Since this varies considerably in accordance with the condition, size, and location of the timber, I insisted that we first look over the stand and review his farm plans to determine his own needs and the advisability from a land management standpoint, of cutting this timber. In looking over the timber and discussing his general farm plans, this is the story that unraveled.

The man owns 120 acres of land so steep that you can practically see five sides of it. It is a very erosive type of soil. He moved onto the farm six years before, and at that time it was entirely covered with timber as it should be. He was very proud of the fact that he had already cleared 60 acres, regardless of the fact that he practically gave the timber away to get rid of it. Had this been properly harvested, the material removed would have been of such a size that it would have brought a fair return and left the remaining timber in a good productive state. In any operation where small trees are removed, the cost exceeds the value and the difference must be made up by removal of sufficient large trees to carry the small ones.

Cut Off and Starve Out

Of the 60 acres of cleared land, 10 acres was in pasture and buildings, 10 acres in corn, and 40 acres in hazelbrush, so thick that we walked around it to keep from battling our way through. We went down to look at the remaining 60 acres of timber. It is very nice, but quite small, averaging around 15 inches in diameter. The problem, in his mind, was how to get that 60 acres cut off in the shortest possible time and receive the largest amount of money for it (the old-time loggers' "cut out and get out" procedure).

Upon questioning, I found that he planned to make pasture of this 60 acres of timberland after it was cleared. I asked him when he planned to make this pasture, and he replied, as soon as he could get to it. I suggested that he clear out the 40 acres of hazelbrush first and make a pasture of it. After that it would be soon enough to start worrying about clearing the other 60.

I tried to explain that if he had not had time to make pasture of the 40 acres he had cleared three years ago, that he probably would never get time to make pasture of the 60 after it was cut over. I also tried to explain that he would then have 100 acres of idle land producing absolutely nothing but hazelbrush. I doubt that he, or anyone else, is smart enough to make money from hazelbrush.

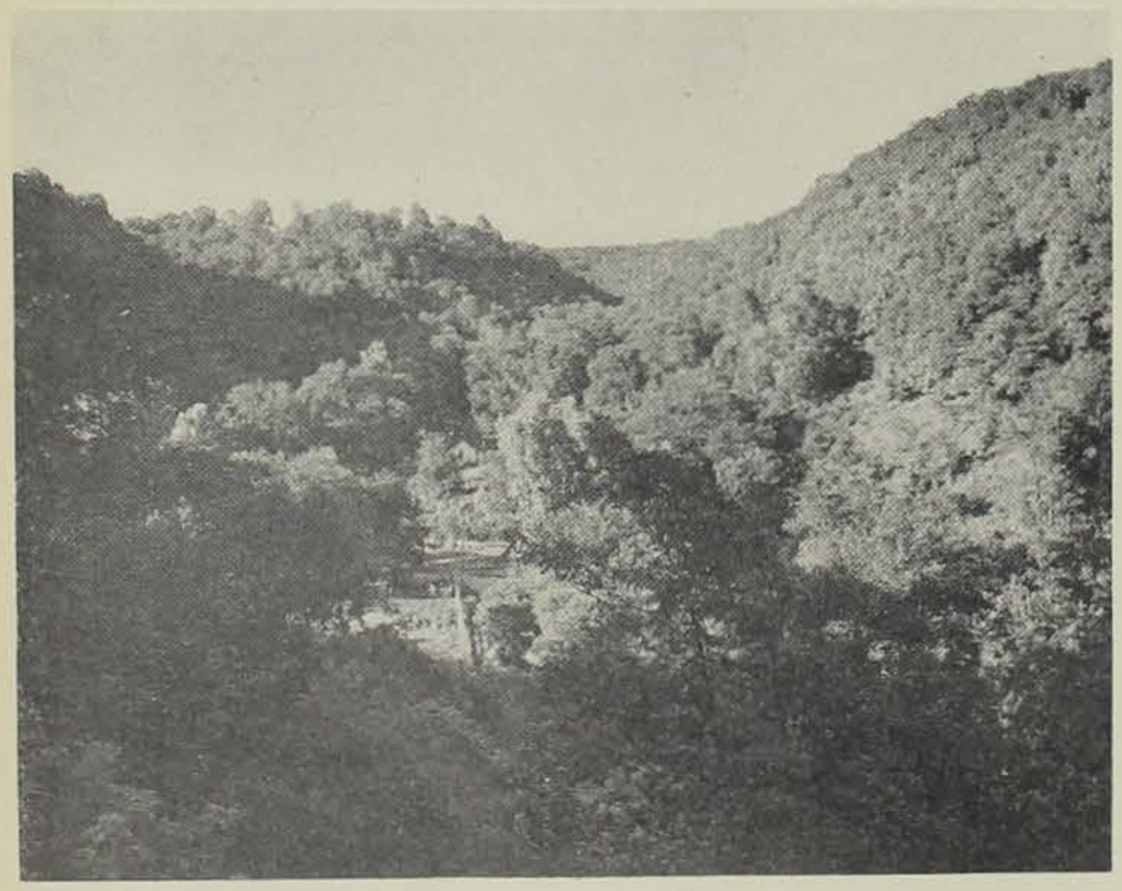
Topsoil Washed Off in Two Seasons

He was very anxious to plow up as much land as possible, even though after two years of cultivation the topsoil was already gone from his 10 acres of corn. The conservation officer and I tried to show this farmer that his cornfield was now a bed of rocks and red clay. Red clay, replied the farmer, is the kind of soil that will raise corn as big as ball bats. He took the pains to explain to us how the fertility of the topsoil was all used up and it had to be washed away so he could get down to the new subsoil in order to raise good crops. Nothing we could say or do would convince this farmer any differently.

This sounds unbelievable in the state of Iowa, which is supposed to be the most literate state in the Union. I have found other cases similar to this, and most of them are on steep land along the headwaters of some of our best trout streams.

Now the question is, should our conservationists and local conservation organizations be more interested in **why** the trout season is not open 15 days earlier, or **why** the trout that are to be stocked are not four inches longer, or **whether** we should have a spring pheasant season, and many other such questions that should be answered by the technicians—or should they spend their time and efforts trying to educate such a person as we have described?

Wouldn't it be more to the benefit of all sportsmen, as well as all other citizens, to maintain the cover and environment for our trout streams and let the technicians worry about the number and size of the trout to be stocked in these streams? If we don't maintain this cover and environment, very shortly no one will need to worry about stocking trout streams, because there will be no clear streams to be stocked.



Typical view in Iowa's "Little Switzerland" in northeast Iowa. The "cut out and get out" procedure of timber removal in such areas is disastrous from a recreational, wildlife, and economic standpoint.

Outdoor Oddities

BY WALT HARVEY

FINES TOTALING $5,000 ASSESSED POLLUTERS

The Blanford Brothers Distilling Corp. has settled a stream pollution case in Marion county court without trial by paying approximately $4,600 in fines and court costs, according to word from Earl Wallace, Director of the Division of Game and Fish in Kentucky.

The corporation was charged with polluting Prather's creek with distillery slop.

Wallace also announced that fines totaling $200 each and costs were paid by two corporations recently after conviction on charges of stream pollution in Pike county. The Republican Steel Corporation paid $100 on each of two counts involving the Levisa fork of the Big Sandy river.

Similar amounts were paid by the Utilities-Elkhorn Coal Company on charges of polluting the waters of Shelby creek in Pike county. Charges were preferred by the Pike County Game and Fish Club.

—Maryland Rally Sheet.

HITLER'S SUPERMEN NO MATCH FOR MAINE WARDENS

J. Edgar Hoover, of the F.B.I., has thanked the members of the Maine warden force for the "fine assistance" rendered in the capture of escaped German prisoners of war in that state on several occasions, and especially commended Wardens Norman Buck and Erlon Winter for their recent capture of three young Nazis who escaped from Spencer Lake P. O. W. Camp into the Maine woods. Buck and Winters are members of the famous bobcat hunting team, captained by Warden Supervisor Roy Gray, that has captured 25 of the big felines this winter.

Reputedly capable of covering 30 to 40 miles a day on snowshoes, the wardens quickly ran the Germans down. No resistance was encountered, and the Nazis are now back in prison camp revising their estimate of what constitutes a superman.