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TOP WATER LARGEMOUTH FISHING



Jim Sherman Photo

Farm pond vegetation offers ideal spots for bass to hide.

Ken Madden

Superintendent of Fisheries

The common name largemouth bass aptly describes the family. These fish have that big mouth and huge gullet for practical reasons. They are fearless, but not foolish and they seemingly know when they are about to be fooled. The importance of artful camouflage and the deceptive presentation of objects that resemble their natural food sources must be considered. For anglers take advantage of the vicious nature of bass and present baits and lures that resemble birds, frogs, crayfish, grasshoppers, and moths. Red and white, yellow and red, or black and white are attack signals to a bass.

Cane pole, casting rod, spinning rod, and fly rod enthusiasts all get to the act with their specialty gear.

For instance, the cane pole expert may stalk the bank, cautiously wading or use a boat. He artfully daps a live frog, or a floating artificial lure into the open water pockets amongst the lily pads or rushes. He makes his favorite lure look alive and natural by using a fine monofilament line to add to the deception.

Casting rod enthusiasts use the casting reel to reach distant pockets with their favorite top water lures. Casting lures of necessity are the lightest of all types of lures because the weight is necessary to attain distance in the cast. Deception is of prime importance in presenting live floating bait or artificial surface lures that imitate the bird or frog. Heavier leader is required since retrieves fre-

quently have to be made through heavy vegetation. What a thrill to pull a three to six pound bass out of the lilies, keep him from running under his favorite stump or snag, and still get him through the pond weeds to the landing net! The bait fisherman is equally effective from shore or boat. Casting accuracy pays off with fishing success.

Spinning enthusiasts apply the same basic technique as the cane pole or the bait casting experts. However, they can use lighter weight lures extending the potential size range of the catch from ten-inches to ten pounds. The lighter monofilament line gives more deception but creates additional hazards in weedy areas where bass live. Lighter, more flexible rods add to the thrill of the catch. Whether it be a hungry bass taking a grasshopper, mouse or frog on a small hook, or a mean bass striking a floating red and white plug, more fish are caught with light tackle than with heavy tackle.

The fly rod fan comes into his own in surface fishing for largemouths. The expert has the most versatile tool, incorporating the length of the common cane pole with the ability to cast to distant pockets in the weeds and most important, to gently and naturally present tidbits and delicacies to the hungry bigmouth hiding under the lily pads. Deer hair bugs, imitating mice; and artificial flies, imitating grasshoppers, beetles, crickets, frogs, and emerging insect hatches fool all sizes of bass. Once hooked the fun really begins. The light flexible fly rod bows and bends with every wiggle of the hooked fish. It's not a one-sided struggle, for the bass seems to know that

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CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE 57,000

COMMISSION MINUTES

Dr. A. N. Humiston of Cedar Rapids was elected chairman to succeed Clyde M. Frudden of Greene.

George Meyer of Elkader was elected vice-chairman for the coming year.

GENERAL

Travel was approved for three people to the Mississippi Flyway Council meeting at St. Louis, Missouri, August 1-3.

Approval was given for one person to travel to the National Conservation Education Association meeting at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, August 19-23.

COUNTY CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Calhoun County Conservation Board received approval for the acquisition of 18 acres at \$250 per acre as an addition to Hickory Grove Park located 6½ miles northwest of Lake City.

Clayton County received approval for the acquisition of three acres of land at a cost of \$2,300 located one mile south of Elkader. Included in the purchase are two buildings.

Dubuque County received approval for the acquisition of two 40 acre parcels of land located on White Water Creek two miles south of Fillmore at a cost of \$4,800. This area will be used for group camping, fishing access, hiking, and nature study.

Fayette County received approval for the acquisition of 60 acres at a total cost of \$6,000 located at the confluence of the Little Turkey River and Crane Creek. This area will be used for picnicking, camping, and fishing access.

Franklin County received approval for the acquisition of Wisner School and one acre of land as a gift from Wisner Township Trustees to be preserved as a historical monument.

Ida County received approval on a ten year lease at \$50 per year on 5.41 acres located one mile southeast of Battle Creek on the Maple River to be used for fishing access and picnicking.

Keokuk County received approval for a lease for 15 years on eight acres of land at \$8 per year

for use as an outdoor classroom for schools.

Linn County received approval for the acquisition of 19.71 acres of land from the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad as a gift located near Hiawatha. This area is to be used as a botanical and biological preserve for studies by schools.

Poweshiek County received approval for a lease for 20 years at a cost of \$1 per year on 7½ acres located at the north edge of Brooklyn to be developed as a county recreational area.

Poweshiek County also received approval for a development plan for the above area to be used for baseball, tennis, horseshoe courts, shuffleboard courts, playground and picnic area.

LANDS AND WATERS

The Commission decided to hold a conservation officers examination and school late this fall to provide a new eligibility list for both Fish and Game, and Lands and Waters Officers.

Action was delayed on a request for road access at Provost Point on Blackhawk Lake in Sac County.

Action was also delayed on a request to construct a road through Wildcat Den State Park in Muscatine County.

Special regulations for operation of vessels on impoundments in Mitchell County were approved.

Approval was given for a construction permit for a private boat launching ramp on East Okoboji Lake.

Approval was given for a request to breach the river bank by Coon Valley Gravel Company.

The Commission decided not to renew leases for cottages now located in Palisades-Kepler State Park.

Approval was given to a request for permission to clean an island for a public recreation area on the Des Moines River near Fort Dodge.

Twin Lakes Restoration Association received approval for a fireworks display on that lake on the Fourth of July.

American Oil Company pipeline was given conditional approval to cross the Coon River at a different location if their specifications meet with the approval of the Engineering Section.

A report was given on dredging bids for North Twin Lakes and the Commission voted to accept the low bid submitted by L. H. Simkins of Augusta, Georgia, for \$188,149.70 for dredging 322,500 cubic yards of silt from North Twin Lake.

FISH AND GAME

An amendment to the Commission policy concerning state-owned docks was approved allowing a \$1 per day charge for transient boats using these docks.

Two options for land purchase were approved for Otter Creek in Tama County. One for \$650 for 15 acres and the other one 120

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 317 of the IOWA STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The State Conservation Commission at its meeting on June 6, 1962, established the following rules and regulations as provided in Chapter 87, Acts of the 59th General Assembly of Iowa. (a) A system of regulatory markers for use on all waters of the State to meet needs not provided by the U. S. Coast Guard system of navigational aids and (b) A system of navigational aids for use on the waters of the State not marked by the U. S. Coast Guard and/or not determined to be U. S. navigable waters; provided that such rules and regulations shall not be in conflict with the markings prescribed by the U. S. Coast Guard.

Definitions (as used in this Administrative Order)

- Waterway Marker** is any device designed to be placed in, on or near the water to convey an official message to a boat operator on matters which may affect health, safety, or well being except that such devices of the U. S. or any agency of the United States are excluded from the meaning of this definition.
- Regulatory Marker** is a waterway marker which has no equivalent in the U. S. Coast Guard system of navigational aids.
- State Aid to Navigation** is a waterway marker which is the equivalent of a U. S. Coast Guard aid to navigation.
- Buoy** is any device designed to float which is anchored in the water and which is used to convey a message.
- Sign** is any device for carrying a message which is attached to another object such as a piling, buoy, structure or the buoy itself.
- A Display Area** is the area on a sign or buoy needed for display of a waterway marker symbol.
- Symbols** are geometric figures such as a diamond, circle, triangle, etc., used to convey a basic message.

Regulation 1. Waterway Markers Used on the Waters of This State Shall Be as Follows:**(a) State Aids to Navigation:**

- A red-topped white buoy, red buoy, or black buoy shall indicate that side of a channel to be kept to the right of a vessel when entering the channel from the main water body or when proceeding upstream.
- A black-topped white buoy, black buoy, or black sign shall indicate that side of a channel to be kept to the left of a vessel when entering the channel from the main water body when proceeding upstream.
- A black and white vertically striped buoy sign shall indicate the center of a navigable waterway.
- Buoys or signs in (a) and (b) above shall normally be used in pairs and only for the purpose of marking a clearly defined channel.
- A red and white vertically striped buoy sign shall indicate boats should not pass between buoy and nearest shore.
- State aids to navigation shall be numbered or lettered for identification. Red buoys and signs marking channels shall be identified with even numbers, and black buoys and signs marking channels shall be identified with odd numbers, the numbers increasing from the main water body or proceeding upstream. Buoys and signs indicating the center of a waterway will be identified by letters of the alphabet. All numbers and letters used to identify state aids to navigation shall be preceded by the letters "IA".
- Letters and numerals used with state aids to navigation shall be white, in block characters.

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acres at a cost of \$20,000.

The Highway Commission was given approval for a request to alter the road adjacent to Garlock and Emmerson Bay Access in Dickinson County.

The Commission discussed the possibility of acquiring and developing a large waterfowl area in the future.

Purchase of a crawler-type tractor by the game section was ap-

proved.

The Commission passed a resolution indicating its support of bills concerning the new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as established by Congress.

A resolution was passed favoring surplus property bills now before Congress.

A motion was passed offering full cooperation with the State Civil Defense office.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER—

(Continued from page 58)

acters of good proportion and spaced in a manner which will provide maximum legibility. Such letters and numerals shall be at least 6 inches in height.

- (8) The shapes of state aids to navigation shall be compatible with the shapes established by Coast Guard regulations for the equivalent Coast Guard aids to navigation.
- (9) Where reflectorized materials are listed, a red reflector will be used on a red buoy, and a green reflector on a black buoy.

(b) Regulatory Markers:

- (1) A diamond shape of international orange with white center shall indicate danger. The nature of the danger may be indicated by words or well known abbreviations in black letters inside the diamond shape, or above and/or below it on white background.
- (2) A diamond shape of international orange with a cross of the same color within it against a white center without qualifying explanation shall indicate a zone from which all vessels are excluded.
- (3) A circle of international orange with white center will indicate a control or restriction. The nature of the control or restriction shall be indicated by words, numerals, and/or well known abbreviations in black letters inside the circle. Additional explanation may be given above and/or below it in black letters on white background.
- (4) A rectangular shape of international orange with white center will indicate information, other than a danger, control or restriction, which may contribute to health, safety or well being. The message will be presented within the rectangle in black letters.
- (5) Letters or numerals used with regulatory markers shall be black, in block characters of good proportion, spaced in a manner which will provide the necessary degree of visibility.

Regulation 2. Authority to Place Markers.

- (a) No waterway marker shall be placed on, in, or near the waters of the State unless such placement is authorized by the agency or political subdivision of the State exercising jurisdiction, with respect to regulation of boating, over the area where placed, except that the provisions of this section shall not apply to private aids to navigation under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Coast Guard.
- (b) Such agency or political subdivision of the State will, prior to authorizing placement, obtain the necessary clearances of federal and/or state agencies exercising regulatory authority over the area concerned.
- (c) The agency or political subdivision of the State authorizing the placement of a waterway marker will inform the State Conservation Commission of the following:
- (1) Exact location of the marker, expressed in distance and direction from one or more fixed objects whose precise location is known.
 - (2) The description and purpose of the marker including its identifying number, if any.

Regulation 3. Maintenance of Waterway Markers. Waterway markers shall be maintained in proper condition, or be replaced or removed.

Regulation 4. Display of Waterway Markers.

- (a) A waterway marker may be displayed as a sign or a fixed support, as a buoy bearing a symbol on its surface, or as a sign mounted on a buoy.
- (b) When a buoy is used to carry a symbol on its surface, it will be white, with bands of international orange on the top, and at the bottom above the waterline.
- (c) A buoy whose sole purpose is to carry a sign above it will be marked with three bands of international orange alternating with two bands of white, each band occupying approximately one-fifth of the total area of the buoy above the water-

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PREHISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Stan Widney

We get a lot of letters in Public Relations from students who have been asked to write papers on something or other and write to us expecting a brochure or answer that will save them the trouble. The girls do their best to answer everything one way or another, but sometimes they're stuck.

Like the other day when a gal wrote in wanting to know about the prehistoric animals of Iowa. Everybody shook their heads, then looked at me. "Stan should know. Answer the letter, Stan," just like I'd been around for one million years or so.

Now I like history, the kind that goes back a hundred years. I admit I cover that distance by word of mouth, but as to finding out what roamed the hills and dales of Iowa before the glaciers is not my category. I told the boss so and he said, "Oh, use your imagination. It's just like a science fiction story in reverse."

The time was 2,000,000 years ago, give or take a couple of weeks. The place was Des Moines in the State cave at East 7th and Court. This cave was not air-conditioned and still ain't.

It's Monday morning and a game warden comes into the cave carrying a 10 pound paddlefish (without a paddle) and slams it down before the superintendent of Public Relations.

"You guys will have to get a story out on this. It's the 14th fish I've found with its paddle sawed off. You know that's illegal."

"Now take it easy," says the super. "It takes two weeks to chisel out a news release and I'm not about to have my chisels work overtime just because some gal wants a necklace."

"I wish women would get over that paddlefish necklace fad," said the warden. "My mate is wearing six paddles and they're breaking her neck."

"My mate goes for Stegosaurus

plates," said the super. "They are not only heavy, they—they," he paused and shuddered. "Well, you know."

"Yeah," agreed the warden. "Women! The least they could do with the paddlefish is take them home and cook them."

"Don't be stupid," said the super, "fire hasn't been discovered yet."

"Oh, that's right. Say," the warden changed the subject abruptly, "I arrested a guy for stoning pterosauria out of season."

"Oh?" the super brightened. "How's the prospect for 'sourias next season?"

"Pretty good, if reports from the flyways are true. Still, if something isn't done about that Brontosaurus herd down at Forney Lake—" the warden shook his head sadly.

"Now, now," the super shook a finger under the warden's nose, "you have no proof that the bronto is a predator."

"Well, something's getting those birds already!"

"Getting what?"

"Oh, I forgot. Birds haven't appeared on the scene yet either."

"Heck no," said the super, "and they won't 'till the tertiary age."

"Say," mused the warden, "you know, ours is not a bad age. No birds, no fire, no guns, no boats—"

"And no paper!" said the grinning super. "Think. If we had paper I'd be worrying about getting the CONSERVATIONIST out on time. Still, there's a couple of drawbacks we have. No coffee, so we can't take a coffee break."

"Yeah, there's that. What else?"

"We can't converse yet. We can only make signs and grunts."

"By golly, that's right. Ugh!"

"Ugh!"

The opossum is the oldest living American mammal. Its forebears date back unchanged to the age of the mastodon and saber-toothed tiger.

FUN ON SA



The Mississippi is important not only to commercial interests, but to the recreation-minded Iowan.

A modern twist is being given to the old traditional lure of the riverboats on the mighty Mississippi. Today's version of yesterday's stern-wheelers is an out-board-powered family houseboat with accommodations for easy living during a weekend or extended vacation along Iowa's many miles of river shoreline. Easing along from one sandbar to another, to fish, swim, suntan, water-ski, or just plain loaf and sight-see, old man river is a gracious host.

Beneath the towering bluffs of our eastern counties winds a waterway of fun. From stumpy bass waters, to green islands, along the quaint shores of ancient river towns with their fish nets drying in the warm sun, past summer cottages in the shadow of the stolid control dams, the modern inland sailor moves into a new kind of fun with the added zest of being a do-it-yourself river pilot.



Here below Lock and Dam No. 9 near Harpers Ferry, famous for its walleye fishing, youngsters illustrate the use of the sandbars for swimming and fun.



At the first point above Lansing, some Waterloo Boy Scouts enjoy their recreational opportunities.



A quick run up the river and these Lansing High School girls can sun on the sand.



The entrance to DeSoto Slough is an extremely popular fishing spot.

SANDBAR

Photo Feature by Jim Sherman



distance, across the channel from the Lansing Marina seen some of the popular sandbars.



Sunbathing and reading atop their houseboat makes a fine vacation for this Bettendorf family.



Pretty girls sunning on a sandbar can turn the eye of any boater.



Moored to a sandbar, this Hudson, Iowa, family can enjoy the many facets of the Mississippi.



Camping and sunning are common Mississippi sights.



The houseboat has come into its own as the perfect vehicle for a family vacation.



This group from Garnaville finds lots of company on a popular sandbar.



All in a row—as a Des Moines man hosts a group from Texas, Louisiana, and Tennessee.



Water-skiing, camping, and boating form the elements of this Jefferson family's vacation.

STORM LAKE'S NEW ISLAND

Denny Rehder

Those familiar with Storm Lake know that the lake is subject to considerable wave action when the winds are strong. It lies out in the open exposed to the elements—a huge expanse of water only a few feet deep. The poor watershed ratio of 7:1 barely replaces the moisture lost through evaporation.

A dredge has been working at Storm Lake for some time now lowering the silt and increasing the depth in dredged areas to around fourteen feet.

Most spectacular in the operation however is the creation of an island. The reasons for creating an island in Storm Lake are numerous. First, there was a lack of adequate fill area for the silts being taken from the lake. Second, was the poor watershed ratio, and the fact that Storm Lake is rough and shallow. It was thought that a series of islands on the lake would break up the wave action. And, it was hoped that by decreasing the water area, the lake level might become more stable due to a more favorable watershed ratio.

The Engineering Section experimented late last fall by putting a small island in the lake. The island remained through the winter and was covered by high water in the spring. This optimistic note encouraged the men to move the dredge out on the lake and start building a ring dike.

The construction of the island will involve four basic steps. First, a ring dike must be raised; this dike will look like a doughnut in the water. A second ring dike will be raised around the first and the area between the two filled. After the dike is stable, the dredge will start to fill the open center section. The dikes are needed to hold the silt from washing away.

In order to make the ring dikes themselves stable, they are being built from mudballs. Mudballs are formed when material from the bottom is picked up, but very little water added as it moves from the dredge through the line to the site of the island. This line is extended about twice as far as necessary in order that the mud will start to roll through the lines. When the material comes out of the line onto the ring dike it's in mudballs about the size of your fist. These mudballs will hold better than the straight silt.

At present the dredge is running ten hours a day, six days a week. Another operator is being trained so the dredge can be put on a twenty hour a day schedule. This would double the 2,800 cubic yards-a-day output at present.

Right now the part of one ring dike in existence is about a thousand feet long. It's going to take a while to get the ring dikes raised when you consider that the island will be about fifty acres in



Out in Storm Lake the dredge pumps away, building the first of a series of islands. The mudballs used to raise the ring dike are easily seen here.

size. That part of the ring dike now in place is extremely unstable, and people are warned not to attempt a landing on the island. There's no guarantee you won't sink from sight.

It will take many years to stabilize this island and the other three that are tentatively planned. Purple willow and Reed's canary grass will be planted on the islands to help prevent erosion.

If the island project proves successful, Storm Lake's beauty will be enhanced to a considerable degree. The islands will offer future sites for camping, picnicking, and other forms of recreation. But in the meantime, stay off! They're still nothing but treacherous mud.

LARGEMOUTHS—

(Continued from page 57)

light leaders can be broken in snags or weeds and frequently does just that. To the hooked bass the eternal elasticity of the fly rod is his undoing.

As the bass eyes the whole horizon of the pond surface for food, so it is with the angler looking over the entire state. He finds big and good bass in the Mississippi and Missouri River backwaters, the natural lakes, sluggish rivers, over-flow ponds, farm ponds, city reservoirs, and artificial lakes. Since the bass has morning and evening surface feeding tendencies, the angler must be on the scene at the right time. The bass may be temperamental and uncooperative; or they may be on a very selective food binge. The clever angler determines this, fools the bass, and makes him mad enough to strike floating food, be it real or imitation. Through the angler's skill this food just happens to land in Mr. Bass's favorite retreat, and then top water largemouth bass fishing really begins!

WHAT ABOUT TREE PLANTING?

Duane E. Stoppel
District Forester

Should I plant an acreage of trees? What kinds of trees should I plant? Where should I plant these trees? When should I contact the forester or other conservation technician to help me in planning for my tree planting? Each year these are questions many landowners ask themselves.

The answer to the first question is that if you have unproductive acres they can, in most cases, be made productive by raising trees. True, trees are not an annual farm crop such as corn or beans, but they are a periodic farm crop that can, over a period of years, produce a fair income. This income would begin in 6-8 years as a thinning for Christmas trees. In another 10 to 20 years a second thinning would be made, producing a crop of posts, pulpwood, and poles. The last harvest of your tree crop would begin about 50 years after planting, in the form of small sawlogs.

Your trees will also be a source of beauty on the land, a wonderful wildlife area, and as you can see, a form of savings account or life insurance that is constantly drawing interest and readily available in case of a financial emergency.

What kind of trees to plant can best be answered by the forester or the other conservation technicians in your county. They know the requirements for each tree species and will recommend the trees that are best suited to the particular soil types, slope aspects, and other conditions on your farm.

They can also give you all the particulars concerning government ACP help in your planting program. This federal government help could mean a reimbursement

of up to 80 per cent of the cost of your tree seedlings and the cost of planting them.

The question, where should I plant my trees, can be answered simply. Almost every farm in Iowa has a few acres that are presently unproductive or that would be more productive if planted to trees. These are the acres too steep for farming that are severely eroded and gullied. They are the acres in small, inaccessible fields and the odd corners that have never produced a steady income. All these areas can be made profitable with the proper trees planted there and with the proper maintenance.

Last of all, when should I contact the forester or other technician to help me in planning for tree planting? The answer is right now. It is true most of the tree planting in Iowa is done in the early spring, but since the planting season is only about 6 weeks long and the forester and other conservation technicians are at their busiest from January through this six weeks planting season, all the planning should be completed before the rush season begins. If you ask for help in the season, it may mean waiting until the next year to begin your planting program.

Remember, trees can be a source of income on presently unproductive ground, trees beautify your farm and provide excellent wildlife cover, and trees are like a savings account or life insurance policy to be drawn on at any time; to have these things now, you should begin planning immediately for next spring.

IOWA EVERGLADES

Reverend Lawrence Nelson

There were three of us who took a long-planned trip last Wednesday afternoon, and it was right here in Jackson County. We tossed an aluminum boat into a pickup truck and headed for Fish Lake near Green Island.

This is a focal point in the public hunting grounds of the Green Island Bottoms. The road is all-weather, and an enviable parking lot is provided on the shores of the lake. In fact, it makes a good picnic area, too. But we weren't on picnicking, so we launched our little craft, attached a small motor, and headed eastward toward Snag Slough.

It is true that we were equipped with various kinds of fishing gear, an assortment of bait, but our main object was sight-seeing. The hour we achieved, particularly when the fish were not biting!

It is true that we could have caught fish at some. This was not our major purpose in going. We wanted a leisurely look at what is termed the "Everglades of Iowa." And, certainly, this is exactly what it is—most beautiful. The meandering slough with its multitudes of snags and logs made the maneuvering of the boat a watchful task. Wildlife abounded everywhere, it seemed.

Turtles tumbled from logs when we got too close, and occasionally a stubborn "hard-back" refused to relinquish his perch for our approaching boat. Even a stick stuck into the water near him failed to rouse the sleeping turtle. Aboard our boat the muskrats were a safety, and it happened several times that a rat, surprised by our coming, turned its stern to the light and burrowed into the side of the water. In the clear shallow water we could see the rats swimming under the surface, and marvel at their otter-like agility in the water.

Frequently a pair of wood ducks would dart across our path, or in a specially prepared nest hidden to a tree along the shore. We were quite surprised to see a number of mallard drakes segregated in various pools, and related that they too have "stuck affairs." But upon contemplation decided that the hens were on their nests or brooding a brood of ducklings somewhere. "Green-heads" were especially plentiful in their early summer plumage, and swam lazily as we went by.

In the flooded cornfields near the lake we observed what appeared to be white egrets, more than 50 of them. Perched in the marshy area, they seemed to have an eye for us and the other on a bit of food that might come by. A white plumage had a special significance as the noon sun hit their backs. No little wonder that the

McMAHON'S BOYS CAMP

Now in its sixteenth year, McMahon's Boys Camp once again took over the group camp at Springbrook State Park, as youngsters from five counties received four days of instruction and recreation from Conservation Officers.

The camp was started by a Conservation Officer in Greene and Carroll Counties. Since that time it has grown to be a popular part of the summer for many boys. The camp is staffed by Conservation Officers, but the whole venture is a cooperative project of several sportsmen's groups in the area. Sixty boys from 12 to 15 years old are handled at the four-day camp. They are instructed in conservation practices, trapping, hunting, and fishing. Personnel from the Conservation Commission supply the technical knowledge that is necessary when dealing with fish and game management and conservation of resources.

The camp annually costs around \$600, and usually breaks even. McMahon's Boys Camp has garnered an enviable reputation. The combination of field trips, expert instruction, and good fun stays with the boys for a number of years. It's a long-range program of education that seems to be paying off in increased awareness about the problems faced in conservation.

McMahon's is only one of several similar camps promoted by Conservation Officers throughout the state. These camps provide opportunities for youngsters to work with conservation first-hand, under the guidance of their local officers.

women of yesterday wanted this for their hats.

When we reached the end of the trip, on the banks of the Mississippi, we opened a lunch box and uncorked the coffee bottle. Our thanks to a good cook that had presumed upon our appetites. After lunch we headed the craft toward Fish Lake again, and made the return trip in slow time, to absorb as much as we could of this natural beauty. You know, friend, it is relaxing to go slow once in a while! *Reprinted from the Bellevue Herald-Leader.*

The echidna is a toothless creature and lives upon ants which it captures by means of its sticky tongue.

The giraffe has the longest neck of any living animal. Its tiny head is out of all proportion to neck and body.

The color of trout flesh does not aid in identification as many fishermen suppose. The color depends on the kind of food the trout has eaten.



Jack Kirstein Photo

Boy-Campers get some expert advice on shooting from their Conservation Officer.



Jack Kirstein Photo

Fishing is a part of most Iowa boys, and the right way to fish is important to them. Here an officer illustrates some of the finer points of angling.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER—

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line, except where the sign itself carries orange bands; however, nothing in these regulations will be construed to prohibit the mounting of a sign on a buoy which has been placed for a purpose other than that of carrying a sign.

- (d) When symbols are placed on signs, a suitable white background may be used outside of the symbol.

Regulation 5. **Specifications for Waterway Markers.**

- (a) The size of a display area shall be as required by circumstances, except that no display area shall be smaller than one foot in height. The size shall increase in increments of six inches, provided, however, that this specification for increase in increments shall not apply to markers in existence prior to the adoption of this regulation.
- (b) The thickness of the symbol outline shall be one-tenth of the height of the display area.
- (c) The outside width of the diamond, the inner diameter of the circle, and the average of the inside and outside widths of a square shall be two-thirds of the display area height.
- (d) The sides of the diamond shall slope at a 35 degree angle from the vertical on a plane surface. Approximate adjustments for curvature may be made when applied to a cylindrical surface.
- (e) **Materials.** Waterway markers shall be made of materials which will retain, despite weather and other exposures, the characteristics essential to their basic significance, such as color, shape, legibility and position. Reflectorized materials may be used.

Regulation 6. **Other Waterway Marking Devices.**

- (a) **Mooring Buoys.** In order that mooring buoys shall not be mistaken for aids to navigation or regulatory markers, they shall be white, with a blue band clearly visible above the waterline, provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply until July 1, 1963 to such devices located within an officially established mooring area.
- (b) Markers such as mooring buoys and race course markers will be processed in the same manner as waterway markers, and authorization for their placement will be obtained from the agency or political subdivision of the state exercising jurisdiction with respect to regulation of boating, and such agency or political subdivision will assure that proper clearances for their placement are obtained from State and Federal agencies exercising regulatory authority over the area concerned.
- (c) Such markers shall not be of a color, shape, configuration or marking which could result in their confusion with any Federal or State aid to navigation or any State regulatory marker, and shall not be placed where they will obstruct navigation, cause confusion, or constitute a hazard.

Regulation 7. **The Divers Flag.**

- (a) A red flag with a white diagonal running from the upper left hand corner to the lower right hand corner (from mast head to lower outside corner) and known as the "Divers Flag" shall, when displayed on the water, indicate the presence of a diver in the water in the immediate area.
- (b) Recognition of this flag by regulation will not be construed as conferring any rights or privileges on its users, and its presence in a water area will not be construed in itself as restricting the use of the water area so marked.
- (c) Operators of vessels will, however, exercise precaution commensurate with conditions indicated.
- (d) This flag shall be displayed only when diver activities are in progress, and its display in a water area when no diver activities are in progress in that area will constitute a violation of this regulation and of Chapter 87, Acts of the 59th General Assembly.

This order shall be effective after filing in the office of the Secretary of the State and published in the *Des Moines Register*, Des Moines, Iowa.

GLEN G. POWERS, Director
State Conservation Commission

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Goose Lake—A Wonderful Variety

Denny Rehder

If you enjoy wildlife and like to view creatures in their native habitat, a marsh area would be the ticket for you. Marshes support a great variety of bird, animal, and insect life.

One of Iowa's finest marsh areas for sheer variety is Goose Lake, a 450-acre reclaimed natural marsh near Jefferson in Greene County. This marsh is a state-owned public hunting area well known to many central Iowa duckhunters. During the summer it provides nesting sites for many types of waterfowl.

A recent trip to Goose Lake serves as a good illustration of what you might see on a visit to this marsh. Upon getting from the car we immediately spotted a Florida gallinule and her brood. The Florida gallinule is an uncommon sight in Iowa and is distinguished from coots by the red bill; coots have white bills.

A coot pattered on the water to take to the air, leaving her nest with its incubating eggs. Yellow-headed blackbirds were all over the place protesting this invasion of their privacy. As our boat started edging its way through the rushes, black terns voiced their objections to our movements.

Up ahead of us we saw a pied-billed grebe carefully covering her nest before she left. Another grebe's nest erupted into activity as we drew close. Little grebes too small to stand up pushed off the nest into the water where they swam like little fish.

Ahead of our boat a little way a redhead jumped and flew across the marsh. Upon inspection, her nest was found to house an even dozen eggs, which were apparently in the late stages of incubation.

Moving quietly through the rushes into an open area, we saw a muskrat sleeping in the sun. He didn't wake up until the boat nudged his perch—he really spooked when he saw us so close!

To the west we spotted a mallard and her brood paddling into some cover. Blue-winged teal, mallards, redheads, and coot were flying over the area constantly.

An interesting sight was the discovery of a ruddy duck nest with eight giant eggs. The ruddy is a small duck, but its eggs rival those of our largest ducks in size. The ruddy has the distinction of being the only bird known by 98 different colloquial names. They are excellent divers and often seek this as a means of escape.

All during our stay at Goose Lake we were attracted by the numbers of black-crowned night herons in the areas. We finally moved over toward the grove of dead trees that forms their rookery. As we approached, the black-crowns spooked, setting up a fuss that was worse than a bunch of



Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

panicked hybrid chickens. Not only were they noisy, but they were messy! The trees and nest were whitewashed and the young sat in the trees quietly regurgitating when the excitement got too much for them. Although we weren't hit, the water resounded with the plopping of expectorated food.

Near the edge of the rookery we found a nesting yellow-crowned night heron. Whereas the black-crowned is a common migrant and summer resident, the yellow-crowned is classified as a rare visitor in Iowa. More sedate than the excitable black-crowns, the yellow-crown let us get within twenty feet of her before she surely flew away.

On our way back to the car we found a coot nest with one little bird fresh out of the eggshell. Little coots have a reddish down on their heads which distinguished them from all other young birds. Terribly ugly and unable to walk, the little fellow squirmed along until he hit the water—then he swam like a fish.

This is a brief preview of what to expect in a fine marsh like Goose Lake. The colorful variety of abundant animal life will delight and entertain you.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Lake of Three Fires was named for a custom of Indians when getting together for councils and powwows. The location of the gathering place was marked by three fires on a high hill. There is such a prominent hill at the park, hence the name "Three Fires" or "gathering place." Lake of Three Fires is a popular Iowa park located just north of Bedford in Taylor County. The park has varied facilities—swimming, supervised beach, boat fishing, refreshments, picnicking, hiking, and camping.