



By Everglades Ernie

More rainstorms are predicted this weekend, but if you can get out early in the morning and find a weed line you may catch the big fish of the day.

Some weed lines being found are massive while others are just long lines less than a foot wide. As the wind shifts just a little more frequently from the south you can expect a lot more dolphin action. If you are looking for some tail walking small dolphin fishing you are going to have locate a weed line east of any of the inlets of South Florida.

Local dolphin action has been good for the past week. The same can be said of the dolphin catches for most of the east coast of Florida. From Ft.

Pierce, south to Key West the dolphin catches have been good and will get better once the wind shifts to the south more.

Most of the dolphin caught outside the Boynton Inlet are caught in the open water near weed lines. Look for up cross-currents, anything that might hold dolphin in the area. Then zigzag the area while trolling. On calm days break out the water disturbing teaser baits. The noise will help attract dolphin to your baits.

Locally, many spend countless hours trolling the sea for an eight to 30-pound dolphin, while others try to hook into one of Florida's largest gamefish, a tarpon. Tarpon fishing is getting better every day, and all you have to do is decide

how big of a fish you want to catch. However, do not keep a tarpon without a tarpon stamp on your fishing license.

If you are looking for some light tackle tarpon action, head north to the Fort Pierce area, and fish the Indian River. Use a live mullet or live sardine as your bait. Tarpon will strike about any live bait and a few artificial baits. Tarpon travel in schools and they travel alone. For the next couple of weeks, tarpon will be working their way into the brackish water of the Indian River where a four-foot fish will scare you if you happen to hook into one when you are not expecting it.

In the Keys, Florida Bay and northward to the Ft. Myers area, big tarpon are on the move. Some of these fish weigh over 175 pounds and they are looking to show their tail walking ability when hooked. These monster fish will move from the deep water of Florida Bay to the shallow water near boat ramps and open water flats. This is why they are so easy to spot and target.

Many anglers fish for tarpon with a saltwater fly rod and they use specially built tarpon or sailfish fly as bait. The

only bigger fish to tail walk is a blue marlin, so when a 150-pound tarpon begins to take line and tail walk you are in for a sight. A jumping tarpon is especially great to see in shallow water. They will not be able to dive deep, so be ready to start up the engine to keep the line on the reel.

If you have never caught a big tarpon now is the time to go hunting for one of the biggest fish you may ever hook into. Even the small ones can strip a lot of line off your reel. Smaller tarpon, the ones that weigh between 15 to 50 pounds are biting from the Jupiter Inlet south to the Boca Inlet. Biscayne Bay has some tarpon, but you are better off heading to the Keys for the jumbo ones.

Boynton Beach Inlet anglers are finding kingfish, dolphin and tons of bonito. Bonito are good for only one thing right now, and that is as bait for dolphin.

Fish a couple of dead sardines over the reefs for bonito. Then cut a long belly section off the bonito as trolling bait. Dolphin up to 30 pounds are taking bonito and other trolled baits. There is plenty of bonito swimming over the reefs. Hundreds are caught every day. You may not like to reel in bonito, but they are one of the hottest dolphin baits working right now. Dolphin are being caught from two to 15 miles off shore.

Near the inlets, you can catch plenty of sand perch, blue runners, mangrove snapper, and barracuda. Sheepshead is a favorite bridge and inlet fish this time of year. Some small Spanish mackerel are running the inlets during nighttime tide changes.


Bass fishing is beginning to see a bite of a slow down due to the hot weather. The hydrilla growth is expanding outward to the open water of the freshwater lakes. By August, most of this hydrilla growth will be dead.

The eastern lake and canal chain has had plenty of water movement over the past few weeks. The heavy rainstorms have forced the water managers to open the Intracoastal spillways and that always creates a current in the E-4 canal.

Bass and even the blue-

Car Clinic

By **Jorge Goyanes**
Car Clinic



Nitrogen?

We had a discussion in the shop with a customer who insisted on getting Nitrogen fill in his tires. I told him he was wasting his money as the benefits do not outweigh the cost involved. As I have written many times in this column what Nitrogen in your tires promises is not the outcome.

It promises better tire pressure retention, all tires lose pressure over time, especially when there is a weather drop. For every 10 degree rise or fall of temperature there is a change of one pound of pressure. Nitrogen does not stop this loss.

Better fuel economy is promised: If you check that air regularly you will get the same gas mileage as non nitrogen filled, the difference is 1.2 lbs. of pressure lost of nitrogen versus regular air.

- Cooler running temperature: The difference between the two is negligible according to a study done by Exxon-Mobil.

- Prevents wheel rot: Again negligible results,

Most dealers charge between \$5-\$7 per nitro fill or more, do the math.

And finally a study done by Edmunds.com:

Is Nitrogen Worth It?

The air we breathe is made up of 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen and a few other elements. To get the desired benefits for tires, nitrogen needs to be at least 93 percent pure, according to nitrogen service equipment providers quoted on Tiresack.com. So we're basically talking about adding an extra 15 percent of nitrogen and getting rid of as much oxygen as possible.

Based on cost, convenience and actual performance benefit, we don't think nitrogen is worth it. A much better use of your money would be to buy a good tire-pressure gauge and check your tires frequently. This is a good idea even if you have a tire-pressure monitoring system in your vehicle. The warning lights aren't required to come on until you have less than 25 percent of the recommended tire pressure. Having the correct tire pressure will get you many of the benefits of using nitrogen and will ensure that your tires last longer.

As always be well, take care and REALLY check that air.

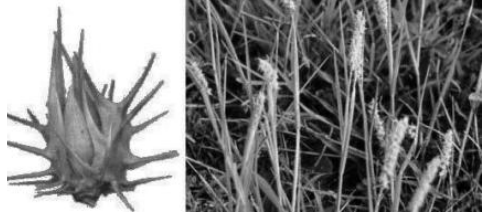


I've got spurs that jingle jangle! But step on one of these spurs and it's worse than stepping barefoot on a piece of Lego!

There are a couple of ways to get rid of sandspurs. 1. Prevent them from spreading their seeds 2. Using an herbicide that targets this plant while not hurting other plants that you want to grow.

To prevent them from spreading, cut the lawn low (not too low) and use a leaf catcher to discard the cutting properly. This prevents the seeds from sowing again. Don't cut the lawn too low. Good healthy grass can block out all types of weeds from coming up.

Sand spurs do very well in poor soil conditions (sandy, low nutrients). Grass on the other hand needs a good fertilized healthy soil. Acidic soils are the culprit and



you'll constantly have to deal each year with the sandspurs unless you get the soil and turf into shape. You can get a soil analysis from the Extension office over at Mounts Botanical Garden. An acidic PH may be around 4.5 - 5.5. You may want to amend your turf soils with dolomitic limestone to lower the acidity and raise the soil pH. Layer organic amendments on your turf like top soil and compost in 1" increments to aid in soil nutrition. Using mulch on your yard makes it difficult to cut the grass though. Use a pre-emergent herbicide in March and a herbicide at the end of September. If you have a bagger on your lawn mower, use it to pick

up all the sand spur seeds. Do not add your leaf clippings to a compost pile or leave on lawn. Experts say to fertilize 2x a year (April and end of Sept) with 15-0-15. Keep your lawn healthy and you'll get rid of the sandspurs. If possible, reduce your areas of turf and add more landscape beds.

We had one of our volunteer groups come out to help cut our overgrown garden area. Sandspurs are mature with a ton of spurs. We had a small shovel and were trying to dig some up by their roots. The damage is already done for next year though I'm afraid. Their seeds have been sown so we need to be preventative next season.

*** **
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We are open most days at the garden. 9am-1pm * call to confirm: 561.246.0148

Stay up to date on our website: www.GrayMockingbird.org and our fanpage: www.facebook.com/GrayMockingbird. Special thanks to the **Lake Worth Scottish Rite**. Thanks to Sue and Lou Greer our garden leaders! FUGE organization and American Heritage have been a phenomenal help this past couple of weeks!

Plants are our other children, treat them kindly so that when they grow up, they'll take care of you!



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