

# Sports



**Foggy morning outing**  
A southern swamp forest dominated by massive gum trees and cypresses is the natural setting for Merchant's Millpond State Park near Gatesville, North Carolina. Canoeing is popular on Bennetts Creek.

## Cataracts Sapping Sight

Dear Doctor: My seven year-old miniature schnauzer recently developed a cataract and my veterinarian says that she is totally blind in that eye.

More recently, he told me that her other eye is now forming a cataract, and that it will only be a short time before she will be totally blind. Would you recommend surgery? Is laser surgery being performed on dogs yet?

Answer: Sight is not as important to our canine pets as it used to be, either for purposes of survival or for psychological well-being. Dogs throughout history have been admired for their keen sense of smell. Before domestication, their ability to smell played a key role in tracking down food.

So, vision loss usually goes unnoticed since she relies on her sense of smell to get around inside. A blind dog is a happy dog as she appreciates attention from you much more than the sight of spring flowers.

Cataracts that lead to blindness can be related to heredity, trauma

### "You and Your Pet"

or diabetes mellitus. The success of surgery depends upon the condition of the eye, the cause of the cataracts, the overall health of the dog and surgical expertise.

Surgical candidates are carefully selected by the ophthalmologists. The dog's eye tends to inflame more than man's. Laser surgery is performed on a very limited basis.

Dear Doctor: Our 12 year old Siamese cat recently had a urinary infection. We were told to take him off of the dry cat food and change to canned, due to the ash content in dry food. Do you know which of the dry foods are the lowest in ash content as he has always eaten dry food and so far refuses to eat canned?

Answer: Dietary changes for cats with urinary problems are aimed at lessening the chance of crystal formation that leads to blockage and the development of bladder stones. This is accomplish-

ed by feeding certain foods which indirectly acidifies the urine.

The foods often recommended by veterinarians are prescribed diets, usually "C/D." Your veterinarian can tell you where you can obtain the best product for your pet. Two other products, Tammy Ammy and canned Friskies Beef and Liver, have also been used.

The urine can be made more acidic (less desirable for crystal formation) by adding chemicals to the food. Occasionally, cranberry and tomato juices are advocated.

Since your pet will not eat the canned food, mix the recommended food with his previous diet and gradually increase the amount of desirable food until that is all he eats. Also, fresh water should always be available to your pet.

Do you have a question about pet care? If so, or for further information, write Joseph L. Grimes, Executive Secretary, NCVMA, 112 Johnston St., Smithfield, N.C. 27577.

## Sandhills Fish Population Difficult To Increase

Fisheries biologists with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission are attempting to improve fishing in nine small lakes on the Sandhills Game Land in Moore, Richmond and Scotland counties.

However, low fish populations in these lakes are caused by natural conditions which are difficult to change.

"The soil in the Sandhills is naturally very sandy, acidic and low in nutrients," said Cape Carnes, regional supervising fisheries biologist for the Piedmont. "Consequently, the water in the Sandhills is clear, acidic and relatively sterile."

Soils in this area have lost nutrients through leaching for thousands of years, and the cover vegetation -- which includes longleaf pine, scrub oaks and wiregrass -- contributes little in the way of organic matter and nutrients to the soil and waters of the Sandhills. As a result, there is not enough nutrient matter in these lakes to form a food chain which will support healthy populations of game fish. Low populations of largemouth bass, bluegills, chain and redbin pickerel and an occasional warmouth and robin are found in these lakes."

Wildlife Commission fisheries surveys conducted in the late 1950s and early 1960s bear this out. The survey found that the carrying

capacity for game fish in sandhills lakes was about 35 pounds of game fish per surface acre -- compared to a carrying capacity of 200 pounds of game fish per acre in an average Piedmont lake, and up to 300 pounds of game fish per acre in well-fertilized farm ponds.

Carnes explains that fertilization of these lakes is not feasible for several reasons. Massive doses of fertilizer would be required to increase the productivity of these waters, which would be extremely expensive. Also, there is a rapid turnover of water in these lakes -- so a fertilization program would have to be almost continuous.

Supplemental feeding of game fish has been suggested, but this is also impractical. Largemouth bass in a wild situation will not accept artificial feed, and since the water is almost sterile a complete diet for fish would have to be provided. This would be prohibitively expensive.

However, the Wildlife Commission has several programs under way to maintain and enhance existing fish populations in these lakes. First, lakes are drawdown every winter. This kills aquatic vegetation, and frees the nutrients used by this vegetation for use by aquatic organisms which are ultimately eaten by game fish.

In turn, this increases the growth of game fish. The draw-downs also

concentrate fish in a small area, which allows some predation and boosts growth rates of the larger game fish.

When fish populations are very low, the lakes are drained and restocked with largemouth bass and bluegills. Restocking is necessary about once every six to eight years. Finally, fish attractors made of old automobile tires and brush have been placed in these lakes to provide additional cover for game fish and forage fish.

"These are about the only practical steps to improve fishing in these waters," said Carnes. "Fishing will never be very good in these lakes because the water is almost sterile due to natural conditions beyond anyone's control. Some anglers remember that fishing in these lakes was fairly productive right after World War II."

However, this was only because the lakes had been built during the late 1930s and early 1940s, and these waters had been closed to all fishing during the war. It didn't take long for fishing pressure to deplete the initial populations of game fish. The low nutrient levels found in these waters just won't support the fish populations that are found in other more nutrient-rich waters in North Carolina."

## Beasley's Takes Boahn

Hoke County Parks and Recreation Commission's Men's Softball League continued action on June 23 at Armory Park.

In the first game, Beasley's Body Shop easily defeated Boahn Concrete 20-7. W.L. Priest 3-3, M. Smith 3-3, M. Sutton 3-4 with one home run, and G. Mauney 3-4 were the leading batters for Beasley's. Boahn Concrete was led by R. Lyle with one home run, T. Watson 2-3 and R. Johnson 2-3.

In the second game, Hard & Heavy edged out Beasley's 13-12. C. Chandler 3-3 with one home run and A. Thomas 3-3 were the leading batters for Hard & Heavy. Beasley's was led by W.L. Priest 3-4, M. Smith 3-4, S. Sampson 3-5 and H. Thompson 3-5.

In the last game of the week, Jones Intercable defeated the All Stars 7-5. R. Prevatte 2-3 with one home run, R. Taylor 2-3, W.A. Johnson 1-3 and L. Chason 1-2 were the leading batters for Jones Intercable. The All Stars were led by B. Easterling 2-3, B. Hurst 1-4 with one home run and G. Maynor 1-4.

The last game of the night went to the All Stars over Duffie Braves 13-12. P. Maynor 3-3 with one home run, L. Morrison 2-4 with one home run and R. Maynor 2-4 with one home run were the leading batters for the All Stars.

As the action continued June 24, the first game went to the Duffie Braves over Boahn Concrete 6-5. W. Walker 3-4, J. Monroe 2-3, J. Thomas 2-4, L. McRae 2-4 and T. Page 2-4 were the leading batters for Duffie Braves. Boahn Concrete's leading batters were J.

Boahn 2-4, R. Lyle 1-3 and S. Holt 1-4.

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- 7:00 - Diggers - Body Parts 15-1, 15-7
- 7:00 - Bad Company - Bombers 15-7, 15-6
- 7:45 - Faberge - Baptist Blitz 15-10, 15-10
- 7:45 - Body Parts - Dynamites 15-10, 15-10
- 8:30 - Faberge - Baptist Beacons 15-7, 13-15, 15-11
- 8:30 - Baptist Blitz - Dynamites 15-6, 15-8
- 9:15 - King and Queen - Raiders 15-7, 15-11
- 10:00 - Gustos - Tar Heels 15-6, 15-11
- 10:00 - Just Us - Rockets 16-14, 15-12

### Standings

Team Standings	W	L
1. Hard & Heavy	12	1
2. All Stars	10	3
3. Jones Intercable	9	3
4. Beasley's	8	5
5. Duffie Braves	4	9
6. Boahn Concrete	1	12
7. Raeford Jaycees	1	12

  

Co-ed Volleyball	W	L
27 June 1983 Results		
6:15 - Bad Company - Observers		
15-5, 15-2		
6:15 - Diggers - Bombers 15-11, 11-15, 15-10		

  

Standings	W	L
1. Bad Company	5	0
2. Diggers	5	0
3. Gustos	4	0
4. Faberge	4	1
5. Just Us	3	1
6. King and Queen	2	2
7. Observers	2	2
8. Tar Heels	2	2
9. Baptist Beacons	2	3
10. Baptist Blitz	2	3
11. Bombers	2	3
12. Gold Hill Spikers	1	3
13. Rockets	1	3
14. Body Parts	1	4
15. Raiders	0	4
16. Dynamites	0	5

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