

OUTDOOR TIPS

From the Ancient Age Sportsman's Idea Exchange

FIX A TIP puts strength back where you need it, yet doesn't appreciably alter the casting action of the rod. Take the tip to a hardware store and buy a drill bit

that is exactly the size to fit snugly inside the broken tube. Now soak the two broken sections and the bit with epoxy glue and slip the parts together. End of problem.

DON'T THROW AWAY LEAKY BOOTS

Before you donate your leaky old boots to the trash man, consider cutting the feet off and using the legs as waterproof hunting leggings. On rainy days, you'll be glad to have something that shuttles the water past, rather than down, your hunting shoes.

MARKED FOR ACTION Some wood chuck hunters that work overhillsides year after year ease spotting chores by cutting branches and sticking near especially productive chuck holes.

DECOYS BY THE COTTON SACK Sacks the cotton pickers use—we are informed—make the absolute ultimate in things to carry decoys in. Sacks are light, easily folded and hold enough decoys to make two bunches at either end of the sack. Middle part goes over your shoulder for easy carrying.

ROD WINDING This tip isn't much use if you are merely going to dress up a guide or two with new windings. But if this winter you are going to get serious about refinishing a new rod, it might be worth investigating your wife's sewing machine. We think you'll find there that the tension attachment for the thread spool will

be exactly the right thing to keep rod winding thread under light but steady pressure. And if you can't rig a turning plate form out of some inexpensive wheels, we'll be mighty surprised.

FISHING IN THE RAIN So maybe you don't feature fishing in the rain. But plenty of guys do and under certain dry conditions the release of new oxygen into lakes and streams from falling rain sends fish prowling. BUT spin fishermen can be bothered by wispy monofilament sticking to the wet rod surface. Stop that quick by rubbing rod down with flyline dressing. Line will never stick again and non-greasy dressing is not objectionable.

SPORTS AFIELD

By Ted Keating

Lack of condition, in either sportsman or dog, can spoil any hunting trip. Hunting is truly a physical activity, and when the flesh is weak, the willingness of the spirit can seldom overcome this handicap and turn drudgery into pleasure. This is a lesson learned by many, many sportsmen each year. The solution to this is: don't go unless you're in shape, and don't ask your dog to do an end-of-the-season job on opening day until you've properly conditioned him.

Each individual dog may have to be handled in a slightly different manner—added work for this one, more rest for that one. The professional studies his charges carefully and acts accordingly. This dog may be an eager eater and will put on weight quickly. This one may have to be coaxed to eat his full share. The studious amateur owner will work out his own system. The trouble is that the average sporting-dog owner usu-

ally feeds all of his dogs the same amount of food and gives each the same amount of work. And seldom brings all of them up to their full physical potentialities.

Some hound owners try to get their hounds in good condition by allowing them freedom to roam the countryside. This is seldom satisfactory, according to Henry P. Davis, Sporting Dogs Editor of Sports Afield Magazine. Some will run trails until they are paper-thin. Others will take it easy and develop the habit of loafing. It may be almost necessary for the fox hunter to give each hound the same amount of work, but if he is wise, he will carefully supervise the feeding of each hound and see that he gets the proper amount of nourishment and no

more. Fox hunting is probably the most physically demanding effort among sporting dogs. Wherever the trails lead, the hound must go. The nature of the terrain almost always slows him down, and he does not travel with the speed of the searching bird dog. But how many bird dogs can go six, eight, ten hours at a hunting or trailing pace?

"A lean dog for a long race" is an old saying that is often a good guide line, but it isn't infallible. Starvation or under-feeding certainly will not get the job done. The dog that can usually turn in the best hunting performance is the one that has, through regular and proper exercise, been brought to a "lean" condition by turning his excess fat into good, hard muscles.

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