

DEAR READER

3-21-19

HEY! I HOPE YOU ARE DOING WELL.

SUWANNEE RIVER TRIP!

AS MY TRIBE AND I LANDED DOWN THE SUWANNEE RIVER WE FOUND WAYS TO MAKE IT FUN... AND OF COURSE MORE COMFORTABLE.

ON SOME DAYS, WELL... MOST DAYS, THE SUN WAS BLESSERANG HOT. I FELT LIKE I COULD FRY AN EGG ON MY HEAD. SO WE WOULD OFTEN FIND THE SHADOWS, ON THE SIDE OF THE RIVER, WHERE THE TREES ARCHED REAL HIGH OVER THE EDGE OF THE WATER. SOMETIMES THE TREES, QUOTE LATERALLY, SHOT OUT OF THE GROUND GROWING SIDEWAYS AND DIPPED INTO THE WATER. I SAID SO WAS JUST BECAUSE THE GROUND WAS SO SOFT RIGHT NEXT TO THE WATER SO AS IT GREW TALLER THE WEIGHT OF IT PULLED IT DOWN. WELL, IT MADE FUN FOR US...  
 ..... LEMBO! WE'D PLAY FOLLOV THE LEADER AND THE GOAL WAS TO GET UNDERNEATH THE TREE, IN CONSTANT MOTION, AND WITHOUT TOUCHING IT. THIS GAME GOT REALLY GOOD AS SOMETIMES THERE WAS LATERALLY ONLY INCHES LEFT TO DUCK UNDER FOR ME, BEING IN STEER. IT POSED A LITTLE EXTRA EXCITEMENT.... WHEN WE'D LEMBO UNDERNEATH THOSE WITH ONLY INCHES LEFT, I HAD TO LEAN BACKWARDS, HOOKING MY FEET UNDER THE CARGO BAR IN FRONT OF ME (OR SEAT) OVER THE WATER.... 😊 YEEEAH, I FELT LIKE A LURE FOR A GATOR. ALL IT WOULD HAVE TO DO IS LEAP A FOOT OUT OF THE WATER, AND SNATCH ME RIGHT OUT OF THE CANOE. LIKE HOW THE COOL IN THE MOVIE LAKE PLACED SNATCHED

THAT BEAR OFF THE REVERBANKS--- BUT NO WORRIES, MY LIFE WAS SPARED. HA! HA!

SO, WE'RE LEMBOING UNDER A PARTICULARLY LOW TREE AND THE GUY IN THE MIDDLE KNOCKED THE TREE... VA-OH! HE WAS LAYING BACK, ALREADY, WITH HIS BANDANA OVER HIS EYES AND TRIED TO SEE UP, KNOCKING HIS HEAD ON THE TREE WE WERE UNDER. WELL... SOMETHING HAD FALLEN OUT OF ONE OF THE TREE'S LIMBS AND LANDED RIGHT ON HIS THROAT. I SAW SO... THE 192D IN BOW SAW SO... AS THE 192D IN THE MIDDLE GRABBED WHAT FELL ON HIS NECK/THROAT THE 192D IN BOW SCREAMS--- YEPER!!! IT'S A VIPER!!! AND THE 192D SEES THE GREEN SNAKE AS HE PULLS IT OFF HIS THROAT AND PANIC HIS! HE THROWS IT OFF HIS THROAT & JUMPS UP IN THE CANOE. THE GUY IN BOW SCREAMS, "AAAA! NOT ON ME A-SHOLE!" AND HE TWISTS, ROCKING THE CANOE EVEN MORE. WE'RE TOPPING LEFT & RIGHT, CLOSE TO TUMPLING OUR CANOE. I YELL, "SET DOWN!!! YOU'RE GOING TO FLIP US!" REPEATEDLY, GLANCING TO THE BACKWATER ON THE FRONT OF MY CANOE AND TO THE WATER. HEARING THE GADDS ARE WATCHING US & LOCKING THEIR CHOPS WAITING FOR ONE OF US TO FALL IN.

THE GUYS IN THE FRONT CALM DOWN & I SAY, "MAN, THAT'S JUST A TREE SNAKE, THAT AIN'T NO VIPER." SO GUY IN BOW TREATS IT LIKE HE'S AN INFANT, MAISES BABY NOISES & WAGS HIS FOREFINGER AS SO...!! SOUPED!



He then screams, "AAA! IT'S EATING MY FINGER! GET IT OFF, GET IT OFF!!!"

I'm LAUGHING MY TALE OFF! HA! HA! HA! HE'S HOLDING HIS RIGHT HAND WITH HIS LEFT WITH HIS RIGHT FOREFINGER JACKING STRAIGHT UP AND THE "TINY" TREE SNAKE, SURE ENOUGH, TRYING TO SWALLOW HIS FINGER! HA! HA! HA! IT WAS SO FUNNY & COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT HOW CLOSE WE CAME TO BEING A GATOR'S LUNCH. HA!

I STEERED US OVER TO OUR CHIEFS CONOE WHERE HE REMOVED THE SNAKE FROM HIS FINGER IT WAS A VERY COMICAL MOMENT.

UNFORTUNATELY, FOR THE SNAKE IT ENDED NOT AS WELL. THE CHIEF PUT IT ON THE END OF HIS PADDLE AND LAUNCHED IT THE 60-70 FEET TO LAND SO IT WOULDN'T BE EATEN BY A GATOR OF FISH... BUT IT SMASHED INTO A TREE AND LANDED WITH A THUD.... WE ASSUMED IT DIDN'T MAKE IT....

AS WE FLOATED IN A CIRCLE (4 CONOES) OUR LIGHT & FUNNY MOMENT CAME TO AN END. WE WERE TOLD OF A TRAGIC DEATH OVER THE RADIO OUR CHIEF CARRIED WITH HIM TO KEEP TRACK OF THE WEATHER. IN 2 DAYS WE'LL BE PASSING A PLACE, WHERE, JUST THAT MORNING, A SMALL CHILD WAS SNATCHED OFF A SMALL DOCK BY A GATOR. I REMEMBER PADDLING BY IT & LOOKING UP AT THE HOUSE AND WONDERING WHAT THE FAMILY WAS GOING THROUGH.... THE HOUSE LOOKED DARK.

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE STORY. I HAVE ONE  
MORE TO TELL WHILE ON THE REVER. THIS WILL BE MY  
NEXT BLOG. I MET UP WITH A GROUP OF MANAGERS ---  
BEFORE I LEARNED THEY DON'T EAT MEAT.

UNTIL NEXT TIME.

YOURS TRULY,

DOUG