

P: It is down deep?

W: Yes, down on the bottom. Have you ever seen a softshell?

P: I have had some. I was just trying to figure out what the other turtles were. I know a cooter with a really black shell is what they call a Suwannee cooter. It has a really dark shell, and I think it has some yellow stripes.

W: The stripes are green or greenish yellow.

P: Let's get back to catfish.

W: Well, all the names of the catfish, the way to catch them with a bush hook and trot line, and what you use for bait I think you already have on the tape. When the river is low, the catfish were always in holes in the river. At nighttime they will come out. That is the reason a lot of people fish at night.

As I was growing up, my family used to kill a hog once a year, usually in the dead of winter--around November, December, or January--when it was really cold. They saved all the entrails out of the hog, and we rendered the fat and everything. When we got through butchering the hog, that was it. When I say butchering the hog, I mean killing the hog and gutting them. We would just split the stomach apart. Then we took the entrails down to the river and dumped them out in a hole. In the winter time the river was low, and we would dump them out in this hole which was a good catfish hole, right on our property on the edge of the river. The hog had eaten corn, peanuts, and all this, so the entrails just soured. Then we would just put a few shovels of filling so it would drift on down, because it was just like mash, like chicken feed ground up before they had eaten it. That stuff would just settle down in this hole. This has probably happened in the daytime, between 11:00 and maybe 2:00. Then at nighttime about dark we went down there and built a fire--it would be cold weather, like I said. We would take livers out of the pork and fish for the catfish all night, and there would be fish right around where you had dumped this stuff, see.

P: That is pretty neat.

W: By then they would have the catfish holed up. They would be downstream, and all this scent would be going downstream, and they would smell it and start following the scent of it right on up to where the pockets were laying on the bottom of the river. All you had to do was fish right around there. You could use an old spinning reel, an old casting reel with big old black monofilament line on it. You had this little old line, and boy, I mean, if you hooked one of them, you had to hold on. Or maybe you just had a throw line. Just tie your line to a root and put your sinker on