

top. The turtle will come up to get the bait. When it goes back down, that is when he is hooked. If you put your bait down way under water, then he might just feed on it and never get hooked. I have seen them do this in the river. But if you put it up close to the top of the water, he will come off the bottom (because he does not want to be seen much anyway) to where he can get the pork. Then he will start back down, and that is when he gets caught.

P: Do you use traps for softshell or for other kinds of turtles?

W: For other kinds traps are used. You can see them on display, especially down close to the mouth of the Suwannee River.

P: The kind that you can nail to the side of a log?

W: Yes.

P: Then you just wait until the turtles drop in.

W: Or just run your boat up there. That is the way they do it. Nail it to the side of the log. Of course, you know where all your traps are. If you have a fast boat, you run it up like you were going to run over the log, and the turtles go on the other side. Of course, they go right into the trap.

P: How do you know which side they are going to fall off on?

W: On the side opposite from where you are. They are hidden on the side next to the bank, see.

P: Okay. I see.

W: You just have to be smarter than the turtle, that is all.

P: How about church? Were you raised religious?

W: Yes, I was raised a Baptist.

P: How important is church or religion to you now?

W: It is of the greatest importance. I mean, I would not say that church is the greatest importance, but religion itself is.

P: That is what I am asking.

W: Believing in a supreme being is more important than anything. That is the greatest thing, really, that there is in my life: believing in a supreme being.

P: Your mother was Baptist?