

Memac Humphrey

The Friends You Fish With

There is always something special about a fishing trip. It is not just the act of waiting, reeling and showing off your catch, but the memories made while waiting, reeling and showing off your catch. Aside from these memories, there are many life lessons that can be learned by fishing; such as patience, positivity, and perspective. All of these things can be summed up in the fishing trip I took this past summer, when my friends from camp came in town to visit. We are a sisterhood of silly, smart, loving, loyal, and true girls. We bond over laughs and adventures and making memories that last a lifetime. We are not afraid of getting dirty!

Coming in from Houston, Dallas, Amarillo, San Antonio, Lake Charles, Austin, Lubbock, Midland, Frisco, and South Padre Island, my group of diverse friends were all ready to do something that camp had let us do together... fish! We had taken ten summer's worth of fishing classes together and were prepared for the ups and downs that the trip to Bisteneau would bring. Using our trick that Dick and his sons had taught us, we hooked cheesy sausage to our lines if we wanted catfish, or a minnow to catch a bass. We remembered to hook the minnow at the top of its back so he would keep swimming. Bass are prissy when it comes to what they'll eat. We cast out our lines and waited. And waited. And waited.

Now, to a new angler, this time would seem taxing, but to us, this time made the payoff that much better. Patience was key. My friend Carol Anne, an actual beast, was determined to catch the biggest fish out of all of us. She brought her own specially made bait and of course, hooked a river monster. This fish, a 13 pound catfish, would not budge. But Carol didn't give up. She tugged and reeled and drug that sucker until it was finally in our midst. The look on her face as she held "Big Charlie" over her head was priceless!

After hours of talking and reeling and watching my pals catch fish after fish, I became a tad bit frustrated. But the wait was worth it! I felt a tug. I waited, sunk the hook and REELED! All of my friends were so happy for me! Running my way with the net and eager to be the first to see my fish. Although my fish was not gigantic, he brought so much joy to everyone.

I know I will always remember this trip and the values that the act of fishing taught me. I cherish fishing more because of the multitude of lessons I learned. I learned to be patient and how it feels to be happy for others. If you look at fishing in a different light, not just about catching a fish, you see how it brings people together. The amount of stories and silly memories it makes, makes fishing such a special, superb activity.