

BOATS WITH ANIMALS?!

(Episode 1)

I was reclining in my lounge on the dock a few weeks ago and my husband was sitting in the shady boat. While being rocked by the gentle waves and warmed by the sun I drifted off into a peaceful sleep. Suddenly a voice--practically next to my head--said "Good afternoon; how are you folks doing?" Startled out of my sleep I looked over to see a man in a boat fishing right off the end of our dock! We said hello and asked him how the fishing was. He said not too good so far, but that we had talked to him last year when he caught a nice one in this same location. We remembered him then, as we had teased him about catching "our" fish since it was by our dock!

He then proceeded to ask us if we knew how to get a squirrel out of a boat. "You have a squirrel in your boat?!" we replied. Yes, he said a squirrel, possibly being chased by something, swam up and crawled into his boat and he couldn't get it out! He tried catching it in his fishing net, but it went into a corner. He beached the boat at the boat launch and tried to 'shoo' it out, to no avail, so he decided to stay in the front of the boat and keep fishing while the squirrel stayed in the back of the boat. He was going to head home when his wife got off work, so I sure hope the squirrel disembarked while trailering at the boat launch and didn't feel the need to jump out on Hwy 211 or Hwy 2 on the way home!

(Episode 2)

I was going to take our twelve-year-old grandkids tubing and skiing last week, and as I prepared to untie the boat, we saw three small birds huddled on the swim platform above the inboard/outboard motor! We wondered why in the world they were on the platform. They seemed scared but didn't try to fly away, so we decided to gently cup them in our hands and carry them onto the grassy shore area. This was the first time the grands had held a bird, and they marveled at how soft and sweet they were.

The tubing commenced, and after going up and down the lake we came back into our bay, and I turned some 'doughnuts' to give the tubers some good bounces. Our grandson then skied out a good distance from our dock before he fell and his skis came off, so I towed him back to the dock. Then our granddaughter skied half-way around the bay before falling. Since her skis also came off and it was too far to tow her back to our dock, I hopped out the back of the boat to drop the ladder so she could climb in. When I opened the panel that covers the ladder there was a bird nest! It was about 5 inches in diameter but only about 1.5 inches high because of the tight space. Then we knew why the birds were on the platform!