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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Other Day
in the Woods 1

Outdoor News 2

Great Outdoor
Expo 3

Sold and
Pending 4

New on the
Market 5

Price Reduced 6

Bear and the
Atheist 7

Fins, Fur & Feathers

VOLUME 5

MARCH 2011

The Other Day in the Woods...

This month's adventures are geared to get you into a brighter, warmer frame of mind. No, not flowers, birds and butterflies, we're talking about fishing. Real fishing—rods, reels, waders, landing nets, boats, and of course, the ones that got away. Now every fishing story worth its merit involves friends. It's much easier to have friends along when you're fishing, gives you someone to talk to, complain about and laugh at when they have problems. More importantly it keeps the spot light off your own misfortunes.

My group of fishing buddies involved a bunch of high school friends, heck we even took along one of our teachers once, Jerry. He had some family who owned a motel that just happened to be very near a good trout fishing hole we were headed for the week. Great folks who put us in a very nice room for the entire week for free! Now it didn't start out that way. Seems the owner had a penchant for gambling, poker primarily, and one of our group was a pretty fair poker player and wound up winning back all our room charges. Heck she

even baked him a big cake trying to coax him into coming back to try his luck one more time.

Turned out the teacher not only got us a great rate for the room, he was an immense source of comic relief. His ability to catch a snag on nearly



Rick Patridge Circa 1975

every cast was amazing! Once we were standing shoulder to shoulder casting to a large pod of steelhead trout in a small hole in a river bend. I mean this hole was so full of trout you almost couldn't see the bottom. We were hooking fish on almost every cast, OK most of us were. Jerry spent hours, right there beside us, casting to the same spot and literally losing every lure he had to one small log on the bottom of the hole.

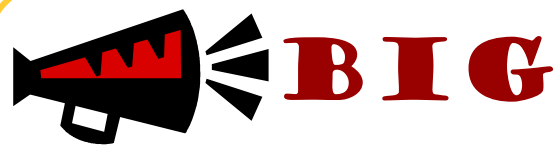
Why he even switched rods and he still found some way to get the lure past all the trout and down to the log. Another day found us all stretched up and down a ½ mile stretch of river, each fishing his own spot. I happened to be sitting on the bank tying on another lure and could faintly hear someone hollering "HELP!!". Setting the rod down I went in search of the hollering. Coming round a bend in the river I came upon Jerry up to his chin in the river. Seems he had gotten so preoccupied with trying to catch a fish he hadn't noticed his feet were slowly sinking into the sand bottom. It occurred to him to get moving when the

water started seeping over the top of his waders, but by then it was too late. The sand had a firm hold on him, somewhat like quicksand. Fortunately he was able to holler for help. Took some time to get him free, but in the end he was wet but safe.

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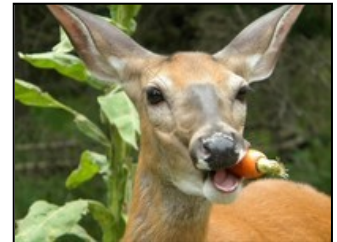
Another favorite fishing story involves a couple police officer friends of mine, a pop up camper, and one heck of a thunderstorm. We were again up fishing on the Betsie and Platte Rivers for trout. This time we were camping in a pop up camper owned by one of the officer friends. It was an older camper and had seen better days, but did provide us a cheap place to sleep for the night. First night's lodging went along uneventful; the next night wasn't so easy. The camper's roof was supported by aluminum posts that separated the bottom from the roof. These posts were about 5 feet in length and provided the means to stretch the canvas between the roof and box of the camper. Anyway, during the middle of the night the posts decided it would be fun to suddenly give way, allowing the roof and the floor to now become one. Our camper's headroom which had been a comfy 6 foot was now something like 20 inches! You can imagine the chaos that ensued. I must admit it was a bit unnerving at first, but we finally wriggled our way out of the canvas and temporarily repaired the camper. Next day after a bit of contemplating we decided the best plan of action to repair the camper was to get 4 - 2x 4's and jamb them in where the posts had been before. Man that worked great and we were quite happy with our selves. On this particular trip we were camping quite literally right on the banks of the Betsie River. I mean we could cast out the door of the camper if we had wanted to. The third night of our stay was quite eventful, starting off the evening with a big thunderstorm which continued all night. Course round about 3 AM the trailer and its collapsing roof decided to make another appearance. Again we were covered by canvas, except this time when we wriggled out the door we were standing in knee deep water. The thunderstorm had caused the river level to rise nearly 2 feet and our campsite was now under water. Wet feet however weren't our only problem. All our fishing gear under the awning was being swept away down the river. We wound up eventually finding most of our things strewn through the bushes downstream, but our cooler full of food stuffs we never did find. I suspect some very resourceful raccoons enjoyed the food.



News in the Outdoors

DEER BAITING

We here in the lower peninsula have been under a baiting ban for about 3 years after finding a deer with Chronic Wasting Disease in Kent County. Part of a DNR plan to help stop the spread of CWD was to eliminate the artificial feeding of deer. Baiting had become a tool used by many deer hunters to help them harvest deer, and also a lot of folks participated in feeding deer around their homes or cabins for recreational viewing. The baiting ban also affected more than hunters, as many farmers planted acres of carrots and sugar beets specifically for sale to the baiting hunter. Then there were many party stores and gas stations who counted on bait sales to help them put extra dollars in their tills. The baiting ban initiated by the DNR had a 3 year time period, after which more study would occur to see if it still had merit. As part of that study, the DNR has called for 3 meetings in the state; March 10th in Lansing, April 7th in Lansing at MSU, and May 12th in Genesee County. After this series of town hall style meetings there will be a vote by the Natural Resource Committee on June 9th to determine if the baiting ban will continue. Those interested in the health and welfare of both the deer population and the future of deer hunting in Michigan should plan on attending if possible. I believe live streaming will be on Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) TV channel and the web.



FIREARM DEER SEASON OPENING DAY CHANGE

A bill by State Rep. Kevin Cotter will be looking at changing opening day of the firearm deer season from the traditional November 15th date to either the 2nd or 3rd Saturday in November. Mr. Cotter's view is that more folks participate in firearm opener if the 15th falls on a Saturday. The facts seem to support his view, as historically we see a 10 % increase in license sales for Saturday openers. That having been said, if there are more folks buying licenses there should be more folks buying other items; food, pop, guns, shells, etc. from area merchants. Could be a real boost to up north economies which count on dollars spent by deer hunters to put money in their coffers.



Great Outdoor Expo

It was great to see everyone who stopped by our booth at The Great Outdoor Expo at Dow Diamond in Midland on February 19—20.

Wow, what great weather. The show was packed most of the day Saturday and Sunday. By the time we headed home Sunday evening the snow was starting to fall but the warm-up was a great winter break and really brought the people out to Dow Diamond.

We've tried several outdoor shows and some are yearly regulars and some are, well... This was our first year at this particular show but it won't be our last. It also told us we need to make it up to a game at Dow Diamond sometime this summer. What a beautiful facility; incredibly clean, family friendly and a very helpful staff.

Like any outdoor show we never know if it's successful right away. We displayed all our listings from all over the state. Each property had color displays and then black and white copies buyers could grab and go. We also have a display board with photos of outdoor activities ranging from buck poles to fishing stringers. Small flyers are also available on the display board. We talked to a lot of people about both buying and selling property so only time will tell.

This year beside my wife Andrea, my son JP and his friend Eric joined me. It was nice having a couple teens to help haul all the gear! In typical 16 year old BOY fashion, sometime during the day Saturday they ended up at the mall in Midland and before we knew it they were back with a (you guessed it) GIRL. We all ate too much venison jerky from the Country Smokehouse, bought a fishing rod, or two... OK three counting the ice fishing pole, and visited the puppies a few times. I love my "job"!

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March Outdoor Shows

March 4-6 Boat, Fishing & Outdoor Expo Center, Birch Run
 March 12-13 Fly Fishing Show Macomb Community College, Warren
 March 17-20 Boat Show Rock Financial Showplace, Novi
 March 17-20 Ultimate Sport Show DeVos Place, Grand Rapids
 March 18-20 Camper RV Show Perani Arena & Event Center, Flint
 March 18-20 Hunting & Fishing Show Howe Arena, Traverse City
 March 25-27 Camper RV Show Howe Arena, Traverse City

**30 YEAR
 VACANT LAND
 FINANCING?**

Go to [www.
 greenstonefcs.com](http://www.greenstonefcs.com)
 for more
 information.

Sold and Pending

<p>16 Acres Vacant Land Tuscola County Listed: \$57,000 Sold: \$49,000</p>	<p>108 Acres Lakefront Log Home Alcona County Listed: \$390,000 Sold: \$345,000</p>
<p>40 Acres Lakefront Vacant Land Lapeer County Listed: \$155,000 Sold: \$153,000</p>	<p>62 Acres Vacant Land Lapeer County Listed: \$159,000 Sold: \$125,000</p>

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**HUNTING
 LEASES?**

*Currently we don't
 have anything available.*

Try these web sites:

*TrophyLand
 Lease.com*

*NonTypical
 Properties.com*

*HuntingLease
 Network.com*

FISHING-A Sure Way To Get A Bite

- Talk about changing spots
- Prepare another rod while one is out
- Lay your rod down unsecured
- Go for a sandwich
- Start to pull the boat anchor
- Use the worst fly you own
- Watch others fishing
- Start reeling in your lines to go home
- Give your fishing rod to a child
- When your landing net is out of reach
- When you have cast your line over an obstruction
- When your line has drifted into impossible weeds



Rick and JP Patridge on Lake Neppesing about 1997

NEW on the Market



TUSCOLA COUNTY KINGSTON AREA

33 acres of great hunting

land for both ducks and deer. Lots of cattail marsh and flooded timber for the ducks and geese, and some

hardwood on the ridge for the deer. This property also comes with an Amish built log cabin as well. Cabin has power supplied by generator and a path to bath. Set at the end of the road for seclusion and privacy. Unique property affording both duck and deer hunting, and a great place to set on the cabin

porch, or nestle up next to the big fire pit and watch the world go by. \$99,000.



ALCONA COUNTY- GLENNIE AREA

2 bedroom Chalet nestled onto 13+ wooded acres with over 1000 ft of frontage on Thompson Lake. Well constructed home with 1/2 log siding exterior and plenty of knotty pine siding inside to



give it that rustic up north charm. Large deck on cabin looks out over the

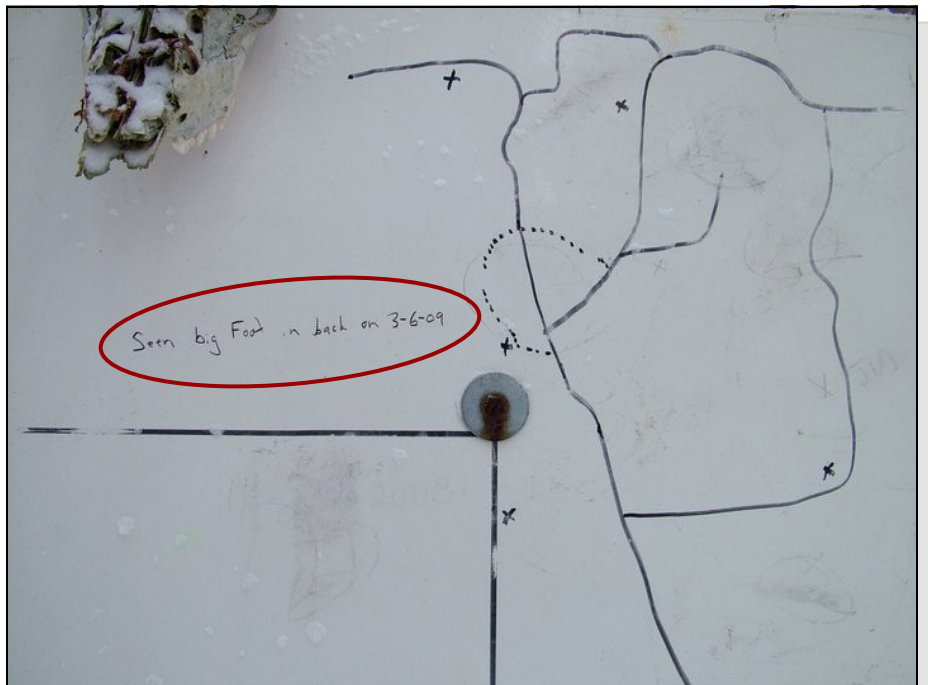
lake, which is 40' deep and great fishing for bass, pike and panfish. Lots of deer right outside the back door for the hunter in the family. Property also includes a 30' above ground pool and a pole barn with power to store the toys. \$149,500.

I see some unusual "stuff" while wandering the woods selling and listing property. I took this picture of a sign that was on a 120 acre vacant land listing in northern Lapeer county. In case you can't read it, it says:

SEEN BIG FOOT IN BACK ON 3-6-09

You can bet I kept looking over my shoulder!

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Viral Advice



Got the email below from a friend and thought I'd pass it along. Not sure if it works but sounded "reasonable". I guess the only way to see if it's true other than contacting Myth Busters is to try it out. I don't think I'll volunteer...

"A friend who is a receptionist in a church in a high risk area was concerned about someone coming into the office on Monday to rob them when they were counting the collection. She asked the local police department about using pepper spray and they recommended to her that she get a can of wasp spray instead. The wasp spray, they told her, can shoot up to twenty feet away and is a lot more accurate, while with the pepper spray, they have to get too close to you and could overpower you. The wasp spray temporarily blinds an attacker until they get to the hospital for an antidote. She keeps a can on her desk in the office and it doesn't attract attention from people like a can of pepper spray would. She also keeps one nearby at home for home protection."

WAS \$175,000
NOW ONLY \$169,000
ST CLAIR COUNTY
CAPAC AREA

Price REDUCED



70 acres aprx 60% tillable, balance is woods, brush, and grassy fields. Good population of deer, turkey, pheasants, and some waterfowl. Woods are a nice mix of both soft and some hardwoods. Property is located within 3 miles of Capac and under 6 miles to I-69. Would make a nice hunting camp, and lease out the tillable land to help with taxes. Fields toward rear of property could be made into nice food plot locations. Deer paths wind thru both the woods and fields and turkey are seen here too. Geese and Sandhill Cranes use the tillable portion of the property. There is a gravel drive running down the east side of the parcel which accesses the 2 gas well heads on property.



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WAS \$129,000
NOW ONLY \$124,000
LAKE COUNTY
IRONS AREA

See more at hunting4land.com

Well kept 2+ bedroom cabin nestled onto 28 acres of wooded property. The cabin is extremely clean and ready to go, has 2 bedrooms plus a finished loft for the hunting buddies. There is also a 16 x 24 heated barn with cement floor and power. The property has been managed for deer and turkeys, with 3 clover/chicory food plots, a raised box style blind, and tree stands located throughout the property. Parcel borders Manistee National Forest on two sides to increase your hunting opportunities. Nice bucks in the area and owner has pictures of some nice deer taken from this property. Property has great access with perimeter trails. If fishing is more your style this property is located near a whole host of lakes and rivers. The Little Manistee, Big Manistee, Pine and Pere Marquette Rivers are all within a 20 mile radius. In fact the Little Manistee and its infamous runs of steelhead and salmon is just 1.5 miles down the road.



LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL PROPERTY?

GIVE ME A CALL.

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AN ATHEIST IN THE WOODS

An atheist was walking through the woods. “What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!” He said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly bear charge towards him.

He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him. He looked over his shoulder again and the bear was even closer. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw that the bear was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him.

At that instant moment, the Atheist cried out, “Oh my God!”



Time stopped.

The bear froze.

The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky, “You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don’t exist and even credit creation to cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?”

The atheist looked directly into the light and said, “It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?”

“Very well”, said the voice.

The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke, (you know it’s coming... wait for it...)

“Lord bless this food, which I am about to receive from Thy bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen.”