



# Mill • Direct News

*Living the Log Home Lifestyle*

Summer 2018

## VIEW FROM THE MILL

*By Levi Hochstetler*

Wow! Is this ever a nice time of the year! Way too nice to be sitting here and writing this!

The purple martins outside my window are having a splendid fuss trying to figure out who goes where in their box. Imagine yourself and 100 other people arriving at a motel after traveling 2,000 miles all alone. Upon arrival, without any assistance from the motel staff, you would all have to find a room to stay in for several months to raise your families. And if that wasn't enough of a chaos everyone would have to pick out their personal partners as well. And finally when you thought everything was in order, your partner wouldn't agree on your choice of rooms. Give them a break. I'd fuss too!

Normally, I take this week off during the spring bird migration to bird watch. However, next week our daughter Rebekah, who helped part-time here in the office, is getting married. Needless to say, here I am trying to get caught up so I can take off next week to get ready for the wedding. Who knows, maybe I can make up for it next year and take two weeks!

We apologize for the back-log for blueprints. We aim to keep it at six weeks. However, this spring we have been at twelve and even more at times. If you desire to build next spring, order the plans this year in August. Remember, once you have a property it's never too early to start the design process.

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## Congratulations Todd & Suzanne! - *by Bill Dinkins*



Todd and Suzanne Stoker received a pleasant surprize when their home was voted "Home of the Year" in a special edition of *Log & Timber* magazine. This prestigious award was announced by the editors of *Log Home Living* magazine and was the overwhelming choice of readers and Facebook viewers in the 2,000 sq. ft. category. The award was based primarily on aesthetic appeal and overall design.

The Stokers' "log home journey" started while attending Hochstetler's semi-annual Log Cabin Days and touring the McKay model. They made some "lifestyle" changes to

*continued on page 2*

## Our Partners/Suppliers - *by Levi Hochstetler*

We produce and manufacture most of the visible wood components that go into our log homes. These include items such as the logs, siding, heavy timbers, 1x and 2x T&G and interior trim, etc. Some of the products that we partner with others to make for us include: exterior and interior coatings, windows, exterior and interior doors, roof covering, floor covering, imitation stone veneer, treated deck material, exterior trim and garage doors. Some of the less noticeable materials include, framing lumber, roof trusses, drywall, house wrap, underlayment, hardware, caulking, fasteners and insulation.

Our goal is to manufacture the best quality log and timber home material possible. Although this is very important, we also put a lot of thought and research in finding the right products and partners/suppliers to supply the items we don't make. Depending on the quality of these components it can make a big difference in the performance of your log home. You as a home owner have invested far too much to jeopardize your home by taking short cuts using second-rate material.

In this article we will address the various building components and our suppliers. My goal is to give the reader a fair overview of each item.

**Exterior coatings:** There are many kinds of finishes available that can be used to put on your log home. However, this is one area that you simply can't afford to second guess. Having a good quality coating applied on your home versus a mediocre one can make a huge difference in the maintenance of a log home. Remember that it takes the same amount of labor to apply a so-so finish as a good one!

*continued on page 2*

**LOG CABIN DAYS**  
**September 14-15**

*See page 3*



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## FEATURED FLOOR PLAN

# McKay 44

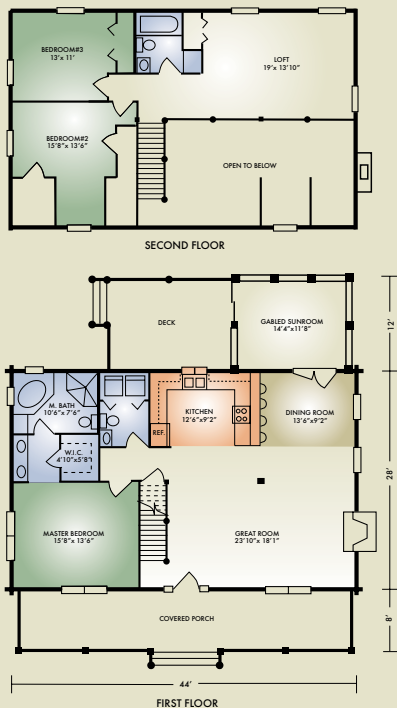
Sq. ft. 2227

3 BR / 2-1/2 BA



The McKay44 is a larger version of our popular McKay model. It is 44' across the front instead of 40' and expands each bedroom by 2'. Other rooms are similarly enlarged.

Like the original McKay, the "44" features the popular open-concept great room with exposed timbered-ceiling and fireplace; kitchen with adjoining laundry and half-bath; and dining area opening to the rear sunroom with cathedral ceiling. The master bath includes a walk-in closet and master bath with room for a garden tub and shower. Upstairs, the open loft provides a dramatic view of the spacious great room below and can serve as an entertainment center or bonus room. In addition, there are two bedrooms and bath.



## Congratulations, Todd & Suzanne! - continued from page 1

the plan by adding a breezeway with a full and a half bath; a convenient mud and laundry room and a two-car garage; and a wrap-around covered porch to take advantage of their outstanding views. The exterior features some captivating decorative touches like the "Gentry Grey" stain and "Medium Grey" chinking on the 6x12 square logs; contrasting brown stain on porch railing and beautiful color-coordinated roof shingles. The kitchen cabinetry also repeats the same grey stain used on the exterior. Board-and-batten was added in the garage gable to provide a unique finishing touch.

It's easy to see why this home was an award-winner. It encompasses all that a log home should be: functional and inviting while serving the relaxed lifestyle of the homeowners.

So, from the Hochstetler Log Homes team, we offer our congratulations and hope you enjoy your "dream" home as much as we did in helping you create it.

For more information, this home was featured in our Winter 2017-2018 issue, which may be found on [www.hochstetlerloghomes.com](http://www.hochstetlerloghomes.com)

## Our Partners/Suppliers - continued from page 1

For years we have had potential exterior stain suppliers knocking on our door trying to talk us into pushing their product to our clients. Every one claimed to have the best. A few had life-time guarantees and one even claimed that their product would last forever.

Finally, we decided to do our own testing. We bought about forty different products from thirty leading manufacturers. We coated several pieces of log siding of each product and fastened them on a framework made especially for it. Finally, we set the frame with the test pieces out in a semi-shaded area. A very typical log home environment.

After three years of exposure we took them off. Clearly, Proluxe's, (formerly called Sikkens) two coat system, Cetol Log and Siding, and the three-coat Cetol 2&3 plus outperformed the rest. Not only did they perform better but it also looked better. Sikkens, with its Alkyd-oil formula gives the wood a luxurious quality appearance that other less expensive, such as Acrylic based products, can't match.

We had no bones in this test whatsoever. In other words, it didn't matter which product performed the best. Our interest was to simply find the best transparent exterior coating available so that we could, with confidence, recommend that to our clients and include it in our packages. It is very important to us that our clients use the highest quality coatings on their log home. We want our customers to enjoy their log home, and the right coatings can greatly enhance that enjoyment because of less maintenance. In short, we want them to have the absolutely best log home living experience possible.

All of the above would mean very little if its manufacturer, PPG, wasn't a well-recognized, stable company. To you, our customer, it's very important that they will be around for many years. Depending on what you use and if the manufacturer would go out of business, someone might end up having to remove it before a new product could be applied. No one needs that headache.

Unfortunately, many applicators and/or builders often succeed in talking our clients into a lesser quality product. Contractors have three reasons to do that. First, they like to use a material that is easy to apply, such as a water-based product. Second, something that covers the defects better, which means it's less translucent and also covers up the natural characteristics and grain of the wood. The very beauty you paid so much to have! And finally, a product that they have their own dealership for, which ultimately adds to their bottom line. All the above does not, in my mind, give you a better value.

**Interior Coatings:** Your interior finishes, while important, aren't nearly as important as the exterior. Any good brand backed by a good company will suffice. Again, in our packages we use a PPG product called Cetol BL Interior, which is the same product that used to be called Log Decor by Sikkens. It is a simple product to use that has the stain and protective finish in one, easy to clean up and low odor. Most other products you have to stain and wipe first and then follow with a clear coat.



Our exterior stain test!



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# 9th BI-ANNUAL LOG CABIN DAYS®

September 14-15  
 at Hochstetler Milling



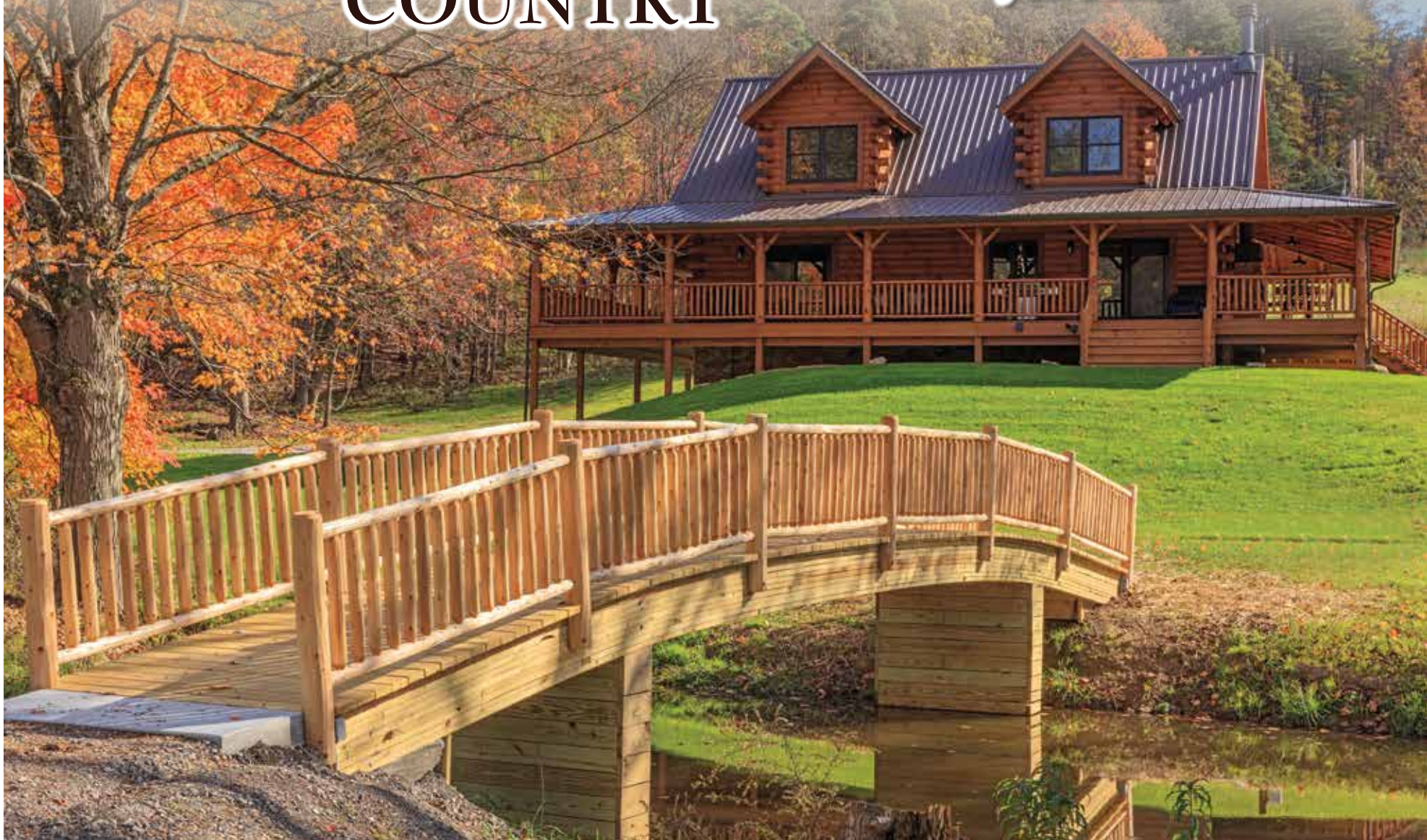
Don't miss this great opportunity to tour several log homes and experience the casual, relaxing log home lifestyle first-hand while enjoying 2 fun-filled days of family activities.

- Meet exhibitors displaying furniture, cabinets and home decor items.
- Attend free seminars with valuable information on planning, designing, financing and building your log home.
- See authentic hand-peeling and hand-hewing demons. A log cabin will be auctioned off at the end of the day on Saturday.
- Sample mouth-watering barbeque chicken, pastries, home-made apple cider and delicious kettle popcorn.
- Bid on an original Amish quilt, furniture, crafts and other home decorative items through the silent auction.
- Take the always-popular log home tour which features several beautiful area log homes with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

**Hours: Friday, September 14, 11am-7pm & Saturday, September 15, 9am-5pm. We hope to see you there!**

# GETAWAY IN *Mail Pouch* COUNTRY

*by Bill Dinkins*



The quiet landscape of eastern Ohio held a special attraction to Paul and Kim Nero, especially since it was such a departure from their hectic daily schedules in Cleveland. In 2014, they purchased 187 acres of this scenic land, mostly farms, enhanced with majestic trees, meandering streams and golden fields. This was “Mail Pouch” country and the perfect location for a weekend getaway for them and their two boys, Owen, 7 and Wyatt, 4.

They first talked to Joseph Hochstetler, of Hochstetler Log Homes, about their plans and later met with the design team at Hochstetler and Owen Miller, a builder, to decide on a floor plan. The result was a custom plan similar to the McKay model, but with the addition of a large, 4-sided wrap-around porch and a garage under the house. The first floor features the popular open-concept great room, kitchen and dining area with master bedroom, master bath and guest bath.

Overlooking the great room is the open loft with an entertainment area with a TV and small sleeping areas for the two boys.

The home is both attractive and functional, and reflects their relaxing lifestyle. In the great room, the sofa and overstuffed chair surround the large stone fireplace with its beautiful abstract painting above the mantle and stone slab from an old barn. Hand-peeled red pine timbers and a tongue-and-groove ceiling add a warm and rustic touch to the room along with the handcrafted, half-log staircase. A large TV is mounted in the corner, above the popcorn machine, and is visible throughout the room, including the dining area and kitchen. This is a favorite family gathering spot in the evenings - while watching a movie and munching on fresh, homemade popcorn.

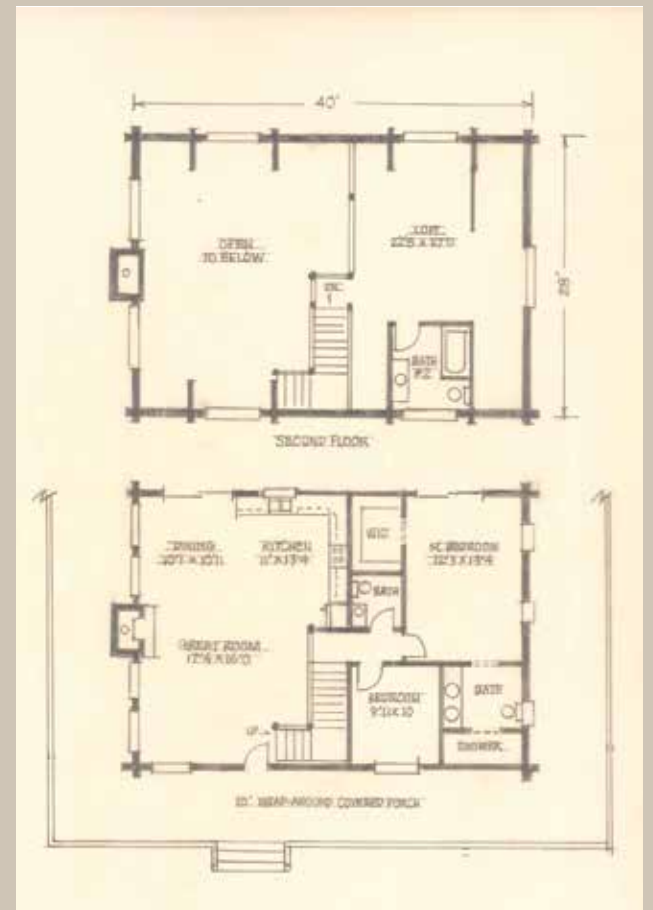
Another favorite spot is outside, on the porch. It offers a great view of the

pond below and the magnificent sunsets at the end of the day. Often, Paul practices his culinary skills on the grill and serves up the results on the porch. You know what they always say, “food just tastes better outside,” and I’m sure that’s true in this case.

Shortly after the house was finished Paul had the 1-1/2 acre pond built. The little stream which ran below the house was dammed up on the far west end to create the picturesque pond. Next, a foot bridge across the stream was added along with a dock, where the kids could fish and swim. The pond was stocked with a healthy population of bass, bluegills and perch - so the boys should have no trouble getting their limit.


The woods above the house is a nature’s paradise with critters large and small calling it their home. It’s also an ideal place for the family to go “4-wheeling.” Winding trails snake up and down the hills and through the woods, providing the boys a wonderful area to explore. Paul says there are “no rules here”, and except for the safety issues the boys can just “be boys.”

The Nero’s home was finished in the fall of 2017, so they haven’t had the chance to experience their “little piece of heaven” in all the seasons but if this spring is any indication it will be just what they wanted - a welcome retreat and relaxing weekend “vacation.”



*For additional information about the home of the Bells, please contact Hochstetler Milling at 800-368-1015.*

# Wood Architecture of Germany & Switzerland: Part 3, Photographs - Steve D. Lykins, P.E.

In the last two issues of *Mill Direct News* we took you on a tour of some historic wood structures of Germany and Switzerland with a limited number of photographs. In this third part of the three part series, you will see more photographs of German & Swiss wood structures 



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We invite you to check out Hochstetler Milling's 2 Model Homes (one at SR 60 & 95 and one a 1/2 mile east on SR 95), as well as these fine advertisers.

**Our Partners/Suppliers - continued from page 2**

Whatever product you do use make sure that there is some color. Even just a little color will help to cut down on the UV damage – “yellowing of the wood.” While color does not eliminate this, it certainly helps. When clear is used, the sun is in control. On the other hand, when color is applied you are in control.

**Windows:** Nationally recognized, “Anderson Windows” is our window of choice. They make a variety of different window lines to fit any budget. We promote either their high-quality 400 Series or their Architectural Collection upscale E-series.

The 400 series comes standard in our packages. It is a vinyl-clad, wood-framed window with seven different color choices on the outside. On the inside, it comes with unfinished pine that you can finish to your liking.

The E-series has a heavy, extruded aluminum-clad exterior with lots of color choices. On the inside, you have choices of at least ten different wood species, and if so desired, prefinished with various different shades and colors. This is a very heavy durable window that will last for ages. Hint, builders don't like to install them, they are sooo... heavy!

Both the E-series and the 400-series come with lots of possibilities. Optional window types include double hung, casement, awning, gliding and stationary. Their stationary windows come in various different sizes and shapes. Most window types come with true divide or simulated divide grilles and are available in various different patterns to suit your unique taste. Glass options include low-E glass, sun glass, patterned glass and art glass. Some other options include screen and hardware choices. Both of these series of windows, with the proper glazing, can meet and/or exceed energy star requirements in all climate zones throughout the US and Canada.

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*This story will be continued in the next issue of Mill-Direct News*

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# CABIN FEVER “Disappearing Fishing Rod” by Bill Dinkins

Winter is “snowbird” season in Florida, so my wife and I decided to join the “flock” and escape the snow in Ohio by heading south. Our destination was Destin, in the northwestern panhandle of the state.

After arrival, I drove down to a beautiful little city park on Okaloosa Island that bordered the intercoastal waterway. A lone fisherman had set up with rod holders, a couple 12’ saltwater rods, and a folding lawn chair.

“Any luck,” I inquired.

“Not today, but yesterday I caught a nice black drum.” After pausing, he continued, “Thirty-six inches long and about 47 pounds.”

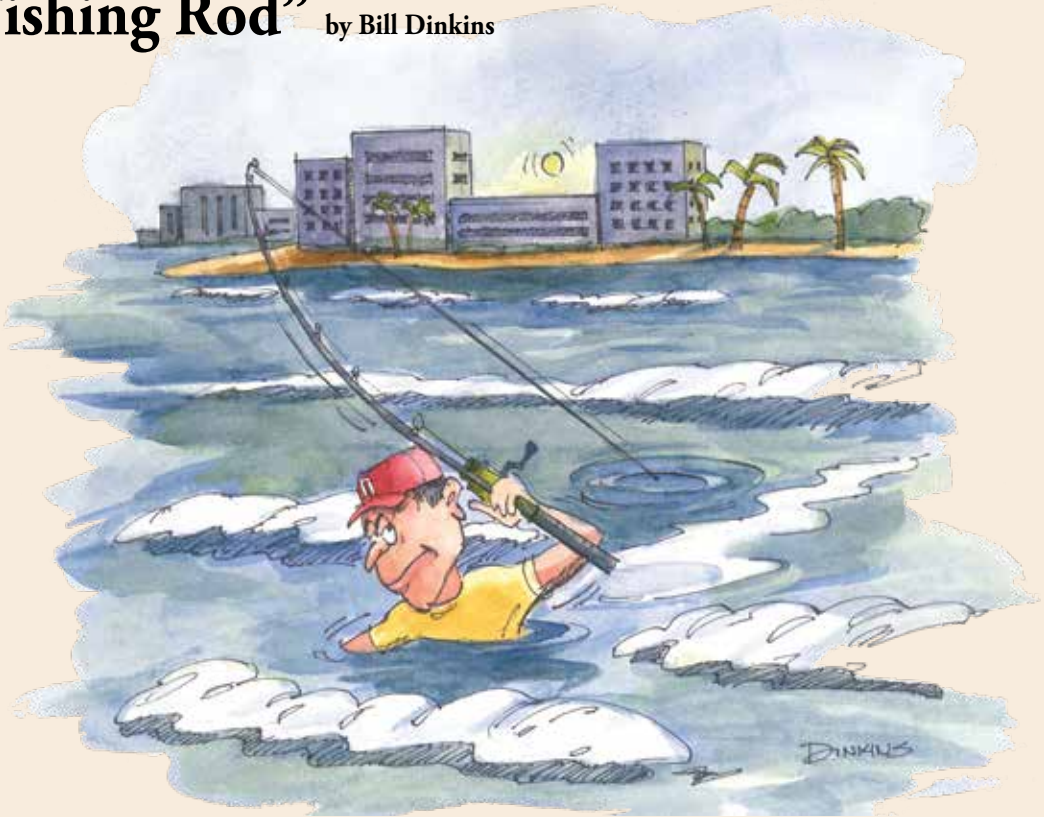
“Wow,” I exclaimed, already envisioning a week of tackle-busting action.

The next morning I headed to Bass Pro and purchased the same terminal tackle he had suggested: a Pompano rig with 2 circle hooks and a heavy 2 oz. sinker, plus a package of shrimp. I returned to the same spot and, surprisingly, had the place all to myself. After pushing the tubular rod holder into the sand, I waded out about 10’ feet, launched my offering out into the deep channel and returned to my lawn chair to relax. It wasn’t long ‘til “nature called” and I ventured up the shore line about 15’ away, under a palm tree. A moment later, I glanced back to check my rod, only to see the rod holder laying down on the sand and the rod nowhere in site.

“My rod just disappeared,” I muttered to myself. Then I noticed something floating in the water about 50’ away - it was my rod, my FAVORITE fishing rod. I wasn’t about to lose it, so I dove in, fully clothed. While battling the waves and gulping down saltwater, I eventually managed to reach the rod and with one last lunge grabbed the handle, turned, and headed back. I held the rod up with one hand and dog-paddled with the other! I finally reached shore, nearly exhausted, and bent down to catch my breath, while still holding the rod. Looking up, I noticed the tip was twitching and I started reeling. I had a fish on! A few minutes later I slid the mystery fish up on shore. It was a homely catfish, about 20” long. Thankfully, it was not any bigger or I might still be swimming!

When I got back to the apartment my wife said, “I thought you were going fishing.” When I told her what happened she said, “that was an expensive fishing trip, since we have to buy you a new phone.”

As I emptied the waterlogged contents from my pants I said, “Yes, but I still have my favorite fishing rod. And, you can’t put a price on that.” 🏠



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