

Outdoor Families:

Rustic Furniture Store Owner and Kids Share Passion for the Outdoors



The Fritz family shares a moment to celebrate Tyler's bushbuck on a recent African safari. Left to right are Tom, Whitney, Allen and Tyler Fritz. Photo provided.

LANCEDAVIDSON

The outdoors has been a life-long passion for Winamac resident, Allen Fritz. But the most enjoyment has come from seeing those same joys shared by his kids.

"We've always spent time together outdoors", says Fritz, a father of four who himself enjoys hunting for deer, waterfowl and upland birds. And while three of his kids have left home, one might think the days of spending time together afield are dwindling.

But that's not the case.

Allen's oldest son, Tom, you see, is a real estate broker specializing in outdoor properties, and Allen recently purchased a

special piece of ground in LaPorte County that is keeping the family together in the outdoors more than ever.

"We enjoy the hunting and fishing parts", says Fritz, "but it's the habitat improvement and educational aspects that we're really into right now".

Like many other landowners, Allen and family are working on a labor of love to maximize the wildlife potential of their property. From planting trees and food plots, to recreating prairie grasses and wetlands, there's a lot of work to be done, and all of the Fritz's pitch in when they can.

But they can't work all of the time. Youngest son, Tyler, 17, and Tom are a couple of waterfowl nuts who hunt every chance they get throughout the season.

Daughter, Whitney also enjoys the great outdoors and recently accompanied her dad and brothers on an African safari where she took a nice warthog. And, of course, there are those deer and turkeys. The Fritz's love them all.

A love for the outdoors is something that Allen has recently brought to his successful furniture business as well.

A full-service La-Z-Boy and Broyhill gallery, Banfich Interiors has been in business in Plymouth for 35 years. Allen started Lake and Lodge Furniture four years ago.

Lake and Lodge Furniture started as a separate 3,000 square foot lodge containing some pine and hickory bedroom, living room and dining room furniture. Customers drove from as far away as Chicago, Indianapolis and Fort

Wayne to purchase the unique pieces from Lake and Lodge that would give their home or lake cottage the look and feel of the north woods. Allen soon discovered that his customers wanted more, so he added hard-to-find sofa selections with a variety of wildlife print fabrics and unique leathers.

Today, Lake and Lodge Furniture is a destination in itself, offering a full line of unique, rustic furniture, rugs, lighting, wildlife prints, waterfowl decoys, antique hunting and fishing pieces, wildlife art and gifts.

In February, Allen built a new store on North Oak Road in Plymouth and combined it with his other store, Banfich Interiors. The experience is certainly worth a special trip to Plymouth.

Not sure what you're looking for? "Our sales staff can make a free visit to your home and help with your colors and give you some great ideas on how to finish off your favorite room", says Fritz.

Lake and Lodge Furniture is located one block south of Wal-Mart on U.S.30 and Oak Road in Plymouth. So whether you are looking for a house full of furniture, a room full of furniture, or just that one special piece, make time to stop by and check them out. And when you are done talking furniture, Allen will be more than happy to share his experiences on planting food plots or a favorite hunting story. Until then, look Lake and Lodge Furniture up on the web at www.banfichinteriors.com or call them at 574-936-1299. You'll be glad you did.



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STORE HOURS: MON.-FRI.: 10AM - 6PM • SAT.: 10AM - 5PM • SUN.: CLOSED - APPOINTMENT ONLY

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