

May 26, 2009

Bear Sandwich

Because of the increase in bear sightings around Bone Lake we have tried to come up with a solution for keeping them away and now we think we have it.

A couple of weeks ago a neighbor (Jolene O.) told me of a special sandwich that was designed to keep bears away. I passed on the recipe to Glen (Buzz Saw) Wahman and he proceeded to concoct the special "bear sandwich" - two slices of bread stuffed with peanut butter and halajpenio peppers. I guess the whole theory is that once the bears eat the sandwich they never return to the area. Last Saturday Buzz Saw made up a "bear sandwich" and set it out on a stump near his driveway in the same area that Dave (one more cast) Boyd had spotted 2 bears last week.

"It's gone!" Buzz Saw announced as we were eating the hot cinnamon rolls he had brought over the Sunday morning after. "Now what", I replied. This was the point that the disappearance of the "bear sandwich" became a greater mystery. Lorraine said, "It could be a Raccoon." One More Cast announced "It could be the Cumberland Beast" and, because of my history of fighting skunks on our old farm, I thought that stinkers might have followed us up here north of 8. It became obvious that we needed more evidence that the "bear sandwich" was consumed by the intended target and one of our wishes was that we had a game camera.

Well we got lucky!! After the cinnamon rolls we walked over to the neighbor's garage sale and what do you suppose we discovered on one of the tables, yep a game camera. \$69.99 on sale for \$25. After explaining what we needed the game camera for and how important this project was for the entire neighborhood, Ron (Can I get a deal for cash) Lachenmayer sold it to us for \$10. Five dollars apiece sounded like a good deal, of course, I never carry any cash around especially to a garage sale so Buzz Saw coughed up the \$10 and we headed back to marvel at our purchase. That's when we discovered that the camera needed 35mm film and was not a digital camera, still a good deal but we needed the film that I finally found at Jonzy's for \$7.25, plus 8 "AA" batteries that I had to purchase!

Buzz Saw and I are now even in our investment (or I think he owes me).

We secured the camera in a tree with a good view of the stump where the bear sandwich was to be placed. Our grandkids and their friends tested out the camera action by pretending they were bears and sneaking in to snatch a plastic cup off of the stump.

Late that day nearing sunset we all gathered at the stump to view the placing of Buzz Saw's bear sandwich. "All right you guys check this out," Buzz Saw exclaimed as he displayed his work of art. Two slices of bread with peanut butter, sliced halajpenios and cashews inside, topped off with an olive. With the camera and bait ready everybody retired for the evening anticipating the disappearance of our bear sandwich and a photo of our mystery dinner guest.

Early the next morning the team gathered at the bear sandwich stump "Now that's weird" somebody exclaimed. The only thing missing was the olive and the top slice of bread, peanut butter, cashews and halajpenios remained. "We got pictures," One More Cast said. Eight pictures had been taken, most of which were taken during the set up and testing of the camera, but 3 of the pictures might reveal the intruder. The debate remained if a raccoon, bear, skunk, Cumberland Beast or a neighbor that likes a late night snack visited the stump.

I explained the details of our efforts to Jolene and she replied, "No, no, the halajpenios have to be chopped and mixed up with the peanut butter, slices won't work."

After making a correction to the bear sandwich formula the next evening it was deployed on a stump in full view of our new used game camera. "I had a little problem with making the sandwich," Buzz Saw said, "I rubbed my eyes after chopping up the peppers – boy, did they burn."

Most of the bear sandwich team had to go home that evening so they had to call in the next day to find out that once again the bear sandwich had disappeared, this time completely gone. Buzz Saw took the camera home to get the film developed and reveal the mystery raider.

"The film was screwed up it didn't rewind and I opened the camera up." I wonder if Ron (Can I Get a Deal For Cash) will take it back," I said. "Not!"

Buzz Saw took the camera into Joe's Sporting Goods and they said it seems to be working properly but they have a nice digital camera for only \$200. Buzz Saw immediately realized that this expenditure was not in our bear budget, he loaded up our old camera with a fresh 24 exposure roll of film fastened it to a tree with a good view of the bear stump and now we wait. Stay tuned.

Geezer Bob

