

Soffits and Other Trivia

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Image: *Our cabin with edge trim and soffits installed.*

Well, we finally won the marten war. We managed to get the soffits (shiny black material located in the eaves in the above photo) installed in and around weeks of rain. Mr. (or Mrs.) marten has been around, checking out our work, and has deemed the cabin completely marten proof.

It's been a busy year. As the days grow shorter and the rains set in, I am just beginning to slow down. The soffits were only one of several late fall projects that we've been hard at work on. The

barnacles have been productive this year, and both boats needed to be hauled out and scraped. As this can only be done on certain tides, we ended up doing both of them during the first two weeks of November. We are happy with our work (and our gas bill will be much improved), but are a couple of tired critters!

We've still been working on a microhydro concept for our place. Now that the days are shorter and cloudier, our solar panels are not quite able to keep pace with our needs. As luck would have it, we were able to salvage a bunch of 4" and 6" poly pipe earlier this fall, which we needed for the water pipeline, and this encouraged us to get back at work on this project again. However, the fall rains were late and started out light, and our creek has only begun to flow in the past few days – the middle of November instead of the beginning of September, as it has the last couple years. Thus, we are re-evaluating microhydro maybe a small wind turbine will be a better and more cost effective addition to our system.

Ken built a dryer rack over the stove a while back, and now that we are running the stove regularly for heat, I'm using the rack to dry much of the fall harvest – apples, kale, and various herbs. It feels good to see our abundance show itself in rows of jars filled with the products of our labors!

And then there's my "work". I'm two-thirds of the way through my first novel, and hope to finish it this winter. This has turned out to be something that I have enjoyed immensely, and I hope that writing becomes a regular part of my life. In addition, I've taken on a small consulting contract for the winter, in order to earn a bit of "money" (you know, the stuff you use to buy groceries and fuel). So, all in all, I can see that my state of business looks like it will continue into the winter!