



PHOTO BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

A Part of You

BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

This past weekend I got to spend some time in beautiful northern Michigan with family and friends. Anyone who has ever been in that area knows that it is heavily rural and mostly farming communities.

While there, I pondered this issue of *Knives Illustrated* and the topic of everyday carry (EDC), and it occurred to me that EDC is really different for everyone and tends to be based a lot on where you live, work or play. Obviously the same rules apply to everyone when it comes to what you carry on a day-to-day basis; you want a knife that is going to become almost part of you without being unwieldy or uncomfortable, it has to be able to perform typical daily tasks without failure, it has to conform to local

laws and ordinances and it has to be something that you enjoy using.

However, someone living in a rural farming community is going to have a completely different view of what EDC is than someone living in the city. EDC blades can range from bushcraft or tactical knives (for people who live in areas where carrying a large knife on your hip is acceptable) to simple, small pocket knives. I personally have EDC knives that include my trusty Swiss Army Knife, belt buckle knife, folder and sometimes a

multi-tool. Which folder I carry often depends on where I am going and what I am doing. I have a nice gentleman's knife that I carry when I am dressed for a formal occasion, a custom Texas Toothpick slipjoint I carry at deer camp, and a hard use folder for regular daily chores.

With so many different walks of life and so many different needs, selecting EDC knives is a very personal task. We all have knives in our collections for our various jobs and hobbies, such as camping, hunting, self-defense, and so on, but your EDC blade is the one that will always be on you and will perform the most tasks during its lifetime. For many, their knife is a part of them and is begrudgingly not with them only while they are sleeping or in the shower. As for me, I always get a slight chuckle when someone asks, "Does anyone have a knife?"

Stay sharp and keep it real. **KI**