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Table of Contents

4 **Traditional Bows and Arrows**
by Daniel Karell

8 **Standfast Outdoors**
by Jeff Barnett

14 **Hunting Safety Tips**
by Scott Cartwright

16 **Backpacking**
21 Best parks in which to camp
by Tom Cross

22 **Backcountry Assassins**
coming to a TV near you

24 **Best places to hike**
in Adams County
by Tom Cross

30 **Cincinnati Nature Center**



Bill Dunn of Brown County holds a hand-made bow he constructed, one of many that he's made over the last 10 years since he bought the Zipper bow brand.

Traditional BOWS AND ARROWS

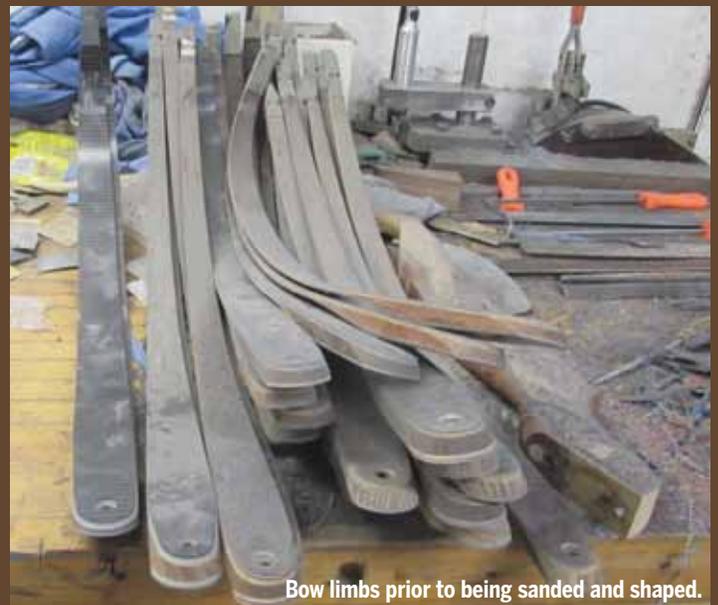
By Daniel Karell

“Building bows is a series of pitfalls.” Bill Dunn’s job for the last 10 years has been making bows and arrows from scratch by hand, avoiding a multitude of hurdles in the creation of these crafts on a day-by-day basis. Dunn, who’s wearing a plaid shirt, jeans, and a short but unkempt beard, currently builds Zipper bows and Grizzly broadheads, and he owns both labels.

The bows sell on his company’s website for anywhere from \$600 to \$1,500, and he ships them as far east as China, as far west as Hawaii, and seemingly everywhere in between.

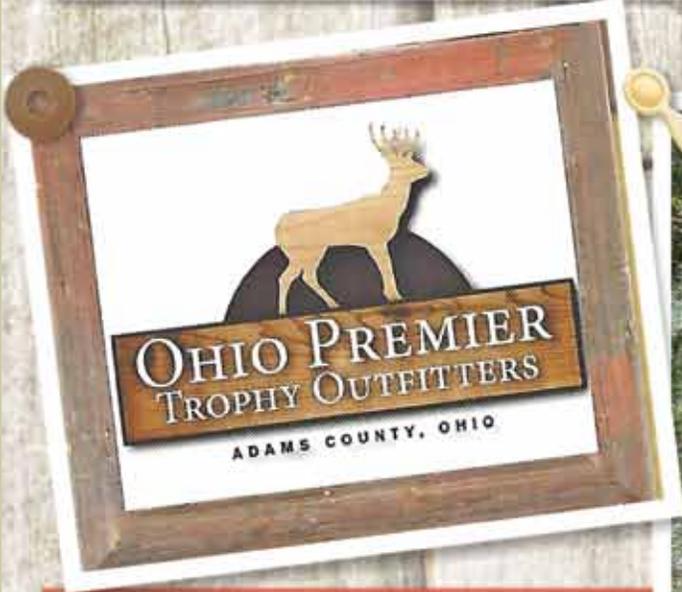
But while a bow and arrow may seem as easy to put together as an Apple Pie on a warm August day, the process to build the perfect product takes not only time, but the utmost precision.

“You’re just constantly trying to avoid those pitfalls,”



Bow limbs prior to being sanded and shaped.

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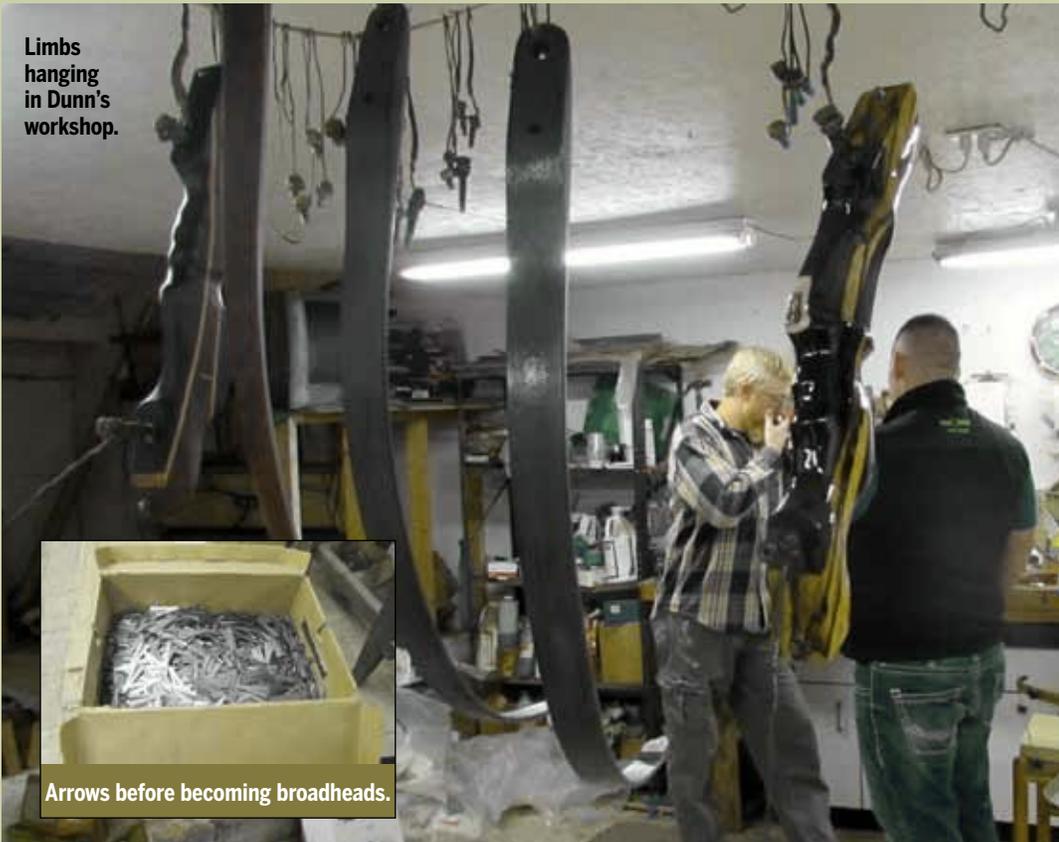
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Dunn keeps a list of all his bow's measurements in a notebook to use when he gets a repeat order.



Dunn holds a riser in his hands.



Limbs hanging in Dunn's workshop.

Arrows before becoming broadheads.

Dunn, 39, said outside his barn in Sterling Township in Brown County, which operates as his workshop. "There's so many places you can go wrong but if you can keep avoiding all those spots and correct you've got a good bow.

"Sometimes I've taken some pretty good stuff and cut it in half, because it's just not going to be right."

Humans have been using bows and arrows to hunt for thousands of years. In fact, according to research conducted by professors with the University of Tübingen in Germany and the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, there's evidence to show humans used bows and arrows 64,000 years ago.

But in the years since, the bow and arrow went from the most popular hunting instrument to one that's been relegated to the sidelines in favor of rifles and other firearms. A 2011 study

by the U.S. Census bureau found that 13.7 million Americans use firearms to hunt, compared to 4.5 million using bows and arrows.

However, the bow and arrow seems to be making a bit of a comeback these days.

Using new technology to add carbon in the risers and limbs of the bows, the equipment has become even more lighter and accurate when firing at a target.

"The stability is so great with it," Dunn said. "If I'm shooting and I twist my fingers out or I make a poor release, that carbon has the extra stability to stabilize that limb faster and get the string going straight, which equals better performance.

"Plus, there's better shootability, which is also another aspect of performance, because it's going to be more accurate the faster it lines up, gets straight, and sends the arrow down range faster. With the carbon, it's so stable that I don't believe you can intentionally twist a limb. What that lets me do is build a much more radical limb and it's still more stable than a wood limb."

Dunn has been into bow and arrow hunting since he was a teenager. While in high school, he cut down Osage trees nearby and made his own self bow out of it, as he couldn't afford the manufactured bows used by more experienced hunters.

He then met Zipper founder Bob Thompson after graduating high school at shooting events, and Dunn said he always displayed a love for the Zipper bow brand.

"My wife (Tracy) got tired of hearing me talk about how great these Zipper bows were so she said 'order the

dang thing', so I ended up getting my first one," Dunn said.

Two years later, Dunn purchased another Zipper bow from Thompson and eventually developed enough of a relationship to work with Thompson as Thompson was preparing to retire. Dunn spent four or five days in Brown County shoeing horses, before driving to West Virginia to work with Thompson in his shop.

"Finally after about six months of that, I took it over and brought everything here," said Dunn.

According to Dunn, it's a two week process from start to finish to build a bow. He starts with about four risers and sets of limbs at a time, but he said inevitably, one of them is dropped to the next two-week cycle.

The risers need to be cut into shape, potentially with other elements added to them, sanded, and then applied with as many as ten layers of finish. For the limbs, it's even more complicated, as they need to be sanded, then shaped to the riser and be of equal length and weight on both sides of the riser so that the string holds tight.

The broadheads meanwhile need to be sanded, finished, and grinded so that it's sharp on both sides.

"The Grizzly is a single-bevel head," Dunn said. "In the single bevel, what it does is, when it meets resistance, that thing is going to twist and turn.

"When it meets resistance, there's pressure pushing against this bevel and that bevel," explains Dunn, while demonstrating how the arrow spins," so it will twist when it meets some material. If you have a heavy enough arrow, instead of trying to force through that bone, it will split through that bone."

Despite the new technology, Dunn considers himself a traditionalist. He hunts with a wood bow and arrow, which means that he has to usually be within ten yards of a target on a hunt in order to make an accurate shot.

Or in his words, "I want them close enough that I can smell them."

He sees the use of traditional wood bow and arrows as a progression, from beginning hunting with firearms, to challenging yourself more with a carbon composite bow, to using a wooden bow, which raises the hunting challenge even more.

Even with the lure of computers and video games keeping children inside and away from learning hunting techniques, Dunn isn't worried about hunters going extinct.

"Hunting's not going to go away. We are hunters when we're born. The biggest thing that we say a million times is just getting kids into it, but we are hunters. That's why kids play hide and seek, that's why they're out there catching grasshoppers. We just have to make sure that the kids realize the reason they're playing the games they're playing."

Dunn also said that more respect should be paid to all animals, and that new hunters shouldn't be focused on tagging the biggest buck of the year.

"An old, smart, doe, is just as intelligent or more during the rut than any buck out there," Dunn said. "And also, consider the effort you put into the hunt in correlation to the trophy that you take away. If you hunt hard and you find that smart, old doe, or whatever it is, it's more rewarding."

Daniel Karell is a content producer for the Georgetown News Democrat and the Ripley Bee. Reach him at dkarell@civitasmedia.com



Completed Zipper bows.

StandFast Outdoors



By Daniel Karell

Outdoorsmen and women who feel the call of God and the call of nature can now put the two together.

In 2008, a step-father and son duo, Al Atkins and Evan Crowley, started StandFast Outdoors, an organization with both hunting and faith in mind. StandFast started with the paid out with two guys that loved to hunt and go out, and they decided one day to film themselves,” StandFast member Jeff Barnett said. “They enjoyed it so much they came to Steve Ellis and I and asked us if we wanted to join in and turn it into something a little bit more.”

The group, which includes many members of the Goshen Church of God, is now up to ten people and continuing to expand. In addition to the hunting, they do outreach work in the community to

Jeff Barnett

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Al Atkins, founder of StandFast Outdoors, with a buck White Tailed Deer



help people who have fallen on hard times, as well as give today's youth an opportunity to experience nature in an intimate setting.

Every year, StandFast has sponsored one or two families in the area and will buy Christmas presents for the children, for example. This past October, the group participated in an event benefiting homeless veterans in Kentucky, who are bussed to a location and given free food, a check up from the doctor, and an opportunity to chat with a lawyer if they have any litigation they'd like to pursue.

"We do outreach in the community," Barnett said. "We take underprivileged kids hunting, adults that have fallen on hard times, and we do some fundraisers during the year. The kids may not have had fathers around or they've fallen on hard times. We've also taken some handicapped adults.

"The main goal and purpose has been to reach people and introduce them to God through the things we know best which is hunting and fishing," Barnett added.

Barnett said that they do approximately two fishing trips a year, and they'll take one or two kids at a time out either on a boat or on a hunt. They also prefer to mostly use bows and arrows when hunting, whether it's wild turkey or deer season. The group will usually pair one child with two adults, but they've even had up to four people hunting together at a time.

It also isn't only open to men. Barnett said that many of the member's wives have come along on hunting trips, and they've taken young women as well to teach them how to hunt in the outdoors.

One of the children that has been a regular partici-

pant in the group's hunting trips has even taken to the filming aspect of the group, and has played a big role in producing their new online series.

"We do all our own editing. We've got the equipment to produce a TV show if we wanted," Barnett said, hinting that they could move to TV in the future.

When StandFast members go out to hunt, they head to properties owned by members in Ross, Pike, and Clermont Counties, and they've hunted in Brown and Adams County as well. Barnett revealed that this fall with deer season underway and five to six kids signed up to join, along with the web series being produced, he's been keeping very busy.

"We're excited about right now and this hunting season going forward," Barnett said. "We're going to get our web series going and a goal we're looking for is we're hoping to grow and reach more and more people by word of mouth, just getting our name out there.

"If you can touch one person, then it's been successful."

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there has been a 5.1 percent decrease in the amount of paid hunting license holders in Ohio between 2004 and 2015, a much steeper drop than the national average of .8 percent in that time.

And with the lure of video games and internet technology growing ever greater for today's youth, Barnett is advocating more and more for people to discover what awaits them outside the walls of their home or office.

"There's nothing more peaceful than being out in God's country," Barnett said. "You're alone, you're in your stand, and you can sit back

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and relax and connect with God. This is everything he's created. To be out there, it's peaceful, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and the chaos that comes with it.

"We're all Christians and we go to church, we praise and worship, but we get to a point at times where guys are looking to help other people and this was our avenue. I'm not a singer or in choir, but this is something I'm good at. It helps us spread the message.

"When someone else sees how passionate you are for something, you're more likely to join in. Being a Christian and doing what I love to do and being good at it, I can use that to relate to people."

If you're interested in joining StandFast or making a donation to the organization, like the group on Facebook (StandFast Outdoors) and send them a message. StandFast is also looking for locations to host one-day bow and arrow shooting practices.

Daniel Karell is a content producer for the Georgetown News Democrat and the Ripley Bee. Reach him at dkarell@civitasmedia.com



Josh Cooper



Billy with a wild hog



Sadie Silvis



Evan Crowley

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F1 - WEST UNION - 30.99 acre farm with 1993 modular home, 1601 SF living area, 3 BR, 2 full baths, living room, eat-in kitchen, utility room, all appliances, geothermal heat with electric furnace for back up, C/A, county water, well, 2-car attached garage, 36x24 barn with 2 36x12 lean-tos acreage is approximately 28 acres tillable, 2 acres of woods, 1 acre horseshoe, small creek. \$225,000.



F2 - GREAT HUNTING NEXT TO NATURE CONSERVANCY - 61 acres, mostly wooded with some pasture and tillable, large older farm house, county water, electric, blacktop road, joins Nature Conservancy land, good hunting, 10 minutes from West Union, ONLY \$150,000.

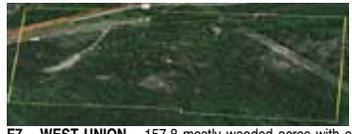


F3 - RUSSELVILLE - Approximately 50 acres (needs surveyed) of good farm land, acreage is almost all tillable with very little woods, 2 barns (48x36 & 48x24). Asking \$3,800/Acre.



F6 - PEBBLES - 28,631 acre mini farm with equipment, 1996 Clayton DW, 1475 SF living area, 3 BR, 2 full baths,

living & family rooms, kitchen & dining room, all appliances, elec. heat pump, C/A, wood stove, 2-car att. garage with storage room, 2 barns, shed, orchard, grape arbor, equipment too numerous to list. Property has abundant wildlife and would be a hunter's paradise. Call for more details. PRICE REDUCED TO \$224,900.



F7 - WEST UNION - 157.8 mostly wooded acres with a cozy 2 BR cabin, large barn and other outbuildings, very private/secluded location only 10 minutes east of West Union, road frontage on both S.R. 125 & Frank Young Road. The cabin has electric, county water, propane heat and a nice large deck overlooking Soldiers Run. The perfect retreat and hunter's paradise. PRICE REDUCED TO \$329,000.



F10 - BENTONVILLE AREA - 89,223 acre farm with approx. 70 tillable acres. Old 2336 SF farm house not in livable condition but could be rehabbed, 12x20 garage, 3 barns (48x36, 72x48, 28x26), corn crib. Good location, land could be farmed or developed. PRICE REDUCED TO \$279,000.



mini horse farm has 1999 DW, 1596 SF living area with full basement, 3 BR, 2 1/2 baths, living room, kitchen with appliances, dining room, gas furnace, C/A, county water, deck, 2-car carport, 28x70 barn with 16x24 lean-to, 7 horse stalls, small barn, electric fences, creek, 30 ft. above ground pool. \$129,900.



F17 - HUNTINGTON TWP. - 77.83 acre farm with remodeled 1 1/2 story brick home originally built in 1800's, 2200 SF living area, partial basement, 3 BR, 1 bath, living room, kitchen & dining room, large laundry room, propane furnace, A/C, county water, new windows, hardwood floors, 3 barns (32x48, 32x48, 28x46), 28x36 crib. Acreage is approx. 55 acres tillable & 22 acres of woods. \$229,900.



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V6 - WEST UNION - 5 mostly level acres in nice location on SR 125 near Panhandle, county water, septic system, large barn, nice place to build. \$50,000.

V7 - WEST UNION - 6.64 acres of nice level land, nice place to build or raise crops, water & electric available. \$29,900.

V8 - GEORGETOWN - 5.01 acres in nice location \$25,000.

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V14 - MANCHESTER AREA - POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCING - 3.028 wooded acres with some timber, great for camping, water & electric available. \$9,900.

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Hunting safety tips

It's a matter of life or death

By Scott Cartwright

By the time you will read this article Ohio's hunting season will already be here.

But before you go into the field to harvest some of our abundant wildlife there are a few things you absolutely need to know to keep yourself and others safe. In the State of Ohio before you can purchase a hunting license you will have to take and successfully pass a Hunters Education Course. This course is provided at no cost by a volunteer staff of instructors.

The course will teach you skills to help you be safe and successful in your hunt. For those of you who are new to hunting or those who have been hunting for years I will go over some key points to keep you safe in the field.

Always remember the four primary rules of gun safety. No. 1: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times. No. 2: Treat every gun as if it is loaded. No. 3: Always be sure of your target and what is behind your target. No. 4: Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

The color of your clothing also plays an important role in keeping you safe. During Ohio's deer gun seasons you



are required to wear hunter orange. You must visibly wear a vest, coat, jacket or coveralls that are either solid hunter orange or camouflage hunter orange. This helps other hunters distinguish you from a deer and also helps them see you if you are behind a deer they want to harvest. To help differentiate you from a game animal there are colors you want to avoid.

During the deer season you should avoid clothing which is brown, tan or white in color. During turkey season you should avoid clothing which is red, black, blue or white in color.

If you will be hunting from a tree stand I hope you will take my advice and invest \$30 to \$40 in a good fall restraint system which wraps around your chest, waist and legs. Make sure the restraint system is tied to the tree the

moment your feet leave the ground. Encourage other hunters to do the same. Ohio hunters have died when they have fallen out of a tree stand. Trees stand accidents are annually the number one cause of death and serious injury to deer hunters and virtually 100 percent of these incidents are preventable by implementing a few simple safety measures.

National statistics show that one in three hunters will fall from a tree stand during their hunting career. You should also be using a haul line in the tree stand. A haul line is a simple piece of rope which is attached to the top of the tree stand and goes all the way to the ground. You use the haul line to pull your un-arrowed bow, unloaded firearm and equipment safely up the tree stand.

Fitness plays an important role as well. You must know

your limits and don't exceed them. It can be a physically exhausting task to hike up and down hills in the mud and snow. It can be even more exhausting to drag a deer out of the woods. In my experience a deer in its final moments will find the deepest, hardest to reach location before it dies. You should be conducting some form of exercise for months before embarking on your hunt. Your heart and lungs need to be ready.

Even if you take pass your Hunters Safety Course and take all the tips I have given you to heart you can still hurt someone while hunting.

Have you ever taken aim at an animal and world around you narrows until all you see is your sights and the animal? Have you ever taken a shot at a deer with a firearm and don't remember hearing the bang. You are not alone;

these physiological symptoms are your sympathetic nervous systems response to stress.

The same thing happens to our military members and police officers when faced with combat. What is happening is known as tunnel vision and auditory exclusion. Keep in mind this is something you will possibly have to face when out on your hunt. You can help avoid an accident and lesson these symptoms by knowing your shooting lanes and what is beyond them. Also remember to take a deep breath and scan the area with your eyes before taking aim at your target.

I wish you all a safe, successful and fun hunting season. Now go outside and enjoy nature!

Scott Cartwright is the Ohio state wildlife officer for Adams County.

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Tom Cross

backpacking

By Tom Cross

My first camping trip was with the boy scouts sleeping in the rain under a stretched out poncho on the ground near the East Fork of the Little Miami. Later our family took up camping and purchased a 9'x 9' heavy canvas tent from Sears. The tent was too small to sleep a family of five and soon my parents purchased an 18' pull behind camping trailer dad hitched to a big Chrysler New Yorker. Camping in those days was between Rocky Fork Lake State Park and Cowan Lake. Years later I inherited the Sears canvas tent and started our own family camping trips. They don't make canvas tents like that anymore; I think my brother owns it now.

Those were great days in our youth and later great memorable days for our family when we started camping. My wife and I, we're empty nesters now, are still camping and taking long road trips bypassing the hotels and motels, looking instead for national forest campgrounds or state parks,

preferably next to fishing.

The desire to hit the road and see what's out there is the genetic explorer in all of us. Camping is a great way to see the undiscovered country, to get away, unwind and make memories. Nothing quite like a blackened hot dog or burnt marshmallow over a campfire to put life in perspective. The campfire is the essential ingredient in any camping trip and is mesmerizing force that lullaby's you to sleep at night and warms you in the morning.

Camping needs to be neither expensive nor complicated, remember it's the basic elements, shelter, food, water and fire, is all you need to get started.

- **Tents:** They have come a long way since that vintage Sears tent which required tent poles and ropes to hold it up. Today's dome tents are self-standing and very compact. Places like Wal-Mart, Bass Pro, and Dicks have a good selection at relatively inexpensive prices. Depending on

your needs, a one-person backpacker of a family of five, prices are likely to range from \$35 to \$150 for a quality tent that will last three or five years, longer if taken care of. Most places that sell tents have floor models set up and that's the best way to choose. Screened in canopies, or tents, are a nice addition for cooking under and storing gear especially in mosquito country.

- **Camp stoves & lanterns:** Back in the day a Coleman camp stove and lantern was the basic essential. Coleman fuel was sold everywhere. Still a great choice and will last 30 the coffee pot. Also today's battery powered lanterns last a long time and some models are very compact.

- **Sleeping bags:** This is the one place you should probably spend a few extra bucks. Depending if you're camping in the fall or winter, or just the 4th of July weekend in Florida; or if you're carrying it on your back or in the back of a pickup will likely determine your



need. I like a flannel lining and cloth outer shell with plenty of foot room if truck or car camping, comfort is the word here. If backpacking I'm opting for the nylon inside and out and minimizing weight. The more money you spend the better the bag, however \$50 to \$75 bucks will get you a pretty good sleeping bag. Purchase two of the same and you can zip them together and make a double bag. Foam mats are also advisable and can take the lumps out of the ground. Cots are nice too if you have the room.

- **Kitchen ware:** Pot & pans to go on the road come packaged in compact "nesting" arrangements in which one pot fits inside another pot. Frying pans have detachable or folding handles, nearly all cooking kits have a 6 to 8 cup coffee pot and cups and plates for four. Forks & spoons can be old kitchen silverware. A bucket is handy from which to wash dishes in, a collapsible sink is better. Don't forget paper towels, matches or lighters,





dish and hand soap, and a table covering is nice for picnic tables. A nice heavy plastic storage box to keep it all together is handy too.

- **Coolers:** A good quality 54 to 75 quart cooler will suffice for most families. Keep a blanket over it and out of the sun for the best efficiency. Ice will usually last a couple of days in most cases. A smaller 16 to 30 quart cooler is handy to take to the beach.

- **Other essentials:** Don't forget the water jug; a collapsible 5-gal jug with a spigot is pretty handy and folds up when empty. The 5-gallon "Jenny Jug" is standard and nearly all campgrounds have a ready water supply from which to fill it from. Though most any campground has picnic tables, having an extra fold out or compact collapsible table is very handy. Same goes for seating with fold out chairs. Having a camp axe or hatchet is necessary and a high quality fold up saw is also needed if you have to cut your own firewood. Use the camp axe to split and splinter the wood for dry kindling. Another essential is a food storage container. A good quality locking storage box will deter all but the most determined raccoons, but it won't stop a bear. Having camped in bear and grizzly country I make a habit of putting food into a vehicle at night. Nothing like waking up in the middle of the night and hearing the pots and pans rattling. Other items should include plenty of sun screen and mosquito repellent. I like Deep Woods Off, but there are other brands just as effective. Mosquitoes in southern

Ohio pale in comparison to mosquitoes in the north woods of Canada or the Everglades during summer. Other camp visitors usually include chipmunks, squirrels, geese and sea gulls if near water; mice can find their way into a camper too.

- **Campgrounds:** State parks have the most conveniences, including electric, dump stations, nice restrooms and hot showers, usually a camp store and family activities. Ohio has 56 state park campgrounds. Prices range from \$20 to \$40 per night. National forest campgrounds are more basic, usually just a picnic table, a fire ring, a water pump and pit toilets, however they are usually located at some of the most remote and scenic areas in the state. Prices can range from free to \$10. Private campgrounds are an option too and usually allow long term seasonal camping.

If opting for pull type pop-up or fold out camping trailer then much of the above will be included in the camper. Today's fold out campers are light and can easily sleep a family a five. Some models are small enough to be pulled behind compacts and motorcycles. Used pop-up's can be had for as little as \$500, new ones can range from \$4,000 to \$5,000. Camping trailers, fifth-wheels and buses are more popular than ever and add new meaning to roughing it. Or you can put in all in a backpack and start walking into the mountains. Either way it's getting out and discovering the undiscovered country.

Tom Cross is a 30+ year columnist for the Peoples Defender, frequent radio host on WLW-Big Outdoors, past president of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio, and author of 'Fishing Ohio'.



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Best Parks in which to Camp

Ohio has 74 State Parks, of those 56 have campgrounds. They're all great and I've been to most of them. Here's my picks of some of the best campgrounds in Ohio and beyond.

◆ **Pymatuning Lake State Park**; nestled in the northeast corner of the state the campground sits on the shore of giant Pymatuning Lake. It has cabins and 370 campsites. www.ohio-stateparks.org

◆ **Hocking Hills State Park**, located in some of the most beautiful country in southeast Ohio it has 172 campsites. Plenty to do at Hocking Hills. www.ohio-stateparks.org

◆ **Salt Fork State Park** is a large campground with 212 sites and offers a lodge for dining, 18 holes of golf, and plenty of hiking, family activities and wildlife. www.ohio-stateparks.org

◆ **Alum Creek State Park** in the center of Ohio has 289 campsites and all the amenities. Fishing at Alum Creek Lake for saugeye, bass, muskie and crappie is pretty good. www.ohio-stateparks.org

◆ **Piedmont Lake**, managed by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, is one of my favorites. Only 50 campsites, it's secluded and quiet, next to the lake and difficult to get

to. www.mwcd.org/places/parks-and-campgrounds/piedmont-marina-and-campground

◆ **Rocky Fork State Park** is one gem of a campground, with 172 campsites, 34 sites near the water's edge. Plenty of family activities at Rocky Fork. www.ohio-stateparks.org

◆ **AEP Ohio Power ReCreation Lands** in Morgan County has seven campgrounds, all free camping. Great fishing and camping off the beaten path. For a free permit and map go to www.aep.com/environment/conservation/recland

◆ **Twin Knobs Campground** at Cave Run Lake just west of Morehead, KY., has over 200 camping sites nestled among the pines in the mountains overlooking beautiful Cave Run Lake. www.kentuckytourism.com/places_to_stay/twin-knobs-campground-and-recreation-area/3026/

◆ **Great Meadows campground** in the heart of the Daniel Boone National Forest, KY. Hard to get to and remote. Located on the shores of Rock Creek, a designated Kentucky Wild River. Only company will be trout and bears. Camping is free. www.kentuckytourism.com/places_to_stay/great-meadow-campground/2912/

Backcountry Assassins coming to a TV near you



Danny Pangallo

Courtesy Photo



Greg Dennison

Backcountry Assassins TV, a production of Backcountry Media Group Inc., is an edgy, more serious, and realistic look through the eyes of the American outdoors enthusiast.

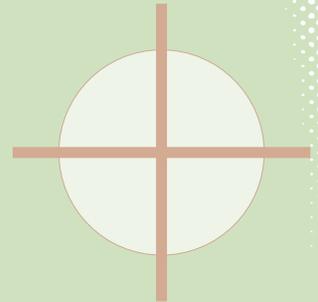
The creators of the show, and owners, Greg Dennison and Danny Pangallo created the show in hopes to provide their viewers a more action packed realistic show for the average American hunter and angler of all ages. This production will keep you on the edge of your seats, laughing inside and wanting to see more!

“We have been very blessed to be where we are now and are excited to see where the future takes us.” The show was created and in production as of January 2015 and has found itself in a position that most only dream of.

The Assassin staff was hand selected from across the country so that all episodes provide a wide

variety of locations and species. Production Staff includes; Danny Pangallo (OH), Greg Dennison (OH), Jack McKinney (OH), Chris Wheeler (OH) and Brandon Massey (NC).

Join the Assassins on every excursion from bear hunts in New Jersey, Ohio, Kentucky and North Carolina whitetail hunts, Ohio and Kentucky Turkey hunts, great lake fishing trips for both walleye and salmon and much, much more! You can catch Back Country Assassins TV every week on the Hunt Channel @ www.huntchannel.tv and on Dish Network channel 266 (Angel2) starting April 2nd 2016. You can also view them on YouTube as well as Wild Africa TV, available in South Africa, and AliveTV on Shentel cable provider for the greater Virginia Tristate area. Visit their website at www.backcountryassassintv.com and become a member of the Assassin Nation!



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Best places to hike in Adams County



Viewing platform atop Buzzardroost Rock

By Tom Cross

Fall, winter, spring or summer, the hiking trails are open year round with each visit as different as the seasons.

The following trails are the five most popular hikes in Adams County. Three of the hikes are on the 14,000 Edge of Appalachia Preserve; the Davis and Whipple hikes are located on state nature preserves. Most hikes are easy to moderate with views so spectacular you'll wish you had a camera, because what you see you'll want to take home and keep.



View from atop Buzzard Roost



Fall at Buzzardroost

#1- Buzzardroost Rock Trail is two miles one way to Buzzardroost Rock making for a 4-mile round trip hike. A new entrance to the Buzzardroost Rock trail is now permanently located on the south side of S.R. 125, approximately 1.5 miles east from Waggoner Riffle Road. The new location saves hikers from having to cross busy S.R. 125.

Coordinates to the new Buzzardroost trailhead is -83.426 38.771

Buzzardroost is the most popular hike in Adams County and for good reason. A strenuous hike of four miles to the “Roost” and back rewards hikers with a spectacular view from the viewing platform of the Ohio Brush Creek valley below. Spring wildflowers, fall colors, and during winter, the surrounding landscape lays bare all its geological features for everyone to see including the nearby Tiffin cliffs.



Davis Memorial has over a mile of hiking trails



Buzzardroost Rock is popular with hikers

#2 - Davis Memorial State Nature Preserve located on Davis Memorial Road, contains a pair of half-mile loop trails, the Sullivantia and the Agave Ridge Trail, both trails connect to the Buckeye Trail. It's good year round hiking. The trails vary from easy to moderate. Hikers will see a display of spring wildflowers, unique geological formations and great fall colors.

#3 - Lynx Prairie Trail is a 1.5-mile loop trail. Lynx Prairie also got a new trailhead and is located at the end Cline Road. At Lynx on St. Rt. 125, turn south on Tulip Road drive $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, Cline Road is located on the east side of the road, continue to the end of Cline Rd.. The new trail moves the entrance of the popular Lynx Prairie Trail away from the township cemetery.



Hiker looks over the terrain



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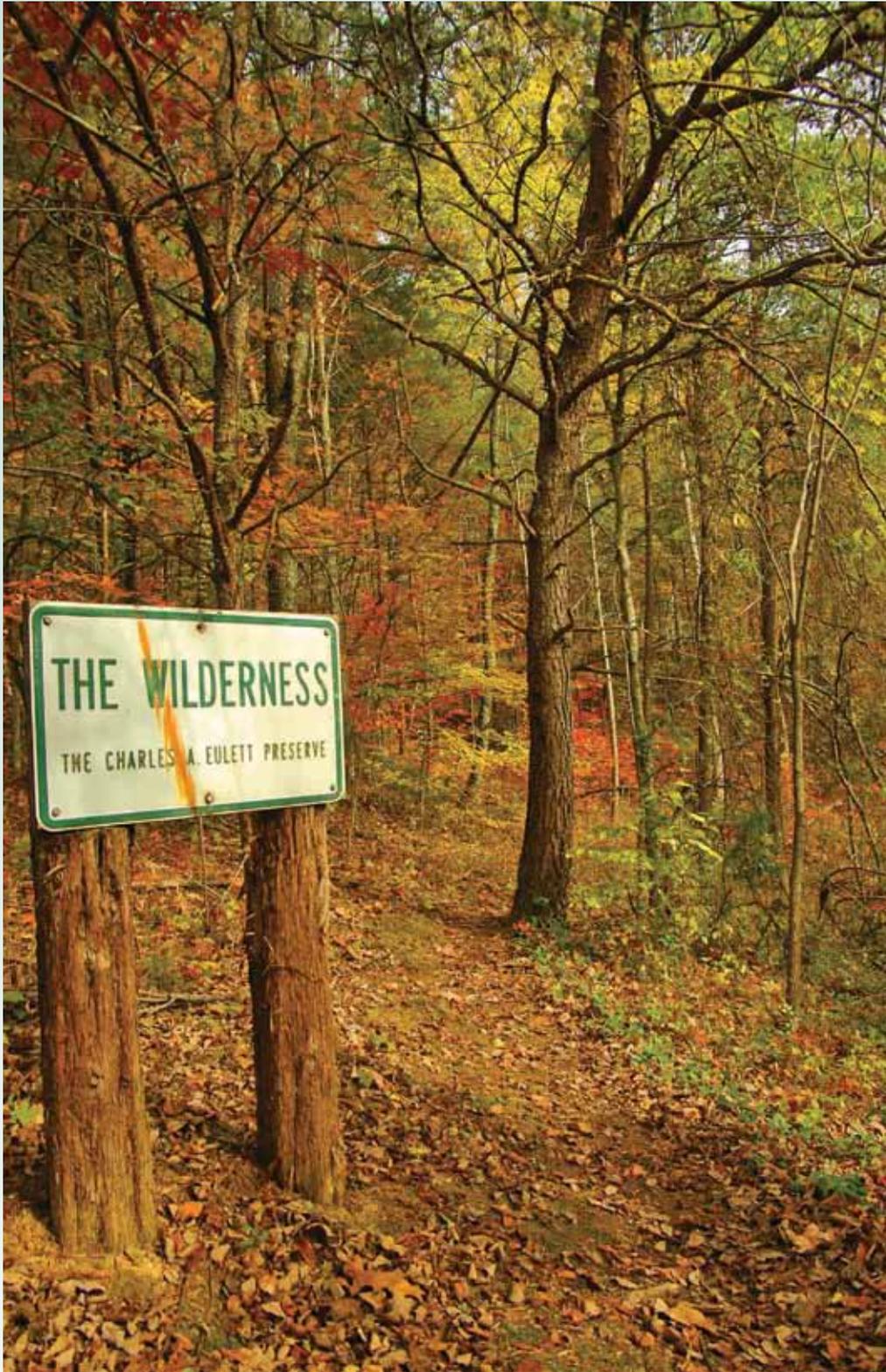
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Trailhead sign to the Wilderness Trail

Coordinates to the new Lynx Prairie Trail is -83.407 38.759 The Lynx Prairie is a National Landmark and it best viewed in late summer when the prairie is blooming. It's an easy hike that features over 200 species of plants and prairie flowers.

#4 - Wilderness Trail is a 2.5-mile loop trail. At Lynx take Lynx Road to Shivener Road, turn north and proceed to parking area and trail head at end of road. A moderate hike through the Edge of Appalachia Preserve will reveal an unbroken forest with limestone cliffs, white cedar and over 50 rare plants and flowers. Spring wildflowers and fall foliage are some of the sights hikers will observe on their way through the Wilderness.

#5 - Shoemaker Preserve Trail is a 1-1/2-mile trail that concludes with a loop. Hikers visiting Shoemaker will observe geological formations, dolomite cliffs, a variety of spring wildflowers and a large natural arch. One of Adams County's most scenic trails, it follows Cedar Fork, a tributary of Scioto Brush Creek, and is considered a moderate hike. Take Portsmouth Road east off S.R. 32, turn onto Pine Gap Road, trailhead is on right.

Keep in mind that all trails are located in semi-wilderness areas and hikers will likely encounter sink holes, cliffs, drop offs, steep climbs and generally rough terrain.

Tom Cross is an avid outdoorsman, camper, hunter & fisherman, and has been writing on the outdoors since 1972.

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