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Choosing a Treestand **By Derek Sturtevant**

If you want to see more game you have to get off the ground. Treestands reduce your scent signature, conceal your presence and give you a better view of your surroundings allowing you to see game coming in from a greater distance. There are several styles to suit most hunting applications and any hunter, even those on a budget.

Ladder stands are perfect for those that own a sizeable piece of property or have access to huntable land where they are able to leave the stand up for the season. A ladder stand is just that; it is a ladder climbing system and stand all in one unit. Ladder stands are stable, easy to climb and very comfortable. They tend to be heavier and come in several pieces. It is for these reasons that they are best carried in prior to the hunting season and left for the duration. They are not as packable as some, but a car, truck or ATV can ease transport depending on the terrain. Big Game Treestands offer two of the seasons hottest models; the Revolution rotating ladder provides 360 degrees of mobility while on stand and the Big Buddy two-person stand is the perfect tool to introduce youngsters to their hunting heritage.

Fixed position hang-on stands can be used in the same manner as ladders and left in place for the season with a climbing system or used with a removable climbing aid to minimize the likelihood that another person will use your stand. They are more packable and many come with backpack straps. The Gorilla and Loggy Bayou lines offer a wide assortment of hang-on stands to meet most any need.

Climbing stands are packable, light, require no additional climbing equipment and allow hunters to range deep into often less pressured areas and still have the benefit of an elevated position. Most offer the ease and comfort of stand-up, sit-down climbing while others use a hand climber, which reduces overall weight. We carry a wide selection of self-climbers from Summit and Loggy Bayou, the biggest names in climbing treestands. They have models to choose from that provide unparalleled comfort and quiet performance.

Kittery Trading Post carries an extensive selection of treestands, safety equipment and accessories from Ameristep, Loggy Bayou Big Game, Summit, Gorilla, Lone Wolf, Hunters Safety System and more. Let our knowledgeable staff answer any questions you may have about becoming a treestand hunter. If you are a perennial treestand hunter, stop in and see the latest innovations designed to improve treestand safety, comfort and your hunting proficiency.