

# Editor's Picks

Here are two stands that Michigan Out-of-Doors Magazine's Editor Tony Hansen will be hunting from this season.

## Family Traditions Lock-On Stand

This stand is a surprise selection for me. I had never even heard of Family Tradition Tree-stands until I learned the company had been moved to nearby Charlotte (Michigan, not North Carolina). I recently spent some time at the factory and was impressed by the operation. Family Traditions is best known in the South for its lineup of ladder and tripod stands. But I'm a portable stand hunter and was immediately intrigued by this offering.

For starters, it has the features I require. The platform is huge and roomy. The seat is as comfortable as any I've used. It hangs on with a t-screw and two heavy-duty ratchets -- the best I've ever seen on a stand. And it's built like a rock. If you don't know what good welds look like, just examine this stand. They're big, beefy and obviously done by seasoned welders. I hung this stand in my yard at about three feet. I then jumped -- literally -- up and down on the foot rest. It never budged. It's not cheap at about \$160 but it's one of the best stands I've ever used. Bar none.

My only complaint? The stand could squeak when sitting down as a result of the tubing from the seat hitting the stand's frame. But it's a 10-cent fix. A few wraps of duct tape (the Sportsman's Best Friend) and the problem is solved.

[www.familytraditiontreestands.com](http://www.familytraditiontreestands.com)

