



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY

GIFTS FOR THE OUTDOORSMAN

It is an awfully big playground out there for those who cherish a good walk in the woods, a walleye engaging you in a watery tug-of-war, a squadron of passing warblers, the opening day of deer season, or being lulled to sleep by nature's chorus of night sounds. With so many avenues to explore, the outdoors enthusiast is offered a panorama of gadgets, gizmos, and gear, along with opportunities for education and escape.

— By Matt Markey
Blade Outdoors Editor



◀ **Women's Fly Fishing Vest** - This lightweight Willow Creek vest is designed for a better fit, and to hold plenty of gear. There are nine Velcro-close pockets, a pair of large zipper pockets for fly boxes, and a rear pouch for rain gear. **Available at Cabela's. \$59.99**



◀ **Trail Camera** - Scouting is an essential element in hunting, and this innovative game camera takes clear, crisp images of any game moving through the area, using an infrared flash reaching up to 65 feet. **Available at MC Sports. \$79.99**



▶ **Portable Propane Heater** - Around the campsite, the ice shanty, or anywhere a touch of heat is needed in the outdoors, this Coleman Sportcat unit will provide 1500 BTUs for up to 14 hours on one cylinder. **Available at Dunham's Sports. \$59.99**



◀ **Fillet Knife** - Any angler needs a good blade for cleaning the catch, and the Schrade line of Uncle Henry fillet knives has sturdy yet flexible stainless steel blades, easy-grip handles, and leather sheaths. **Available at Bass Pro Shops. \$14.97 - \$23.99**

▶ **Kayak** - The sport of kayaking is enjoying a boom in popularity because these craft are portable, inexpensive, and the fuel bill is always zero. This Fusion Future Beach model combines stability and performance and a comfortable seatback with easy-carry handles. **Available at Dick's Sporting Goods. \$299.99**



▶ **Lodging on the lake** - The winter blues are left at the door when your outdoors enthusiast checks into one of the cottages at this park, located on the Lake Erie shoreline. The 2.2-mile boardwalk through the wetlands is a bonus. Weekend packages and gift certificates are available at Maumee Bay State Park Lodge. **Starting at \$90 a night.**

▶ **Binoculars** - A good companion while searching the trees for tiny warblers migrating through the area, this set of Redfield Rebel binoculars offers bright, clear images and a waterproof and fog-proof design, wrapped in a strong aluminum frame. **Available at Gander Mountain. \$139.99**



▶ **Sleeping Bag** - Whether it's for a late November night in a deer-hunting camp, a chilly evening in the tent on the shore of Lake Erie, or a quick setup in a mountain cabin, Teton Sports Sleeping Bag is rated to keep you warm when the thermometer moves toward zero. Heavy-duty canvas shell, flannel liner, and duffel bag for carrying. **Available at Dick's Sporting Goods. \$99.99**



▶ **Rod Building Class** - The next frontier for any dedicated angler is to build his or her custom fishing rod. After this one-day, winter-time session with its expert instruction and step-by-step process, your angler will take home a finished rod, and the materials to build the next one. **Available at Jann's Netcraft by reservation at 419-868-8288. \$ 175 (includes all tools and materials)**



▶ **Lightweight Baitcast Reel** - Aircraft-grade aluminum and carbon merge to make this Johnny Morris CarbonLite reel a tough caster at less than six ounces. Advanced design limits line friction and provides plenty of power for any battle. **Available at Bass Pro Shop. \$129.99**