

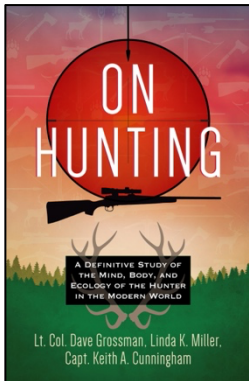
# BroadStreet

P U B L I S H I N G

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## ON HUNTING

A Definitive Study of the Mind, Body, and Ecology of the Hunter in the Modern World



Minneapolis, MN: Hunting is our heritage, our heart, and our future. But where does hunting fit in with our modern culture, in which some consider it inhumane or unnecessary?

***On Hunting: A Definitive Study of the Mind, Body, and Ecology of the Hunter in the Modern World*** (BroadStreet® Publishing), by authors **Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, Linda K. Miller, and Capt. Keith A. Cunningham**, reminds us that since the beginning of creation, mankind has struggled to survive and climb to the top of the food chain. We still innately possess the instinct to live as predator, not prey.

Hunting remains vitally important to humanity as a means of provision, a healthy activity that requires physical fitness and mental clarity, and a deeply rewarding pursuit. In fact, modern hunters fund conservation and wildlife management.

Authors Grossman, Miller, and Cunningham offer insights that explore the history and ethics of hunting, the required skills of a hunter, hunting skills as applied to police, military and self-defense, and the challenges and traditions of modern hunting. Featured topics include:

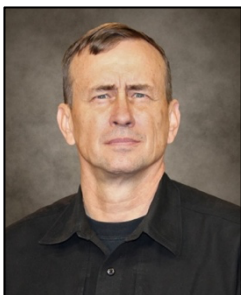
- **Ancient History of Hunters:** Hunting is embedded in our culture, as humans began as nomadic hunter-gatherers. Humanity has been primarily agricultural for only a tiny fraction of our history. These ancient hunting roots are still visible in our bodies, instincts, language, abilities, and more.
- **The Land Ethic:** Hunters understand the land does not belong to us but that we belong to the land. Our ancestors saw land as a place to live, not as something to own. Today, hunters abide by the land ethic, which dictates that they must invest in the wider animal populations and the entire ecosystem of the land.
- **Early Hunters:** The skills of early hunters brought us to the top of the food chain. As we practice the ancient skills required for the field and train our bodies and minds for the hunt, we honor our ancestors and the practices they established for us.
- **Hunting Skills:** The skills learned and practiced include marksmanship, physical fitness, mental toughness, and understanding your physical responses, such as adrenaline dumps, reduced motor skills, sensory exclusion, and more. These skills have clear applications for military, police, and self-defense training.
- **The Role of Hunting Today:** Hunters are champions of nature and wildlife habitats and consider hunting a natural pursuit that grants self-reliance. It also helps hunters establish a healthy relationship with death.

In order to preserve nature's ancient gift of hunting in the modern world, we must clearly explain and justify who we are and what we do. It is essential to understand that the world needs hunting and the hunter. The preservation and future of wildlife and wilderness largely depends upon the hunter, and only the hunters—who willingly pay for the privilege of becoming a direct participant in the food chain—can and will sustain the wilderness in the modern ecology.

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Drawing from ecology, philosophy, and anthropology and sprinkled with campfire stories, this wide-ranging examination has rich depths for both nonhunters and hunters alike. *On Hunting* shows that we need hunting still—and so does the wild earth we inhabit.

### About the Authors:



**Lt. Col. Dave Grossman** served as a US Army Ranger for 24 years. He has five patents to his name, has published 12 books including *On Killing* (with over half a million copies sold) and *On Combat*.

He is a US Army Ranger, a paratrooper, and a former West Point psychology professor. He has a black belt in Hojutsu, the martial art of the firearm, and has been inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

He helped train mental health professionals after the Jonesboro school massacre, and he was also involved in counseling or court cases in the aftermath of the Paducah, Springfield, Littleton, and Nickel Mines Amish school

massacres. [www.Killology.com](http://www.Killology.com) Facebook: @LTColDaveGrossman



**Capt. Keith A. Cunningham CD (Ret)** and **Linda K. Miller** hold many provincial and national titles and records, and have been members of several Canadian teams to international championships throughout the world. They coached the Canadian Forces Combat Shooting Team to many honors in England and Australia. They have coached 13 members of the military to a Queen's Medal, the top award for marksmanship within the Canadian Forces. Keith is a career military officer with a combined time of over twenty-five years' experience with the Canadian Armed Forces and the US Army, including a

combat tour in Vietnam where he was a US Army Ranger specializing as a sniper and in long-range reconnaissance. Together Keith and Linda built and run the MilCun Training Center near Minden, Ontario, Canada where they hold many professional and recreational shooting courses and events. They are popular guest lecturers and speakers, providing seminars and courses to police, military, and civilian marksmen in Canada and internationally.

[www.milcun.com](http://www.milcun.com) Facebook: @milcun

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## Suggested Interview Questions:

1. What is the premise of your book *On Hunting*? Who is your intended audience?
2. How did each author use their experiences to contribute to this book?
3. You write that hunting is accessible for everyone, a common instinct, and a rite of passage. Can you say more about the benefits of hunting for people of all ages, demographics, and backgrounds?
4. What would you say to those who do not support hunting? What are common misconceptions regarding hunters?
5. Share with us how hunting is interwoven in the roots of humanity. How does our place in the food chain influence our desire or need to hunt?
6. How have the tactics of hunting evolved to become more humane? What is “The Hunter’s Oath,” and what other ethics or convictions do modern hunters abide by?
7. How have the demographics of hunters changed in recent decades?
8. What basic skills must every hunter possess? What should someone expect when they first start hunting or make their first kill?
9. You share how hunting is often meaningfully passed down generation to generation within families. How would you recommend someone start hunting if they don’t have family or friends who hunt to teach them the traditions and skills?
10. How does hunting respect the natural world and contribute to game management?
11. Please explain how hunting relates to the stewardship of the earth’s resources. What is the environmental impact of a hunter? How have hunters sustained the economics and ecology of our land?
12. How do hunting skills apply to police, military, and self-defense training?
13. Why do you believe hunting is the best hope for preserving our wilderness habitat? How does it support a healthy future for our planet?

## Notable Quotes:

Overall, this book is a celebration of life, of the hunter’s life. It is an acknowledgment of our place in the middle of the food chain as both predator and prey. And especially, it sheds light on how these two roles (striving to get food and striving not to become food) are inextricably linked to procreation. Many people feel guilty that they have a sense of euphoria when they are successful in the hunt, but the authors of this book believe this is normal and natural. It is our brain’s way of responding when we are confirming our life force and improving the odds that our species will live and multiply. (pp. 12–13)

Good hunters, those who always seem to be in the right place at the right time and always get their deer, have developed the ability to “read sign.” You need to do more than just see a track and recognize what made it. You have to tie it in with other tracks and other sign to get the whole story. Knowing the way the game lives, recognizing the terrain, and linking those to the other sign can tell you if the animal was passing through or lives in the area. Knowing how their habits change with the seasons and applying that to what you see on the ground will tell you if this is going to be a good place on opening morning. (p. 175)

Police and military are subject daily to their ancient survival drives. Most of them are proud of this connection. They are proud of being able to take care of a bad situation and proud of being able to show compassion and restraint when needed. Hunters are similarly proud of their ability to take care of themselves. And they're proud of their potential to be upstanding citizens, good Samaritans, and virtuous hunters. One of the delights of hunting is getting mentally and emotionally lost in nature. It is a total absorption in the present moment. The reality of everyday anxiety fades, and the hunter becomes immersed in the natural world. He feels connected to something much bigger than himself. (pp. 236–237)

Culturally, hunters are tied to the land. They love the earth, the waters, and the creatures who dwell with us on this fragile planet. They are knowledgeable about nature and the wildlife that share it with us. They learn about the game animals they hunt and the creatures' habits and needs. In addition to advancing their skills with the technology they use they also develop techniques and tactics that are independent of any technology. Hunters work on developing physical strength and endurance so they can hunt effectively and ethically. They understand that they are alone with their ethics when there are no witnesses to their behavior. (pp. 256)

The connection the hunter seeks is not simply a visit to the bush. The hunter seeks to reaffirm his own wild humanity by vividly, strongly uniting with wildness and wild animals. It is their own individual solution to the soul-less anguish of "civilized" life. They aren't working to solve everyone else's problems, only to dissolve their own feelings of separation, separation from nature. When stalking an animal, the feeling of separateness melts, and the hunter is bonded to all of nature, a unity that includes his environment, his prey, and his whole self. When we hunt, we enjoy every moment, and 99.9 percent of the moments do not involve a kill. When we walk in the bush, going to the stand or while stalking, we become immersed in the environment. For a time, we have no gender, no age, no conscious thoughts. We have only an awareness, both broad and specific at the same time. Our pack weighs nothing, and our bow rides easy on our back. We are enmeshed in nature, truly an integral part. It's an awesome feeling. Even without capturing our prey, we return often to the woods, just for a chance to feel that feeling again. (p. 269)

Women hunt for the same reason men hunt: the thrill, the trophy, the meat, the self-sufficiency, the nutrition, the fellowship of other hunters. ...The trends are clear. Women are joining the hunt. And they're doing it in large numbers. And they're doing it all over the world. (pp. 283, 286)

- With hunting, wild animals have value. Hunters value the wild animals.
  - Without hunting, wild animals become pests. Pests will be killed until they are eradicated.
- With hunting, wildland has value. Hunters value the wildland.
  - Without hunting, wildland has few or no champions. Without hunting, the wildland will disappear under the expansion of herding, ranching, agriculture, and towns. Both farms and towns increase the animal human conflicts. More animals will lose this battle. More animals will die.
- With hunting, conservation efforts are well-funded.
  - Without hunting, conservation loses a major source of funding. Without conservation funding, habitats disappear, and habitat corridors are isolated. Without hunting, wild animals have no place to be and no place to go.
- With hunting, poaching is a crime, and anti-poaching efforts receive funding.
  - Without hunting, anti-poaching units lose an important source of funding and often evaporate, and poachers can take whatever they want.
- With hunting, game management is an effective way to ensure many species survive and thrive.
  - Without hunting, game management loses funding and loses the largest volunteer workforce to support wildlife and their habitat. (pp. 304–305)