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BUYER'S EDGE SOUTHERN MADE

Gifts for home, hostess

Select from beautiful baskets to gleaming glassware or a 'spaddle.'

By Linda Jerkins
For the AJC

Elegance in nature

Baskets bring a simple warmth and beauty to a home — especially the one-of-kind sculptural baskets by North Carolina's Matt Tommey.

The artist: Originally from Columbus, Tommey grew up loving the outdoors. He was a boy scout and a member of Order of the Arrow as a teenager. While working at the University of Georgia college bookstore, Tommey came across a book that focused on harvesting natural materials from the forest to make baskets. He bought the book and experimented with the kudzu around his apartment complex. After graduating from the UGA, he and his wife lived in metro Atlanta area for 13 years and he made baskets as a hobby. In 2009, the family moved to Asheville where Tommey opened his studio in the city's River Arts District and began to focus on baskets full time.

The main goods: Sculptural art baskets for the home or commercial spaces. Includes wall hangings, fireplace mantel installations and baskets for a pedestal, shelf or table. Prices range from \$500-\$5000 depending on the piece. Sculptural fireplace installations are \$3,000 to \$5,000, depending on size and complexity. About 50 percent of his work is commissioned from clients who have a specific vision for their space.

Materials: Locally available natural materials with a specific focus on invasive plant species like kudzu, mimosa, honeysuckle and grapevine. Also recycled copper, encaustic wax and clay.

What's popular: Sculptural collections that include multiple baskets nested in mountain laurel branches. Also, free-form bark baskets woven with copper.

Where to buy: In Asheville at his gallery and working studio, 191 Lyman St., #160 (www.matttommey.com). In the Atlanta area, find some of Tommey's work at Wild Hope Art Gallery, 8470 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite 120, in Alpharetta, (www.wildhopeartgallery.com) through May 30.

Glass act

Whether your taste is modern or classic, you find something to covet in the collection by the Blenko Glass Company.

The company: The West Virginia-based Blenko Glass Company has been in the glass-making business since 1893. The company, located in Milton, has been run by a member of the Blenko family since 1921.

The main goods: Table-



University of Georgia grad Matt Tommey creates sculptural art baskets out of natural materials for walls, tables and fireplace mantels. CONTRIBUTED BY WWW.MATTTOMMEY.COM



Made in West Virginia, the 384 water bottle has been in production since 1938. CONTRIBUTED BY NICOLE SLOAN



Michel Nischna, a two-time James Beard award-winning chef, told the New York Times earlier this year that he is "in love with his two wooded Spaddles," made by Georgia artist Gordon Chandler. They're like a spatula but better, he says. CONTRIBUTED BY GORDON CHANDLER

ware, including glass bowls in various sizes and shapes (think clamshell, scalloped and leaf); pitchers, decanters, vases and drinking glasses — all in a host of colors.

Most popular: The 384 water bottle (\$53), which has been in production since 1938. Available in a variety of colors from clear to cobalt blue, the iconic, eight-inch-tall bottle holds 36 fluid ounces. In 2013, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its carafe-style bottle, Blenko introduced a mini version of the water bottle (\$46).

Where to buy: www.blenko.com or at Steve McKenzie's, 999 Brady Ave. (stevemckenzie.com); and

Urban Cottage, 998 N. Highland Ave. (urbancottageatlanta.com).

Kitchen art

Georgia artist Gordon Chandler discovered the Spaddles design by accident in his wood shop. But now the elegant and versatile kitchen tool is a favorite of his — and many others.

The artist: Originally from Massachusetts, Chandler has undergraduate and graduate degrees in sculpture. In 1975, he set up shop in Carrollton. After building wood-burning stoves for about 10 years,

Chandler started exhibiting his art in Atlanta and around the country. In 2010, he created Spaddles from a large splinter of wood.

The goods: Spaddles (\$15 and up) are an all-around kitchen tool, useful for flipping, scraping, serving and chopping. They are particularly handy for making gravy and roux.

Materials: Made from a variety of durable woods, including walnut, cherry, maple, pear, cedar and butternut.

Other favorites: In wood, cutting and serving boards (\$25 and up) and paired salad servers (\$20 to \$30). In steel sculpture: kimonos, benches and whitetail deer (from \$3,000 to \$12,000).

Where to buy Spaddles: Resource, 9110 Selborne Lane, Suite 100, Chattahoochee Hills, 770-763-1105 or ResourceSerenbe on Facebook.

BEST OF THE SOUTH

Do you have favorite finds from around the South that you give as gifts, buy for your home or rave about to friends? If so, please share them with us. Send your suggestions to: ljerkins@gmail.com. Also find more Southern-made products, featured in the AJC, at Southernfinds on facebook or on twitter@southernfinds1

Eyecatchers

By Nedra Rhone
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A GOOD PICK

Fans of the Zac Brown Band can show their support with a limited edition collection of hand-engraved guitar pick pendants by men's jewelry brand, William Henry. The pendants hold up to three guitar picks and the face of the pendant features imagery inspired by art from ZBB's new "Jekyll + Hyde" album. The collection features three versions of an engraved pendant in bronze on a double layered deerskin cord (\$199), silver on an antiqued sterling silver chain (\$299), and a limited edition sterling silver with gold inlay on a sterling and onyx accented chain (\$1,499). Each comes with two guitar picks. They are available for purchase at www.williamhenry.com. In addition, 20 percent of the proceeds will benefit Camp Southern Ground, the Fayetteville camp founded by Zac Brown for children ages 7-17 with typical and special needs.



HEAD TO TOE GLOW

Look like you just stepped off the beach with three new items in the Body Shop's Honey Bronze range. Honey Bronze Face Gel (\$20), Honey Bronze Tinted Leg Mist (\$20) and Honey Bronze Highlighting Domes (\$16) will help you create a natural-looking sun-kissed glow that doesn't look streaky or orange. The gel and leg mist dry to a matte finish while the highlighting domes give cheeks a natural-looking shimmer. The products are suitable for all skin tones and are available at the Body Shop and www.thebodyshop-usa.com.



SURF'S UP

BullFrog Sunscreen, the brand loved by outdoor enthusiasts, has introduced three new products including the re-introduction of the Surf Formula Gel Sunscreen (\$7.49). The alcohol-free formula stays put for a long time and can be reapplied often without irritating skin. The WaterArmor Sport Quick Stick (\$7.49) is a clear zinc formula which applies easily to face, nose and lips while the BullFrog LipArmor Sport Instacool Lip Balm (\$1.99) has a cool menthol sensation and grapefruit flavor with SPF 50 sun protection. The products are available at mass retailers.

Buyer's Edge Where can I find it?

By Sabine Morrow
For the AJC

Q: I have some negatives that were taken 60 years ago with a Kodak Brownie camera. I have taken them to several drug stores with photo departments, but I'm told they can't develop them. Where can I get this done? — John Halm, email

A: I found someone who said he could absolutely develop those negatives for you. You can take your film to the Camera Doctor, 2090 N. Decatur Road, Decatur, 404-634-1252.

Q: Can you tell me where I might find the dry seasoning used to make corned beef? I need to make sure it's salt-free. The stores I shop in don't seem to have this item. I just need a small amount. Thank you. — Laurie Lim, At-

lanta

A: Laurie, I found a salt-free corned beef spice mixture that includes brown and yellow mustard seeds, coriander, all-spice, cinnamon, dill seed, ginger, cloves, star anise and juniper berries. The fragrant mix is available in several sizes and packaging options, including a small jar holding ¼ cup. You'll find it for \$3.09 at Penzeys Spices, 6235 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, 404-256-7970.

Q: I am trying to find Northland juice, either the cranberry-blueberry or cranberry-blackberry flavors. I used to be able to find it at Publix and Kroger. I would not mind driving to pick it up. Thanks. — Eleanor Hager, Marietta

A: Northland cranberry-blackberry juice is available for \$3.88 at Ingles Market, 5055 Cherokee St., Acworth, 770-975-1947.

The store stocks plenty of flavors, and while it doesn't have cranberry-blueberry, you can ask the manager to order it for you and you don't even need to order more than one at a time.

Q: For years I have depended on CorningWare Cleaner and Conditioner to clean hard baked-on food on CorningWare, Pyrex dishes, and other smooth glass-like surfaces. Nothing else seems to do as good a job. In the past, I have found this product in kitchen stores, but now can't find it anywhere. It came in 16-ounce bottles, and was manufactured by Corning Glass Works. I would appreciate help in locating it. Thank you. — June James, email

A: According to the folks at Corning's World Kitchen, which puts out the CorningWare Cleaner and Conditioner,

the only retail stores that stock the product are CorningWare Corelle Revere factory stores. The good news is there are two such stores in proximity to Atlanta. Both stock the 16-ounce bottles of the cleaner for \$6.99. Check out Outlet Shoppes at Atlanta, 915 Ridgewalk Parkway, Woodstock, 678-445-0279 and Tanger Outlets, 1000 Tanger Drive, Locust Grove, 770-957-5310.

Having trouble finding a particular item? We'll try to help you locate it. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot track down every request. Write to us at Buyer's Edge Find It, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 223 Perimeter Center Parkway N.E., Atlanta, GA 30346; email sabinem.morrow@gmail.com (include your name, the city you live in and a daytime phone number).