

Shopping Leelanau County style

BY SHEILA GARRETT
Special to the Record-Eagle

People who shop in Leelanau County for their holiday gifts are often looking for a touch of a country Christmas to send friends and family far away, or perhaps right here.

Homemade fudge is a specialty of Candy World of Suttons Bay. However, the giant fudge dipped apples are equally popular, said sales associate Lucy Schaub. "And they really are giant," she added.

Nostalgic candies harking back to earlier times and the candies of foreign lands make welcome gifts, as do stone craft birdhouses, lamps and mirrors — all locally made.

Owner Bridgett Lambdin started in business by making homemade candy for patrons of her husband's 45th Parallel Cafe. She then successfully opened her candy store in the shop next door about a year ago. For more information, call 271-2255.

Bahle's of Suttons Bay has been providing classic clothing for residents and visitors for the past 125 years.

Women's Icelandic fashions are especially compatible with northern Michigan's climate, according to Lois Bahle, who is the women's buyer there. Boiled wool jackets, some embroidered, are paired with matching hats for a great look. Also available in boiled wool are Hafflinger slippers for women, in colors such as red, orange and lime green.

Other recommended gift items are washable and dryable cotton Parkhurst sweaters designed for easy care, classic Brighton belts, and cozy warm hand-knit gloves. A great choice for the woman traveler is the wallet on a string, a shoulder bag so compact that it can be worn under a coat in crowded urban areas.

Especially popular in pink and blue are Northface outerwear fashions. Teamed with boots by Merrell, jackets can be accessorized in matching colors from head to toe. Bahle's also carries Northface items for men and children.

Karl Bahle, the store's men's buyer, suggested classic Pendleton wool shirts as a popular men's gift item. He also recommended Barbour winter jackets from Britain, and Dale Norway sweaters. Talbot neckwear is always a favorite choice, he added. For hours, call 271-3841.

Materials for making scrapbooks and albums to preserve memories are available at By the Bay Scrapbooking & Papercrafts of Suttons Bay. This new shop offers acid-free products that will last for many years, said store owner Joe Barrera.

Instruction in crafts is provided for those interested.

"We have different layers of expertise. The beginners have classes and examples to follow. Intermediate clients have some skills," he said. "For the advanced, we just don't get in their way."

The shop includes a studio area for working on albums. These usually center around family events, such as weddings or birthdays. Card stock, stickers and lettering are available for making creative cards.

"We are exploring Christmas stamps as well," Barrera added.

Pre-registration is required for classes. For more, call 271-1020.

The Leelanau Conservation District office, located next to the Post Office in Lake Leelanau Twp., has an assortment of local products, some of which are prepared in local farm kitchens.

Shoppers may choose from dried cherries, and candied cherries covered in chocolate, yogurt or both. Other homemade delicacies include traditional cherry jams, preserves and sauces.

Susan Cortes, administrative assistant, recommends



local resident Shirley Alpers' fruit syrups, as well as honey from Suttons Bay beekeepers Bill and Mildred Hathaway.

Other popular gift selections are gardening and nature books and posters, including the Great Lakes fishes poster, an ideal gift for fishermen. Shipping of purchases is available. For hours, call 256-9669.

Jewelry items created by local artists may be seen at Becky Thatcher Designs of Glen Arbor and Leland.

Designer Becky Thatcher was a rock collector as a child in northern Michigan, said sales associate Susan Spear, and it has inspired her designs.

Leland blue stones — "truly baby blue in color" — can only be found here and their number is dwindling, as are the number of Leland green stones, according to Spear.

A versatile gift choice that appeals to many clients is the sterling silver bracelet featuring interchangeable stones that may be switched around to give the piece a different look.

Petoskey stones carved in the forms of turtles, frogs and bears, plus stone watches for both men and women clients are available in high polish or matte finish.

For more information, call the Glen Arbor store, 334-3826, or at Leland, 256-2229.

For morning fun, the annual Glen Arbor pajama party sale will be on Friday, Nov. 26, from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. The village tree lighting and a carol sing will be held at 8 p.m. in Glen Arbor Township hall.

The Cherry Republic of Glen Arbor offers free gift boxing with birch bark and cedar sprig trim. Complimentary gift cards with handwritten messages add an elegant personalized touch to shoppers' packages.

The shop features a wide variety of cherry products, which are all made locally, said Wendy DesAutels, art director.

New this year are Baby Boomchunka



oatmeal and cherry cookies in bite sizes. Other popular culinary products are cherry melt brownies, fudge brownies with dark chocolate ganache frosting and sweet cherry balsamic vinegar.

Three kinds of wine — sparkling, cherry grape blend, and conservancy — can be shipped within Michigan. For more information, call 334-3150.

Formerly in Omena, Twisted Whiskers, a great source of gifts for pets and pet owners, can be found at the Woodland Herbs farm on M-22.

The farm is about 3½ miles from Northport, going toward Leland, said owner, Pat Bourdo. Shoppers can browse through a selection of Christmas prints and books on pet care.

Also featured are herbal flea collars, doggy food treats

and catnip toys. There are edible Christmas ornaments for dogs; although they don't stay on the tree very long, said Bourdo.

Twisted Whiskers is open weekends, call 386-9131

At Dolls & More of Northport, all items are handmade, or have added handmade touches, according to owner Sally Coohon.

The porcelain and cloth creations are mostly intended for adult collectors. However, there are some "children friendly" dolls and toys, said Coohon.

Sure to appeal to children, as well as adults, are the



Record-Eagle/Lara Neel

The Leelanau Conservation District in Lake Leelanau carries many products made locally, such as The Jelly Sisters jams and Pure Star Thistle honey.



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Above, 45th Parallel Candy World in Suttons Bay offers homemade fare like fudge-dipped apples swathed in vanilla, chocolate and caramel and rock candy.

hand made teddy bears with soft, cuddly fur from Australia and there are materials and patterns for those who prefer to make their own.

Also available are tee shirts, sweatshirts and chil-

dren's items embroidered by Coohon.

Dolls & More is located opposite Tom's Food Market in Northport. For more, call 386-7303.

Sheila Garrett is a local freelance writer.

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