

**Made in Michigan**

**FROM PAGE 1**

“There really isn’t anything on the market that duplicates that.”

Bullfrog Light Co. candles are made only in Charlevoix and each requires a great deal of handwork, Stewart said.

“We use a very high quality wax,” she said, “which is part of the reason they burn so long.”

The pillar candles will burn 12-15 hours per inch, she added.

Some of the popular holiday sellers include the holiday themed candles. The newest addition to that is a burgundy, poinsettia candle that has quickly become the number one seller.

One other trademark of Bullfrog candles is that they are unscented. Stewart said this is done so the candles can be enjoyed over dinner without allergy problems.

In Traverse City, the candles are available at Stewart Zacks and The Candle Factory or on-line at

www.bullfroglightco.com. Prices range from \$9-\$28.

As the weather turns cold, things are just heating up at Leone Glass Studio in Cedar. Makers of hand-blown glass ornaments, the Leone’s are especially busy at the holidays churning out their handcrafted ornaments.

Leone’s has over 60 different designs of ornaments. The two most popular designs at the holidays are the “Church Windows” and “Traditional Christmas.”

“Each one has a name, they’re like our little babies,” Gail Leone said of the ornaments’ names.

Leone got her start about 26 years ago when she signed up for a class downstate in Birmingham. “The first time I ever took the pipe and this molten material that’s 2000 degrees, I was hooked on it,” she said, “absolutely hooked.”

Leone does things the

“old world way,” melting the sand from scratch. She then blows the glass and each ornament is signed and attached with a satin ribbon.

Locally the ornaments can be purchased at the Denno’s Museum Center gift shop, The Painted Bird in Suttons Bay and the Stained Glass Cabinet Co. on M-72 in Traverse City. For a special holiday treat, call ahead of time and visit Leone while she’s in the process of making the ornaments. In addition to watching the fascinating process, you’ll also be able to tell the gift recipient that you were there when it was made. Visit Leone’s on-line at www.leonesglass.com. Ornaments run about \$17.

If you’d like to get into the act of creating your own holiday gifts then Hands-On Art in Traverse City has just the materials you need to get started.

Hands-On Art is a paint your own pottery studio. Owner Julie O’Hearn Cox is on hand to guide budding artists through every step of the process.

Especially popular at the holiday time are handprints. O’Hearn Cox says grandparents and parents alike love gifts with handprints of a child or grandchild on them. Handprints can be put on anything from cups to bowls and plates.

In addition to the finished products, O’Hearn Cox said the process itself is also a gift.

“It’s a nice family bonding time,” she said. “People can bring in refreshments and snacks. It’s a nice day out with mom’s and kids or dads and kids,” she said.

Once the artwork is painted, O’Hearn Cox glazes and fires it. The item is then ready to be picked up within a week. All items are dishwasher and microwave safe.

Prices range from about \$8 up to \$65. The price is inclusive of all materials, glazing and firing.

For a gift that’s entirely unique, See Glass in Elk

Rapids has a gift that according to owner Eric Daigh, “You have to see through it to believe it.” Check out his Web site at www.see-glass.com to see it.

Daigh and his wife have a patent on their See Glass, though even Daigh admits the process is something that you have to see to totally appreciate.

“It’s the way of displaying anything visual in a see-through manner,” he said, from his Elk Rapids studio.

Daigh is able to take any image from photography and wedding invitations to documents and artwork and display them in a “see through” glass.

Part of the uniqueness is that Daigh can work from just about any medium which allows any document to become a treasured keepsake. The original is never harmed in the process and is returned intact.

In addition to acting as a framed piece of work, See Glass can also be used as name placards, coasters and paperweights.

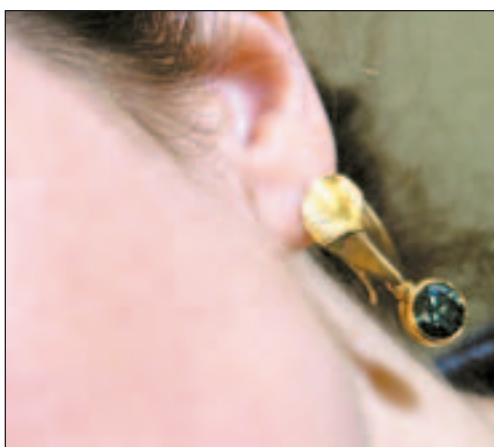
See Glass also offers the opportunity to shop without ever leaving the house. Photos, or other documents, can be emailed to Daigh and then either mailed back to the gift-giver or drop shipped to the recipient.

See Glass has become a gift that becomes the talk of the party and the Daigh’s have been more than thrilled with the reaction.

“There’s getting something you like and then there’s getting something you totally didn’t expect but were blown away by so we’re happy to be offering that,” he said.

The turnaround time is about one week, though that can stretch longer at the holiday time. Rush orders are available. The retail outlet is currently open by appointment only.

Kristen Hains is a local freelance writer.



Record-Eagle/Tyler Sipe

Top, fossilized pinecones are some of the ornate items sold at Becky Thatcher Designs in Traverse City. Becky Thatcher, owner of the store, designs jewelry from inspirational elements of Northern Michigan. Above, teal diamond “pip” earrings are found at Becky Thatcher Designs.

Record-Eagle/Douglas Tesner

A lamp at Sheffield’s, created by Steve Kapheim of Interlochen, is made from cherry and pine wood with rice paper painted by Kapheim’s wife, Marie Lamothe.

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