



Photo courtesy of Food for Thought

The Northwoods Sampler gift box features edible items from several local businesses.

A sample of northern Michigan

Northern Michigan artisans and craftsmen offer a dazzling array of products for holiday gift-giving. Given all the choices, people may find it difficult to decide which one local item to send.

A group of local businesses may have solved that problem with the evolution of their "Northwoods Sampler" gift box. The box houses treats from Grocer's Daughter Chocolates, organic local strawberry basil preserves from Food For Thought, Fair Trade coffee from Higher Grounds Trading Co., wine tags from Third Coast Design, a leather journal from Leelanau Trading Co., and By the Light of Day's locally grown and blended organic Fair Trade teas.

The gift box is being put together under the leadership of Tim Young, owner of Food for Thought in Honor. But he is quick to credit Mimi Wheeler of Grocers Daughter with putting the idea together.

Young says Wheeler was the one who took the initiative to put all the different products in one

box and present them to the group.

"We are all business owners that share a common value," Young said. "It was a natural outcome of us sharing ideas."

According to Angela Macke, owner of By the Light of Day Organic Loose Teas and Tisanes, the gift box is a win-win situation for everyone.

Another aspect of the gift box which makes it a unique giving opportunity is the fact that many of the involved businesses practice Fair Trade, something which makes the gift go even further.

"Fair Trade had been a topic that we have visited often when we meet as businesses," she said, "(It) offers a better quality of life for our friends in other coffee, tea, chocolate and produce-producing countries."

The Northwoods Sampler will sell for \$49 (plus shipping) and is available for purchase through Food For Thought. The box will be available through phone and mail order only. Contact Food for Thought at (888) 935-2748

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