

Setting an artful table for the holidays and beyond will be simpler with a set of the new series of placemats by **Cindy Messer** (partner). They're proving so popular that she's having trouble keeping them in stock! Cindy is hand painting red poppies, pears, pumpkins with gourds, kohlrabi, a cluster of deep red tomatoes, and a pair of golden pineapples on muted white backgrounds with black undertones. She has Indian corn on a rich brown background and a Christmas pattern featuring a pinecone and bough. *Gorgeous!* Each mat is done individually, so designs will vary a little within each set. The pineapples, universally recognized symbols for hospitality and welcome, are particularly appropriate for the coming season. (\$48)

Hosting the feast

Bowls, candlesnuffers, and condiment spoons by pewterer **Melinda Lockwood** (Columbia) can also make your table and buffet special this holiday season. (\$10-75)



And, while you're in the kitchen, ever wonder why wooden utensils are called "treenware"?

Think about how long humans have been using wood to stir and flip their food; it all makes sense when you consider that the Old English plural of tree was treen! Three **Bluestem** artists, **Carl Sandstrom** (Seymour), **Meyer Wood Designs** (AR), and **Kentucky Spring** (KY) supply us with more than 40 shapes and sizes of wooden utensils made from native woods, perfect for gift-giving and daily use. (\$10-58)

Bluestem will give away a set of sparkling Esteban Preato (St. Louis) clear, handblown glasses just in time for your New Year's party.

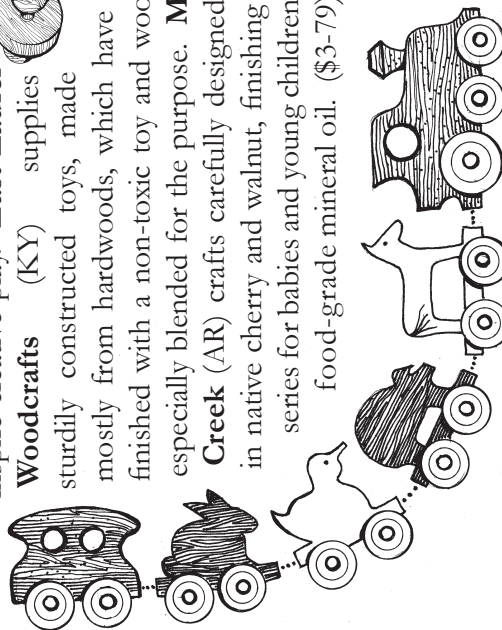
Clip and complete the form below. Drop it in the bowl when you come in to shop.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
email _____

Traditional Toys

The little person on your list can have child safe playthings this holiday season! We have a large selection of traditional toys that are bound to inspire creative play. **East Laurel**

Woodcrafts (KY) supplies sturdily constructed toys, made mostly from hardwoods, which have been finished with a non-toxic toy and wood oil especially blended for the purpose. **Mossy Creek** (AR) crafts carefully designed toys in native cherry and walnut, finishing their series for babies and young children with food-grade mineral oil. (\$3-79)



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November/December 2007

Holiday Preview



The Happiest Holidays are filled with traditions

Favorite holiday memories often revolve around Mom or Grandma's amazing collection of heirloom ornaments for tree, table, and mantle. Again this year, **Bluestem** has a fabulous selection of one-of-a-kind stars and angels, baubles and bells, and Santas of many kinds. Each is an individually made work of art, so no two will be exactly alike. **Dick Nelson's** ever-popular Santas get better and better, and his ornament snowmen, cardinals, flying angels, and Santa-capped hound dogs are just fun, Fun, FUN!

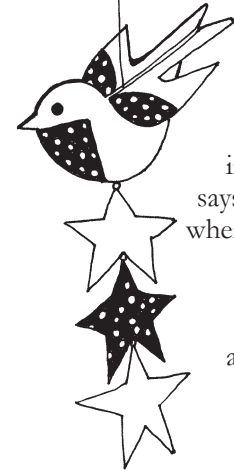


We have ornaments in clay, glass, wood, metal, and fiber. There are **Heinrich Leonhard's** porcelain bells, **Cindy Pacileo's** stoneware "Little Guys," **Kate Lally's** terra cotta leaves, and **John Davis Studios'** raku-fired pinecones! **Ed Pennybaker** and **Kenneth Marine** send blown glass balls and teardrops. We have fused glass, fumed glass, lamp worked glass, and stained glass. We have tiny, hand-turned birdhouses from **Hans Neumann**; laser cut wood from **Jason Wallace**; and whittled twig Santas from **Vicki Touhy**. There are cast pewter snowflakes and reindeer and hammered pewter discs. **Garden Deva** has sent aluminum pieces; and Stoner-Hatton Mobiles' sends colorful, anodized aluminum. Our fiber selections include cut paper from **Marilyn Vernon** and handmade paper by **Vicki Smith**, and fabric designs from several regional artists.

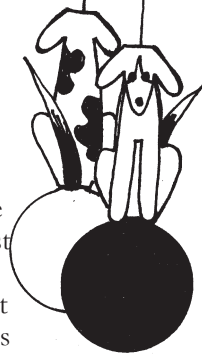
When making your choices from our extensive array, remember that just for Christmas we select the best handmade ornaments from Missouri and beyond.

Gifting things . . .

Don't miss the bright birds, "American Tri-color" poodles, cardinals, and white cats **Marilyn Vernon** (recently "retired" original partner) has been creating in her newly acquired spare time! They are inexpensive and oh, so easy to mail! She also continues to make her classic cards and mobiles and intricate framed pieces. And, she says, "Best Christmas cards ever, just when I thought I'd run out of ideas!"



The rest of us are pleased that she comes in often to keep us encouraged, attends art fairs with us, and helps us select new artists. (\$6.50-18; framed pieces \$65-150)



Fourth and fifth generation basket makers are part of the crew at Red Bird Mission Crafts (KY). From among those master workers, **Patsy Mosley** has fashioned a selection of exquisitely constructed creekwillow and honeysuckle baskets especially for **Bluestem**. Her long, very slender willow twigs come from a tree that grows beside creeks and in swampy areas. She gathers it after the first frost each fall. To get bleached, bark-free stems for her honeysuckle baskets, Patsy boils the tendrils in 55-gallon drums and strips the outer layer by hand. The diamond shaped "god's eye" where handle and rim meet is made from hickory bark. Originally used to collect eggs, these heirlooms will deepen in color over time. (\$35-82)



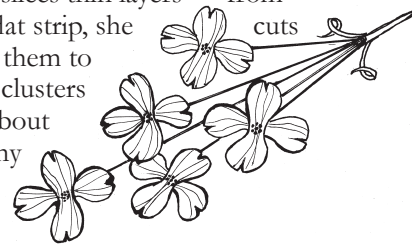
Gift Certificates make GREAT mailable gifts!

Heading Home by **Rebecca Douglas** (Columbia) is a Sunday drive in the country without using gasoline! In Becky's small quilts, you will recognize the rural landscape and remember corners and intersections like *Rt. 124 & Old 63*. Beautiful local scenery inspires Becky to produce quilted landscapes using a painterly approach that includes hand and machine appliqué and embroidery on a mix of hand-dyed and commercial fabrics. She adds details with paints. Each is matted, framed, and ready to hang. (\$125)

Greeting things . . .

Christmas cards are the newest thing from ever-popular artist **Brian Andreas** (IA), the "StoryPeople" guy. The message, complete with a Santa-eyed dragon, is ". . . *That's a Christmas dragon . . . If Santa rode around with this instead of all those reindeer I think it'd put real teeth in the naughty-or-nice thing.*" In addition, Brian promises "a surprise gift in every set"! (10 cards, \$21)

Decorating possibilities for small, wooden dogwood flowers are limited only by your imagination! **Sharon Seaton** (TN) learned to make these lovely little sprays from her father. Using a special plane that he devised years ago, she slices thin layers from buckeye wood. From the smooth, flat strip, she cuts petals, two bracts at a time, attaches them to wire branches, and from that builds clusters of five or 13 flowers. They're just about the perfect flower – to use in so many ways. (\$4-9)



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Join us for the **Living Windows Festival**, December 7

However you like your pottery, sturdy and functional or delicate and lively, one of our new potters is sure to please. New clay artists, **Steve and Miky Cunningham** (IA) create bold, graphic, contemporary stoneware that is utilitarian and decorative. Using both wheel thrown and hand building techniques, they produce pieces that are food safe and extremely durable. (\$12-144)

Amelia Stamps (AR) also makes functional pieces including whole placesettings and serving pieces. Her palette of celadon and tan is perfect for forms so smooth and flowing. Her dots series includes a truly elegant pitcher and her woven series is so very graceful. (\$16-78)



Steve, Miky and Amelia join more than 20 other clay artists to keep **Bluestem** the number one source for Missouri and regional pottery. All our potters use food safe, lead free glazes.

Former partner **Barbara Overby** recently emailed from France: "Went to an annual flea market the other day. Looked over a sea of vases and pitchers and my eyes locked onto a familiar glaze and form . . . a beautiful piece by Micheal Smith (KC) . . . one of his earlier ones, but completely recognizable in an instant and [it] had his stamp on the bottom, matte green. SO for 5 euros – now about \$7.50 – I picked it out. . ."

Wouldn't you just love to know the story of its travels?

Ruth Walker (employee) always makes the news. At the Taos Wool Festival, she took three of the five top awards -- Grand Champion Garment, Reserve Grand Champion Garment, and the Lorraine Moody "Best Use of Colorado/New Mexico/Texas Fiber" award. The Grand Champion garment, a full-length vest, made its debut in *Layers, Layers, Layers* a fiber show at **Bluestem** last spring. The other two awards were for one of Ruth's pouches that we always have available. (\$165)

Saving things . . .

(like your Mother, Earth!)

We recycle! When the UPS person brings your shipment from **Bluestem** you may be surprised, even a bit amused, to discover multicolored and multi-shaped packing peanuts inside an outer shipping box that has obviously been taped at least once before. (We promise the inner gift box will be fresh and pretty and wrapped in our distinctive style.) Our mismatched mix of package stuffing comes from customers and neighboring businesses. It may look a little odd, but we believe it's important to recycle. We hope you do too!