

Looking to ward off the cold? Need a little diversion during the winter months? The Piedmont's fine artisans have got you covered: from gorgeous yarns for knitting to tasty chutneys for festive feasts to all-natural lotions to keep winter's alligator skin at bay... *by MARY WINSTON NICKLIN*



Spring planting?

The Southern Exposure Seed Exchange offers the Virginia Heritage Seed Sampler, a collection of 12 varieties—like Champion collards, Worcester Indian Red lima bean, and Deer Tongue lettuce—all associated with Virginia and the Appalachians. When you buy it, Southern Exposure will give 30 percent of the price to the Piedmont Environmental Council. Certified organic and open-pollinated. www.southernexposure.com

Winter Warmers



Make Mine Virginia Wine

Racking your brain for the perfect housewarming gift? Don't fret. Pick up a wine country gift basket brimming with local treats at the Virginia Shop in Charlottesville's Baracks Road Shopping Center. Shipping available. www.thevashop.net



Grubby Girl, Wash Up!

We're over the moon for Grubby Girl's witty bath products: Horse-a-holic bath salts (infused with the scent of new mown hay), City Slicker scrub (just what you need after "pounding the pavement in the concrete jungle"),

Treehugging Soap (made with Citronella & Pennyroyal to repel insects). Grubby Girl's products are made from herbs and botanicals grown on Meeting House Farm. What's more—Owner Amanda Welch has 14 beehives around the Green Springs Historic Landmark District whose bees help pollinate the fields, and provide the honey found in select products. www.grubbygirl.com





From Solitude Farm in Loudoun, Gretchen Frederick and Joan Ferenczy create hand-dyed yarns in a rainbow of colors

from the farm's flocks and other sheep raised locally on farms in the Chesapeake Watershed. Notably, these yarns



n Stitches

are breed specific, as various breeds produce different types of wool. Part of the new White House FreshFarm Market, Solitude Wool uses

12 different breeds for their yarn. Beautiful hand-

woven scarves are also available. www.solitudewool.com



Southern Comfort

With Virginia Chutney Company's signature chutneys- like sweet peach or spicy plum- you can indulge in a taste of summer during the dark

days of February. One of our favorite finds? The Chutney & Spice Box, stocked with three jars of chutney, two small burlap sacks filled with dried figs and almonds, and three corked spice jars accompanied by a wax-sealed note card with serving ideas. Based in Little Washington, the family-owned company cooks up New York Times-recommended, Southern style chutneys. www.virginiachutney.com



crub a Dub Dub



Based in Gordonsville, Tom Curtis aka Renaissance Man makes natural soap bars from a base of extra virgin olive, coconut, and palm oils. Using only organic ingredients, Curtis crafts his soaps using oak molds in small batches. (Pictured here: The display at Fair Lakes farmers market.)

www.renaturalsoaps.com



Keep It Simple!

Barbara Weldon launched Simply Pure after extensive research revealed that common, everyday products are laden with illness-causing chemicals, like petroleum. Her products, including her mineral cosmetics line, are safe and all-natural. There's a baby and children's line, to boot. Pick up Simply Pure products at Heritage Cabinet Supply in Old Town, Warrenton. www.simplypureproducts.com

