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NEW ENGLAND PRODUCTS TRADE SHOW ANNOUNCES BEST OF SHOW

Best New Product and Best New Booth Winners for 2009

April 2009 Portland, ME. The New England Products Trade Show (NEPTS) recently announced the winners of the 2009 Best New Product and Best Booth awards. Honorees were recognized at the 25th Anniversary New England Products Trade Show, Portland, ME, earlier this spring.

The 2009 Best New Product Giftware winners:

- “Down East Doormat”, The Maine Float-Rope Co., Waldoboro, Maine (*First Place*)
- “Lobster Shell Café Table”, Artful Wares, Portland, Maine (*Second Place*)
- “Stainless Steel Moose Kabob”, Olde Town Metalworks, Limerick, Maine (*Honorable Mention*)

The 2009 Best New Product Specialty Food winners:

- “Maine Cidah Sauce”, Pickles – N - Things, LLC, Auburn, Maine (*First Place*)
- “Wild Blueberry Pepper Jelly”, Bar Harbor Jam Company, Bar Harbor, Maine (*Second Place*)
- “Hot ‘N Nasty Bah Bque Sauce”, DennyMike’s Cue Stuff, Inc., York, Maine (*Honorable Mention*)
- “Spelt Right Bagels”, Spelt Right, Inc., Yarmouth, Maine (*Honorable Mention*)

The 2009 Best Booth winners:

- Maine Mountain Soap & Candle, Inc., Greenville, Maine (*Best Booth*)
- The Vermont Maple Granola Company, LLC, Manchester Center, Vermont (*Best NEW Booth*)
- McIntosh Farm Apple Products, Madison, Maine (*Honorable Mention*)
- Barkwheats Dog Biscuits, Stockton Springs, Maine (*Honorable Mention*)

** Please see below for more details on individual products and companies.*

“These awards showcase the Yankee ingenuity, quality, and craftsmanship that make New England products appreciated worldwide” says Stefa Normantas, Show Producer. “This is truly the best of New England.”

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The NEPTS Best New Products awards are sponsored by MEMIC and given in two categories, giftware and specialty food. Best Booth is sponsored by the Maine Small Business Development Center and recognizes exhibitors for both Best Booth and Best New Booth. Winners of both “Best Booth” and “Best New Products” receive awards of either cash or credit towards their 2010 booth payment. Awards are generously underwritten by NEPTS sponsors, MEMIC and the Maine Small Business Development Center.

ABOUT THE SHOW

The New England Products Trade Show is the country’s only trade show featuring products exclusively from New England. NEPTS attracts 2,000 retail buyers from across the country and showcases over 150 exhibitors. The show presents a juried selection of giftware, home furnishings, and specialty food from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The New England Products Trade Show is owned and managed by Giraffe Events, LLC.

MORE ABOUT THE AWARDS

MEMIC sponsored awards in the following categories:

BEST NEW PRODUCT – GIFTWARE

First Place: *Down East Doormat*

The Maine Float-Rope Company, (Waldoboro, Maine)

Down East Doormats are hand-woven doormats made from recycled lobster trap float rope.

“Receiving this award for our Down East Doormats is an important honor to me personally and professionally,” says Penny Johnston, Founder and President. “It makes me chuckle to realize how connected we are when a simple doormat that cleans your shoes can help whales, Maine lobstermen, and the environment.”

Second Place: *Lobster Shell Café Table*

Artful Wares (Portland, Maine)

The Lobster Shell Café Table is both artful and functional and is designed from recycled lobster shells.

“The NEPTS is respected by buyers for the high quality class of New England manufacturers that display there, so for us to be selected as the Best New Product is an honor that gives us a great sense of pride,” says Mickey Shattow, Owner. “The NEPTS Best New Product award has helped Artful Wares create the reputation of excellence that fuels the growth of our business.”

Honorable Mention: *Stainless Steel Moose Kabob*

Olde Town Metalworks (Limerick, Maine)

Stainless steel vegetable kabob roasting accessory.

“This year, in the tough economic times, I’ve seen family and friends do more entertaining at home. I wanted to design a product that would help do that, as well as be a

conversational piece. That's how we came up with the Grill Kabob; it will cook your veggies from inside out, cutting your grilling time in half. This leaves you more time to spend with your guests," says Nicole Humphrey, Owner. "Each year at NEPTS I say to my husband... 'I really want to win this year, what do you think we should enter?' This year, after he came back from submitting our product, he said 'I don't know Nicole; there are some really great items up there!' This show really brings out the best of us and makes us strive to be creative."

BEST NEW PRODUCT – SPECIALTY FOOD

First Place: *Maine Cidah Sauce*

Pickles – N – Things, LLC (Auburn, Maine)

Maine Cidah Sauce is a deliciously tangy sauce for BBQ or a marinade on pork or poultry. Glaze your ham with it, use on Chinese food, for dipping sauce, a salad dressing or on just about anything.

"The experience was great, it gave us 'bragging rights' & brought us new customers," says Chris Baker, Owner.

Second Place: *Wild Blueberry Pepper Jelly*

Bar Harbor Jam Company (Bar Harbor, Maine)

Downeast meets Tex-Mex in the Wild Blueberry Pepper Jelly. It's a great tasting Wild Blueberry Jelly with the added pizzazz of a hint of Jalapeno.

"We're really excited about our new Wild Blueberry Pepper Jelly; we think it tastes great and are happy that so many people felt the same way when they tasted it", says Mike Gurtler, Owner.

Honorable Mention: *Bah Bque Sauce-Hot 'N Nasty*

DennyMike's 'Cue Stuff (York, Maine)

"My latest award winner, Hot 'N Nasty, has plenty of kick but won't blow your taste buds out," says Dennis Sherman, Owner. "It's the one I reach for first..."

Honorable Mention: *Spelt Right Bagels*

Spelt Right, Inc. (Yarmouth, Maine)

"The New England Products Trade Show is a wonderful venue for us to have showcased our new line of specialty baked goods made from organic spelt flour. Despite being an ancient grain, spelt is new to the American palate, and our goal was to introduce this grain and our Spelt Right line to a broad New England audience," says Beth George, Owner. "Not only did we meet our goal, but we were given an award! We were thrilled. As newcomers to the Trade Show world, we were initially hesitant to enter the show, but Stefa and Vitas Normantas, along with their knowledgeable, nurturing, and creative staff, helped ease our hesitancy, and guided us through a successful event!"

The Maine Small Business Development Center sponsored awards in the following two categories:

BEST BOOTH

First Place: *Maine Mountain Soap & Candle* (Greenville, Maine)

Maine Mountain Soap & Candle has been making handcrafted, beautiful botanical soaps, awesome balms, scrubs and lotions that are 100% natural and scented with pure essential oils since 1994.

“We were pleased to be awarded the First Place Award for Best Booth Design at the 2009 New England Products Trade Show,” says Sandee Appaneal, President. “After 15 years in business, it is wonderful to be recognized by our peers and business partners as being a leader in what we consider to be hallmarks of Maine products: artistic and creative design, and natural beauty. The booth came together as a result of hard work, keen eyes, and Yankee ingenuity!”

Honorable Mention: *McIntosh Farm Apple Products* (Madison, Maine)

McIntosh Farm Apple Products are made the old-fashioned way in their farm kitchen, using their own McIntosh apples. Their line includes apple butter, spiced apple syrup, and a variety of apple jams and jellies.

“I am flattered to have received mention for booth design at the New England Products Trade Show,” says Jennifer Dimock. “To have been chosen out of the wide field of talented exhibitors is an honor.”

BEST NEW BOOTH

First Place: *The Vermont Maple Granola Co., LLC* (Manchester Center, Vermont)

The Vermont Maple Granola Co., LLC creates premium granolas sweetened with pure Vermont maple syrup, available in 1 lb. and snack size packages or in bulk in 6 varieties, plus a trail mix.

"We were honored to be selected for the Best New Exhibitor Booth at the New England Products Trade Show," said Vermont Maple Granola Company co-founder Beth Vickers. "We wanted to highlight the use of Vermont maple syrup in our products and create a rustic design to reflect our Vermont roots."

Honorable Mention: *Barkwheats Dog Biscuits* (Stockton Springs, Maine)

Barkwheats Dog Biscuits are all-natural, hand-crafted buckwheat biscuits made from nearly 100% Maine-produced ingredients and 100% compostable packaging.

“This year's NEPTS was the first trade show that Barkwheats had ever participated in.

To be recognized as having a fantastic booth by folks with many years of experience in booth design is an amazing feeling,” says Chris Roberts, Owner. “It makes us more confident in our business and how we present our products to retailers, and makes us feel better prepared to bring our product and booth to other shows around the country, showcasing the best that Maine has to offer!”

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