



COOL COLORADO GIFTS GALORE *by Eric Peterson*

1 Colorado Flag Hats. Since 2007, Free Time Goods has crocheted colorful and cool hats out of wool, now sourced out of northern Colorado. Aspen's Emily Marshall struck on the fact that the Colorado flag design was public domain and adapted it to a wearable work of art. The resulting Colorado flag knit caps, available with and without side earflaps and muffballs on top, are now her top seller. \$55 to \$62. www.freetimegoods.com

2 The Beer Buckle. For the beer drinker with too much on their hands, the Beer Buckle by the Central City-based Beer Clothing Co. offers a waist-high beverage holder behind their belt buckle's spring-loaded, flip-down facade. \$35. www.thebeerbuckle.com

3 Leopold Bros. Spirits. Leading Colorado's recent micro-distillery boom, Todd and Scott Leopold returned home to the Denver area in 2008 after running a brewpub in Ann Arbor, Mich., where they cut their distilling teeth out of necessity. Michigan law says you have to make every alcoholic beverage you serve at such establishments. The brothers have steadily increased their offerings to suitably stock a more-than-respectable bar with a host of liqueurs and flavored whiskeys, as well as rum, gin, vodka, small-batch whiskey and a devilishly good absinthe verte. About \$30 to \$70 a bottle. (www.leopoldbros.com)



4 Backwoods Art Wine Racks. Kendall VonFeldt of Longmont makes wine racks and log mini-bars from wood she sources from public lands in northern Colorado. Culling only dead standing trees, she hand-selects each log and lets the tree's shape guide her design. The chic and rustic end products range from a two-bottle tabletop rack to trees that hold dozens of bottles. \$30 to \$2,000. (www.racksfullofwine.com)

5 Brigi Pajamas. In 2003, ski instructor Bridget MacTavish decided to launch a pajama business. Now sold at 100+ boutiques, her BRIGI-brand flannel and silk PJs are emblazoned with all sorts of cool prints, from pin-up girls to sundaes to shirtless cowboys. \$155 to \$299. (www.brigipj.com)

6 Upcycled Sweater Monkeys. Dohm-Icebox Headwear/Icebox Knitting, makers of warm and stylish ski hats in Longmont, has figured out a use for worn-out, old sweaters. Their Upcycled Sweater Monkeys are stitched together from woolen scraps the company saves from the landfill and incorporates into their Xob line of accessories. About \$40. (www.iceboxknitting.com)

7 Rosy Rings Candles. Former bike messenger Shannon Cumberland went into the candle business in 1996. The Denver company has made its mark with botanical candles embedded with interesting ingredients (e.g., fruits, herbs and even seashells). \$30 to \$80. (www.rosyrings.com)

8 Captain Spongefoot Sauces. Three-time world disabled ski champion Paul DiBello uses real spices, in lieu of extracts, in his award-winning lineup of wing sauces. The flavorful sauces include original as well as a smoky chipotle, Asian-inspired sriracha and fiery meleguta. There's even a cranberry-chipotle table sauce and steak wash. \$4 to \$20. (www.captainspongefoot.com)