

Great Gifts for the Armed Mom

By Peggy Tartaro,
Executive Editor

If your mom is a gunowner, there are a lot of alternatives to the usual Mother's Day gifts—candy and flowers. If you're a mom yourself, maybe some of these items will tickle your fancy and a hint or two to the gift-givers in your family wouldn't be amiss. Not a mom? Well, there's bound to be an anniversary or birthday coming up—and if not, you can be one of those super-annoying people who have their Christmas list in order six months early!

Birchwood Casey® has added three new models to its Dirty Bird® Splattering Target lineup.

The targets have a bright chartreuse background that shows the classic Dirty Bird splatter when shot. The target face is black with a red dot for the bull's eye.

Dirty Bird Targets are non-adhesive so shooters can take them down and make notes on them, saving the target for future reference.

Round 6-inch and 8-inch bull's-eye versions, which work great for close to mid-range shooting, along with a 12-inch round combination bull's-eye/sight-in target that gives shooters the best of both worlds are available.



Birchwood Casey's Dirty Bird targets are a useful, low-cost gift idea.



Wrap up a box of ammunition in some pretty, frilly paper and you've got a wallet-friendly gift that's sure to be appreciated.

Suggested retail is \$5.10 each for the 6" Bull's-Eye 16-pack, the 8" Bull's-Eye 8-pack or the 12" Bull's-Eye/Sight-in 4-pack, so this is a gift with a pocketbook friendly price tag. Wrap up a box of ammo in that distinctive blue paper from the expensive New York jewelry store and you've got a great gift for the budget conscious!

How about a mother-daughter lunch and shopping expedition? Instead of a trip to the mall, check online for the nearest stop of the Elite Sports Express, a 75-foot showroom on wheels touring the country's gun shops and allowing you a mini-taste of the SHOT Show or NRA Convention. A host of firearms and related-products manufacturers are represented on the mobile showroom, so you and mom will have a chance to see some of the goodies you can only drool over online or in magazines.

Among the companies represented is Charter Arms, and Nick Eckert, the company's president, explains why the tour is such a great idea:

"It's exciting to bring a product, which is 100% American-made and reliable to those customers looking to purchase a revolver for personal protection in their home or concealed carry purposes. Charter Arms products are currently touring the East and West coast



The Elite Express touring showroom may be coming to a gun store near you, and includes a display by Charter Arms.

showrooms, staffed by knowledgeable individuals on hand to educate the consumer in the revolvers, features and the safe handling of firearms.”

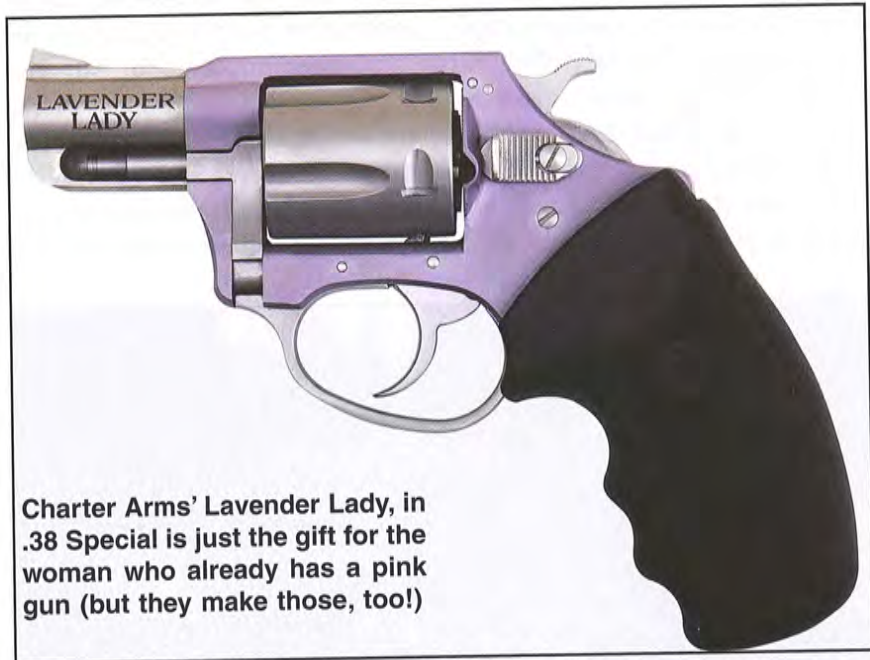
Among the items you can keep an eye out for is Charter’s Undercover Lite Lavender Lady, a .38 Special Plus +P two-toned lavender and stainless revolver with an aluminum frame, 5-shot capacity and a \$422 suggested retail (okay, maybe skip lunch!). Charter makes a number of guns, in a number of finishes and colors, so chances are you can find a combination of caliber and color to your (or her) liking. To find out where the Elite Sports Express is, log onto: elitesportsexpress.com/maps/events/schedule-event.

Maybe flowers aren’t such a bad gift idea after all.

A company native to Mississippi that revolutionized the camouflage industry over 20 years ago, has created an avenue for conservationists and land managers across the country to find and purchase plants for the betterment of wildlife and their habitat.

tivates naturally occurring species of plants that wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts prefer. The Nativ Nurseries plant collection includes an assortment of hybrid and specialty oak trees, many of which are exclusive only to Nativ Nurseries. The collection also includes many different varieties of fruit trees and shrubs. These plants play an essential role in producing healthier wildlife and a more productive habitat.

Through the Mossy Oak Nativ Nurseries website, nativnurseries.com, customers can view information on how, where, when, and which species to plant, including many helpful tips and tactics. For in-depth questions, customers can call and speak to a Nativ Nurseries representative for a more



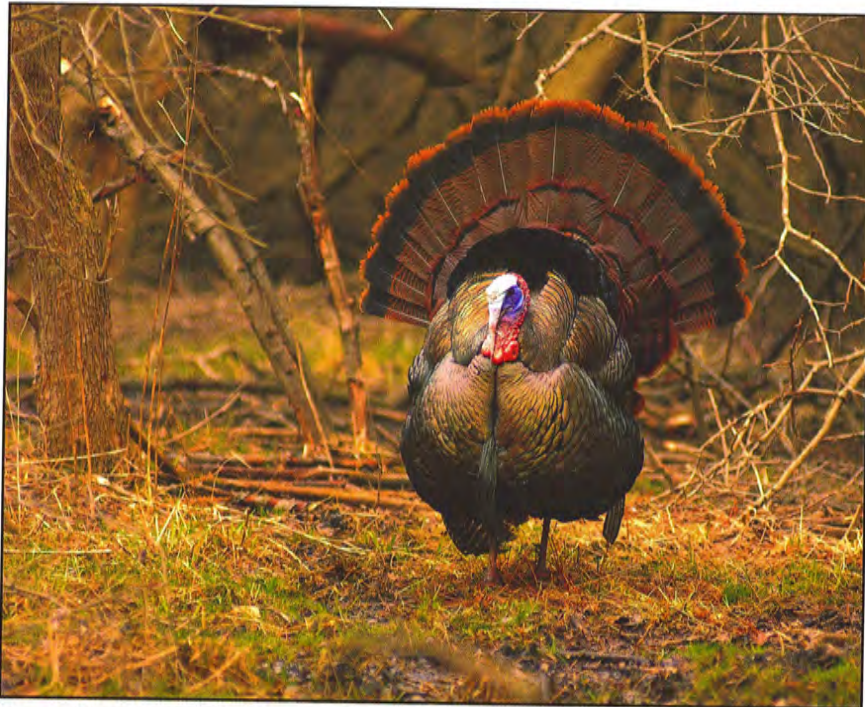
Charter Arms’ Lavender Lady, in .38 Special is just the gift for the woman who already has a pink gun (but they make those, too!)

In the past year, Mossy Oak Nativ Nurseries has shipped specialized plants to outdoorsmen and conservationists in over 30 states around the continental U.S. Plants that for the most part have been previously unavailable for purchase anywhere.

Mossy Oak Nativ Nurseries cul-

individual answer to their inquiries.

Toxey Haas, Founder and CEO of Mossy Oak, said, “Our trees are all hand selected from genetically superior trees. We collect seed from parent trees that exhibit nature’s very best attributes, and produce hard and soft mast at a much



Feed the birds—turkeys for example—with Nativ Nurseries' plant packs designed to support wildlife.

younger age than traditional seedlings. Combine the naturally superior genetics of these trees with our revolutionary new growing method, the Rapid Mast System, and the result is a tree that will produce food in the near future and for generations to come.”

You may not have the acreage or inclination to set up a diner for the local deer population, but you might want to feed the occasional squirrel in winter and the birds year round. Hunters and gunowners have long been stewards of the environment and every time you buy



The Red Buckeye is another offering from Nativ Nurseries, a division of Mossy Oak. The plant is said to be lucky for hunters, grows in most of the US and has a pretty red spring flower.

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a firearm or ammunition you make a contribution to the Pittman-Robertson fund which benefits wildlife and hunting acreage around the country.

Since more and more folks seem to have been bitten by the gardening bug, this is a great way to com-



A more unusual offering from Nativ Nurseries is the Jiro Persimmon—another beauty for the eye and feast for the critters, including humans who don't mind puckering up.

bine two interests.

From Nativ Nurseries offerings, I'd like to find room for the Red Buckeye, a plant suitable to USDA Zones 4-8 (almost everywhere in the continental US), and said to be lucky for hunters. It's bright red spring flower is a bonus for gardeners and its "fruit," the buckeye, is good eats for various critters.

Since my Grandfather Burke was a big fan of all things outdoors, including oddball fruits and veggies, I'd also think about planting a Jiro Persimmon in his honor—though its Zone 6 and above requirement might mean some babying in my neck of the urban woods.

The "catalog" online at Nativ Nurseries has a host of plants suitable for various locations and applications.

From the Editor

“They promised us flying cars—we should have flying cars by now!” said my friend (and our webmaster) Keeva, a life-long science fiction fan.

Keeva concludes that any number of seemingly outlandish products from science fiction have come to pass, but that the “flying car” has so far eluded us.

I, myself, no big fan of the genre, but having soaked up enough through my sister, am waiting for the “Transporter Room” to beam me from various locations in a blink or two of the eye—I don’t really even mind if my luggage goes to Utopiaterra while I’m headed for Slyvanorb.

It’s interesting that what used to be called “science fiction” has pretty much been broken into two distinct genres—science fiction itself and “fantasy.” As my limited understanding of them goes, “science fiction” has some grounding in facts, and the novelists extrapolate (and even massage) known “science” to fit their fictional constructs—hence, flying cars.

“Fantasy” on the other hand, just makes stuff up—be it werewolves and vampires or societies of altruistic politicians who only serve one term and then go back to their organic soybean farms.

I dabble in both types of books, but am no big fan of either, so I apologize to those of you who are. But what brought flying cars and transporter rooms to mind was yet another round of proposed legislation hoping to enact “micro-stamping” laws, this time in New York State.

So what is “micro-stamping”? Well, I’ve turned to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearms trade group for

some information. “Microstamping is a patented process that micro-laser engraves the firearm’s make, model and serial number on the tip of the gun’s firing pin so that, in theory, it imprints the information on discharged cartridge cases,” according to NSSF’s website (nssf.org).

That sounds pretty good, doesn’t it? Who wouldn’t be in favor of a process that—if it actually worked—has a lot of real world, non-fantasy, law enforcement applications.

Alas, like a flying car, micro-stamping is something that sounds good, has some scientific basis and could *someday* be a reality, but is far from being available.

NSSF explains, further: “An independent, peer-reviewed, study published in the professional scholarly journal for forensic firearms examiners proved that the concept of microstamping is unreliable and does not function as the patent holder claims. It can be easily defeated in mere seconds using common household tools or criminals could simply switch the engraved firing pin to a readily available unmarked spare part, thereby circumventing the process.

“Experts at the University of California studied microstamping and concluded that microstamping is “flawed” and that “At the current time it is not recommended that a mandate for implementation of this technology [is made]. Further testing, analysis and evaluation is required.”

“NSSF and other groups, including major law enforcement organizations, are opposed to mandating this unproven and unreliable concept. The cost of microstamping is a great concern to firearms owners and

taxpayers alike. Microstamping legislation in California would not only have forced consumers of firearms to pay exorbitant price increases—well over \$200 per firearm—to cover the increased cost of microstamping, but substantially higher taxes for the cost of microstamped law enforcement guns.”

California actually enacted micro-stamping legislation that was to have gone into effect in January 2010. But Jerry Brown (at the time the state’s attorney general and now its governor, and, historically, no big fan of guns and gunowners), decertified the program last year, because it was recognized as being unworkable.

A number of other technologies, including New York State’s own CoBis program, which requires that, for every handgun sold in the state, the dealer send in a ballistic sample, have proven, if not unworkable—after all, the dealers are complying—totally without use.

In the 10 years that CoBis has been around, it hasn’t solved one crime in the state. A similar program in Maryland has also failed to produce one conviction.

No one is against advances in technology, least of all gunowners, who have always enjoyed the latest new products. In the short, two decade life of this magazine, for example, we’ve seen any number of technological innovations that have startled, then delighted gunowners. The Glock is a fine example of something once thought unthinkable (or at best “science fiction”).

But we are ever wary of ideas which seem to promise flying cars and deliver the same old gas (or tax) guzzlers, without benefit of either safety or security.

Peggy

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