

Spring Gleaning

PRODUCTS TO MAKE THE SEASON BETTER

MYO XP, PETZL

Ever thought of using a headlamp as a self-defense weapon? The Petzl MYO XP is compact, water resistant, comfortable, and—with a boost mode of 150 lumens—can visually incapacitate an assailant for a good minute or two. It can shine three times brighter than previous LEDs but also offers three lower levels for more everyday needs. While the boost mode is probably the most exciting, its least bright economy mode offers 180 hours of light on a set of batteries. This headlamp can keep an endurance paddler illuminated through the night and still have enough juice to blind a potential kidnapper in the early morning. **MSRP: \$79.95;** <http://en.petzl.com/petzl/Accueil>



RIPTIDE, EXTRASPORT

If the day of the large PFD is still in existence, the Riptide could soon put an end to it. This sleek PFD features low-cut armholes, fleece-lined pockets, and deep chest pockets in which a VHF radio, iPod, or a good old-fashioned peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich can be stowed. The lifejacket, which employs Gaia® non-PVC foam, includes reflective shoulders, Hypalon shoulder attachment points, and mesh-covered drain holes on the pocket. The Type-III Riptide comes in four sizes—XS, S/M, L/XL, and XXL. **MSRP: \$150;** www.extrasport.com



WOMEN'S MISTO SOMBRERO, OR

The Seattle Sombrero has held its own as a functional sun and rain hat in the outdoor community for years. While the hat seemed to be perfect for all paddlers, it has left out about 52 percent of the human population with some design specifics. Enter the women's Misto Sombrero. This hat has the waterproof and breathable nature of its male counterpart thanks to its taped seams and 70D Gore Tex fabric. The brim is stiff thanks to foam that also makes it float. While it is just as functional as the Seattle Sombrero, its design will appeal to the female sensibilities. **MSRP: \$90;** www.outdoorresearch.com



FLOOD GATE, MION

If your product can meet the demands of a river guide, you know you're doing something right. And Mion is attempting to do just that this spring with this high-performance sandal designed to meet the demands of people who earn their living on the river. The Flood Gate was designed by Martin Keen and developed with input from Mion's amphibious ambassadors Tao Berman and Spencer Cooke. A hook-and-loop closure with ultra-shear strength keeps the webbing attached in any and all conditions. The upper webbing structure is lined with a non-wicking, fast-drying material that is strategically located in high wear areas for added comfort and protection. **MSRP: \$100;** www.mionfootwear.com

AMBUSH PANT, EXOFFICIO

If Paul Bunyon was sick of mosquitos biting his ankles and ExOfficio was making size 40XL Ambush pants at the turn of the century they would have matched up perfectly. The Ambush pant is ExOfficio's most rugged pant constructed with Ambush canvas, a tough 100-percent nylon. They are also one piece, which decreases the possibility of malfunction, and have BuzzOff technology to keep a bug party out of your pants. **MSRP: \$90;** www.exofficio.com





DIVIDE SL YELLOW WALL SLEEPING BAG, BIG AGNES

While the name Big Agnes may conjure up mental images of a 300-pound wife of a shepherd, their new Divide series is the opposite of heavy. The yellow wall is a zero-degree bag that weighs a mere three pounds, two ounces. Big Agnes claims the bags in this series are more compressable and have a better weight to warmth ratio than any synthetic product on the market. This efficiency is real handy for packing a multi-day trip, especially if Agnes herself comes with.

MSRP: \$199.95, plus suggested Mummy Dual Core Pad (**MSRP:** \$99.95).

www.bigagnes.com



PILOT KNIFE, NRS

It's frightening to think of how many river knives sit at the bottom of popular rafting runs. It's a wonder that swimmers on the Chili Bar section of the American don't come up looking like piranha attack victims. NRS' Pilot knife has a unique sheath that looks like it will cut down on the knife loss plaguing professional and recreational boaters alike. The sheath locks the knife in place until both sides of a release mechanism are squeezed. The blunt tip of the knife cuts down on the possibility of an accidental puncture wound. It's everything you want from something you need smart, sexy, safe, and its nose doubles as a flathead screwdriver. **MSRP:** \$40;

www.nrsweb.com

SHOWBOAT, YAKIMA

What's the hardest part of deciding to really push your limits with a shoulder-destroying paddle trip? No, not the lactic-acid buildup, but the feeling of dread when you lose rock-paper-scissors and have to load the heavy watercraft, with nothing but frustration and necessity to motivate you, onto your car. This is no longer an issue with Yakima's Showboat, an intuitive design that uses a roller that slides out to protect the rear of your vehicle and slides side to side

for when you need to load multiple boats as well as (gasp) canoes.

No one wants to load boats after a day of paddling, but owning the showboat might make that loss in rock-paper-scissors a lot less devastating. **MSRP:** \$100, plus

66-inch crossbars (\$65);

www.yakima.com



INTERLOCK TRACE, SMITH

Interlock technology is perfect for paddlers who are interested in the functionality of lenses but don't want to clutter their top drawer with five different pairs of sunglasses. Lenses can be easily interchanged with a slight rotation of the ear pieces of the frame. The TLT polarized carbonic lenses are created for intense durability and impact protection, which makes them great for viewing fish and eye-shielding while paddling. The ease of interchangeable lenses is perfect for the paddler who wants to transfer eyewear from paddling mode to Night at the Roxbury mode with a quick rotation of a piece and some pink lenses. **MSRP** \$149. www.smithinterlock.com



MANCOOLER, MOTHER

Maybe you were laid off from your last construction job but still want to be associated with that Bob the Builder kind of "look." Inspired by the fashion and culture of the roadway job sites of America, the ManCooler would also look splendid in a raft, canoe, or the bow hatch of a sea kayak. If you want to keep your lunch warm or cold ones cool, the PVC-free ManCooler, unlike the contractor you hired to remodel your bathroom, gets the job done. ManCoolers have 12mm of insulation and a unique diamond-plate fabric top. **MSRP:** Snack Size (\$16), Lunch (\$25), Beerholio (\$35), and Glutton (\$40).

www.mothershertech.net

IPOOD, SEA TO SUMMIT

Backcountry travelers have all been there before, in that paradoxical moment when duty calls and, just before it's performed, collides with the urge to practice Leave-No-Trace ethics. Enter the iPOOd, Sea to Summit's so-simple-it's-genius trowel designed to scoop up the malodorous and ecology-compromising No.-2 form of human waste. Lightweight (3.5 ounces) and compact (9.75 inches at full size; 5.5 inches collapsed), the iPOOd is made of durable aluminum alloy. Your camping partners will hardly notice it amongst your camping gear, until, of course, you need it. **MSRP:** \$16.95.



www.seatosummit.com