

Deck your yards
with yuletide
treasures
from



Backyard Birds
with our gift to you!

\$5 off OR **\$10 off**

Any Purchase of \$40 or more Any Purchase of \$75 or more

Valid with this coupon thru 12-24-99. (Excluding sale)

We offer the widest selection of birdfeeders; bird, bat & butterfly houses; hummingbird feeders and bird baths in the area ... as well as a wonderful choice of unique garden accessories, gazing globes, statuary, wind chimes, flags, banners.

Remember, Backyard Birds is more than just a birdstore!!!

Hours:
M-F 10-6
Sat 9:30-5
Sun 11-5



Backyard Birds
Nature & Garden Store

Join our
Frequent Feeder
& Wise Ol' Owl
Shoppers' Clubs

BLOOMFIELD: 36200 Woodward Ave. • ½ mile north of Maple Rd. • (248) 723-5000
COMMERCE: 8101 Commerce Rd. • just east of Union Lake Rd. • (248) 363-3890
MILFORD: 1100 E. Commerce St. • ½ mile east of Main St. • (248) 684-4700

Office appeal

Scoring points with gifts for
your boss and co-workers

BY CHERYL WALKER
SPECIAL WRITER

When making out that Christmas list and checking it twice, don't forget the people a good portion of the day is spent with — bosses and co-workers.

Holiday business gifts are a great way to recognize hard work and show appreciation at the same time.

"The first thing in choosing a gift for the boss should be to express your appreciation for your job, but don't try to outdo anyone," says consumer advocate Robyn Spizman. "Make your boss know you value your job and what they taught you, and that you're really proud to be working with that individual."

When choosing a gift for the boss, choose one that is intriguing and stimulating.

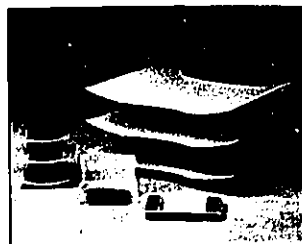
"Do a little homework," says Spizman. "You're giving a gift, but you're also giving a lift. Be creative. It doesn't cost a lot to be creative."

New items for the office or the boss's desk can be a big hit. Check with office-supply stores or the Internet to find the latest in office accessories. If you work for a company who deals with other companies in other time zones, the dual-zone clock makes a thoughtful gift. Or to make the office more stylish, try a hand-finished solid mahogany wastebasket.

Sometimes you can get two gifts in one, such as buying a mouse pad with a built-in calculator. If the boss needs help in getting organized, try a desktop organizer which has a place for everything.

Desktop gifts that are popular are business-card holders, pencil cups, letter racks and picture frames. All of these can be purchased with a theme such as sports or hobbies. Or personalize them with a special greeting. Even the simplest gifts can become extraordinary by adding a little extra something. For instance, a set of pens in various colors with a personal message of "Thanks for brightening my day" can be a big hit.

For the supervisor who gets stressed,



Sleek and stylish: Note tray, \$18, card holder, \$18, letter tray, \$78, and pencil cup, \$26, at Chiasso, Somerset Collection, Troy.

the Zen Fountain can be a calming element in the office. If the boss is known for having a sense of humor, find just the right wind-up toy that can be kept on the desk.

"When you give a gift, always add something personal," says Spizman. "For instance, if you give a wind-up toy, add a note saying 'In case you ever get wound up, you can have something to play with.' Don't lose your sense of humor when giving at the office. People always appreciate something with that personal touch."

When it comes to special gifts, sometimes homemade is the way to go. Having access to a computer opens up a whole new world to gift giving. Be creative by designing personalized stationary, note pads, gift labels or address labels.

"Once you've designed something, all you need to do is take it and have copies made," says Spizman. "And don't forget a personal message to go with it such as 'World's Greatest Boss' or 'Hope this saves you time during the holidays' or if he likes sports, tell him he's a great sport. Always add a compliment. You're sending a bigger message than the gift, when you tell them they're terrific."

Please see B055, 23



Fit for a boss: Calculator mouse pad, \$25 and gel pad set, \$35, at Brookstone, Somerset Collection, Troy.

Simply Unique

Holiday MINK SALE

50% OFF

on a variety of mink coats

Robert Mann Furs & more

248-855-9545
Telegraph at Maple • In Bloomfield Plaza