



RECREATIONAL BOATING AND FISHING FOUNDATION National Youth Fishing and Boating Initiative and "Take Me Fishing" Campaign Since 2007, more than 180,000 kids have participated in the aquatic education programs of the RBFF, whose mission is to increase the numbers of recreational boaters and fishers and encourage the public to protect and restore America's waterways. Grants are awarded through the National Youth Fishing and Boating Initiative, including \$800,000 targeted to bringing minorities to boating and fishing in 2009 through the RBFF's "Take Me Fishing" Campaign. 703-519-0013; rbff.org and takemefishing.org



REI Lookout 40 daypacks \$89.50 REI's new 40-liter hydration-compatible Trail series daypacks, including a model specifically for women, are largely made of 100% recycled PET polyester fabric. Each pack keeps 26 16-oz. plastic bottles out of landfills and comes jammed with comfort and performance features: A high-density polyethylene framesheet and a single aluminum stay support heavy loads and protect your back from bulky or pointy items. An egg-crate-style foam back panel allows air flow for comfort, and zippered waist-belt pockets give quick access to food and essentials. There is storage galore including zippered side pockets, a top stash pocket for an iPod and sunglasses, side mesh pockets for water bottles and snacks, and lash points and bottom compression straps for holding bulky items like snowshoes, ice axes, and sleeping pads, plus a built-in rain cover. 800-426-4840; rei.com



COLORADO YURT COMPANY Based on the traditional circular Mongolian design, the yurt (also known as a ger) has a spacious interior that encourages both social activity and quiet contemplation. It can be set up in a day or two with a few friends, and wired, heated, and plumbed just like a traditional home, or used "off the grid" for sustainable living. The Colorado Yurt Company began in 1977 when friends of owners Dan and Emma Kigar started asking for copies of the couple's self-built teepee. Now they employ 30 craftspeople. 800-288-3190; coloradoyurt.com

CONFLUENCE WATERSPORTS Dagger Alchemy kayak \$1,295 This plastic, sit-inside 14-footer is the rare touring kayak able to handle everything from flat water to Class 2 and 3 whitewater, making it useful for novice and expert alike. The Alchemy's versatility and maneuverability come from its blend of a rocker profile and an unusually pronounced carving chine. This combination provides increased turning potential for the paddler as it is engaged, say co-designers Mark "Snowy" Robertson and Bob McDonough. Features include a retractable skeg for better tracking and directional speed and three storage hatches for overnighters. It comes in small (50 lbs.) and large (55 lbs.) sizes. 864-859-7518; Dagger.com



SUNGO SYSTEMS NEV electric car \$8,995 The NEV (non-emission vehicle) is a souped-up, enclosed golf cart designed for running around town. Legal on roads posted 35 mph or less, it has a range of 90 miles at a maximum speed of 25 mph by combining a plug-in battery charge with rooftop solar panels, and can go 15 miles per day on solar alone. SunGo, founded last year, developed a superefficient, computer-run charge controller, the device that transfers energy from the solar collector to the battery. It was originally made for solar-powered bikes, but by August, SunGo had switched to golf carts, which now come with 187-watt solar panels with an option for a market-best 305-watt panel (\$800), which extends the range to the full 90 miles. 352-222-1066; sungosystems.com



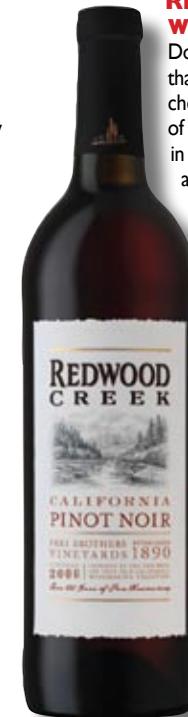
BLISTEX Ivarest Double Relief Formula \$4.37, \$6.99 With poisonous plants on the rise and producing more potent oil than in the past, according to new research from Duke University, hikers, bikers, and campers are increasingly at risk. Enter Ivarest's Double Relief Formula, which features two ways to relieve poison plant itch: an antihistamine to help stop the reaction and an analgesic to soothe skin. It also has calamine, a greaseless, neutral-tone skin protectant that helps rashes dry and washes off with water. 800-837-1800; blistex.com



KEEN Redmond hiking shoe \$110 This handsome, lightweight (14.8 oz.) men's low-top hiker with a Nubuck leather upper gets its cushioning, comfort, and durability from a torsion stability shank, an asymmetrical flex lace system that snugs up to the toes, and Keen's signature toe bumper. The new Mt. Airy ¾ Crew Lite, left- and right-foot-specific action socks (\$16.95) with chafe-free seams on the top of the toe, are made of moisture-wicking Dri-Release E.C.O., with 85% recycled polyester, 15% organic cotton, and odor-reducing Fresh-Guard. 866-676-KEEN; keenfootwear.com



REDWOOD CREEK WINES Pinot Noir \$7.99 Does Pinot Noir get any better than this? The ripe aroma of black cherry and red plum with hints of brown spice and soft tannins in this medium-bodied wine accentuate the earthiness of wild mushrooms, vegetables like eggplant, and cheese-smothered veggie meals. California-based Redwood Creek uses some of its profits to sponsor the Greater Outdoor Project, which, in conjunction with Planet Green and the Discovery Network, awards grants to organizations dedicated to improving the environment, such as cleaning up a lake or renovating a stream. Last year's winner, Trout Unlimited of southern Wisconsin, received a \$50,000 grant and free ads in four magazines. 866-221-8571; redwoodcreek.com



VICTORINOX SWISS ARMY Climber multi-tool knife \$37 The Climber, part of Swiss Army's new Silver Tech series, pairs sleek, cutting-edge design with legendary convenience. The list of features seems impossibly long: large blade, small blade, corkscrew, can opener, small screwdriver, bottle opener, large screwdriver, wire stripper, reamer, key ring, tweezers, toothpick, scissors, multi-purpose hook. 800-442-2706; swissarmy.com

TENDER CORPORATION Natrapel 8 Hour (\$5.99); AfterBite Chigger & Ant (\$3.99) DEET-free, nongreasy Natrapel 8 Hour insect repellent (natrapel.com), formulated with 20% picaridin to keep away mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks, comes in a 3.5-oz. pump or 12-wipe pack. In June, Tender debuts AfterBite (theitcheraser.com), a powerful ammonia/baking soda/tea tree oil gel in a .7-oz. tube that stops the itching and pain of bites by fire ants, bees, wasps, and chiggers, the bane of the Midwest and the South. 800-258-4696; tendercorp.com



WHITE SIERRA Taroko top and Yushan tank \$35 each You don't think of bamboo as something you'd make clothes from, but there are many good reasons for it: Bamboo fibers wick more quickly than cotton, feel great, have natural antimicrobial properties, and grow very fast without pesticides or chemical fertilizers. Among White Sierra's newest ladies' garments are two that are inspired by the waist-high dwarf arrow bamboo forests of Taiwan's world-famous Yushan National Park in Nantou. The Taroko top includes a reflective logo and a no-itch heat transfer label, while the Yushan tank includes the same plus a shelf bra. Both are made of a 65% bamboo, 28% cotton, and 7% spandex blend and come in Dusty Plum, turquoise, black, and white. 800-980-8688; whitesierra.com



POLARTEC Recycled fabrics A mainstay in the outdoor industry, Polartec is increasingly replacing the virgin polyester in its wide range of products with recycled plastic. Fabrics that are now at least 65% recycled include R1, a lightweight next-to-skin base-layer/outerwear fabric used in the Patagonia hoodie (right); PowerDry, a breathable, moisture-wicking fabric used in some Kokotat paddling shirts; and the fleece found in the North Face Denali jacket (left), which the company says saves 33 lbs. of CO₂ and .83 gallons of gasoline per jacket. polartec.com



PRIMALOFT Eco insulation and Yarn Environmentally friendly PrimaLoft (PL) Eco, a lightweight, high-loft, thermally efficient, and water-resistant insulation, blends 50% PL virgin fibers and 50% post-consumer fibers recycled from plastic bottles. It can be found in garments and gear like Sierra Designs' Lazer 30 (\$219; \$239 long), an ultralight, movement-friendly "Flex" sleeping bag with a jacket hood and foot-box vent. PrimaLoft Yarn is an ultrafine and soft 50-50 blend of PL fibers and merino wool that keeps socks, sweaters, scarves, and base-layers dry by pairing PL's moisture-repelling ability and wool's moisture-wicking. Lorpen's new crew-length socks, the PL Midweight Hiker (\$16.99) and Light Hiker (\$15.99; left), match an inner layer of 75% PL yarn with an outer layer of 15% nylon for strength and durability, plus a 10% Lycra knit to stay in place. 800-833-3836, x 2238; primaloft.com



SPOT Satellite Tracker \$169 (plus \$99 annual service fee) This unique GPS-based locator beam, paired with Spot's own network, keeps back-country hikers, bikers, and skiers in contact with the world when they're out of cell phone range. It assures that friends and family can find you—or at least find your last location before you dropped into a hole or were covered by trees—by tracking you in real time via Google Maps. You can send three types of messages: a regular "I'm OK" to a pre-designated email, an "I need assistance" alert to the same email, and a 911 "Help" button that goes to local search-and-rescue, the Coast Guard, or other organizations. It also retains your route history, posting your location on an Internet site every 10 minutes. The device floats, handles temperatures down to -40 degrees, and works in North America, Europe, and Australia, and parts of South America, Africa, and Asia. 866-651-7768; findmespot.com

