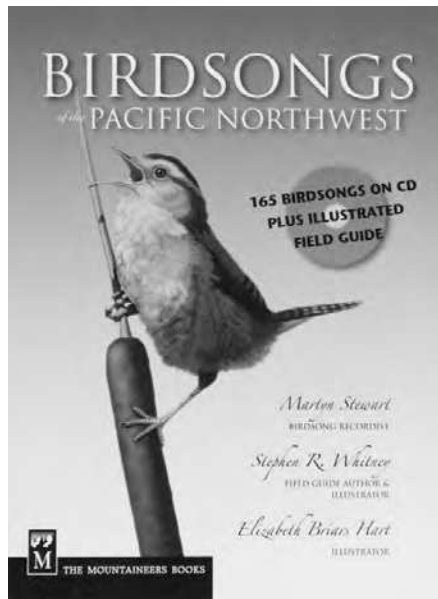


# dreaming of a green winter

**ALL YOU WANT FOR SOLSTICE IS SOME POTTING SOIL? ALL RIGHT THEN.**

By Deanna Uutela



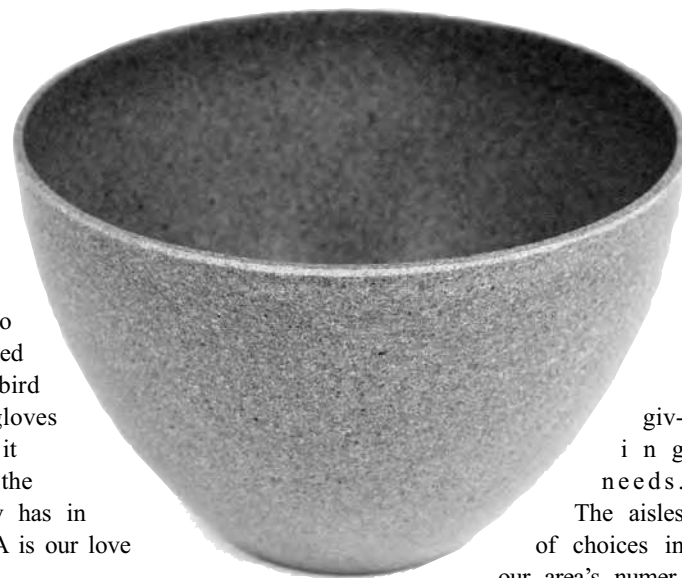
DOWN TO EARTH

can bring me out of my funk.

Finding a present for everyone requires several trips to locations all around town, and out of desperation I even end up going to the one place I never want to be caught dead in — the mall. But this year I am taking back Christmas. I will no longer allow myself to be dragged down by the long lines, the support of big corporations, the depletion of funds and the suckage of fun.

The ghost of Christmas future has shown me a glimpse of the Christmas to come: A Christmas filled with potting soil, bird houses, gardening gloves and mirror balls. And it makes sense, since the one thing my family has in common besides DNA is our love of gardening.

I don't have to go far to find a one-stop location that will cover all of my gift



giving needs.

The aisles of choices in our area's numer-

ous garden stores can be a little daunting, so the best place to start is by asking the staff about any new or popular products they have in stock.

**Down to Earth** employee Theresa Adams said that this year is all about birding, and Down to Earth (532 Olive St. with a smaller store at 2498 Willamette St.) has accommodated this booming industry by expanding their bird section. One of the most popular items is the **Birdsongs of the Pacific Northwest** (\$21.95). A must have for bird lovers, the CD includes 165 bird songs and has a corresponding field guide with color illustrations of each bird species. Put *that* on shuffle.

**Gray's Garden Center**, with locations in Eugene and Springfield, has everything you need to create a bird sanctuary.

DOWN TO EARTH



Whoever said that Christmas is "the most wonderful time of the year" clearly never had to shop for my family. The stress of finding the perfect gifts has ruined my holiday cheer many times, and not even eggnogginis

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