

NEWS BITES

Donuts by the Dozen

Give those chain stores a rest - surprise your co-workers this Friday, or be the star at your next department meeting with a dozen of Soons' famous apple cider donuts. Give us a call a couple days ahead of time with your order and we'll box your order that morning for easy pick up.

Cookie Monsters Unite

Those wizards at Scotty's Country Kitchen have outdone themselves, recently debuting new and improved chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin cookies. Bigger. Tastier. The response? A slow eye roll and that telltale "mmmm" sound.

Fudge-tastic!

A new addition to the store lineup this year has been our own homemade fudge - and it's been a huge hit! If you haven't yet tried some, please do! We have samples of each variety - everything from "Rocky Road" or "Apple Pie" fudge (made with our own cider) - to the classics like chocolate, vanilla, and milk chocolate. (With or without nuts, and even sugar-free too!) Easter is around the corner - our creamy fudge makes a great gift that you can share.... or keep all to yourself - we won't tell!



Goldens Galore: Picking crew leader Jacinto Carino gets ready to make the climb to the reach the upper branches of this Golden Delicious. His picking bucket holds about 45 pounds, which makes apple picking quite a workout.

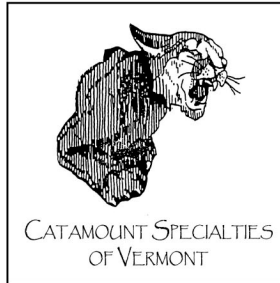
Founder's Day Fortune

Congrats to the winners at our annual Founders Day fete in December. Jennifer P. of Middletown took home a free pie, Norman K. of Suffern won a \$25 gift certificate and Sharon C. of Harriman received a Soons fruit basket. Said Jen, "*Winning that pie made my husband's day!*"

Many enjoyed the Apple Trivia contest, which had some tough questions, like: how many apple varieties are there worldwide? Take the quiz yourself at www.prevention.com (search for "know about apples"). P.S.: the answer is 7,500! And we thought growing 30 kinds was a lot!

Meet the Maker: Catamount Specialties is Hot! Hot! Hot!

Vermont. Makes you think of tree-covered mountains, skiing, and ...award-winning salsa. OK, maybe not - but the fact is there's some mighty fine (and mighty hot) salsa, mustard and more being cooked up by Catamount Specialties, which calls the Green Mountain State home. Co-founder George Gooss is a Goshen, New York resident, and Catamount is his fourth career, following horse training and racing, typewriter selling, and a stint in electronics.



George, and his longtime friend Don Mugford, cooked up the idea for Catamount (originally Green Mountain Gourmet) on one of their cooking marathons while on a family vacation in Vermont. For a while they made giant batches of barbecue sauce and salsa in Don's kitchen, but the product took off

immediately, forcing them to rent commercial kitchen space.

Their expansion led to more creations, including pasta sauce, specialty jellies and mustards - 31 products in all today, many of which have won awards for their high quality and unique taste. Their famous BBQ sauce, which has a healthy dose of maple syrup in it, even won first place at a Georgia event.

"That didn't please the Southerners," George told the *Apple Press*, with a small grin. Catamount was also recognized by the mustard "experts" a few years back when their entry beat out 300 others to win the gold cup at the Worldwide Mustard Festival. While "fire roasted garlic" mustard is our most popular, we have are six more kinds to try on your next sandwich, in a vinaigrette, or in the many recipes that call for mustard, from pork to seafood.

George is also responsible for those super tasty tortilla chips at Soons (and which we often have out for sampling). These baked chips are low-fat and low-salt, and the perfect vehicle for salsa, of course!

"Forest fire" was Catamount's hottest salsa for about five years, but after hearing "You call this hot?!" enough times they relented, doubled the habanero peppers - which add heat and taste - and came up with "Wildfire."

Business is still growing, and George says he's still having fun. While he could do without the marathon weekly commute to Vermont, he enjoys the business immensely, and loves meeting people - at trade shows, fairs and stores like Soons Orchards, where Catamount Specialties has built a loyal following.

Shameless Plug

Sharon Soons, often found at the orchard and the voice behind the Apple Press, is also the **professional organizer** behind Streamline U. Get personal training for you and your stuff! Organized spaces and systems save you time, money and energy for the things that really matter. Visit www.streamlineu.net or call 347-204-1319. *Mention this ad and receive a free on-site consultation.*

Soons Orchards & Farm Market

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