

BEST OF SHOW

NEW FINDS FROM AMERICASMART ATLANTA AND INATS EAST

by Jean Haller

I love going to the first markets of the year! If it's true first-of-the-year shows reflect the previous holiday season's sales as well as set the tone for the coming year, then 2007 will be a great year!

Finding new products that work for a New Age store is sometimes a challenge but always an adventure. Treasure hunts at AmericasMart Atlanta (www.americasmart.com) and INATS East in Orlando (www.inats.com) turned up some new merchandise that fits the product mix our customers have come to expect.

I always hold out on the hope there will be one big new item at the show that will make us all millions. Unfortunately that's still only a fantasy, but I usually find a new line from a favorite vendor. Sometimes, a few small companies make the show for me because of their great new innovative products. Without giving away all my new finds, I can't resist sharing some of the best new things found at these two shows. All prices listed are wholesale.



**Metal Morphosis:
Braille Key Rings**

404/607-8307,

www.metalmorphosisinc.com

Pewter key rings contain inspirational words on one side and a braille translation on the other. Available with eight phrases: Love Unconditionally, Survivor, Live Life Fully, Never Stop Dreaming, Cherish Your Child, Believe in Yourself, Life Is a Journey, and Learn in Baby Steps. (\$3 each, 3.25" x .25")



Art Matters: Frog Vase

707/473-9009,

www.artmatters.com

Art Matters has nine new tabletop fountains with copper bowls and slate tiles. The Frog Vase features a handmade celadon ceramic vase with a tree frog hiding under a leaf. The vase is perched on slate stone on top of a handmade copper bowl. (\$49, 9" x 9" x 6")