

Style



Nature's Emporium provides pet supplies and oddities to the community for 40 years

Sarah Carideo
Senior Reporter

Nature's Emporium, owned by Roger Oaks, is a hidden gem in the Elon community and has been locally owned for 40 years.

"Once you come in and see everything we have, you'll be a repeat customer," said Manager Kevin Brown. "One day is not enough to look around because there are so many unique things you won't be able to find anywhere else."

This 20,000 square foot space provides home and garden accents, unique gifts, pet supplies as well as other products and services. Nature's Emporium sells fish, reptiles, snakes, birds, rabbits, chinchillas, hamsters and guinea pigs.

"We have a little bit of everything so there's never a dull moment," Brown said. "There's always something new to see or learn about."

Customers are allowed to bring their pets into the store with them, but leashes are encouraged.

Customers and their pets are Brown's favorite part of the job, he said. One of the most unique aspects of the store is that there are topic specialists who have experience and are well versed and knowledgeable, according to Brown.

There are pet nutrition specialists, one of which has worked for eight years, according to Brown. These people are important because if a person brings in his or her dog with concerns

about its health and nutrition, the specialists can help identify any problems and how to solve them.

Junior Katie O'Brien experienced this firsthand when she went to Nature's Emporium to buy a fish. She spoke with a specialist and they encouraged her to "get a starter fish before getting a real one."

In addition to updating its logo, storefront and motto, the store is going to experience some larger changes soon as it expands to accommodate a larger garden section to house more varieties of plants.

The store recently launched its new greenhouse and garden shop area with Tammy Garland as its in-house container garden specialist. Garland has



ALL PHOTOS BY HEATHER CASSANO | Photo Editor
Top Left: Nature's Emporium on South Church Street sells garden accents, unique gifts and pets.
Top Right: Pets sold at the store include fish, guinea pigs, birds, ferrets, rabbits and hamsters.
Bottom Right: Gina Tanner is the daughter of the owner of Nature's Emporium, Roger Oaks.

owned a client-based garden shop and worked with assorted clientele such as the Biltmore Estate. Her specialty is working with orchids.

"The great thing about us is that we're a local business, so we're supporting the local community," Brown said. She encourages everyone to come check out the store as they receive new supplies every day.

MORE ONLINE: STYLE

VIDEO:
Meet the owners and animals of Nature's Emporium.

<http://bit.ly/TPOnature>



Top 6: deals at the outlet mall

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Arts and Entertainment Editor

Last November, there was a mad rush to the new Tanger Outlet Mall to stock up on super-sales and the hype hasn't died down. It's still difficult to find parking and the breezeways between stores can get crowded, but the outlets are worth a second look. Here are the six best deals at Tanger Outlets and where to find them.

1. J.Crew's student discount

Many well-heeled Elon students already take advantage of J.Crew's collegiate love. At checkout, display your Phoenix Card for a 15 percent discount off of already low-

outlet prices. The fine print does say that the discount can't be combined with other offers, including clearance, so a sale piece will remain at 50 percent off, not 65 percent. But any little bit can help move those delectable chambray shorts from the rack into your wardrobe.

2. Rack Room Shoes: BOGO every day

Rack Room Shoes does a great job advertising its already low prices and combining them with buy-one-get-one 50 percent off deal every day of the year. This already incredible savings combined with outlet deals makes snagging some new boat shoes easier on the wallet.

3. HanesBrands factory store

A little piece of cloth like a sock or an undershirt shouldn't cost an arm and a leg. That's why the mammoth HanesBrands factory store is such a great resource. All of those little clothing items you need but don't want to spend a paycheck on are at rock-bottom prices, and the selection is enormous.

4. Oakley Vault starts at half off

Although it hasn't opened yet, the Oakley outlet promises savings on 50 to 70 percent on its signature sunglasses and even backpacks, shoes and luggage. When it does

open, expect to pay \$20-\$50 for a pair. Prices are still expensive, but much cheaper than full price.

5. Banana Republic is classier than Old Navy

Since Old Navy is located right down the street on Elon University Drive, here's a little secret: they're owned by the same company. That means any gift card you might get from well-meaning parents can also be applied to purchases at the higher-end Banana Republic. Discount prices and racks of clearance apparel make Banana Republic a good place to get nice clothes for cheap. Think \$15 skirts and pants at 60 percent off.

6. Burlington Brands closeout deals

In this unassuming glass-front store lies the best kept secret in the mall. The highest price you'll be expected to pay is \$13.99. Basic T-shirts start at \$3.99 and feature surplus from JC Penney and Target. The pants can be a little stuffy, but for shirts, Burlington Brands can't be beat.

Next time you need some new clothes, undergarments, shoes or sunglasses, bypass full-price establishments like Southpoint Mall in Durham or even Target on University Drive. Nothing really beats a deal, and Tanger Outlets is full of them.