

Meet Alison Lewey

The first time you meet Alison Lewey, she might smile and say to you, “Buzz-Off.” Not because she wants you to leave, but because she makes an all-natural insect repellent for her company Lewey’s Eco-Blends.

Ms. Lewey never planned to be a businesswoman who owns her own company. She just wanted a safe, non-toxic bug repellent for her young son. So, one summer morning over six years ago in her rural Maine home, she started mixing batches of natural oils and safe insect-

repelling ingredients she knew about from Indian anecdotes passed on by her mother and others. She went a few steps further and combined many into one—a safe natural mix that would repel 22 different insects away from her almost 1 year old boy. She couldn’t have dreamed that one day she would turn that “secret blend” into a popular and effective insect repellent that now sells in more than 700 stores in the Northeast.

Ms. Lewey is committed to creating safe, natural products: “There were always many bunches of dried herbs and plants drying in our house. Understanding nature is part of my family’s heritage...and as a company we’re committed to developing safe, natural products that people will love using for their effectiveness and safety.”

Lewey’s Eco-Blends creates economic opportunities for local Maine communities and Native Americans. For instance, Ms. Lewey buys the soybean oil for her repellent from Aroostook County in Northern Maine, where jobs and economic opportunity are in short supply. “This is an opportunity I couldn’t have dreamed of,” says Lewey, “to have a Native-owned company that develops natural products from the Earth, and to bring opportunity to the Native community here. It’s something I’m extremely proud of.”

You can visit Lewey’s Eco-Blends on the web at <http://www.buzzoff.us/about.asp>

