

for the green thumb gardener

By Laura Hine

MAKE IT BETTER READER: **JEANNIE FANNING**, OWNER, TWIGS IN LAKE BLUFF

Jeannie started her floral shop, Twigs, just a year ago. "I always loved flowers, and now that my kids are older, it was time to do something for myself." Jeannie has an English Knot garden at her home in Green Oaks. She gardens on about an acre, so she has lots of space for her flowers. Jeannie helped us come up with great ideas for the green thumbs on your list.



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1. NATUREMILL PRO XE EDITION RECYCLED PLASTIC KITCHEN COMPOSTER Gardeners love nothing more than compost. If your gardener isn't interested in worm composting (a safe assumption) this gizmo will turn your kitchen waste into compost in just two weeks with no smell, and very little fuss. Jeannie thought her sister-in-law would love this, especially since it's so compact. **\$400, A Green Horizon, 1148 Central Ave., Wilmette, 847-256-2754, agreenhorizon.com**



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2. COURTNEY JEFFERY VASE Jeannie loves to support local artists through her shop, and Courtney Jeffery is one of her finds. This rustic vase would be perfect for someone with a cut flower garden (or you can get it filled with beautiful greenery from Twigs!). **\$130, Twigs, 38 E. Center St., Lake Bluff, 847-234-TWIG (8944), twigslakebluff.com**



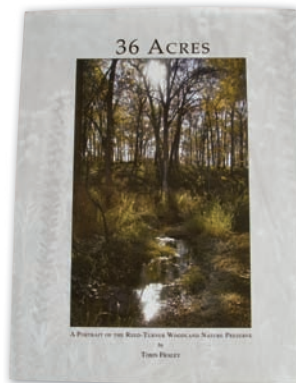
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3. 36 ACRES BY TOBIN FRALEY This portrait of the Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve is a beautiful dose of green for the winter-weary gardener. Jeannie loved the beauty of the nature photos. Added bonus: a portion of the proceeds go to the Reed-Turner Woodland Trust. **\$35, Trillium of Long Grove, 223 Robert Parker Coffin Rd., Long Grove, 847-883-8867**



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4. THE VEGAN GLOVE For the gardener who likes to get her hands dirty, but not too dirty, these gloves are form fitting and comfortable. They're also leather-free, but coated to repel dirt and water. Jeannie likes a glove that really fits her hand so you can feel what you're doing. **\$30, Pasquesi Home & Garden, Barrington and Lake Bluff, pasquesi.com**



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5. CLASS AT THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN A perfect present for a grandchild and grandparent. The Chicago Botanic Garden has hands-on classes for an adult and child ages 4 to 10. Some of our favorites: Joyful Gingerbread in December, HOT Chocolate in February and Beautiful Birds in March. **\$17 per child member/\$20 per child nonmember, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, 847-835-5400, chicago-botanic.org**

LET YOUR GARDEN GROW

Find out the secrets of some of the area's best gardeners, online at makeitbetter.net/at-home