

# Dig into the World of Gardening

When it comes to gardening, both novice and master alike can use a little extra help from time to time. These items that we've, ah... unearthed should make your endeavors somewhat easier, or at least add to the color. —by Julie Clay

## Functional >

The Weather Pal we found at **Bailey's General Store** provides a charming way to measure how much rain has fallen. New Jersey-based Springfield Stoneworks has sculpted a smiling ceramic turtle, sitting up on a base of grass and holding an umbrella. Measuring about eight inches high, it features a rain gauge that uses the water it collects to magnify the readings.

It'll be difficult to misplace the tools made by Florals. Instead of being grass-green like most gardening tools, their handles are covered in colorful floral prints. Pruning shears have a green floral print, and the long-nose floral pliers have a light purple flower-patterned motif. *Bailey's General Store, 2477 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, 239-472-1516, baileys-sanibel.com*



## < Informational

How about a little guidance from the printed word? Among the large collection of well-versed tomes addressing the matter, at **Sanibel Island Bookshop** we found some beauties that would be comfortable on the coffee table as well. *Success with Orchids* by Wilma Rittershausen features striking full-color photographs and a history as well as useful instructions for successfully cultivating this tropical beauty. *Florida Butterfly Gardening* by Marc and Maria Minno, with illustrations by Diane Pierce, is a thorough review of Florida's native butterfly species as well as how to cultivate the gardens that attract them. The allure of shoreline gardens is explored in *Gardens by the Sea* by Alexandra d'Arno. It includes over 200 exquisite photographs of captivating landscapes from the New England coast to the shores of Normandy and Tunisia. Get inspired beach-dwellers! *Sanibel Island Bookshop, 1571 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, 239-472-5223, Fax 239-395-9651, www.sanibelbookshop.com*



## Beautiful

Dress up your garden with a ceramic *Athena* watering pitcher and matching *Saturn* vase from **Pandora's Box**. Standing roughly eighteen inches high, the set is light blue with brown, and four rows of holes at the top of the vase. The pitcher has a big pour spout and comfortable handle that is positioned high.

How about a giant lighted metal flower to help you see what you are doing? Created by Pennsylvania-based artist Connie Dorrance, the *Daphne* floor lamp has a sturdy brown circular base with thin metal leaves surrounding the bottom of the stalk. The actual lamp is shaped somewhat like an angel's trumpet flower, angling down to light your space. *Pandora's Box, Periwinkle Place, 2075 Periwinkle Way #1, Sanibel, 239-472-6263*

## Purposeful

Need a natural predator to scare pesky birds away from your prize tomatoes? We found one at **Gavins Ace Hardware** in the form of a plastic, hand-painted great horned owl by Gardener. Standing a good foot tall, this guy should be running unwanted visitors out of your garden for years to come. Giftcraft's potting shed is a great primer for any budding (there I go again) gardener.

A charming rectangular wire carry basket with handle contains a trowel, gloves, pruning shears, and set of four ceramic starter pots with saucers; two green and two off-white. All you need are the seeds. *Gavins Ace Hardware, 16025 San Carlos Boulevard, Fort Myers, 239-466-7777*



## Educational

Little gardeners get to hone their skills with both toys and educational materials found at **The Cheshire Cat**. Among the materials in The Wee Enchanted Garden by Creativity for Kids are beans, seeds, grass, gravel, and potting soil, as well as acrylic paints and brushes for decorating the enclosed clay pot. A live butterfly garden by Insect Lore features a twelve-inch-tall cylindrical enclosed net in which to hold your caterpillars/butterflies. Silk monarch butterflies adorn both the inside and outside of the net. Just send in the enclosed certificate to receive live caterpillars and watch them turn into butterflies. *The Cheshire Cat, Bell Tower Shops, 13499 S. Cleveland Avenue #219, Fort Myers, 239-482-8697(TOYS)*