

Holiday Hints

A Gift That Lasts All Year And Celebrates Nature

(NAPSA)—Perhaps the best holiday gift is one that lasts all year and celebrates the beauty of each changing season.

That's the beauty of a weekly planner featuring the thoughts and watercolor paintings of world-renowned nature artist Marjolein Bastin—a gift designed to make the recipient think fondly of the giver on a daily basis.

From the sighting of a European robin on a snowy New Year's Day to the last wild strawberry hanging on the stem in November, the year unfolds in this beautiful planner.

Along with space for appointments and notes, each week reveals a unique painting from this Dutch artist as well as some of her thoughts, memories, and intimate knowledge of nature.

From June, "*The [foxglove] seeds need a lot of light to germinate. When there is not enough light, they will stay asleep for a few years. That is the reason why suddenly, after a felling in the forest, thousands of new foxgloves appear. There is light again!*"

In busy lives that move hurriedly through business meetings and social engagements, Bastin's planner serves as a beautiful reminder that it is the simple things that matter most. Nature can be rejuvenating if you take the time to slow down and appreciate it.

From April, "*As a wonderful gift in America, I received a big*



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bouquet of lilacs—I buried my face in the flowers and suddenly I was a child of three again! There I was back in the old house with the high windows at the river Vecht."

The weekly planner includes a removable print, one of Bastin's favorite pieces, that is suitable for framing. The planner is a thoughtful gift for gardeners, bird watchers, and anyone who appreciates the beauty found in nature.

Priced at \$12.95, the planner is part of the *Nature's Sketchbook* by Marjolein Bastin collection, a best seller for Hallmark for 10 years. The collection, including water globes, frames, candles, and keepsake boxes, as well as the more traditional stationery, gift items, and more than 200 everyday and seasonal greeting cards, can be found at Hallmark Gold Crown® stores or at www.hallmark.com.