

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 3-17-04) Garden Show Findings, ©2005

Gardeners sooner or later start adding bits and pieces of structure and artwork to their landscapes. Maybe it's because it gives us something more to plant around, have plants grow up or gives us an excuse to move some plants to another location. The Soroptimists Garden Show in Poulsbo the weekend of March 6 was resplendent with a host of vendors offering many temptations.

Two of my favorite copper crafters are Benny and Bernadette Cotinola of "B&B Copper Garden Art." You can find them at garden shows and at the Kingston Farmers Market. Their copper tubing sculptures are always metamorphing into interesting shapes to peak the imagination. Every year brings new designs and improvements to their already wonderful creations. So far I've purchased a heron sculpture, a moon with a star and this time a wonderful dragonfly atop a glass globe. Benny and Bernadette use sparkling pieces of glass in every hue and shape for decoration. Their art is extremely affordable at prices ranging from ten to seventy dollars. Contact B&B at 360-405-1239.

Rick Hartman of "This 'N That Furniture" in Suquamish creates extremely comfortable Adirondack chair with matching ottoman for \$175. In the summer time at Kingston Farmers Market his prices go up to \$200-225. He also makes chairs for retailers in twenty-three states. Rick's friend Sue Henry created a bolster and pillow set for \$35 to make the chairs even more comfortable (if that's possible). Reach Rick at 360-598-2266.

Laura Liming from Bainbridge Island was trying her wings for the first time as a vendor. Her specialty is decorative tiny clay tags with brass wire hangers and charming clay pots serving double duty as useful containers and pencil holders. Laura started out as a stamper whose hobby grew into a fledgling business. Her unique style uses appealing words, ribbons, colorful designs and glass items. Laura loves special orders and most recently made nametags for a birthday party. I bought a shiny clay pot pencil holder festooned with dancing white daisy beads and also a clay tag with the words "Life is a great bundle of little things." Contact her at 206-855-8027.

I also met Edward Church. He and his wife, Alice, a retired Master Gardener, operate Gardenland Nursery at 9870 Glenwood Road in Port Orchard. Edward especially enjoys growing rhodies and azaleas. You can call 360-876-5351 for an appointment to visit their small homegrown nursery.

Old School Stoneworks had a display of varied ways to use stone for retaining walls, driveways, walkways and other structural landscaping. Tom Hults can be reached at 206-898-3458. The shop is at 405 NW Commerce Street in Poulsbo. He also has a "rain store" system that stores rainwater for use in irrigation. You can visit the website [www.oldschoolenterprises.com](http://www.oldschoolenterprises.com) to learn more about "rain store."

Louise Lightfoot of Silverdale loves to haunt thrift stores and garage sales looking for cups, saucers, vases and other ceramic ware to create her one-of-a-kind pieces. She says

it all started when she, “Had a nightmare one night.” Her creations are full of whimsy and not a nightmare at all. She said she gets her parts from “everywhere.” Remember all those white vases from years ago? (Of course if you’re under forty you might not have a clue what I’m talking about.) Louise uses glue to change the vases, plates and cups into quaint pieces. The plates hold birdseed or water for the creatures visiting our gardens. Contact Louise at 360-697-5997 to find out where she’ll show her art next.

One of my favorite woodworkers Sam Agnew from “Sam’s Workshop” was at the Garden Show. Sam builds benches and decorative structures using old lumber. I’ve coveted his potting benches with dry sinks for several years now. Each piece harks back to days gone by but is sturdy, appealing and very satisfying. Contact him at 360-769-2742.

Beatrice from Raven Nursery was there with her daughter selling her healthy, luscious plants. Raven Nursery specializes in day lilies, Native Plants, and selections that thrive in our Kitsap gardens. If you’ve never been to Raven Nursery call 360-598-3323 for an appointment and bring money. I dare you to visit without buying anything.

Classic Art Designs by Laurie Smith specializes in birdbaths, water fountains and floating concrete flowers. “Life Like Garden Art” is printed on her business card. Laurie can be contacted at 360-698-0944. Her classes on creating with cement are offered through Poulsbo Parks and Rec but she also has classes by appointment and will always create for those who either don’t have the time to try it themselves or are challenged. Each of her pieces at the Garden Show had glass beads imbedded in the cement reflecting the light from many angles.

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