

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 8-23-06) Garden Ornamentation © 2006

I've had the delightful pleasure of visiting a myriad of gardens where the gardeners were artists of another sense. They've not only created beauty and interest with plants; they've tucked small sparkling, colorful, tantalizing and just plain fascinating and unique items here and there throughout their gardens. Some paint these elements with a very broad and dramatic brush and some sneak little items here and there, where if a person does not look carefully their eye passes over the treasure.

Garden ornamentation does not have to be sculpted, formed, carved, built or painted, it can be as simple as a gate, stone path, small water feature or anything the imagination leads us to. There are no rules for garden ornamentation. The first and only person you need to please is yourself. I am a very visual person so I often notice all the small touches in a garden. Today I thought you'd like to read about some of the ornamental touches I've found lately throughout Kitsap County.

First on the list is amazing bright yellow and orange ceramic pots at Carter's Nursery on 2100 Chico Way. They are very bright and colorful and will definitely stick out in a garden, but are very appealing when spilling over with plants. Couldn't you see chartreuse green against the hot orange? Or purple foliage plants? The yellow containers are so vibrant and sunny, simply stunning. Not every garden could carry off these colors, but on a dull, dreary fall and wintry day here in our area, I'll bet they'd shine and make us smile. Go check them out.

My friend Mary Carter, recently retired from the presidency of the Poulsbo Garden Club, festoons her garden with blue items. Even cobalt blue wine bottles upended in the garden with their neck sticking into the soil for balance. She has also discovered paint at the local hardware store that will turn black nursery containers into decorative pots in shades of blue and any other color imaginable. Speaking of blue, Bainbridge Islander Sally Hewitt has sprinkles of blue and multi-colored polished glass tucked here and there throughout her garden paths.

Cynthia Herrick, coordinator of Bainbridge in Bloom, has a magical garden just right for savoring. There are even painted windows hanging from structures tucked into the trees. The images on the four windows represent the four seasons in an art deco fashion. They were painted by Cynthia's sons. Simply gorgeous. On a visit to her garden I also noticed strings of mirrors hanging from cedar branches. I went on a quest to one of my grandkids favorite stores "Six Star" where I found and purchased several packages each containing three sets of mirrored strings. Not yet sure where I'll hang them. The garden art muse will speak to me soon I'm sure.

Several years ago a bunch of us garden buddies made copper trellises out of copper pipe, using epoxy to glue the parts together. We then pounded some rebar into the ground and mounted the trellises onto the rebar. The tricky thing is many of plants don't like to grow up the copper trellis (not even hops). Donna Paulson solved this problem and I've copied her. She uses her trellis as a divider between her garden beds and has hung various

ornaments from it. My trellis has a pointed top where I've hung a very small copper birdbath. One friend used pliable copper tubing and free formed several areas of her copper trellis. She also used thin copper wire to attach decorative beads. Experiment with your own creativity to add ornamentation to your gardens.