

Live Free and Dig

with the Littleton Garden Club

Garden art

BY MARY BINGMAN

Littleton Garden Club

In the gardening world, plants take center stage. Another dimension can transform outdoor sanctuaries to a whole new level: garden art.

Whether a sprawling landscape with many borders or a cozy spot, a garden with added art can become a treasured retreat.

Garden art serves multiple purposes beyond decoration. Focal points are created. Personal style can be showcased. A striking sculpture or whimsical wind chime might bring a bit of joy to garden visitors. Art can complement the stunning display of plants that are already present.

Durability is crucial when choosing a piece. Materials such as stone, ceramic, and treated



wood are great choices. They have the ability to withstand harsh weather conditions. Stone bird baths end up being functional, long lasting and a visual boost in the landscape and can be a form of "art."

The scale of the object should be considered in

relation to its surroundings. Large sculptures might dominate small gardens. Smaller pieces might get lost in large landscapes. Position it where it can be appreciated from different vantage points.

Infuse gardens with personal touches by cre-

ating your own simple creations. Do it yourself projects such as painted river rocks, mosaic stepping stones, or recycled materials turned into sculptures can reflect creativity or get children involved. I have hand painted "rock critters" at the base of a few cone flowers. Also, old blue glass insulators are in a border. They pick up sunlight and add a bit of interest.

Our garden club toured an artist's yard and garden who is a club member. In Twin Mountain, we visited Barbara and Tom Monahan's property. They have a natural sculpture garden created after severe storms hit in 2017. Utilizing tree bases cleverly was a part of the design. Barbara created an art and poetry garden

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and many others. River stones & driftwood are some of the natural materials she used in striking ways. There is whimsy and spiritual reflection seen as one moves about the area.

Barbara is an artist who has specialized in ceramics. Her talents are visible everywhere. She has an eye for beauty and symmetry as well as a gardener's knowledge to transform sandy, acidic soil into a much richer base for growing healthy plants. Barbara has vigorous, colorful perennial groupings such as tall spiky blue delphinium and red bee balm. There are many visiting pollinators. It's all enhanced by great natural and fun art. See the photos of this garden art visit.

New Hampshire Public Gardens offering Inspiring Art

We are fortunate to live in a state with many fine examples of art used in garden settings.

• New Hampshire Andres Institute of Art and Sculpture Garden, Brookline Around 100 sculptures from artists all over the world decorate the hiking trails surrounding this location.

• St. Gaudens National Park, Cornish

This is a wonderful location that preserves the home and studio of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907). You can see large stone and bronze sculptures in many formal garden layouts. It is the perfect place for a spring picnic as well!

It's fabulous to get inspiration from beau-

tiful public spaces. One doesn't have to be a famous or skilled artisan. Incorporating art into spaces isn't just about aesthetics; it's about creating a reflection of your vision or personality. Whether through sculptures, mosaics, or other hand made creations, garden art enriches sensory experiences of outdoor places.

Express your own style and love for nature and beauty.

For more information about the Littleton Garden Club, our meetings and civic beautification go to:

<https://www.littletonnhgardenclub.org/>. We love to see new members!