



Garden Art and YOU by Mary Fran McClure



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2018 WSU Master Gardener Conference
Wenatchee, WA

Every landscape is different; every person too; Great! Positive, makes life interesting!

This presentation offers ideas--some of them may excite you, others not; that's the difference in our personalities and landscapes. Fortunately we each have likes and dislikes; if we all had the same frame of mind, both our lives and gardens would be boring!

Focus is on arty features, not plants, combinations, colors or cohesive units. Although all of these parts come together for a pleasing, artistic landscape.

Major Art Projects: Probably not very realistic for the home landscape, but interesting to view and perhaps ideas for your community areas.

Community Education Garden; three intertwined paver circles plus an another with a curved bench built into the bank; pavers in snow; Winnie the Pig sculpture; Not everyone has a landscape piano!

Asian Influence: refined, uncluttered, clean, subtle, precise

Stone seat in Victoria, B.C.; East Wenatchee Japanese garden in conjunction with sister city, Misawa, Japan; finish and start of 1931 first transpacific flight.

Sculptured vine carefully arranged on wall; layered pebbles set in concrete pavers in Chinese Gardens, Portland.

Garden Sculptures: eye catching, makes a theme large or small.

Circle of playing children, Redmond; reading statue, large turtle in Irish moss at Sharon Tipping's; rock wall with face

Fences, Wall Decor and trellises: screening, privacy, vertical interest, color, attractive shapes, enhances without taking up a lot of space.

Trellis in Corvallis made by owner—graceful curves and vine makes the wall attractive; Eagle Scout fence with interesting wood cut-outs at our education garden entrance; deer fence designed by owner coordinates with their Asian style landscape; gate and fence connects house & garage; dragon fly wall decor; blue painted wall at Jan Clark's (note complimentary colors blue wall with terra cotta fence & wall containers); peeler core arbor in Port Townsend park; hops screens unsightly property; dragonfly & steel privacy wall protecting patio from the street

Wood and Metal Ornamentation: importance of lighting; up-light a tree; wood projects

Wattle fence --a lot of work in this old style willow fencing; bentwood edging in Bellevue Botanic Gardens

Sharon Tipping's bentwood support basics: (1) gather limbs; larger branches for main structure (fruitwood, vine maple, filbert, redwood, ash are best) and bendable ones for curves (cedar, water sprouts, fruit prunings, willow), (2) make your design, (3) build outer frame, try to square it, 90 degrees is best plus diagonals help stability, (4) pre-drill holes and use deck screws on 1" or larger branches and wire intersections together, (5) mount on rebar or wood supports to install in ground.

Fiberglass to preserve wood in old European cart; Interesting plant labels

Rocks and Rock-like Features: large and dramatic or small and meaningful
Repurpose a birdbath; camouflage a problem; provide drainage; terraced rock walls and pathways give opportunity for height and contrast with interesting plants.

Hypertufa projects: fun projects for a class, but needs space, curing time
Large or small leaves painted or not; hosta, rhubarb & gunnera leaves; containers can become a birdbath or plant container.

Water Features; calming, attracts birds, enchanting, lessens distracting noises
Small bubblers to large, dramatic water features.

Basalt rock set in low rock wall; concrete water course edged with woolly thyme; farm cast offs--old discs hold water supported by farm equipment tines; natural rock used as birdbath

Whimsy and Fun; Humor attracts attention, unpretentious, definitely shows personality, recycling potential

When I was a child, I played in the dirt like a child. When I grew up, I played in the dirt like a gardener

Timboe's whimsy welcomes guests; old gears make goofy wall ornaments; fun little birdhouse;
Sharon Hockenson's bird of rock and spray-painted rebar; Sue Koziol's recycled backyard sink; old cart with geraniums; old boots planted with sedums; June McCann's bed of zinnias; paint an old bike and it becomes a landscape accent at June's

June McCann's show and tell of her hands-on class last Thursday morning. Most items have four parts; (1) stakes that go in the ground, (2) item to fit over stake such as upside down candle holder, bud vase or narrow bottle; (3) glue small plate or glass coaster next; (4) glue on figurine, heirloom or attractive item for the decorative top. Clear silicone bath and tub seal works well but requires time to set; Gorilla gel glue is fast so you have to work fast. (5) dry by sticking stake into a bucket of sand out of the way for a few days to set.

Recycled items become accents; orchestra in the garden can't help but bring a chuckle.
Watermelons in previous life were water-rounded rocks painted with latex house paint. I used inexpensive sample sizes of Behr ultra satin, M370-4 (chervil leaves) and M370-7 (mown grass)

We build our gardens to relax and then spend all our time working in them. Get a hammock!