

ART FAIR

Garden art designer strikes inspiration from antique iron

BY MARY KLEMIC
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Wendy Lewis' inspiration for her garden art came out of surroundings of antique metal. Now

she makes art and furniture for the garden out of antique iron. About four years ago, Lewis was a volunteer at the Animal Orphanage fund-raising booth at the Royal Oak Farmers Market.



Tower of Inspiration: This sculpture by Wendy Lewis could be a base for climbing plants or hanging baskets.

She was surrounded by ornamental and antique metal items and noticed how lovely real flowers looked placed next to antique iron.

Lewis had two thoughts, she said: "Why not design iron flowers from old iron?" and then, "Why not design benches for the garden using pieces of antique iron?"

Creative business

The result was her creative business, Wendy Lewis Designs, in which she transforms antique

iron into such items as benches, planters, tables, credenzas, trellises and sculptures.

Lewis, who attended Seaholm High School in Birmingham, has displayed her work at the Grosse Pointe Designer Showcase Home 2000, the Antique Home and Garden Show in Southfield in March, the Royal Oak Farmers Market, and art shows such as Art on the Village Green in Franklin.

Lewis will feature more of her pieces Saturday-Sunday, June 16-17, at Art in the Sun, the

■ **Wendy Lewis' first passion is animals. She is still an active volunteer with Animal Orphanage, a non-profit group that tries to place homeless cats and dogs in homes after they are spayed or neutered. She donates art work profits to the group.**

13th annual art fair on the streets of Northville.

Lewis' artistry can make gears into flower heads, and add graceful curves like elegant vines to the frame of a chair. The pieces may be painted, or left with the natural rust or patina shade.

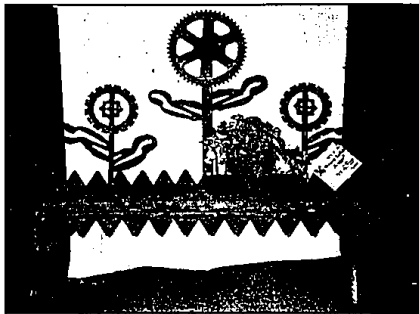
Many of them can be used in different ways. A towering sculpture makes a good base for climbing plants or hanging baskets. A credenza could be topped with glass or marble, or left open to become a giant planter.

Lewis, who has an assistant, learned to do her own welding. She spends two or three days a week in Beverly Hills, but works

mostly at her farm near Saginaw.

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(Hours for Art in the Sun are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Admission is free. For more information, call the Northville Chamber of Commerce at (248) 349-7840. For upcoming show dates or other information about Wendy Lewis Designs, call (248) 647-6734.)



Geared up: Wendy Lewis makes her art works out of antique iron.

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