



Finch hauled in big rocks to dam up a stream that runs through his property. Water flows through a large pipe to water wheel.

## Giant Water Wheel Looks Good, Generates Electricity

"My wife, Melissa, wanted a waterfall in our back yard so I made one and added a big water wheel that looks good and generates electricity," says James Finch, Roxbury, N.Y.

He hauled in big rocks to dam up the stream that runs through his property and then filled dirt in behind the rock wall. "I didn't want to impound any water, just raise the level to make the water fall," notes Finch.

To make the water wheel, he cut off both ends of a large oil tank to make the sides and then welded in buckets from an old grain elevator. The wheel rotates on a 2 7/16-in. dia. solid shaft.

The wheel mounts on a frame built from the chassis of an old dump truck. It drives a series of pulleys that get progressively smaller and faster. The smallest pulley drives a 130-amp DC alternator, which turns at about 1,800 rpm's.

Water flows through a steel pipe and into the top of the wheel. "The water really shoots past on the steel. The wheel is very heavy but turns easily," notes Finch.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James Finch Welding, 2787 Lower Meeker Hollow, Roxbury, N.Y. 12474 (ph 607 326-7529).



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## Manure Spreader Weather Vane

Bernard Hanson can always tell at a glance which way the wind is blowing. That's because he turned an old horse-drawn manure spreader into a giant weather vane that's also a great conservation piece.

Hanson's "spreader weather vane" stands in his front yard and is clearly visible from a nearby road.

He attached a 4 by 6-ft. plywood blade to the back end of the 12-ft. long spreader and then mounted it on top of a post about 5 ft. off the ground. The spreader rotates on a cast iron spindle and axle, which is bolted vertically to a wooden post buried in the ground. The wooden figure of a person rises above the middle part of the wagon.

"People who see it for the first time get a big kick out of it," says Hanson. "It takes only a slight gust of wind to spin the spreader around so it faces into the wind."



"It makes a great conversation piece," says Bernard Hanson about the horse-drawn manure spreader he turned into a giant weather vane.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bernard Hanson, 2860 County Rd. 102, Wrenshall, Minn. 55797.

## They Turn Cremated Remains Into Lasting Family Treasures

By Janis Schole

Cremation is on the rise across North America, prompting entrepreneurs to come up with new and unusual ways to memorialize loved ones. We tracked down two of the most innovative ideas: Turning cremated ashes into man-made diamonds and using ashes to make a painting that honors the deceased.

### Life Gem Diamonds

Headquartered in Chicago, Ill., Life Gem Diamonds takes cremated remains and turns them into diamonds that are comparable to cubic zirconia. They call them true "family jewels".

The ashes are heated and put under tremendous pressure. The process takes about 16 weeks and can yield as many as 50 to 100 diamonds. However, prices range from \$1,995 (U.S.) for a one-quarter carat diamond to \$30,000 for a 1.25 carat diamond. Prices are discounted when two or more diamonds are ordered.

"Prices are comparable to natural diamonds," says Curtis Bachur of Olds and Innisfail Funeral Home and Crematorium in Alberta. "Life Gems give your loved ones a closeness to you that was never before available. They bring new meaning to the belief that we are all diamonds in the rough."

Bachur is one of many funeral home operators across North America who are dealers for Life Gem.



Life Gem Diamonds turns cremated remains into beautiful diamonds, which they call true "family jewels".

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Life Gem Created Diamonds, 836 Arlington Heights Rd., Elk Grove Village, Ill. 60007 (ph 866 543-3436; E-mail: info@mylifegem.com; Website: www.lifegem.com).

### Ashes Into Art

Bettye Wilson-Brokl is a painter from Mississippi who puts cremated remains into her artwork. She creates a painting at the request of family members and then sprinkles two to three tablespoons of ashes over the freshly painted canvas before applying a sealant coat.

She has done over 300 paintings, half from the remains of pets and half from humans. Prices range from \$350 to \$950 (U.S.) and she has a 6 to 8-week turnaround.

"My customers want to keep part of their loved ones with them," she says. "The artwork is designed to bring a smile to the family's face and not tears. Their memorial should be as unique as their loved one was."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bettye Wilson-Brokl, c/o Jane'Us Inc., Eternally Yours TM Everlasting Art, Box



Bettye Wilson-Brokl creates a painting at the request of family members. She then sprinkles ashes over the freshly painted canvas before applying a sealant coat.

1016, Biloxi, Miss. 39533 (ph 228 522-0079 or toll-free 877 526-3871; fax 228 497-5413; E-mail: info@memorialart.com; Website: www.memorialart.com).

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