

## **Basic Sculpture Maintenance For Sculptures and Fountains**

**We suggest that basic maintenance be done two or three times a year. A good time for this is in the spring and fall, before and after extended periods of use.**

### **For Steel sculptures and fountains:**

Completely dry the surface of the piece. In a container combine a 50 / 50 mixture of boiled linseed oil and turpentine or mineral spirits, or you can use a ready-made product called PENETROL. These products can be purchased at a paint or hardware store.

With a clean brush apply one generous coat to the entire steel surface, including undersides and base. This will darken the steel at first. When it dries the steel will have a richer rust color. Treating steel two to three times a year will keep the corrosion of the metal to a minimum.

### **For Bronze sculptures and fountains:**

Dry off piece completely; using a soft cloth apply a moderate cote of wax then remove the excess by buffing with a separate clean soft cloth. A paste wax such as Minwax, or most other brands containing Carnuba wax will do the job. Adhering to this process will help to sustain the color of the patina and reduce the effects of ultraviolet light, harsh elements and air pollutants.

### **For Polished surface stone:**

We suggest the same treatment as described for bronze. This is primary an aesthetic treatment to recondition the luster and shine. In cases where lime deposits from hard water have formed on the stone, use a product such as CLR (calcium, lime, and rust), you can purchase this product at most grocery or hardware stores.

### **For the Fountain Basin:**

Regularly clean out all derbies such as leaves and other organic matter from the basin. Of particular concern are the grass cuttings from the lawn after mowing. To help prevent a buildup place a tarp covering the basin while garden maintains is being done. It is important to keep the passageway clear of leaves, debris, etc., if the water is running smoothly there is less stress on the pump.

### **The Pump:**

Check and maintain the water level in the basin. Having sufficient water will allow the pump to operate the optimal level and reduce the risk of the pump burning out. Watching the water level will also maintain the sound of the fountain.

### **The Base:**

If you begin to notice any blistering chipping or flaking in the paint it is best to remove any loose paint and touch up those places using any brand of rust preventive paint. This will help in preventing the problem from spreading. After the basin is drained a new base cote may be applied.

### **Winterizing Your Fountain:**

If you live in a climate that freezes during the winter, the fountain **MUST** be drained, and the Pump **MUST** be shut off and pulled out of any remaining water. To shut off the pump, turn the flow valve handle to the vertical, or "off", position. Additionally, you will want to treat the rocks in the basin with a "penetrating silicone impregnator". The product you use may vary depending on the type of stone. You can purchase this product from a masonry supply store. Apply with a clean disposable brush and let dry. Repeat the process until the stone will not absorb any more of the product. This process will protect the stone from the freeze and thaw and will help prevent cracking and splitting of the stone. The best time for this treatment is after you have winterized in the Fall and before you re-start the fountain in the Spring.

**Please contact the Gail Severn Gallery at (208) 726-5079 should you need additional information on the care and maintenance of your Sculpture or Fountain.**