

A forever passion for gardening

By HARRISON HAAS hhaas@citizen.com | Posted: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 6:00 pm

BELMONT — A local woman's passion for gardening has helped grow her business and shape lawns around the Lakes Region into organic and environmental-friendly gardens.

Ginger Wells-Hay began her business, Garden Artisans, LLC, in 2000. Throughout her life, she has acquired and honed her gardening skills and held her desire for gardening while in college. While studying, she got involved with ecology and the environment after reading author Rachel Carson's book, "Silent Spring."

"Gardening has been a passion of mine for a while now," she said.

Wells-Hay began a career as a social worker and was an art therapist for a number of years before starting her own business in Belmont.

Taking an environmental and organic approach, her business has taken hold in the Lakes Region. Over the past 10 years, she has grown her business from two customers to more than 40 clients today.

"We design, install and maintain gardens in the area," she said. "I have between three and five people working with me each year."

Wells-Kay and her workers tend to residential gardens as well as some commercial properties. She also volunteers her services to a number of churches and organizations in the area.

"We do a certain amount of volunteer work from year to year," she said.

Recently, in the Belmont Village, Wells-Kay helped design the Penstock Park, located along Main Street. She said she was in charge of the layout of the fences, signs and other items for the park, which is still a work in progress.

Her business specializes in providing services with an organic approach, a practice she said was very important to her.

"We don't use any pesticides, herbicides or insecticides," she said. "We focus on building the soil because often times when you have good soil, you don't need any treatments. When you have good soil, you should have healthy plants."

In addition to designing and maintaining gardens, Wells-Kay also teaches individuals on various topics such as storm water management and proper vegetable gardening.

Wells-Kay said a rewarding part of having her own business is having the freedom to do work that fits in with her principles and values.

“One thing I like to do is to treat my employees very well and try to pay them a living wage for New Hampshire,” she said. “They work so hard and, without my employees, I wouldn’t have my business, that’s for sure.”

She said she really enjoys the people whom she works with.

Contact Ginger Wells-Kay at 603-524-8607 or e-mail her at gardening@metrocast.net.

For more information about Garden Artisans, LLC, visit www.gardenartisans.net.