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Rosalyn the Rustic Ruminant

Artists: Diane Relf and
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Over the years I collected five of the 275 gallon fuel tanks with the idea of a herd up on our back hill. When we put this Art in the Garden project together, I thought what a great time to build the herd and share it publicly. Dave and I quickly realized it would take more time than we had and pulled Michael Collver and his students into the endeavor. It was such fun to visit while the kids worked on their cows and see their enthusiasm for creativity and technical skills combined. I think they did a great job with the expert support Michael provided.

Rosalyn the Rustic Ruminant was built as the first cow of our herd. She is simple in design and structure to represent the rural values that are found in recycling of the even the simplest materials. Though I have been an artist for less than 10 years, I have been creative through my work with Master Gardeners and the Virginia Gardener program and Horticultural Therapy for the last 40 years. Dave has combined his skill as a photographer with our extensive travel. In recent years his support of my art endeavors has involved more and more of his skill as a construction contractor. Ultimately his newly acquired skills in welding have led him to embrace his creative-artist side. Dave and I are planning a few more simple and rustic cows to keep Steven company, as the other cows have sold.