

Children's Garden Club  
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Fun in the Garden

## Deco Stone

2651 Barrett Station Road

[www.stlouisco.com/parks](http://www.stlouisco.com/parks)

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Welcome to the July Meeting, we appreciate & Thank David Sherwood and staff for jumping in this month for the Children's Garden Club. How many where here last month for the awesome I spy hunt?

Hope to see you next month at just down the street August 6<sup>th</sup> - @ Greenscape Gardens Center to follow in our Pollinator Project and learn about Bees along with flowers and our pollinator health Web . Every third bite of food we eat is made possible by a pollinator .

Your home garden should be a place of peace and relaxation. It is a chance to get your hands dirty and create something beautiful for all to enjoy. A Hand Painted Garden Stone is the perfect addition to a home garden. Each stone is unique to the creator and we look forward to seeing what each young gardener creates. Let your imagination run wild and have fun with it!

Here is a fun craft idea for the garden. Using some flat river rocks, a little paint, You to rev up the creative spirit! these river cobblestone can be painted into animals or flowers on them for decorations in the garden.

Kids love to paint, and they love to see their artwork displayed throughout the house. Kids' artwork is usually displayed on the refrigerator or bulletin boards, but do not overlook the garden when showcasing these original stone creations.

This Project today can be done all year long to add fun to your garden or tell story of your favorite thing with a hand-painted stone. You can transform a rock into a plant or row marker, a message rock or simply dress up a planting bed, a paper weigh on your desk . Painting and personalizing rocks is an easy, fun, project that kids & adult love to do.

Kids be creative when thinking about how to decorate your stone. Think about where they will go in the garden, and what kinds of flowers and plants they will surround. For example, if the stones will be placed with a potted red geranium, deep purples and oranges would make a nice contrast. For an herb garden, have kids paint pictures of herbs, such as rosemary, parsley. Annuals sunflower, Gerber Daisy, Petunia, are Your favorite animal.

Other ideas are to let kids write their names or draw pictures of favorite hobbies, such as a football or pom-poms. Encourage little artists to draw things that interest them, so when they look back at their creations years down the road, they will remember specific times in their lives.

Create "buggy" companions to garden plants by having kids paint ants or spiders on their rocks. These make attractive and whimsical additions to hanging plants or flower boxes. After the rocks are finished, use puff paint to write kids' names on them. Put them on a shelf to dry.

After the stones have dried, make sure to spray them thoroughly with clear spray shellac. This will protect them from the elements as they are stored outside, and will insure that they last longer. When winter rolls around, gather the stones and store them in the garage in a box.

## Gift-Giving Ideas

What grandma wouldn't appreciate hand-painted garden stones for a birthday or Christmas gift? Consider putting them in mugs or a painted pot with flower seed packets. The possibilities are endless! Be creative.

Here is what we will do today -

1. Clean rock, removing dirt, sand and loose particles. Dry.
2. Plan and sketch out your decorating scheme or artwork (image 1).
3. Apply a base coat (optional).
4. Paint the designs you have in mind — like names of plants — either freehand or using stencils. Paint abstract designs and other decorations. Allow to dry.
5. Add decorative touches by gluing colorful glass marbles or tiles onto the rock, following the directions on the adhesive package. If advised, work in a well-ventilated area.
6. Spray with fixative (optional).







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### **Protect Precious Artwork with Shellac**

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