

Self-Taught Artist Makes Life-Size Sculptures

Stan McCarthur of Athabasca, Alta., never gets tired of welding. Although he works full-time as a welder, his day job just isn't an adequate outlet for his creative juices. So after hours he uses his AC/DC stick welder to create works of art.

He creates life-sized sculptures using a combination of welding heating (with a propane torch), pounding (with various types of hammers), and grinding (with air-driven tools). The result is extremely detailed works of art that attract a lot of attention.

Initially, McCarthur creates the basic form or shape by welding together miscellaneous pieces of pipe and steel. Then, he continually fine-tunes it, adding steel and taking some off again until he's happy with the outcome.

His specialty is wildlife and birds of prey, but he has also made a replica of his friend, Walt Talmey, mid-swing, playing golf.

Talmey marvels at McCarthur's accuracy, pointing out that the cap that was made for the statue actually fits his own head perfectly!

McCarthur captured his subject's position by looking at a photograph but, since he's a stickler for detail, he took Talmey's body measurements as well.

The finished sculpture is 6-ft tall and is fastened to a base equipped with castors to

make the 400-lb. unit portable.

"I love doing this realism sculpture and I have a world of patience for it," he says. "Once I start a project, I work steadily on it until I'm finished. I don't need a blueprint – I just do it. I didn't have to go to school to learn how to do this. It's just a God-given gift. I can't draw a thing, but I can visualize something and make it out of steel."

McCarthur's work is time-consuming. The golfer sculpture took 400 hrs. to complete. He has also made a life-sized bald eagle (300 hrs.), a golden eagle (250 hrs.), a mountain lion lying down (300 hours), a 17-in. tall peregrine falcon (over 100 hours) and a 5 3/4-in. tall tree swallow (50 hours).

He incorporates color into some of his projects by combining heat from the torch with water, to bring gold and purplish hues to the metal. First, McCarthur polishes the area where color is desired, and then he applies water and heat until it turns the color he wants. Lastly, he covers it with a coat of clear acrylic to preserve the color, avoiding any changes that would otherwise be brought on by oxidation. He says these colored sculptures should be re-treated with acrylic every six months for best results.

Between his regular job and the sculpting, McCarthur hasn't put in much time trying to



Stan McCarthur spent 400 hrs. on this full-size steel replica of friend Walt Talmey. Statue's hat fits Talmey's head perfectly. The 5 3/4-in. tree swallow (right) took McCarthur 50 hrs. to create.



McCarthur welds, pounds and grinds metal to make these sculptures.



market his finished projects.

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Sand Digger Mounts On Disk Blade

Every year Shaun Perret of Dalmeny, Sask. makes his little guys something for Christmas. One of his best creations was a digger for their sandbox. "It's a fun way to move sand from one location to another or to load it into their trucks," he says.

Perret machined the digger himself and painted it his favorite color, John Deere green. The base, a disc, has a spindle and two tapered roller bearings under it so the cylinder rotates smoothly. The control sticks are made from 3/4-in. pipe covered with rubber

handles. The "operator" sits on a plastic bike seat.

One controller raises and lowers the bucket while the other one tips the bucket.

Perret drew up detailed plans for a second one he built for his nephew and is willing to sell the plans for \$20 (Can.).

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"It's a fun way to move sand from one location to another or to load it into their trucks," says Shaun Perret about the sand pile digger he made for his sons.

He Restores Horse-Drawn Plows

David Reid of Sardis, B.C., collects and restores antique, horse-drawn walking plows. He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of some of his prize plows.

"I've been a promoter of horse plowing match competitions for 65 years, and have taken part myself in many events," says Reid. "Part of my collection was displayed last August at the Atchelitz Thresherman's show at Chilliwack, B.C. In all I had 19 plows and other equipment in my display."

According to Reid, it takes about 35 hours to restore a general purpose plow and about 50 hours to restore a sod plow, including testing and adjustments.

To restore the plows, he first disassembles all parts and checks them over for wear and straightness. The parts are cleaned, and he makes new parts when necessary such as landsides, shares, coulter, skimmers and handles. Then all parts are assembled and fitted so they match each other to provide a smooth share-to-moldboard surface, as well as a smooth share-to-landside surface. Then he disassembles all parts and applies two coats of paint. After assembly, he applies two more coats of paint.

"Over the last 22 years I've partially or completely restored a total of 46 different plows, mainly Massey Harris, Fleury, Cockshutt, Melotte Rollover, Oliver,



It takes about 35 hrs. to restore a general purpose plow and 50 hrs. to restore a sod plow.

Wilkenson, McCormick Deering, and a Sellars High Cut," says Reid. "These are mainly Canadian plows and I sell them only if I have a duplicate, and then only to Canadian competition plow people. I also donate them to museums," he notes.

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In 22 yrs., David Reid has restored 46 different plows. He sells duplicates to Canadian competition plow people.

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