

Submitting Artist : Darrell Markewitz

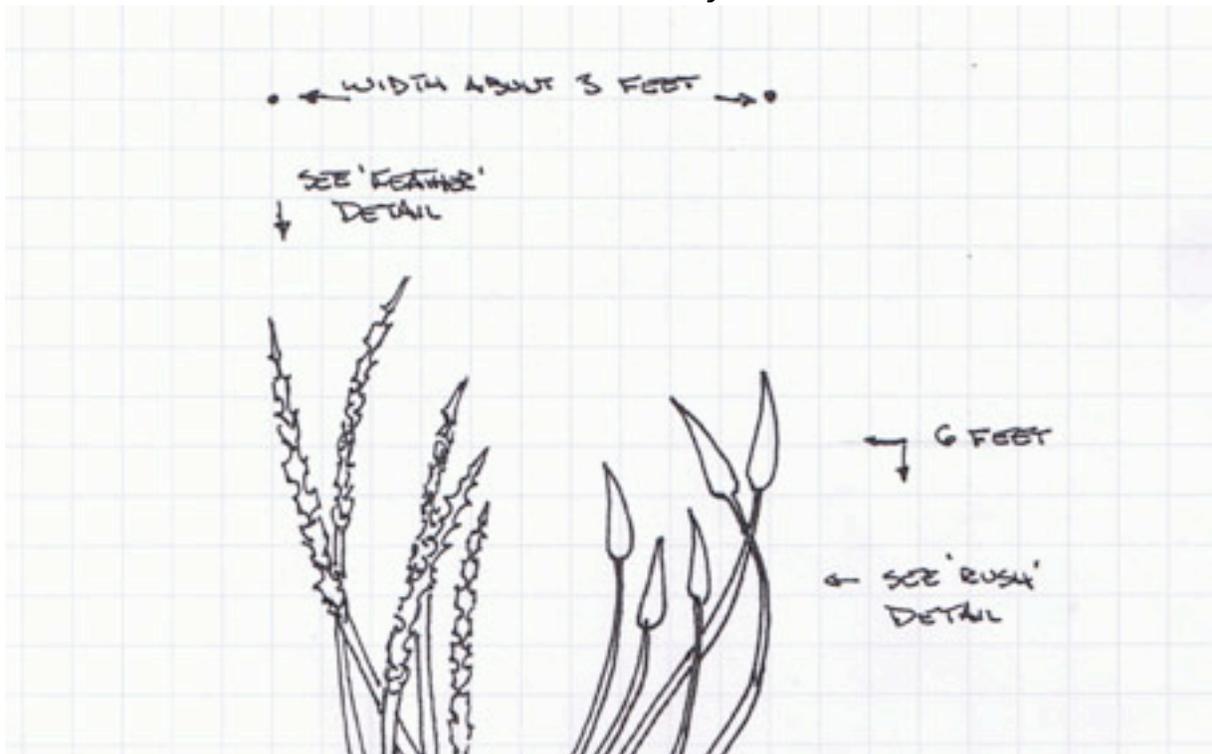
I was attracted to possibility of contributing to the Haliburton Sculpture Forest for a number of reasons.

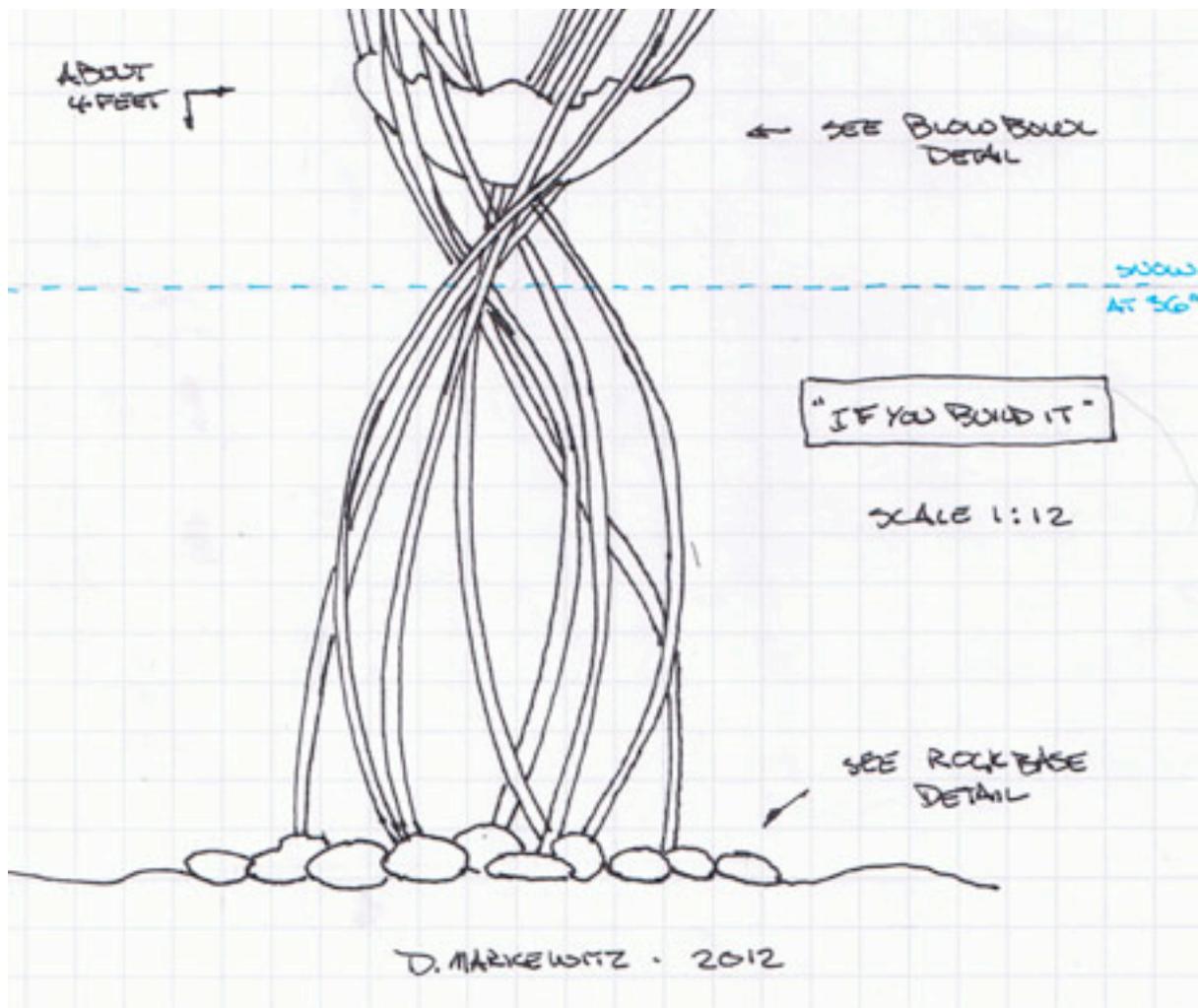
Foremost, Sir Sandford at Haliburton offers the only full time training related to the work of the Artisan Blacksmith in Ontario, and one of the few in all Canada. Aggressively hand forged techniques are capable of creating forms no other methods can match. With over 35 years of forge work experience, I saw a definite link to be drawn to the organic lines in my own style.

I have had an opportunity to walk at least part of the Sculpture Forest. Its atmosphere of quiet is coupled with the excitement of discovery around every corner. The combination quite appeals to me, as does the lack of formality in which the component works are presented.

I was however, less interested in undertaking a realistic depiction of "Avian Fauna", and so considered aspects of the second suggestion; " a work that brings the image of birds to the eye of the viewer".

Title: 'If You Build It - they will come'





Form: bird bath / feeder

Concepts:

Almost any sculpture providing the required durability and longevity for the Haliburton Sculpture Forest needs to be rigid in its construction. How to add movement to such an enduring form? My solution is to attract natural life itself into the sculptural framework. 'If you build it' thus entices the birds themselves to become an ever changing dynamic component of the work.



Gold Finch perched on my 'Glass Disk Hanger'

The central bowl is an irregular shape created from bloomery iron. The Near North region is covered with deposits of naturally occurring bog iron ore deposits. In the Settlement Period (1800's) these deposits were sources to the first iron industries in Ontario, the Marmarra Iron Works a prime example. Thus the primary material of sculpture is related directly to the Region.

Bloomery iron has a distinctive texture and visual appearance quite unlike our modern metals. I am the only artist in Ontario who creates and works with bloomery iron.* Bloom iron, due to its low carbon content, will weather slower than modern mild steel. As it does oxidize, the slag occlusions this metal contains will cause it to weather in unusual patterns.

The shallow bowl becomes a natural bird bath, filled passively by rain. It also could be used as a feeder in winter months, attracting wild life.



Bowl forged from Bloom Iron

* For more details on my work with bloomery iron, see the web site documentation : www.warehamforge.ca/ironsmelting

The bowl at the heart of the sculpture is held up in a loose basket made of intertwined organic elements. Forged of stainless steel, these pieces will have a light grey colour, contrasting sharply with the dull black of the lower bowl. The uprights are stylized interpretations of two common Ontario road side plants. To one side will be a bundle of gracefully tapering rushes. To the other are a spray of my distinctive 'feather' forms, which are inspired by the reed Phragmites. Balanced against each other, the native plant and the invasive species. Who can say which is more 'natural'?



'Rush' and 'Feather'

The base frame of the sculpture will be covered with a loose spray of natural beach stones - gathered from the Region. First are oval, wave polished stones from the Lake Huron shore (Goderich area). The second are fragments of pock marked limestone from Manitoulin Island. If possible, some pieces of the dramatically folded granite from East Georgian Bay would be included.



Manitoulin Limestone - as sculpture base

Size / Scale

In keeping with the four seasons use of the Sculpture Forest, 'If you build it' is scaled to retain a physical presence even with three feet of snow ground cover. The sculpture has an overall height of about seven feet. The area the sculpture occupies is an irregular oval about 3 1/2 by 3 feet.

The central bowl is an irregular oval shape overall, roughly 18 to 24 inches in diameter, about 6 inches deep. The top edge of this bowl will sit at roughly four feet off the ground.

As well as clearing the snow cover, this placement allows the rough textured lower / outer surface of the bowl to be easily viewed as the observer approaches - through the bulk of the seasons.

The inner surface of the bowl will be ground smooth. Initially this will make a bright surface, which will oxidize differently than the outer surface as time goes by. This difference becomes a visual discovery for the viewer as they approach closely.

The individual curved organic elements vary in height. The top of the lowest will sit at roughly five feet from ground level, extending to closer to seven feet for the tallest. The graceful curves sweep the terminal points inwards, providing a measure of safety. The 'feather' elements will be about 2 - 3 inches wide. The 'rushes' will be about 1 1/2 inches diameter at their widest.

Please note that the layout drawing provided should not be considered a precise blueprint. The individual elements will be forged to best conform to each other, and to create a pleasing whole. Variation on exact shape, size and placement is to be expected.

Materials / Process

The main bowl will be forged from self made bloomery iron.

Several individual blooms will be needed to be welded together to create a large enough plate to dish out the bowl shape. The resulting form will vary in thickness, but will be in the range of 1/4" over all. The outer edges will be left irregular, with some cracks and fissures as occur naturally in the starting material.

The 'feather' elements will be forged from 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 x 1/8" web stainless steel. These will be left with their 'straight from the forge' finish. The stem portion is created by forging the starting material into closed oval.

The 'rush' elements are composed of two pieces, later MIG welded together, both of stainless steel.

The heads are forged into tapers from 1 1/2" diameter pipe. The main shafts are forged from 3/4" diameter round rod, tapered to roughly 3/8" where they attach to the rush heads.

The uprights would be welded together on their inside edges wherever they should cross within their random placement (below the bowl). The bowl itself would also be welded to the uprights at the points where it rested against each.

The base frame will be formed from lengths of 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 x 1/8" web stainless angle iron. These would be welded into a roughly H shaped frame. The individual uprights are then welded to this frame.

All MIG welds indicated would be made using a stainless steel filler wire (to limit oxidation).

Mounting / Maintenance:

The finished sculpture would be delivered as a single unit, with the base frame already welded in place. The estimated total weight would be about 175 lbs.

On site installation should consist of placing the sculpture on a prepared base surface, securing it with 6 - 8 screws / bolts, then covering the base mount with loose stones.

The frame would be pierced with a number of 1/2 diameter holes. These would allow the attachment of 3/8 diameter lag screws / bolts or 'tapcon' fittings - depending on the footing method decided upon.

It would be quite possible to mount the sculpture on to an existing rock surface. The only requirement would be that the surface was roughly level and flat. Tapcons would be the ideal attachment hardware in this case.

Due to the rigid construction of the sculpture, and its relatively light weight for its size, a simple raft of pressure treated 4 x 4 wood beams would certainly support it. These could be dug in to expose only their top surfaces at ground level. This certainly would be the simplest (and cheapest!) mounting surface.

If there is any concern over possible theft, a simple rectangular pad of

concrete could be poured to mount the sculpture.

The stones would be loosely placed to cover over the mounting surface and the base frame once the sculpture was permanently mounted. There is no special security intended for these stones.

There is no specific maintenance expected to be required. The majority of surfaces are slowly oxidizing stainless steel. The bloomery iron bowl is thick enough to withstand decades of exposure, and its natural weathering process is considered part of the dynamic of the work.

Yearly cleaning of accumulated dirt and wind blown vegetation from inside the bowl would be expected.

If the bowl is to be used as a bird feeder, some regular schedule of filling and cleaning would obviously become required.

Commission Cost:

The durable stainless steel and unusual bloomery iron combine to make raw materials contribute a significant part of the overall cost of the sculpture (roughly one third).

Quote below includes cost producing the sculpture as described, including gathering the natural stones for the base cover from the locations indicated. Delivery of the sculpture to your Haliburton location (from Wareham) plus a generous four hours installation time are included.

The Wareham Forge does collect and remit HST, this amount is indicated separately.

Quoted cost for 'If You Build It'	: \$7150
Required HST	: \$929.50
TOTAL COST	: \$8079.50