

Dandelion In A Breeze Sculpture

By Hank Brooks

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What's the dandelion made of?**

The dandelion is primarily made of stainless steel.

- **Can the dandelion be kept outside?**

While stainless steel is corrosion resistant, it needs special treatment to truly be corrosive (rust) free. So we don't recommend keeping it outside. I investigated having the sculpture undergo this special electroplating corrosive resistant treatment, but decided not to do it because I was not sure the sculpture would survive the process. It will thrive best in a covered or semi-covered area which protects it from rain and high wind.

- **How big is this sculpture and how much does it weigh?**

It is approximately seven feet tall and the base measures five feet by four feet. Approximate weight is 50 lbs. It is on display in the lobby of the Safety Harbor Library.

- **If I win it, how will I get it home?**

We will deliver it free in the Tampa Bay area.

- **Where did you get the inspiration for the sculpture?**

I really enjoy viewing metal sculptures wherever I find them, including on the internet. I have seen similar sculptures and was captivated by the dynamics and beauty of such a sculpture.

- **Why did you do it?**

The Covid pandemic has kept most of us close to home. So to keep my sanity, in early 2020, I started what I call my "Covid Creations". I first started in wood – making such things as a dinosaur pull toy for my great-grandson, and some wood art which hangs on walls. Most every relative in my family received one of these, whether they wanted it or not. Then about mid 2020 I started looking for a different challenge. I had made a metal sculpture for my brother about 30 years ago. It was a six foot copper waterfall with water dripping from leaf to leaf and living plants intertwined with the copper leaves. Pretty cool!

- **OK, now that's it's finished, what are you going to do with it?**

In the summer of 2020 I finished my first, recent metal sculpture. A seven-foot, big bird type of creature which we affectionately named "Waldo". After it was finished and painted I asked myself, "Now where is Waldo going to live?" I didn't think the neighbors would appreciate it if I put it in my yard because Waldo is special creature. Someone said they would give me \$50 for it and take it off my hands. But I wasn't doing this for the money and once created, you're creations are special – almost like children. I wanted Waldo to go out into the world and do something special. Then someone suggested Waldo might find a useful home at the Safety Harbor Library. And so he has. I was very encouraged when one of the library staff told me that Waldo reminded them of their eclectic staff – a little different, yet very friendly and helpful. They held a contest and renamed "Waldo" the "Great Quacksby" and he was welcomed into their fold.

It then occurred to me that I could use my metal sculpture talents to help support a local non-profit. And what better group to help than the Safety Harbor Library, where the "Great Quacksby" lives. Therefore I donated the sculpture, "Dandelion in a Breeze" to the library with the intention of helping raise funds

for the library. Lately I have also made some aluminum butterflies for the library for their “Butterfly Garden”. They are not being decorated and will soon be “flying” about the garden.

- **How long did it take you to make it?**

Total time was about three months. However, I must admit that a lot of time was spent learning how to work with stainless steel. Besides welding the metal, there was the very time consuming process of getting the sculpture base to shine like a mirror. Seven different grades of sandpaper were used ranging from 300 grit to 5000 grit. Total time to get the base to shine was over 30 hours of sanding/ buffing/ polishing.

- **Did it cost a lot to make?**

While I did not keep exact records on the cost, I estimate that it cost about \$1000 in materials to make. This includes both the cost of the metal and the consumables like welding materials and sanding and polishing supplies. Of course countless hours were needed to construct it.