

ArtXpressions

113 East Iron, Salina, Kansas 67401



Stan Lauer

Home 785-825-6193

Cell 785-819-3848

slauer@cox.net

Born and raised on a farm in Dickinson County, Stan rode horseback to a one-room school where fourteen students attended eight grades. At that early age, he especially enjoyed making bird houses in his spare time from apple crates.

As time went on, Stan had little spare time in high school or college for woodworking and his interest waned. Upon completion of college at Kansas State, he entered the field of education and taught and coached for six years before becoming an administrator for the duration of his professional education career. He became principal of a little larger school than his own grade school – Roosevelt-Lincoln Middle School in Salina had over six hundred and fifty students.

During the 21 years that Stan was principal he found the need to again explore and develop his woodworking skills. The stress that accompanied being a principal brought out a definite need for relaxation from his daily regime. He constructed a woodworking shop in his backyard and started making many objects for family and friends as gifts for holidays and special occasions. The evening time spent in his shop truly served as his ‘aspirin’ needed for relaxation.

Over the years, Stan has been polishing his woodworking skills in a variety of areas including making furniture, jewelry boxes, turning wooden pens and pencil sets, KU and K-State licensed logos, fret work and a unique variety of gifts for special occasions. He retired in 1999 and now devotes full time to his business of artistic woodworking.

Presently his greatest love is doing “intarsia”, which is a process of using natural colored woods to create life-like animals, birds, fish or scenery. By studying grain patterns in the wood, selecting the appropriate colors, shaping and contouring each piece to fit adjacent to the next piece before edge gluing, his creations come to life. Many of the imported exotic woods are used to garner just the precise color – over 70 species of wood to date. Some of the intarsia pieces have over one hundred pieces, with some approaching two hundred pieces, and contain up to sixteen species of wood. Stan describes intarsia as painting with wood.

Salina Journal readers voted Stan as a finalist for the Reader’s Choice Favorite Artist in both 2003 and 2004. He was commissioned to build a pulpit and altar table by a local church and was invited to carve panels for the production of *The Piano Lesson* at the Salina Community Theater. The panels were mounted on the piano during the play and auctioned off as beautiful pieces of art at the conclusion of the performance run.

Stan's work has been displayed at the Salina Regional Health Center, Bank VI, Strecker-Nelson Gallery in Manhattan, Berger-Sandzen Gallery in Lindsborg as well as the former Bluestem Gallery where he was a member for 6 years. After the Bluestem closed, he joined Dale Cole as co-proprietor of the ArtXpressions Gallery, 113 E. Iron in Salina.