

Hazel River Arts and Antiques
Artist Biographies

JOHN BAUER

Professional Background

1964 -1967 US Army, 1st Lieutenant, Russian linguist

1970 – B.A. Chemistry, Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH

1970 – 2000 Armco, Inc. (Steel company)

Responsibilities over the years included environmental research, personnel, and governmental affairs

Interests and Hobbies

I have had a lifelong interest in the outdoors including hunting, fishing and birding. In addition, I have been a hobbyist woodworker for over 50 years. My woodworking interest initially came from my father Jack Bauer and later from Fred Laughon the Baptist minister in Gainesville, Florida where I was in school at the time. Fred and his family were students of colonial period furniture and crafts which influenced me to develop similar interests.

As a result of this inspiration I began by making furniture and small craft projects for our home. I have also made cedar strip racing canoes and kayaks, children's wooden cars and trucks, as well as bamboo flyrods, a craft I learned from my father.

About thirty years ago on a trip to Nantucket, Massachusetts, I saw my first Nantucket lightship basket. With my woodworking background I immediately wanted to learn how to make these beautiful and historical baskets myself. I bought a book on lightship baskets in a Nantucket bookstore and went home to try to build my first lightship basket.

I quickly learned that making a lightship basket was an involved process but I leaped into the challenge eagerly. Since I had no formal training in making baskets it took a while to learn the nuances of making a quality basket. I find that learning process never ends. Once I got into making lightship baskets, I became interested in their history. On a number of trips to Nantucket I made it a point to talk to long term on-island basket makers about their thoughts on basket construction and their history. It has been a fascinating story of how the baskets evolved from their somewhat crude utilitarian beginnings to the elegant works of art they are now.

The baskets can take many forms and be as elegantly decorated as can be imagined, however I prefer the more classical look to the art form. As a result, I have avoided such techniques as micro-weaving and over decorating with accoutrements.

DAWN MICKEL

Dawn Mickel began her clay journey with an interest in making tiles. She has studied with local tile maker Joan Gardiner, of Unison Pottery, at Moravian Tileworks in Doylestown, PA. And with tile guru Giorgini at Sugar Maples Center for the Creative Arts, in the Catskill Mountains of New York. Her Her Tile reliefs have been exhibited at Art at the Mill, in Millwood, VA on several occasions.

While continuing her tile endeavors, she is also exploring hand building utilitarian vessels, vases, and bowl etc. Inspiration is acquired from nature, both plant and animal life, with a focus on texture, shape, and color,

KRISTINA RATCHES

Forty-five years of marriage, raising a family of three has taken Kris through all of life's trials and tribulations and joys.

She makes the world a better place through her creativity, imagination and talent.

Kris shares with us her love of art through her original designs in paintings, pencils and pastels.

Kris taught at Brown Academy in Alexandria and has lived in historic Mt Vernon for the last 36 years.

She received her Master's Degree in Education at University of Virginia and Bachelor of Fine Arts at VCU.