

Czech Us Out at the Kansas Originals Czech Festival Gala

PRESS RELEASE

Kansas Originals Market & Gallery is pleased to offer the public the opportunity to meet three exceptional Artists and Craftsmen during the Wilson Czech Festival on Saturday, July 28th. Lauren Seachris is a 12 year old from Dodge City, who has dedicated her talents to providing homes for the extreme poor in Nicaragua. Through her thriving business of creating dog treats, toys and specialties she has reached her goal of financing five homes costing a total of \$26,000. Lauren has been featured in *Jack and Jill* magazine and in various newspapers for her accomplishments. She says, "I decided to continue on this amazing journey and build more homes for the extreme poor." This is your opportunity to meet an amazing young lady.

Lynn Chestnut from Great Bend, is a sixty-six year old carpenter who has turned to creating toys. Each piece is made of different kinds of wood that he blends to give the item character. His outstanding train sits on a wooden track and has engine, tender, passenger car, box car, gondola car, and a caboose. The entire train measures 8 feet long and is sitting on a 9 foot wooden track. Each piece measures from 12 to 18 inches long and is approximately 9 inches tall. Lynn says, "I take a lot of pride in my workmanship which I believe is a gift from God."

Devi Wilbur is an award-winning and nationally-licensed producer of fine art. She has over 400 original pieces in homes and businesses across the U.S. and abroad (England, Australia, and Thailand). Her travels and interests are many, and her pieces are one of a kind originals with subject matter ranging from pure abstracts to tight realistic landscapes and portraits - and everything in between, and include both 2-D and 3-D forms. Devi typically uses archival materials and a professional framer in her better pieces but she is also sensitive to the fact that not everyone needs or wants to bequeath their art collection, so in addition she produces original art for the average art lover. Devi lives in Chapman.

Come Czech Out these three amazing Kansans during the Czech Festival.

A favorite return program available throughout the day is watching the *Barnyard Weed Warriors* goats and dogs from the *Ash Grove Goat Ranch* as their master commands them to perform various tricks and tasks. The *Weed Warriors* are a goat grazing service that started in 2016. They have traveled throughout the state cleaning up brush and weeds. During the festival they will be available for petting. The dogs are registered Border Collies that help control the goats. There will be working dog demonstrations and you will get to meet the newest member of the dog crew. Her name is *Fly*. She will be five months old the end of July.

To bring some fun and nostalgia to the event, Dean Gipe from Salina is bringing his 100 year old antique rope-making machine and anyone who wants to can make a rope with Dean's guidance.

Our sampling table will include *Hogansville Family Farm's* delicious sauerkraut, which is made without vinegar, and a variety of salsas, dips, jellies, popcorn and candy—all made in Kansas. Live music will be provided by our keyboard man, Jim Lawson from Sylvan Grove.

Come Czech out all that Kansas Originals Market & Gallery has to offer. Operated by the Post Rock Opportunities Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation, Kansas Originals has been marketing the work of more than 225 Kansas Artists, craftsmen and food producers for 27 years and is a state recognized Tourist Information Center. The business is located on the Post Rock Scenic Byway at the intersection of Kansas Highway 232 and I-70 near Wilson. Call 785-658-2602 for more information.

###