

Larry Lauder bio interviewed by David Bledsoe



Larry was born March 22, 1958 in the western suburbs of Chicago. Due to the fast growing population, Larry attended four different elementary schools, Longfellow, Pierce Downer, Fairmont & McKinley before heading to O'Neal Jr High & finally Downers Grove South High where he graduated in 1976. In 1980 he graduated with a bachelors degree in computer science from the University of Iowa. He proceeded to do graduate work at North Central College in Naperville, IL, but accepted a position in South Carolina just before completing his degree.

Always fascinated with how things work, science was Larry's favorite subject in school. Perhaps Larry's pinnacle as a youth was reached upon achieving the rank of Eagle Boy Scout at the age of 14 and later receiving the Order of the Arrow, an honorary camping fraternity within the Boy Scouts. Anyone who's known Larry for any length of time can attest to the fact that

he lives according to the Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared". The skills he learned in scouting are put to good use on frequent family camping trips, although he as well as the rest of the family share a preference for the pop up pull behind trailer over rugged camping gear. In 1974, Larry received mention in a scientific journal after having interned at Argonne National Laboratory for one summer. The rest of the staff were PHD's so I would think that's a pretty big deal for a 16 year old. Larry also enjoyed summer jobs in his school years such as pumping gas at a service station. Now those were the days before service stations became self serve convenience stores.

His hobbies include amateur radio, wood working & dabbling in musical instrument repair. He enjoys reading, music, movies, concerts, watching whoever's winning in football & playing a little golf. However much of Larry's spare time as of late is devoted to his daughter, Laura's band activities since assuming the coveted role of Centennial High School's band booster vice president. You might be surprised at a few of Larry's other occasional activities such as scuba diving, climbing antenna towers and sailing. He also holds an instrument rated private pilot license.

Larry met Diane, his lovely wife through a business associate in 1989. They hit it off immediately with both of them being into computer stuff and many other similar interests. They began sailing on Lake Michigan and sharing in numerous other activities. Diane and Larry quickly knew they had found the right match. They were married in Michigan City, Indiana a little over a year later. They lived in St Charles, Illinois for their first five years of marriage where Larry did computer work for University of Chicago, Ernst & Young, and Ameritech. From 1995 – 1998, Larry served as Liberty Corp's Director of Technical Services while residing in Greenville, SC. Upon Larry's

accepting the position of Chief Information Officer with Permanent General Insurance Company, the family moved to Nashville in 1999. The company was sold in 2006, so Larry freelanced for a couple of years before going aboard with Community Health Systems as their Network Engineer in 2008.

Larry started programming computers in high school & has enjoyed working in his field of expertise ever since. He gains great satisfaction when past employees have long moved on but call years later to solicit his advice for guidance with their own career paths.

Larry & Diane have one daughter, Laura who was born in 1994. Laura comes by her skills the hard way as Larry has her operating the bobcat & backhoe at the family cabin on the Buffalo River close to Hohenwald on a regular basis. They have been members of Christ United Methodist since 2000. The most awe-inspiring moment for Larry & Dianne would have to be watching Laura "be confirmed". They are attracted to their church primarily through what they see the church doing in the community including but not limited to their involvement with Habitat.

Larry's initial involvement with Williamson County Habitat was with his church's participation in a Spring Hill build in 2007. Gregg approached him and asked if he would like to become involved on a regular basis ... and he has faithfully served as a Crew Leader ever since. He loves the interaction with Habitat partner families and enjoys the camaraderie with all the other Crew Leaders & volunteers. Larry's favorite Habitat activities are on Day 1 with all the framing detail ... and his least favorite would be painting. This fall, Larry began serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County. We appreciate Larry, Diane & Laura's dedication to Habitat's goal of eliminating substandard housing in Williamson County.