

MAY ARTIST OF THE MONTH—



*B*efore moving to the Villages in the spring of 2006 I owned and managed a private investigations company in Ft Worth, Texas . Most of my cases involved criminal investigations for the courts and attorneys. I worked numerous high profile cases over the years, some of which were aired on Inside Edition, Oprah Winfrey, and Court TV. Before starting my own business in 1985 I was employed as a parole officer for the state of Texas . I spent over 30 plus years dealing with hard core criminals. What a wonderful dichotomy to suddenly become involved in the world of art in my retirement.



I have always been interested in the arts but never had the time to pursue it. I was constantly sketching and doodling some bizarre thing or other while talking on the phone but that was pretty much the extent of my “talent”. I did try watercolor painting once and made a muddy mess. I figured that just wasn’t for me, but watercolor paintings are still my favorite paintings to look at. I never saw, or heard, of colored pencil paintings until I saw them at “Arts around the Square” in Spanish Springs town square after moving to the Villages. I was amazed at what one can create with colored pencils.



I met Nan Klein at the show on the square and discovered she taught colored pencil painting at the college. I signed up and began my first class with her three or four years ago. I was totally hooked and took all four of her classes.



*T*his is just a whole new life for me and I’ve become passionate about it. Seems I have to be working on a painting all the time. I’m accumulating so many now that my husband has threatened to take them to Goodwill before we totally run out of living space.

*T*he art groups here in the Villages are comprised of the most wonderful and talented people, and they are so helpful. It is because of them I’ve been able to progress in my artwork. I just can’t even express how thrilled I am to be winning ribbons now for my artwork, and to be selected for artist of the month.



What a wonderful world apart from that “life on the streets”.

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