

## AUGUST ARTIST OF THE MONTH—CAROL HICKMAN



*I* grew up in Richmond, Va. and spent a lot of time doodling in class during grade school, for which I got in trouble many times. In high school I took art and learned how to do it right. I won a few awards for my drawings at school and at county fairs, etc. and from then on I was hooked and wanted more.

*I* got married and had children and had to set my art aside for a number of years. When my son was about to graduate from high school my husband asked, “Well what are you going to do with yourself now?” I said, “I want to go back to school”. I started taking art classes at my community college and two years later I got an Associates Degree in Art.



*I* studied watercolor for a few years with some of the best teachers available like John Pike, Zoltan Szabo, Gerald Brommer, and Tom Lynch, which opened the door on a new and fascinating world for me. I decided nature was going to be my subject and I dove right in.

*I* started working for the county where I lived, going to schools teaching 1 day work-shops in watercolor. Then I taught watercolor classes at the county community center for a number of years.



*A*fter doing paintings for the family and friends, I decided it was time to try to sell all this art I had collected over the years. I started doing outdoor art shows and was surprised at the sales I was able to make, so I traveled the east coast for a number of years until I got tired of the hard work involved and I said enough.

*T*hen in 2000, a good friend of mine moved to the Villages and wanted me to come down to see her, so I did for. I fell in love with the Villages and the people here.



*S*ince my husband and I had talked about retiring in Florida I convinced him that he needed to see this place. The following year we bought our first house in the Villages. Since then we have moved twice. Now we are frogs.

*S*ince I moved to the Villages in 2004 I can't imagine living anywhere else. I enjoy my life here because I'm always busy. I paint, I exercise more and I love to dance with a bunch of girls called “The Sweet and Sassy” Line Dance Team.

*I* have truly been blessed with my career as an artist. I have enjoyed every painting and every student and I