

JANUARY 2012—ARTIST OF THE MONTH—JERVIS D. KESTER

I grew up on wheat ranch in a remote area of Eastern Washington where as a child I had plenty of time to indulge in my interest in drawing. As a high school senior I was honored to be selected from our class of 16 graduates to draw the illustrations for our high school yearbook. After graduating in Engineering from Washington State University, I went East and spent my working years in Connecticut as an Engineer for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft where we designed and developed commercial jet aircraft engines. Except for blueprints, my interest in drawing was put on hold for many years.



After being retired for several years, for my 68th birthday I received a gift of five tubes of artists paint, red, yellow, blue, black and white, brushes and some small canvasses. After a short time I found myself hooked on painting. It was like drawing only more challenging. This was the beginning of my art career. Having started at a late age, I decided to focus only on oil painting in an effort to master one medium.



After deciding that painting was my new profession, I set out to educate myself in the craft by taking as many classes and workshops as I could find. I have taken classes with many excellent teachers at The West Hartford Art League, The Farmington Valley Art Center, The Art League of New Britain, The Von Liebig Art Center in Naples Florida and have had several great classes and workshops here in The Villages through the Lifelong Learning Center



My work has been shown in The Villages and in several venues in Connecticut including the Brick Gallery in Essex. I had one painting selected for the juried Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts exhibition in Mystic CT. and was awarded second prize at the Art League of New Britain spring art show. I continue to paint on most days and enjoy the opportunities The Villages offer for furthering my education in Art.

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