

Artist of the Month—Leda Rabenold



“WE HAVE BEAUTIFUL FLORIDA SURROUNDINGS IN WHICH TO FIND SUBJECT MATTER.”

I've been interested in art since youth, and took as many art electives as available throughout school. When I was in junior high my father built a wooden carry case to hold my oil paints and canvas boards. My first 'prize' was for a painting submitted in a school poster contest. It was of a dog. Coincidentally, I began painting peoples' pets, mainly dogs, just a few years ago.



I had three wishes: to be a secretary, and a wife/mother, and have lots of time to paint when I retired! The Lord has blessed me with all three, and so much more!

Until we moved to The Villages in 2008, I would paint awhile, then put it away, sometimes for years while caring for our five children. I lived in PA until 1997 when we began 18 years of ministry with Wycliffe Bible Translators; there I served as webmaster, corporation secretary and writer. During those years we had 13 different addresses in the States, and visited Tanzania and Kenya in Africa, England, the Philippines and India. Our son lives in Tanzania since 1991, and I've been able to go there six times. We are so privileged to live in this country!

Paul and I officially retired last year. Now I have plenty of time to paint and beautiful Florida surroundings in which to find subject matter. I work with acrylics and spend Wednesday mornings with the Painting Pals at Laurel Manor. I've learned so much from other artists in The Villages and enjoy the opportunity to show my paintings during the VAL and VAA art shows. My "Making Hay While the Sun Shines" painting (below) was juried into the Fine Art Exhibition sponsored by the Ocala Art Group at the Appleton Art Museum in November 2013.

Thank you for the honor to be VAL's Artist of the Month!

