

Artist of the Month—Paul Besse



In 1960, at 11 years old, my mother sent me to a private art teacher. I still have my very first oil painting. In 1967, while a senior in high school, a local gift shop, Sturbridge Yankee Workshop, had a design contest and the successful artists' designs would be printed on napkins, cups, plates, linens, and t-shirts for sale in their store. The gift shop purchased six of my designs. With that sale I bought my first car.



I knew the art field was my future. I attended art classes at Berkshire Community College in Western Massachusetts. In 1969 I transferred to the Art Institute of Chicago to major in advertising and commercial art. After college I went into the store fixture/display business, designing and selling displays for retailers.



I married in 1971 and stayed in Chicago until 1979 when I moved to Atlanta to get away from the cold weather. In 2014, after vacationing here for five winters, I purchased my home in the Village of Collier.

In November of 2015 I started drawing a "Wentide Hole-in-One Award" for my neighbors. I do a cartoon caricature of each golfer and incorporate it into a golf cart drawing. I am up to my 24th award for holes-in-one made by my 77 golfing neighbors.



All during my career I drew and painted in my spare time. My preferred mediums are water-based oil paint, watercolor and colored pencils.