

## Artist of the Month—Greg Smith



Greg Smith hails from Sydney, Australia and emigrated to the United States in 1999 after marrying Trish whom he met on the Internet when online dating was in its infancy. He continued his career as a graphic designer in the publishing industry and five years later, as soon as he was able to do so, Greg was sworn in as an American Citizen.

Apart from his full time job, Greg also continued with his interest in drawing — his favorite medium being colored pencil — and managed to develop a growing list for his commissioned portraits of animals and people. He even managed to squirrel away enough time to devote to his own art, and began to fill his portfolio of work.

He has always blamed his fertile imagination for not being able to become one of those artists who concentrates their art around a specific theme or subject. "I have never been able to pick one subject to stick with," he says. "There is so much of interest always happening around me that sparks my imagination." Greg has worked with oils, acrylics, (some) watercolor, inks, and pastels ... but always returns to colored pencil.

Some five years ago, Greg and his wife decided to retire and sell their home in north Idaho. After a little more than two years touring the country in their 40ft 5th wheel, they found themselves in central Florida staying in an RV park not far from The Villages. Upon returning from spending a Christmas with their children living in Virginia, they "discovered" The Villages, took a trolley ride; liked what they saw, and have lived in the village of Orange Blossom Gardens ever since.

Greg was excited to learn there were a host of groups to join, and especially glad to find two in particular — the VAL and CPPG. He has taken part in several competitions and art shows, and gained some notoriety for his piece titled "The Drover." He has been commissioned for quite a few pet portraits to date since settling in The Villages. He took an hiatus from his art in late 2019 so that he could complete his debut historical fiction novel that he has been working on for the last 9 years. The Archer's Diary was released mid-April, 2020.

