

FEBRUARY 2012—ARTIST OF THE MONTH—EILEEN NAVIKAS



I was born in Lancaster County, PA. where I spent my formative years on a farm. From an early age, I loved to sketch and with paper being scarce, I would use whatever was available. Living on a tobacco farm, I would typically use the

brown paper that my Daddy used to bail tobacco.



When I got married, I put my art interests aside for a short time but when my children started school, I took up oil painting and began taking oil painting classes

with Jay McVey and other local artists and I started selling my oil paintings of landscapes at local art shows.

I moved to Harrisburg, PA. in 1968 where I continued to paint in Oil with the Paxtang Art Association. I painted exclusively in oil until 1970. When I was in a class with both oil and watercolor artists, I observed that the watercolor artists were “having more fun” and painting a painting each class period; it was then that I switched to watercolor. I then enrolled at the York Academy of Art for formal art instruction and also took classes in art history at the Harrisburg Community College. For 15 years I took watercolor instruction from Nick Ruggieri. I have shown my artworks in many outdoor and one-woman art shows in PA, MD, DE and FL. My paintings have won many awards and my art is part of both corporate as well as private art collections.



When I later moved back to Lancaster, I was asked to teach watercolor. I taught for 15 years and furthered my interests by going to workshops conducted by Betty Lou Schlem, Charles Reid, Tony Couch and many more.



I am a past member of the Paxtang Art Association; the Art Association of Harrisburg, PA; the Lancaster County Art Association and the Lititz Spring Art Association.

My work has been exhibited at Donnecker’s Art Gallery in Ephrata, PA and is included in numerous corporate and private collections.



Since moving to The Villages in 2004 and seeing the wonderful art of the talented artists living here, in different mediums, I have added acrylic, pastel and colored pencil to my painting mediums. I recently have been making greeting cards, combining fabric (my 2nd love is

quilting) with my art.

I have always felt that being an artist to be very rewarding and I have never wanted to jeopardize that love by making being an artist my occupation or simply to win prizes. As my art interest has evolved, I have found that looking at my surrounds to be more interesting and I look forward for that interest and love to continue to grow.

I am now a member of the VAL, VAA and CPPG in The Villages.