

## OCTOBER 2013—ARTIST OF THE MONTH—PHIL JUL-



Phil Julian's career as an artist can be traced to his early childhood. As a boy of about 5 years old, he recalls sitting on his mother's lap and asking her to draw a picture of a bird. She drew the outline of what might have been a dove and he was so impressed he never forgot the incident. After four years of high school art education, the artist was honored as "most artistic" in his senior class.

The early years of adult life were consumed with the challenges of raising family but in 1971 he enrolled in oil painting classes where he studied under a highly accomplished local artist for five years. During that period he experimented with all types of painting including



Acrylic—Wagon at Spanish Springs

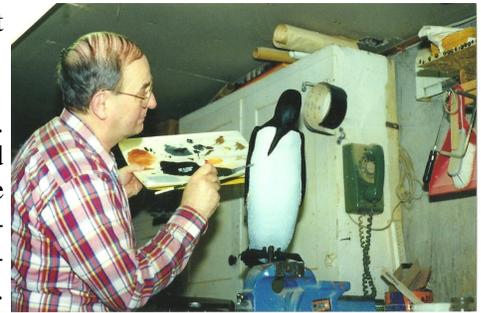
landscapes, seascapes, still life and florals. Mr. Julian said he enjoys the blending qualities of oil paints and prefers using oils in florals but more recently has gained a new appreciation for acrylic paints.

As a resident of the Villages, he has found many outstanding subjects for painting including the covered wagon at Spanish Springs and the 1930's Ford pick-up truck at Brownwood.



Oil—Hibiscus

It was in 1983 that the artist stumbled into the world of wood carving. Having been presented with a broken down old wooden decoy, he glued the head back on, made the necessary repairs and painted the carving in the colors of a Mallard Drake. Mr. Julian was pleased with his efforts but convinced that he could do better by starting from scratch. Armed with a hammer, chisel and old scrap wood, he created his first Mallard wood carving. Following much research and experimentation, he enrolled in two years of study under a master carver.



Painting carving of standing loon



Acrylic Lenhart Hotel Porch

He has since created hundreds of carvings, oil and acrylic paintings that the exhibits and sells at galleries and art shows throughout Western New York and more recently in Florida. Perhaps his favorite show was The Allentown Art Festival in downtown Buffalo where he displayed and sold for about 15 years. The juried annual two day show typically draws about 500,000 artists and art lovers from all over the country.

Mr. Julian has been the recipient of many ribbons and awards. He keeps that original old Mallard carving on his work bench as a reminder of how much he has to learn. "I think many people have a natural talent and interest in the arts but to reach any level of accomplishment takes a lot of effort, study and hard work" he said.

The artist feels that the ultimate compliment is when someone pays their hard-earned money to purchase a piece of his art. Since moving to Polo Ridge in the Villages as a "snow bird" in 2008, he has exhibited in many shows and has maintained membership in both the Villages Art League and Visual Arts Association. He is amazed at the number of Villages people who participate and support the arts. "It's a great place to be an artist" "There is no question that being involved in a world of art has enriched my life and I hope that my work has brought pleasure to those who have followed and supported my career" said Mr. Julian.