

Do you know? - Dianna Rohweder

Do You Know that there are over 3,500 total resident-led clubs in the Villages covering various art interests? That in and of itself is an eye-opening number. They range from fine arts, wood working, glass fusion, photography, painting and our favorite, The Colored Pencil Painters Guild which was established in 2011. The CPPG provides a platform for artistic expression within the community as fine art.

The reason I wanted to spotlight our club is we are welcoming new members that may not know the nitty gritty of the club. I know it is easy to say you can go online and read the bio, but not many people have time to dig in. For the note takers - you can find the club at <https://www.pencilpainters.com>.

What I love about the club is that membership is open to all levels. From the beginning to the advanced artist, everyone is always welcoming and helpful. You will never find anyone who will say no to helping you. I have found when you ask a question, their pencil gets put down and you have undivided teaching attention.

What makes this club special is there is always something going on that encourages participation outside the standard once a month club meetings. The Villages offers Enrichment Academy Classes that are taught by our members for you to improve or update your skills in colored pencil, watercolor pencil and drawing fundamentals. The five Open Studio Workshops are held monthly at various recreation centers and have teachers that are there to provide guidance. You are able to work on your own project and ask for assistance if needed.

There are monthly programs and judged shows that help showcase The Color Pencil Painters Guild to our Villager neighbors. The artwork is displayed in various recreation centers around the Villages. You do not need to be a grand artist to enter which is special. Visitors are able to view beginner to advanced artistry by looking at various subjects to bring attention to our craft.

There is an 'Emerging Artist Exhibit' that provides Judging opportunities for new artists and exposes them to the whys and hows of judging criteria.

The CPPG also raises money for scholarships to students of Beacon College.

Volunteers keep the club running smoothly whether it is joining a committee or assisting with upcoming events such as the annual Spring Jubilee Show in March or High Tea in April. The more people that help, the easier the function is to run! In addition, you get to work closely with your club members!

Please join the Facebook Group so you are able to keep up with the club and see the works of art that our members are working on. They reflect personal and classwork.

Please see any member with questions that you may have! **I will mention again that volunteers are needed for the two upcoming events - The annual Spring Jubilee Show and the Fundraiser High Team and Fashion Show.**