

# OUR PAGE OUR STORIES, OUR OWN

*Editor's Note: Local artist Luanne McKibbin recently discovered the masterful wildlife photography of Magnolia's own Becky Hinson, and a remarkable collaboration was launched. Here's Becky's report.*



Luanne and her husband moved to Middleburg from Massachusetts in 2014. She retired as a medical transcriptionist three years ago. She was looking for an activity to occupy her time in retirement so she started watching free painting tutorials on Youtube. Step one was how to mix paints as she had no idea how to blend colors. Prior to watching Youtube videos she had no experience with art

at all. What she has achieved in such a short period of time and with no formal training is astonishing!

She did acrylic painting for the first two years. In year three she decided to use polychromos pencils on a pastelmat board in order to be more detailed. Her first attempt to sell was at the Orange Park Farmer's Market two years ago. That experience wasn't as successful as hoped but she did meet another artist that suggested she join the Art Guild of Orange Park.



After joining the Guild she began to exhibit her work. She recently participated in a show at the Thrasher-Horne Center and sold a stunning portrait of a young girl. She will exhibit next at Santioni's Italian Restaurant, and at the Jacksonville International Airport, also in July.

I met Luanne through Facebook when she began to like and comment on my wildlife photos. I gave her permission and she began to draw one of my favorite photos of a Great White Egret at Spring Park. My daughters contacted Luanne and asked if she would draw the bird so they could give it to me for Mother's Day. I am now the proud owner of my own "Luanne Original." One of my turtle photos and a pileated woodpecker are also on her list of future drawings. (See next page.)

We've found we have a lot in common. We're the same age, both come from medical backgrounds, her in transcription and me in medical claims. Crazy

enough, we began our art endeavors at almost exactly the same time three years ago. Neither of us have any formal training. We certainly never dreamed anyone would enjoy or be willing to purchase our work, but here we are sharing our love of art with others and having the times of our lives while we do it!

*Continued*



# OUR PAGE

Our methods are the same: we look at our subjects and envision the picture in our brains. While I just point and shoot, Luanne has a process. She envisions her drawing, uses the computer to enlarge her subject then traces the outline to her paper. I didn't realize an artist doesn't just draw directly on the paper. The results are



amazing! Some drawings are so life-like you would swear it's a photo. I've encouraged her to use any of my photos for inspiration.

We are both so appreciative of all the positive feedback we've both received for our work. I see an incredible future in art for Luanne. You can view more of her work on her Facebook page under Luanne McKibbin. You can view Becky's photos on Instagram @bechinson.

- BECKY HINSON

