

PEGGY MARKERT AUGUST 2022 ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Beauty abounds in Peggy Markert's North Augusta house, both inside and outside. Her back yard, especially, looks like the work of a master gardener — and she is. The landscaping includes a variety of flowers, shrubs, and trees tucked in together, surrounding the patio. The splashes of color bring to mind the great gardens of Europe. She says, "I enjoy working in my garden every day." Gardening is just one of Peggy's interests. Painting watercolors is another. And along with her Master Gardener designation, she has a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from Coker College in Hartsville, SC. When asked what she enjoyed most of all her classes there, she said, "I loved every minute of every thing I did — sculpture, did some clay, a little of everything, which was nice, so you can see what you want to develop". Later in life she settled into watercolor, with occasional forays into acrylic and oil. After college she owned an art gallery in Hartsville for five years, surrounding herself with art.

She still collects art, and has filled her home with watercolors, acrylics, oils, pencil drawings, pottery pieces, and even gourd art. Some were gifts, others were bartered or bought. Some are originals, and some are giclee prints. Each piece brings special memories of the artist or the giver or the occasion. Her own paintings also have significance for her, mostly drawing from nature and the flowers she loves. She paints birds, butterflies, beach scenes, flowers, still life, and family members — things that are meaningful to her.

Peggy was raised in North Augusta and is a graduate of North Augusta High School. She married her husband, Rupert, at a young age and moved around South Carolina and Georgia "wherever his job took us" for 56 years. During their short time in Georgia, she got her teaching certification from Georgia Southern University, then taught 4th grade and Special Education for 22 years. She and Rupert returned to North Augusta in 2018 to be close to family.

No matter where she has lived, Peggy has continued her art, actively seeking art groups and classes to join. Only attending to health issues has slowed her down. Otherwise, she paints regularly. So upon returning to North Augusta, Peggy began searching for an art group. She found the North Augusta Artists Guild (NAAG) Facebook page ([facebook.com/North Augusta Artists Guild](https://www.facebook.com/NorthAugustaArtistsGuild)) and joined the Guild, because she loves the camaraderie, learning from other artists. She takes lessons and attends watercolor workshops often. Some of her teachers have been Pam Hagan, Pat Weaver, Vickie Nelson, and Michael Pearson. In addition to painting & gardening, Peggy enjoys boating and spending time with her two daughters, three grandchildren, and her great-grandchild.

