



## Artists in Residence in Everglades EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Kathy Garvey

I started out as an artist, graduating from George Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts, specializing in Graphic Design. An allergy to printing ink scrubbed my plans to be a Graphic Artist. I spent the next 15 years raising three lovely daughters, quilting, fabricating costumes, making artificial butterflies for florists, teaching polymer clay and other arts and crafts and dabbling in watercolor and acrylics.

My software training career began in 1986 teaching fellow officemates at Miami Metro Zoo word processing, Lotus and DBase. In '87 I was teaching AutoCAD and Ventura Publisher for a large engineering firm. I added teaching FrameMaker when the software still belonged to Frame Technology. That was 1988. My job for seven years was to train and support users who were creating everything from data sheets to newsletters. I spent another seven years in the government division of the same company, using FrameMaker to write the software manuals and produce the online help and training materials for high-tech image processing software. I also taught that same software at military installations throughout the US. But one day as I was fighting rush hour traffic to teach at the Pentagon, I realized that I was going to be an artist when I grew up and since I was about to turn 50, when was I going to actually grow up?

I eventually managed to shift my career and in 2001 started to teach FrameMaker, which was now an Adobe product, independently. I added teaching Acrobat and Illustrator soon after and Photoshop in 2003. I'm fascinated by what I can create with this incredible software. And I was always amazed at what my students could do after just a few hours of training. Now that I'm semi-retired, I'm helping others with publishing books on CreateSpace, learning InDesign and using software. I have nine beautiful grandchildren that I enjoy spending as much time with as I can. I also have the time to explore digital art to my heart's content and I paint once a week with a wonderful group of artists, The Pieces of Eight!