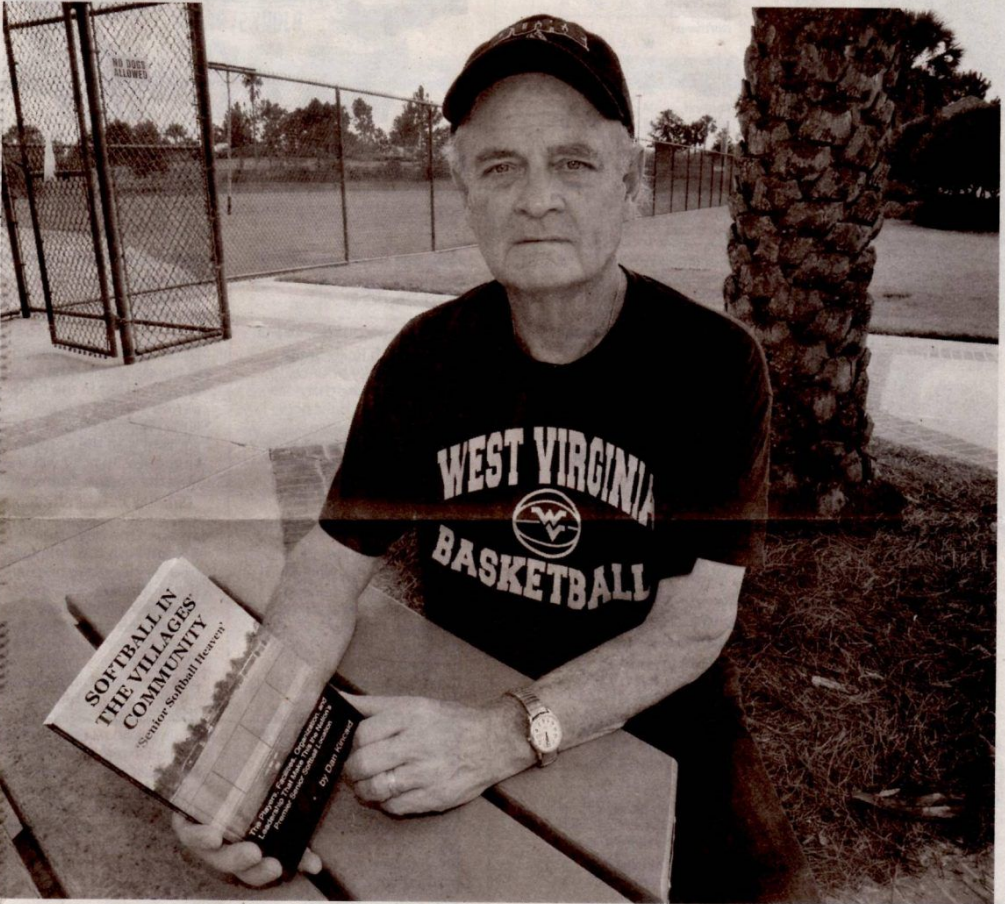


The Villages Softball

Resident Writes Book About Softball in Villages

KINCAID'S OVERVIEW OF THE SPORT HAS BEEN AVAILABLE SINCE LAST MONTH.



John DeClerk | Daily Sun

Dan Kincaid, of the Village of Dunedin, displays "Softball in The Villages Community: Senior Softball Heaven" at Soaring Eagle Softball Complex. The 288-page book features more than 130 player biographies.

By **CODY HILLS**
Daily Sun Staff Writer

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The game of softball has meant a lot to Dan Kincaid since he moved to The Villages.

A native of West Virginia, Kincaid settled down in Florida's Friendliest Hometown back in 2014 and has played the sport recreationally year-round ever since.

"Playing softball in The Villages, anybody who's had the chance to experience it, it's special," said Kincaid, who has played in seven leagues and now suits up in Division 3. "It's a special place with special people playing a special game."

So special, in fact, that the Village of Dunedin resident wanted to share it with anyone who would listen — or read — and that's just what he did.

Kincaid recently published a book titled "Softball in The Villages Community: Senior Softball Heaven," a 288-page paperback that hit the virtual shelves of Amazon on July 19.

Designed and written as an overview of softball in The Villages, the book takes readers on a journey through the sport's history within the community, details guidelines and playing rules, offers perspective from longtime players and staff members of

The Villages Recreation and Parks, and provides more than 130 player biographies from various leagues.

"I've heard people out there say so many times that somebody should write a book on softball in The Villages. I'm just the guy that finally did," Kincaid said.

"I was hoping that it would give the newcomer a general idea of what to expect and what's out there, and how to go about getting involved. It's really an overview and cross-section of everything softball in The Villages, to hopefully showcase all that goes into it."

Kincaid's research began last fall, pulling historical references and conducting interviews with some of the area's longest-tenured players and recreation staff members. He then devised a questionnaire and survey for players of all leagues to participate in, helping bring together more of the book's content and its extensive player biography section.

Once the COVID-19 global pandemic began to limit nearly all other social activities during the middle of March, Kincaid started the majority of the writing and compiling of information in earnest — eventually finishing the piece by the end of May.

"Dan Kincaid's book provides a glimpse into our softball history here," Pam

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Village of Dunedin

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Henry, recreation manager of lifestyles, parks and public relations for The Villages Recreation and Parks, said on the book's back cover, "as well as an overview of where things stand today."

This is the 11th book Kincaid has published, many of which stem from his experience as a forester — spending 31 years with the U.S. Forest Service — though he said the preparation and research this go-round was arguably the most extensive and comprehensive.

Kincaid said he was pleased with how the book came together, and he's hopeful that it becomes a must-have for those who find the local softball scene as special as he does.

"Softball here is just a blast to get involved in, so that's what I hoped to share, and I'm really happy with how it turned out," Kincaid said. "It's like an amazing little community within itself."

"When you take these first-class fields, the support from the recreation department, the leagues being so well-organized, and you have all these volunteers who make it what it is — it's just an incredible thing and a story that I felt needed to be shared."

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