

Flying

My aerial river work wouldn't be possible without these extraordinary pilots, Gil Zemansky and Nelson Krueger, both of Lawrence, Kansas. Since 2004, Gil and Nelson have taken me on about a dozen different flights up and down the Kansas River so I could shoot footage to work with in the studio. It's thrilling to see the ever-evolving river from above and I enjoy the flights just as much as the painting process.

Gil Zemansky – Bio

Gil has degrees in engineering and geology from four universities and registration from several states and professional organizations as a geologist, hydrogeologist, hydrologist, or ground water professional, including the American Institute of Hydrology and Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers. His professional career began with ten years as an officer in the U.S. Navy and he has subsequently worked in research and teaching at several universities, on the staff of state environmental regulatory agencies, and for both small and large consulting companies. Gil holds Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) and Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) licenses, is instrument qualified, and is rated for single and multiengine land and single engine sea aircraft. Most of his flying time was acquired working for a flying service in Alaska and he also flew professionally for an environmental company in Kansas. Gil spent most of the last ten years in New Zealand in charge of the groundwater team at a government research institute and as a consultant. Gil is currently employed as a research analyst by the environmental law department of a firm in Kansas City.



Nelson Krueger – Bio

Nelson Krueger is a government affairs liaison representing a variety of clients. A retired airline pilot, Nelson first soloed on his 16th birthday and flew for TWA and other aviation operators since completing instrument flight training at American Flyers in 1966. He has served as a flight instructor on the Boeing 747, 727, L-1011 and continues to give flight instruction at the Lawrence airport as a Cessna factory pilot. Nelson served as a White House appointment to the U. S. Department of Labor following two years as Kansas Administrative Assistant to U. S. Senator Bob Dole. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and Physics from Fort Hays State University where he is a distinguished alum and member of both the National Scholastic and National Physics Honor Societies. In 2013, Nelson received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for flying over 50 years with no blemish on his record. Krueger's wife Judy, their daughter and two granddaughters, often fly for recreation.

