

## Nationally Known Painter in Schuyler County



Artist Billyo O'Donnell is pictured here painting on location south of Lancaster at the Wayne Seegmiller farm. Billyo's personal goal is to paint on location in every county in the great state of Missouri. He is a nationally known painter capturing the sense of place within his home state. Billyo was born and raised in Warrenton, just west of St. Louis MO.

He has been working on this project for close to two years now. "I spent much time driving in and observing Schuyler County, stopping in some stores, too. After much driving, I realized there are quite a few sheep in Schuyler. Mr.

Seegmiller told me that Schuyler County, although the second smallest county in the state, produced more sheep than any other county in the 1950's and 1960's. The thing that drew me to that location was the rolling hills, the spring green speckled with the gentle white of the sheep and the powerful sky of the approaching storm. All this was just too powerful of an image to pass up. It took on a biblical feeling that inspired me to create. I stopped at a couple of other places along the road, but as soon as I got out of my van, the sheep would spook and run. Once again, the same thing happened at the Seegmiller place. I got

back in and drove up to turn around and saw Mr. Seegmiller working on some farm equipment. So I stopped to talk with him. After explaining the project, he let me park my van and walk down to the spot I wanted. I hoped the sheep would come back--and sure enough, they did! It wasn't long into the painting that the storm started to blow in and stopped me about three-fourths of the way done. I hope to come back soon and finish up.

"One of the unique things in your area that I have not seen anywhere else in all my travels, is the stoc-coed barns and homes. Your three county area (Schuyler, Putnam and Sullivan) is the only place I've seen them. I hope some of these will be preserved," said Billyo.

If you would like to know more about Billyo and see some of his paintings, visit [www.BillyoArt.com](http://www.BillyoArt.com) or [www.PaintingMissouri.com](http://www.PaintingMissouri.com)