

Artist O'Donnell brings 'plein air painting' to area

By Mark Young
The Banner Press Editor

As part of his goal to paint outdoor scenes in all 115 Missouri counties, internationally known artist Billyo O'Donnell visited Bollinger County June 20-22.

O'Donnell, originally from Warrenton, Mo., (near St. Louis) is planning to combine his artworks into a book.

"My van's got 275,000 miles on it; I've been working on the book for two years, and it will be the first art book on Missouri," he said. "Painters are coming out of the woodwork wanting to paint on location. It's really exciting for me."

This past weekend was

actually O'Donnell's second visit to Bollinger County, as he was first here this past winter.

That's when he met local artist Dodi Conrad, who invited him to come back and hold a workshop, "Plein Air Painting in Missouri."

Plein Air Painting is French for "in the open air," denoting painting outdoors at various locations. The event was held Henry and Linda Whitener's Trace Creek Blues Blueberry Farm near Grassy. Representatives from art guilds in Sikeston, East Prairie, Jackson and Cape Girardeau attended, as well as those from the Cat Ranch

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Artist Billyo O'Donnell assisted Sue Harrell of East Prairie, Mo., with her landscape painting last Friday.