



John Estridge photo

Mary Ann Davis, president of the Indiana Plein Air Painters Association, paints the Whitewater's west fork just east of Metamora. In the background are two more painters, Dan Woodson and Lyle Denney.

FC second home for Plein Air Painters

By John Estridge

Editor

It was a beautiful fall morning.

A bright sun shown out of a clear, blue sky with just enough clouds overhead to make the day interesting.

Leaves in the Whitewater Valley were beginning to change colors. Along the valley floor, the venerable Whitewater River followed its path south and east toward the Great Miami River.

Those are just some of the reasons the Indiana Plein Air Painters Association (IPAPA) members flock to Franklin County on the third weekend of October every year.

They were scattered all along the county from Oldenburg to Brookville.

Several were on Mick and Jenny Wilz's property between the

Whitewater Canal and the Whitewater River's west fork.

They were along the river, painting a horseshoe bend in the river.

"I love the water here," Mary Ann Davis, IPAPA president, said. "It's so curvy."

Davis said the group travels around the state each year, painting in different geographical areas, but Franklin County is always at the top of their lists.

"There is such a variation," she said. "There's these wonderful blue hills, great fields and the water. Everywhere you look, there is something to paint."

That is what first brought painters to the valley.

J. Ottis Adams, Theodore Steele and William Forsythe were a few of the famous Hoosier Group of painters who made the valley their

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