

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Countryside inspires attorney's art

BY LAURA URBANI  
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Artist Robert Bickers fell in love with Pennsylvania's rolling hills and old barns as soon as he moved to the area from Tennessee.

"I love the hills," says Bickers, who now lives in Murrysville. "I spent most of my life in western Tennessee and Memphis, where everything is flat."

Bickers' love of the countryside will be evident at his one-man show at the Greensburg Garden and Civic Center during May. He will display 41 oil paintings and photographs depicting nature.

"I pulled together my landscapes and a large number of photographs of flowers and butterflies," says Bickers.

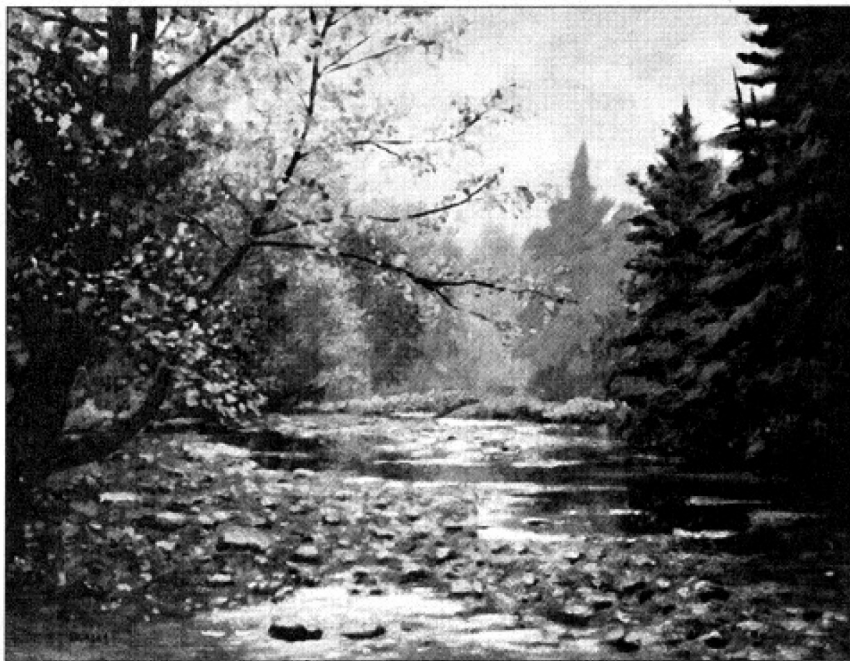
This is the first time Bickers' work will be displayed at the center, which hosts a different artist each month. Some of the proceeds from the sale of the artwork supports programs by the Westmoreland Cultural Trust.

"Bob Bickers is one of the newer artists," says Jan Barsoum, manager of art for the Garden and Civic Center. "I was quite interested in what he had."

Bickers' art career dates back to childhood, when his classmates paid him a nickel for drawings of cars and airplanes. His interest in art



Bickers



continued after he graduated from Memphis State University and opened a photography studio. But then he felt called to the legal profession. He received his law degree from Memphis State School of Law in 1983.

There was a time when the law became more important than art. Then one day, Bickers was watching television and saw artist Bill Alexander painting. It wasn't long before Bickers found himself experimenting with oil paints.

"His enthusiasm was so

infectious," says Bickers.

He practices civil law with his wife, Diane, in their Murrysville office. The arrangement allows Bickers to pursue his art.

"I have some flexibility to pursue both interests," says Bickers. "Diane is constantly amazed with how I see things that she grew up with."

Bickers finds inspiration in the surrounding countryside, fully appreciating the barns and evergreen trees not far from where lives.

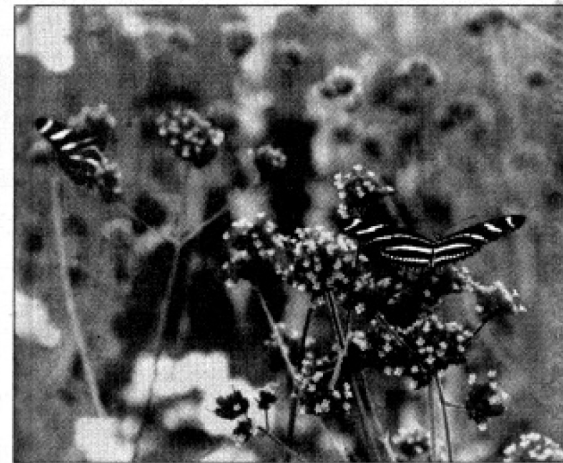
"In 10 minutes I'm out in the

countryside," says Bickers. "I go the other way, I'm in the city. The architecture is fascinating to me."

Bickers is working on a new series of paintings about the Southwest. He and his wife have taken road trips equipped with a camera to provide research for his art.

"I like landscapes," says Bickers. "I've always enjoyed painting from photographs of the west, especially the Southwest."

Bickers is excited about his one-man show at the Garden



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: A photograph of zebra longwing butterflies.  
LEFT: An oil painting of a Cook Forest stream.

## 'Fine Art by Bob Bickers'

**When:** Through May 31

**Hours:** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays

**Where:** Greensburg Garden and Civic Center, 951 Old Salem Road, Greensburg

**Details:** 724-837-0245

and Civic Center, which will give him another opportunity to share his work with the public.

"Art is meant to be seen and not be hidden away," says Bickers. "It's very important to me. It's not a large source of income. My house and office are full of paintings. I like getting them out there and letting people see them. That's important to get your

work known."

Art goes beyond being a hobby for Bickers. He has constantly shared his appreciation for art with his four children, who have all shown a creative ability from photography to graphic design to animation.

"All, to some extent, have benefited from this influence," says Bickers.