

Frederick Simper

A time to look and a time to paint

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

Frederick Simper's watercolors are reminders that there's more to life than push and shove — that beyond the highway and the shopping center, there's another world.

His subjects are close at hand — just off the dirt road, along the wooded path, down the slope by the ravine, near the beach or in a stand of birches on Bois Blanc Island.

Simper paints the fat, red fox that runs through the brush at the edge of the pond near his West Bloomfield home, the day lilies that Dottie, his wife, planted along the woodland paths she cut into the woods and the hawks, cardinals, blue jays and sparrows who winter in the woods.

West Bloomfield builder/developer Herman Frankel and Simper combined for a two-day exhibition of Simper's new work from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Woodcliff, a cluster of home development, west of Middlebelt, south of Lone Pine in West Bloomfield. It's open to the public free.

FRANKEL ALSO commissioned Simper to do a painting for the new West Bloomfield town hall. Construction is to begin later this year.

Simper, who was art director at D'Arcy MacManus & Masius for many years, is a self-taught artist. He usually works in watercolor.

One of those is the large three-panel work, "Winter Birds," which is acrylic on board. The largest of the birds is a hawk, a species Simper loves to paint and has painted often. The dragonfly is another image that pops up frequently in his work.

A few years back, the Simpers planned to move to California. They bought land, and she designed the home they would build. They spent time there and then made their decision.

They missed the change of seasons, their daily walks through the woods winter and summer, the vacations on Bois Blanc Island, the November frost on the fields, the late day December sun on the pond by their home.



Frederick Simper (above) stands behind the three-part screen on the deck of his West Bloomfield home. Done in acrylic of winter birds, the screen will be in the show at Woodcliff cluster homes. The watercolor at left is the Walnut Lake lighthouse on a winter day.

Staff photos by
Dan Dean

Botsford Inn to host show

One of the traditional ways to celebrate Memorial Day is to visit the Botsford Inn Spring Antique Show to be held Sunday and Monday.

Choice pieces of sterling serving dishes will be featured in the booth of Ruth Hellman of Livonia. Her display will center around fine dining accessories including cut-work table cloths and a 48-piece set of Royal Doulton hunting scene venison set and silver dishes.

Livonia resident Gerry Sharp will offer for the first time a 300-piece collection of Tavern pattern china, with hard-to-find items such as all serving pieces and accessories.

Show hours are noon to 9 p.m. Sunday and noon to 6 p.m. Monday. Botsford Inn is located on Grand River at Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills. There is no admission charge.

Deaf theater to perform 'On Stage'

The Open Door Theater Company will perform "On Stage" at Madonna College in Livonia at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 7.

Open Door is a volunteer, non-profit troupe of hearing and hearing impaired individuals which presents dramatic and musical performances for hearing and deaf audiences, using sign language and voice (simultaneous communication.)

"On Stage," the group's latest pro-

duction, is a collection of short stories performed in mime, voice and sign language, for understanding by hearing and deaf audiences.

Tickets for the performance may be purchased for \$8 in advance, or \$10 at the door at the time of the performance.

For additional information or advance tickets, call Pat McKay at 443-2308, evenings (voice/TDD).

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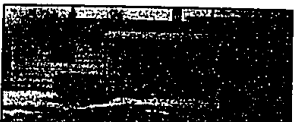
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