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Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 3:05 PM
To: pabiodiv@webmail.upb.pitt.edu
Subject: PABIODIV: 13th Annual Ned Smith Center Nature and Arts Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 28, 2006
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Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art announces:
13th Annual Ned Smith Center Nature and Arts Festival, July 28 & 29, 2006

Millersburg, PA - Ned Smith was a self-trained artist, writer, and naturalist who created thousands of drawings and paintings of wildlife during his career. Ned and his wife Marie spent long hours together exploring and chronicling what they saw along the back roads and mountains of Pennsylvania.

Ned's paintings and drawings were published in a number of books and magazines. His column, "Gone for the Day," ran in the Pennsylvania Game News Magazine from January 1966 to December 1969. His illustrated columns also appeared in Sports Afield, Audubon, National Geographic, and Field and Stream for many years.

Ned Smith died in 1985 at the young age of 65. Marie died in January 2002, but not before she laid the groundwork for a new center to showcase his art and their passion for nature and the arts.

To honor their memory, the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art is hosting its 13th Annual Nature and Arts Festival on Friday evening, July 28th and all-day Saturday, July 29th. All events are free of charge and designed for the entire family.

The festival will be held at MYO Park in Millersburg, along the scenic Susquehanna River, 30 minutes north of Harrisburg. The festival kicks off Friday evening at 5:45 PM with the Down To Earth Band (formerly Wiconisco Creek Pickers). After a short welcoming ceremony, the disc dogs take over. Then at 7:15 PM, a new, exciting event will take place by Two Otters (Frank Angelo) who will perform the "Spirit of the Eagle - Dancing the Circle," an informative and exhilarating Native American Pow Wow. Lastly, the informative Native American Pow Wow will be followed by the legendary "Mothman" and his night lighting demonstration and telescope stargazing.

Be sure to bring your lawn chairs and a flashlight, and enjoy entertainment for the entire family. Food and drink vendors will be available.

The festival on Saturday begins at 9:00 AM. For you early morning birders, a bird walk along the towpath will start at 8:00 AM. Signs will direct you to parking areas along the river on the north side of the Wiconisco Creek. The festival will be held rain or shine. Over 45 vendors and exhibitors will have a wide variety of nature and art related items to educate and for purchase.

An extraordinary mix of recognized experts will help honor Ned and Marie Smith's memory. These include Jack Hubley, host of TV's Wild Moments; John D. Laskowski, the Mothman; Wildlife Biologist, Jerry Hassinger; Dave Ehrig, Mr. Black Powder; and Jim Drager and his retrieving dogs.

If you arrive early in Millersburg, consider attending the Thursday night production of "Footloose" by our resident theater company, the Twin Valley Players. The play will be held in the Halifax High School Auditorium. Proceeds from the Thursday night show will go to benefit the Ned Smith Center. A Ned Smith framed print will be given as a door prize on Thursday night.

For further program information, visit our website at <http://www.nedsmithcenter.org>.