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Sent: Monday, April 24, 2006 4:50 PM
To: pabiodiv@webmail.upb.pitt.edu
Subject: PABIODIV: Ned Smith Center Gardening, Birding, and Art Opportunities

For Immediate Release April 24, 2006, Contact: Angie Zimmerman - 717-692-3699
Ned Smith Center Announces Gardening, Birding, Art and Bus Trip Opportunities for Adults

MILLERSBURG - As part of its ongoing educational program series, the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art is proud to offer a wide range of adult workshops and experiences to satisfy the artist and nature lover in all of us. Unless otherwise indicated, the events will take place at the Ned Smith Center's Sourbeer and Lick Education Building which is located two miles outside of Millersburg off route 209 on Water Company Road. For more information or to register for any of the programs contact the Ned Smith Center at 717-692-3699 or email nedsmith@epix.net.

* Saturday, April 29, May 6, May 13, 2006: 7:30am – Noon (Meet in the Center's parking lot at 7:30am)
NSCNA - Trails Spring Migration Bird Walks. The Ned Smith Center will be offering three spring migration bird hikes for beginner and novice birders. These hikes will be held on the Ned Smith Center lands and lead by several experienced birders. This will be a great opportunity to learn bird songs and see migrating warblers and vireos. Other birds of note that should certainly be seen or heard include Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting. All participants should bring binoculars.

* Saturday, April 29, 2006: 10am - Noon
NSCNA - Organic Horticultural Workshop presented by Flora Eyster of Bucknell University. \$25 fee (10% discount for members). This two hour workshop will familiarize you to sustainable products, techniques and tools for the home organic gardener. Join us to be educated on beneficial and pest insect scouting, identification, monitoring and installation; and landscape preparation methods for organic perennial, herb, foundation and vegetable beds. Handouts included. PLUS easy record keeping and garden journaling tips! Organic snacks and coffees will be served.

* Friday, May 5, 2006: 5pm - 7pm
NSCNA Members-only plant sale presale and horticulture program. A new feature this year will be the native plant pre-sale and program for members only! For those who are not already part of the Center, memberships will be available at the door the evening of the pre-sale. Native gardening experts will be on hand to answer questions and help with selections that will be just right for your garden.

* Saturday, May 6, 2006: 9am - 1pm
NSCNA - 8th Annual Native Plant Sale. More than 40 new species and varieties have been added to this year's Native Plant Sale at the Center, bringing the total number of offerings in the eighth annual event to more than 120 species of native wildflowers, ferns, grasses, trees and shrubs. All have been chosen for their beauty, hardiness and wildlife value, including this year's greatly expanded selection of wetland, bog and woody species. Native gardening experts will be on hand to answer questions and help with selections that will be just right for your garden.

* Thursday, May 11, 2006: 7pm
NSCNA - Pond Ecology Program by Jane Smith-Decker of Havens Pond and Lake Maintenance Services. Join Jane Smith-Decker of Havens Pond and Lake Maintenance Services to learn about the life and death of a pond; various methods of maintaining a pond; and the proper mixture of flora and fauna for your pond.

* Saturday, May 20, 2006: 9am - 5pm
NSCNA - Artist workshop by acclaimed Pennsylvania artist, Laura Mark-Finberg. Open to all skill levels. The all day workshop will focus on how to begin a painting, mixing the colors of nature, fur painting techniques and bringing the animal to life through the eyes. \$100 workshop fee (10% discount to members)

Registration deadline is May 8, 2006. Lunch and several art supplies will be provided. Participants will need to bring their own paint, brushes, and pallet. More information will be provided upon registration.

* Saturday, June 3, 2006: 9am - noon

Haldeman Island - Bald Eagle Reintroduction Program with Scott Bills - No fee, members only! Space is limited! Join Scott Bills of the PA Game Commission to learn about the progress of the bald eagle reintroduction program in Pennsylvania. We will hike to a bald eagle's nest and observe a nesting family of eagles. Everyone is encouraged to bring binoculars or a spotting scope.

* Wednesday, June 7, 2006: 1pm - 5pm

NSCNA - Outdoor Digital Photography with Jerry Hassinger, \$25 fee (10% discount for members). Join wildlife biologist Jerry Hassinger and explore the potential of outdoor digital photography for science and art. Please bring your own digital camera.

* Thursday, June 8, 2006: 7pm

NSCNA - The Art of Patch Collecting by Ralph Moyer Jr. Free for members. Ralph is your source for Wildlife and Nature Patches and much more. Avid collectors and first-time browsers will enjoy viewing his collection of beautiful and rare embroidered patches.

* Tuesday, June 13, 2006: 9am - 5pm

NSCNA - Acrylic Painting Techniques by Jim Bortz, wildlife artist, \$75 fee (10% discount for members). Join wildlife artist, Jim Bortz, to learn or to enhance your skills at acrylic painting techniques and referencing photographs through hands-on composition and painting. Participants should bring brushes, paints, pencils, sketch books, and their own cameras. Paper will be supplied. The workshop will begin with a demonstration of techniques for achieving accurate detail in paintings. Then we will go on a nature hike, take a few digital photographs, download the photos and discuss how they might be incorporated in a painting. Lastly, participants are encouraged to bring a photo of a previous work to be critiqued (optional).

* BUS TRIP: Tuesday, June 20, 2006: 9am - 4pm

Landis Valley Museum / Living History Village, Lancaster, PA - A Taste of Pennsylvania Dutch Tour. Bus pickups will be at the NSCNA and the Polk Apartments, \$50 fee (10% discount for members). Join the Ned Smith Center for this trip back in history with a food lover's delight! Visit the rural village farm's historic kitchens, hearths and bake ovens. Learn about a century of Pa. Dutch food, 1820-1920. Then enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride followed by sampling wonderful Pa. Dutch delicacies such as snitz, sticky buns and cider. But the journey doesn't end there! Finally, you will be treated to a charming homemade meal in the 1856 Landis Valley Historic House Hotel and ample time to tour their museum and gift shop.

* Friday, July 28, 2006: 5:45pm - 10pm and Saturday, July 29, 2006: 9am - 4pm

MYO Park in Millersburg, PA - 13th Annual Ned Smith Center Nature and Arts Festival. Watch our website for more details.

* Friday, August 25, 2006: 6pm - 8pm

NSCNA - Scrimshaw workshop by artist Roni Dietrich \$35 fee (10% discount for members) Real ivory may be purchased at an additional price. Art, history and science are happening in Roni Dietrich's scrimshaw experience. Roni starts the program by describing exactly what scrimshaw is by showing lots of her own art work and the art of other scrimshaw artists. Next comes a scrimshaw history demonstration. Often described as the only truly American art form, scrimshaw was created from hours of boredom on the long sea voyages of the New England Whalesmen. Authentic artifacts and recreated tools are used to demonstrate the how's and why's of scrimshaw and whaling. Lastly, you will be making your own scrimshaw pendent or pin.