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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

"Third Thursday Family Arts Night" Come and See the Easter Bunny, April 20th, 2006

Kids and families should plan now to attend the Humboldt Arts Council's ***Third Thursday Family Arts Night!*** Thursday, April 20th, 2005, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Morris Graves Museum of Art. This Thursday's presenters will include ***Quack and Wabbit*** from 6:00-6:30 and 7:30-8 in the Performance Rotunda, ***Storytelling with the North Coast Storytellers*** from 6:40 to 7:20pm, Humboldt State University ***Campus Recycling Center*** from 6-8pm in the Atrium, ***Flower Pot Painting*** with from 6-8 in the Youth Classroom and ***Arts and Crafts for Spring and National Frog Month*** in the Thonson Gallery all evening. The **Easter Bunny** will also be paying a special visit to the Museum that evening.

Come and listen to the ***story of "The Talkative Turtle" and "Brother Buzzard and Mister Hawk" from the North Coast Storyteller Paul Woodland.*** Paul Woodland is an enthusiastic and dedicated practitioner of the ancient art of storytelling. He studied his craft under the tutelage of renowned folklorist Ruth Stotter and fabled storyteller Gay Ducey at Dominican University where he earned a Certificate in Storytelling in 1993. He honed his storytelling skills while working as a park ranger at Lake Sonoma where he told compelling tales about the wonder and whimsy of nature to visitors of the park. "Paul's presentations are entertaining, funny and sometimes downright hilarious, animated and full of energy. He will captivate the interest of both the young and not so young." - Brent Montgomery, Interpretive Specialist at Patrick's Point State Park You can listen to Paul Woodland, the Mad River Raconteur, tell stories on his weekly radio program, *Once Upon A Tune*, on KHSU Saturday morning beginning at 11:30. *Once Upon A Tune* features an enriching and compelling combination of stories and songs suitable for the whole family. Paul is a member of the National Storytelling Network and the North Coast Storytellers – a local storytelling guild in Eureka. His is the producer of an annual storytelling event in Humboldt County called Tellabration. Mr. Woodland has been a regular performer at the Storytelling Festival by the Sea at Patrick's Point State Park since its inception in 2001, a resident teller at Olema Ranch Campground for the last 12 years and a featured storyteller at the Strawberry Storytelling Festival in 2002. For more information about the NCST contact 677-3840.

Don't miss **Quack and Wabbit** puppet theater. Quack and Wabbit uses puppet shows to help children deal with social issues including second-hand smoke, fear of the dentist, peer pressure, problem solving, safety and the environment. Puppetry allows children to remove themselves from adult to child interaction and receive the message through friendly fantasy figures. They are available for School presentations, conferences, parties, special events, benefits and workshops. For more information call 442-9536.

Important information about April...

In April we not only celebrate Easter but also the Spring Equinox, Earth Day, Arbor Day and National Frog Month. **Equinoxes** are days in which day and night are of equal duration. The two yearly equinoxes occur when the Sun crosses the celestial equator. The vernal equinox occurs in late March (this is the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of fall in the Southern Hemisphere).

The idea for **Earth Day** evolved over a period of seven years starting in 1962. It was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson due to the rising concern about the environmental crisis to be a national day of observance of environmental problems. . And so it came to pass the celebration of Earth Day was initiated on **March 21, 1970**. The first Proclamation of Earth Day was in San Francisco. Earth Day was firmly established for all time as an annual event to deepen reverence and care for life on our planet. Every effort to encourage Earth care is to be commended. For more information visit www.earthsite.org

National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April (but the date varies in some US states). This US holiday encourages tree planting and tree care. Arbor Day was begun by J. Sterling Morton (editor of the Nebraska City News) in Nebraska in 1872. The idea of a holiday celebrating the planting of trees for fruit, shelter, shade, beauty, soil conservation, and fuel soon spread to other US states

*The Humboldt Arts Council is dedicated to providing leadership in support of the rich heritage
of North Coast arts and to bringing this legacy fully into community life.*

April is National Frog Month. Humboldt County frogs and toads are members of four Families of Anurans. They range from the rare and primitive tailed frogs to one of the greatest frog success stories on earth, the Pacific treefrog. Pacific treefrogs are probably the most common amphibian in Humboldt County from sea level to the tops of our local mountains. Their familiar "ribbet" call is heard from wet spots from October through May and frogs hide under all sorts of human objects, from hot tub lids to door-knockers as well as hiding in leaves and more natural things. They occur in a full range of fashion nature colors: from yellow to dark green, they touch just about every spot on the color wheel. Males make the familiar "ribbet" call to attract females to water to breed. Once laid, the eggs hatch out in a couple of weeks; froglets transform from the tadpoles in about 2.5 months. Pacific treefrogs are abundant. They are often found around small pieces of debris, in trees or under hot tub lids and in greenhouses. (taken from www.ebeltz.net/herps/humco/humcofrogs.html). For information on frogs visit www.mrsv01.tripod.com.

The Humboldt Arts Council would like to recognize our Third Thursday Family Arts Night Underwriters: AG Edwards, Citigroup, Living Education and Arts Foundation, McLean Foundation, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, Umpqua Bank, and US Bank. Thank you for all of your support!

Family Arts Night is every third Thursday of the month. To be a presenter or for more information about Family Arts Night contact Rebecca Froehlich at (707) 442-0278, ext. 201. The Morris Graves Museum of Art is located at 636 F St., Eureka, Ca.