## Crary Art Gallery 511 Market Street Warren, Pennsylvania (814) 723-4523

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## CRARY ART GALLERY TO EXHIBIT ART INSPIRED BY PROPOSED ANF WILDERNESS

**Warren** – The public is invited to the opening reception for "Picturing Wilderness," an exhibition focused on the natural beauty of the wildest areas remaining in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF), at the Crary Art Gallery in Warren on Thursday, August 9, from 5 - 8:30 pm. The gallery is located at 511 Market Street.

"Picturing Wilderness" will feature photographs, paintings, and drawings by artists and photographers whose works originated within areas Friends of Allegheny Wilderness has proposed for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act of 1964 in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest.

Works by ten regional artists will be featured, including Ed Bernik, award-winning photographer of the 2006 book "Pennsylvania Wilds: Images from the Allegheny National Forest," and nationally recognized painter Thomas Paquette. Other participants are Robert Anderson (paintings), Tessa H.D. Campbell (photographs), Robert O. Davis (paintings), Jim DeLong (photographs), Denise Drummond (drawings), Kirk Johnson (photographs), Vernon Klienstiver (photographs) and Dean Wells (photographs).

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness was founded in 2001 specifically to address the acute shortage of protected wilderness in the ANF. Their *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal* identifies eight areas, totaling 54,460 acres, as prospective additions to America's National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Currently there are just two designated ANF wilderness areas totaling approximately 9,000 acres – less than two percent of the total forest. Nationally, some 18 percent of all national forest land is part of the NWPS.

The Crary Art Gallery was dedicated to the memory of Clare J. Crary, who was born in Sheffield in 1879, and grew up in Warren. An accomplished photographer, Crary's work was shown in galleries in the United States and abroad. He was a member of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, the Oval Table Society, the Pittsburgh Salon, the Pictorial Photographers of America, and the Camera Club of New York. After passing away in 1975, Clare's wife Gene opened the Crary Art Gallery in 1977.

After the opening reception for "Picturing Wilderness," the exhibition will continue to be on display at the Crary Art Gallery through August 25. Hours are 11-5pm Wed. - Sat.; also 7-9pm on Thursday and 2-5pm on Sunday.

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