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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Peg Toliver will be featured artist at sesquicentennial art fair**

EUREKA – Photographs of sky, water, land, plants and animals that are part of the Eureka landscape are being compiled in a book by Eureka artist Peg Toliver in observance of Eureka’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Toliver will be the featured artist for the Art 150 /Fine Art Fair that will run from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 21 and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 22 as part of the Eureka sesquicentennial celebration at Lake Eureka.

“Knowing that I have the opportunity to exhibit as part of the sesquicentennial is an impetus to gather local nature photographs that I’ve shot over the last 10 years,” Toliver said. Her book of pictures and essays titled “A Natural Sense of Place: A Photographer’s Journey Home” is about “finding one’s sense of place – a topic that seems especially appropriate given the celebration of our city’s 150th birthday,” she said.

“In considering this project, I thought about all of the ways someone like me, a Chicago-born ‘outsider,’ feels connected to this place after living here 28 years,” Toliver said. “Certainly my family is connected through relationships with wonderful people and institutions like Eureka College and the Christian Church (Disciples of

Christ). We also feel appreciative of the schools, the libraries, the businesses, the hospital and the doctors who have cared for us and the local farmers who have supplied us with great organic food to keep us healthy. Raising our daughter in this town where the local newspaper celebrates all the small milestones that make parents proud has been a great experience.”

One of the aspects of “home” that is so important to Toliver is the natural surroundings, which are a constant backdrop to all activities, she said. “Because I’m married to a biologist and natural historian, Eureka College biology professor Mike Toliver, I’ve learned to slow down my city pace and really look at the communities of life in the natural world around me. The photos in my book and those that will be on exhibit at the fine art fair are my way of celebrating the local natural environment and claiming this area as home.”

Toliver received a bachelor’s degree in art from Eureka College, where she taught for 10 years, and she has been a volunteer artist in the local public schools. She offers therapeutic art workshops through nature centers and social service agencies and teaches others to relieve stress in yoga classes at Healthy Arts Physical Therapy and Eureka Community Hospital.

Toliver has donated several framed photographs of Lake Eureka that will be raffled to support the sesquicentennial. Her book and notecards featuring her photos will be for sale at the sesquicentennial celebration.

“I appreciate being among the line of Woodford County artists featured at local art festivals,” she said. “Being part of this hometown celebration is an affirmation of all of those connections I have made over the last 28 years as a resident of Eureka.”