FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media contact**: Katelyn Larsen

**Organization**: Ney Nature Center

**Phone number**: 507-248-3474

**Email**: [communications@neycenter.org](mailto:communications@neycenter.org)

**NEY NATURE CENTER HOSTS MEMBER’S ONLY ZOOMOBILE EVENT**

**Henderson, MN, March 22, 2016:** It was a packed house at the member’s only event at the Ney Nature Center on Saturday, March 19, 2016. Christine Ness, a zoologist with the Minnesota Zoo Zoomobile, brought four critters with her to present the Zoomobile’s “Cool Animals of the North” Program. Youth and adults alike learned something new about porcupines, Blandings turtles, opossums, and bull snakes, all critters native to Minnesota.

Many guests were surprised to learn that Minnesota is home to snakes that can reach up to 6-8 feet long. They also learned that North America is home to only one marsupial, the opossum, a critter that also holds the record for the most teeth found on a mammal.

Holly Kreft, board member at the Ney Nature Center, enjoyed watching the excitement of visitors at the event. "It was so fun to see the kids' eyes light up when the next animal was revealed! It was a great event for all ages - kids as young as 2 and adults in their sixties.  Christine was very engaged with the audience and often made even the adults laugh out loud.  Everyone left with new appreciation for Minnesota animals and a smile!"

The Ney Nature Center holds an annual member’s only event as a way to appreciate members for their support as well as gain new members. Previous member’s only events have included presentations from The University of Minnesota Raptor Center and Christian Lilienthal, a local zookeeper based out of Arlington, MN.

Memberships aid in the Ney Nature Center’s (NNC) goal to manage and protect the Ney Wildlife Preserve through education and interaction with the natural world. They directly support the NNC’s ongoing activities, programs, learning experiences, and staff. New members are accepted at any time through the NNC’s website at [www.neycenter.org/support/become-a-member](http://www.neycenter.org/support/become-a-member).

**About the Ney Nature Center**: Conveniently located halfway between the Twin Cities and Mankato, the Ney Nature Center (NNC), which sits on the bluffs of the Minnesota River near Henderson, MN, is home to 446 acres of native prairie and woodlands.  This unique blend of biomes allows staff to educate youth and adults alike about the native plants and wildlife important to Southern Minnesota.  Visit [www.neycenter.org](http://www.neycenter.org) for more information and view a schedule of upcoming programs to attend.

###