

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sylvan Dell Publishing's *Little Skink's Tail* sweeps the competition at the Florida Publishers Association Conference

MT. PLEASANT, S.C. (Sept. 23, 2008) – When *Little Skink's Tail* (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2007) won *Learning Magazine's* 2009 Teachers' Choice Award, author Janet Halfmann was exhilarated. When *Little Skink's Tail* swept the competition at the 2008 Florida Publishers Association Conference, she was absolutely thrilled. Not only did *Skink* win for Best Children's Picture Book, but it was also awarded Best Overall Book Award for 2008.

"I am just bursting with excitement," said Janet. "I'm still beaming from winning the Teachers' Choice Award, and now, to win two more awards is beyond belief. Winning FPA's Best Picture Book would have been a tremendous honor, but to win Best Overall Book is truly amazing. I am so happy that, because of these awards, more children will be able to enjoy this book that I had so much fun writing!"

On Saturday, September 13, 2008, the Florida Publishers Association (FPA) presented its 2008 President's Book Awards to FPA members whose books were chosen as the best in 16 different categories and one special category—Best Overall Book. In addition to a handsome plaque commemorating their awards, winners and finalists in each category received an award certificate and President's Book Awards labels for their book covers. Florida Publishers Association, now in its 26th year, is a non-profit, statewide professional association of publishers, self-publishers, authors and others interested in book publishing in Florida.

Teachers' Choice Awards have been a part of *Learning Magazine* since 1994. Since that time, the program has grown to become one of the most recognized and prestigious awards in the educational market. It is the only awards program that is exclusively judged by teachers in the classroom! This year, fifteen children's book winners were chosen, based on their scores from the evaluations done by a panel of teachers across the country. The winners receive a spotlight in the magazine's special Children's Book award section, as well as a seal distinguishing them as a Children's Books winner.

Little Skink's Tail is the story of a tiny lizard that is attacked by a crow while searching for breakfast. Luckily, the skink snaps off her tail, and it keeps on wiggling! Readers will enjoy pretending to try on other animals' tails with Little Skink. (The first is too puffy-fluffy, and another is too stinky.) One day Little Skink gets a big surprise...and she doesn't have to dream of tails anymore! This book encourages children to be comfortable with themselves as they are and with their own individuality.

The imaginative illustrations are the work of Laurie Allen Klein. Over the last several years, Laurie has worked as the on-staff artist for a marine park, where she does everything from painting life-size sea animal murals, to illustrating children's activity books. In addition to *Little Skink's Tail*, she also illustrated *If a Dolphin Were a Fish* for Sylvan Dell Publishing, as well as the upcoming 2009 release, *Where Should Turtle Be?*

Janet Halfmann has been writing for children for more than twenty years, and *Little Skink's Tail* is her twenty-eighth book. *Little Skink* was inspired by her granddaughter, whom she enjoys watching play dress-up and pretend.

Sylvan Dell picture books with science, math and nature themes excite children's imaginations through fun stories, vibrant artwork and a 3-5 page "For Creative Minds" educational section in the back of each book. But that is just the start...what really makes the books unique, is their tremendous amount of free, online educational material available for cross-curricular learning, including: 30-80 page Teaching Activities, Interactive Reading and Math Quizzes, and much more.

They have 57 authors and illustrators on the Sylvan Dell team and their 35 titles have been honored as nominees, finalists, or winners of more than 50 book awards. Sylvan Dell eBooks, available in English and Spanish, are wonderful for use with in-classroom projection or interactive whiteboards (Smartboards) and are ideal for Spanish language classes and ESL students at all grade levels.

For more information about *Little Skink's Tail* or Sylvan Dell Publishing in general, visit the Sylvan Dell Publishing website, www.SylvanDellPublishing.com. For additional inquiries, contact Sara Dobie, Public Relations, at 877-958-2600 or SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com.

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