

**For Immediate Release**

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## A Busy Year for Author Mary Holland

### *Local naturalist releases a children's book featuring beavers*

Mt Pleasant, SC (February 1, 2014) -- Naturalist Mary Holland has spent many hours observing wildlife, and the signs they leave. Her new release *The Beaver's Busy Year* captures the life cycle of this industrious animal. A lifelong interest in beavers inspired Holland to pursue these elusive animals and share their activities through the text and photographs of the book.

Due to release in February, *The Beaver's Busy Year* takes a look at the architecture of this animal as well as its adaptations. Through the pages of this nonfiction book, children will learn how beavers are able to change a simple stream into a pond fit for raising their young in a lodge made of sticks and mud. Beavers are quite different from others in the rodent family and Holland is able to capture their unique activities in great detail through the lens of her camera.

Growing up near a lake piqued Holland's interest in beavers at an early age, and through writing this book she is able to share that interest with other children. "Writing *The Beaver's Busy Year* was an opportunity to share some of what I have learned about their behavior and their adaptations," said Holland. "As the only animal other than humans capable of dramatically changing the landscape, beavers are endlessly fascinating to me, and writing came very easily."

Holland is a naturalist, nature photographer, columnist, and award-winning author with a life-long passion for natural history. After graduating from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources, she worked as a naturalist at the Museum of the Hudson Highlands in New York state, directed the state-wide Environmental Learning for the Future program for the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, worked as a resource naturalist for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and designed and presented her own "Knee-High Nature Programs" for libraries and elementary schools throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. Her other children's books include *Ferdinand Fox's First Summer* (NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book and Moonbeam Children's Book Award) with Sylvan Dell and *Milkweed Visitors*, (Science Books and Films' list for the best books of 2006 in the category Children's Books under Zoological Sciences). Holland's book *Naturally Curious: a Photographic Field Guide and Month-by-Month Journey Through the Fields, Woods and Marshes of New England* won

the 2011 National Outdoor Book Award for the Nature Guidebook category. She lives in Vermont with her lab, Emma.

As with all Sylvan Dell Publishing books, *The Beaver's Busy Year* includes a For Creative Minds section filled with fun activities and facts about beavers. Also very popular are the online extras that include teaching activities and quizzes for children to test their knowledge at [sylvandellpublishing.com](http://sylvandellpublishing.com).

To find out more about *The Beaver's Busy Year* or to schedule an interview with Mary Holland please contact Heather Williams at (843) 971-6722 or [heatherwilliams@sylvandellpublishing.com](mailto:heatherwilliams@sylvandellpublishing.com).

### **About Sylvan Dell Publishing**

Sylvan Dell is on a mission to improve child literacy with science and math through fictional picture books. Using prose and pictures, children are delighted with stories of their favorite animals, planets, or even place. This leads to the exploration of facts and learning activities in each book's *For Creative Minds* pages. Sylvan Dell carefully designs each book to portray accurately the chosen subject. Vetted by experts in that field, and aligned to common core and state standards, each book is an asset to educational programs. Sylvan Dell has grown to include more than 80 authors and illustrators, and honored to have won more than 70 book awards since its inception in 2005.

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