

For Immediate Release

Ferdinand Fox Honored in Book Award *Local Author Takes Home a Bronze Moonbeam*

Mt. Pleasant, SC (October 4, 2013) – *Ferdinand Fox's First Summer* by local author and photographer Mary Holland takes home bronze in the Moonbeam Book Awards.

The Moonbeam Book Awards celebrates the best in children's books each year and awards are given to titles in more than forty different categories. It is an honor to be recognized by this group of reviewers, whose mission is to promote excellence in literature and encourage literacy. An awards ceremony will be held at the Traverse City Children's Book Festival on November 9th in Traverse City, Michigan.

Being a young fox is tough business in the great outdoors, and Mary Holland captures the ups and downs of this fox and his siblings in *Ferdinand Fox's First Summer*. Through the vivid photographs young readers learn how Ferdinand explores his surroundings and even plays with his siblings while mom is there to keep them in line and teach her foxes how to survive on their own. The For Creative pages and online resources allow children and parents and teachers to explore more in-depth information about how a fox grows up.

Mary 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, Mary 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 children's book, *Milkweed Visitors*, received national acclaim when it was placed on the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Science Books and Films' list for the best books of 2006 in the category Children's Books under Zoological Sciences. Mary'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. Mary lives in Vermont with her lab, Emma, and will be publishing *A Beaver's Busy Year* with Sylvan Dell in 2014.

For more information about *Ferdinand Fox's First Summer* or to schedule interviews with Mary Holland contact Heather Williams at (843) 971-6722 or heatherwilliams@sylvandellpublishing.com.

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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 75 book awards since its inception in 2005.