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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Local Author Heads to New Zealand to Study Underwater Volcanoes

## Kevin Kurtz

**MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010)** – Kevin Kurtz, author of *A Day on the Mountain* and *A Day in the Salt Marsh* (Sylvan Dell Publishing), will head to New Zealand to study the underwater volcanoes of the Louisville Seamount Trail to compare these hotspots to volcanic island chains like Hawaii.

Kurtz will be aboard the [\*JOIDES Resolution\*](#) (Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling), a scientific drilling ship operated by the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, the only American drill ship devoted solely to scientific research. *The JODIES Resolution* has a drill that can bring up core samples of the ocean floor from thousands of feet below sea level while doubling as a floating science research facility so scientists on board can begin their analysis of the cores while still at sea.

As the Education Officer, Kurtz is responsible for communicating with and educating the public, including schools, about the science of the expedition through blogs, video conferences, and other online media to be posted on *The JR* website at <http://joidesresolution.org/>. The ship will be at sea from December 17<sup>th</sup> through February 12<sup>th</sup>, and Kurtz plans to use the experience while writing future books.

Kurtz holds a degree in English literature and elementary education. His first book, “A Day in the Salt Marsh,” was a finalist for both the Green Earth Book Award and the Florida Publishing Association Best Picture Book. He has written and edited the South Carolina Aquarium's award-winning K-8 curriculum, as well as curriculum activities for NOAA, the College of Charleston's COASTeam project, the Center for Birds of Prey and the Science Factory Children's Museum.

For more information about Kevin Kurtz's [\*A Day in the Salt Marsh\*](#) or [\*A Day on the Mountain\*](#) visit the Sylvan Dell Website at <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com>.

### About Sylvan Dell Publishing

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