

Contact: Katherine Miller
Sylvan Dell Publishing
(877) 958-2600
KatherineMiller@SylvanDellPublishing.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Sea Turtle Book Wins Best Children’s Nonfiction Award

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (August 21, 2006) – Carolina the loggerhead celebrated the day she was safely released from the South Carolina Aquarium’s Sea Turtle Hospital, and now author Donna Rathmell and photographer Barbara Bergwerf are celebrating again: their photographic journal, “Carolina’s Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too!,” has won the 2006 Best Children’s Nonfiction Award from the Florida Publishers Association (FPA).

The award, given annually by the FPA, was presented to Publisher Lee German of Sylvan Dell Publishing on Saturday at the FPA fall Ed-U-Conference, which the nonprofit corporation hosts as it serves the needs of book publishers, authors and others interested in book publishing in the state of Florida.

“Carolina’s Story” was released in 2005 and has received positive reviews from *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Robert Ballard and Mary Alice Monroe, USA Today and New York Times bestselling author. Monroe comments, “‘Carolina’s Story’ is a delightful and educational book that will enthrall young readers and move them one step closer to understanding—and caring about—the gentle, endangered sea turtles.”

The book is part of the Accelerated Reader Program and contains an educational “For Creative Minds” section with facts about endangered sea turtles, turtle math games and a “Make Your Own Sea Turtle” craft. Before publication, the South Carolina Aquarium and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources vetted it for scientific accuracy.

Rathmell, a Mt. Pleasant resident, is no stranger to the book world; before writing “Carolina’s Story,” she authored 15 successful cookbooks. She shares her passion for marine mammals with her husband and three daughters, and volunteers at the South Carolina Aquarium. Rathmell’s second children’s book, “Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud,” was released in May 2006.

Bergwerf, a former Chicago Tribune Photographer, left Chicago for Charleston’s sunny beaches. Her commitment to nature is evident in her wildlife photography business and by her volunteer work with the South Carolina Aquarium and the Island Turtle Team on Isle of Palms.

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children’s imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Readers can ask for Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information, visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600.