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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tudley the Turtle Named Book of the Year, Beehive Finalist

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (March 15, 2007) – Tudley the turtle flies like a bird, sings like a katydid and glows like a firefly. If you're wondering what else this remarkable turtle can do, author/illustrator John Himmelman and Sylvan Dell Publishing are pleased to announce that "***Tudley Didn't Know***" has been recently selected as finalist for both the 2007 *ForeWord* Magazine Book of the Year Award and the 2008 Beehive Picture Book Award, given annually by the Children's Literature Association of Utah.

Founded in 1998 and written for those in the independent publishing and book-selling industry, *ForeWord* includes reviews of upcoming books for children and adults, and provides coverage of industry news and trends. The magazine's Book of the Year Awards were established to bring increased attention from librarians and booksellers to the literary achievements of independent publishers and their authors. The winning books will be announced this April.

The Children's Literature Association of Utah is a volunteer organization of individuals who have a personal or professional interest in children's literature. The association sponsors five annual book awards to motivate Utah readers and strives to encourage the reading, study and writing of children's literature. Winners of the Beehive Picture Book Award are chosen by the children of Utah, who vote for their favorite books.

"***Tudley Didn't Know***" tells the story of a young painted turtle who adopts other animals' behaviors—simply because he doesn't know he can't! As a result, Himmelman's whimsical story teaches children ages four to eight the importance of self-confidence, teamwork and imagination.

Like all Sylvan Dell books, "***Tudley***" is aligned to national curriculum standards and is part of the Accelerated Reader program. Because Sylvan Dell is on a mission to teach science and math through literature, the picture book also contains a "For Creative Minds" educational section. Inside this section, readers will find a "Make a Hopping Tudley" craft, a recipe for hummingbird sugar water, a "Food for Thought" section and a "Creative Sparks" learning activity. There are also child-friendly "Learning Links" and additional "Teaching Activities" on Sylvan Dell Publishing's website to help expand the learning possibilities.

Educators at the Delaware Nature Center and the Sterling Nature Center vetted the "For Creative Minds" educational section for scientific accuracy.



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Himmelman, a Killingworth, Conn. resident, has written and/or illustrated over 60 children's books. His recent books include "*Chickens to the Rescue*" published by Holt, "*Mouse in a Meadow*" and "*Frog in a Bog*," both published by Charlesbridge. Most of his books stem from his obvious passion for animals and nature. And, when he isn't busy writing or illustrating, Himmelman is involved with the Connecticut Butterfly Association, the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust and leads special science observation programs in elementary schools.

"I'm thrilled that Tudley is receiving such positive attention," Himmelman explains. "He's such a modest little character and it's nice that readers appreciate that quality."

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. The company's award-winning books include "*Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too!*," "*Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean*," "*How the Moon Regained Her Shape*" and "*Happy Birthday to Whooo? A Baby Animal Riddle Book*." The company's August release, "*If You Were a Parrot*," is also a *Foreword* Book of the Year Award finalist in the Pets category.

Readers can ask for "***Tudley Didn't Know***" and other Sylvan Dell title at their favorite neighborhood or online bookstore. They can also visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or contact Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600 for more information.

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