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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SING A DESERT TUNE

Local children's book author Rhonda Lucas Donald introduces *Deep in the Desert*

Mount Pleasant, S.C. (April. 14, 2011) –Rhonda Lucas Donald introduces a new sing-along animal adventure in the picture book *Deep in the Desert* (Sylvan Dell Publishing). She specializes in writing about science, and especially likes to write about animals and space.

“I love writing about different habitats and the plants and animals living in them. Living nowhere near the desert, I find these arid ecosystems exotic and fascinating,” she said.

Deep in the Desert features catchy desert twists on traditional children's songs and poems that will have children chiming in about cactuses, camels, and more as they learn about the desert habitat and its flora and fauna. Travel the world's deserts to dig with meerkats, fly with bats, and hiss with Gila monsters! Whether sung or read aloud, *Deep in the Desert* makes learning about deserts anything but dry. South Carolina artist Sherry Neidigh beautifully illustrated *Deep in the Desert*, and created to a vibrant, colorful world of desert denizens such as camels, fennec foxes, and ostriches.

Lucas Donald, originally from Staunton, Va., has recently moved back to Virginia after living for several years in Washington, N.C., where she wrote the book. She has written more than a dozen books for children and teachers, including her most recent titles: *Animal Rights: How You Can Make a Difference* and *Life on Other Planets*. In addition, she has won awards for articles and stories appearing in *Ranger Rick* and *Your Big Backyard* magazines. Weaving science into verses and songs is her way of making it fun. Lucas Donald shares her home in Petersburg with her husband, dogs, and two very dignified cats.

Lucas Donald has a number of events scheduled for the coming months in celebration of her new release, including a launch event at 3 p.m. on April 19 at Demolition Coffee, 215 E. Bank St, Petersburg. A signing to celebrate the launch of her book and the expansion of the children's book section of Hiram Haines' Literary Restorative is scheduled at 10 a.m. May 14, #12 W. Bank St., Petersburg. She will also be signing her book at the Barnes and Noble in Short Pump from 1–4 on May 28, 11640 W. Broad St., Richmond. For complete schedule information, visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com/events.htm#DeepDesert. For more information about *Deep in the Desert* visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com/bookpage.php?id=89 or Lucas Donald's website at www.browntabby.com.

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Visuals & Other Requests: For cover art or Rhonda Lucas Donald's headshot, visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm> or e-mail ashleerowe@sylvandellpublishign.com. For all interview requests or media queries, please contact Sylvan Dell's publicist, Ashlee Rowe, at (877) 243-3457 or ashleerowe@sylvandellpublishing.com.

About Sylvan Dell Publishing

Sylvan Dell Publishing's mission is to excite children's imaginations with artistically spectacular science, math and nature themed stories. Founded in November of 2004, Sylvan Dell has grown to include more than 75 authors and illustrators in the United States and Canada, and 55 titles – honored as finalists or winners of over 70 book awards. Our *Science and Math Through Literature Program* integrates **reading, science, math, geography, character skills, and language learning through fun, cross-curricular activities. Sylvan Dell provides more online educator resources than any other publisher in the United States.** For more information, visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com>.

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