

LOCAL AUTHOR INTRODUCES FIRST PICTURE BOOK

Mount Pleasant, S.C. (Feb. 2, 2011) –Sylvan Dell Publishing is proud to announce the publication of Terry Catasús Jennings’ debut picture book, *Gopher to the Rescue! A Volcano Recovery Story*.

When discussing where the inspiration for the tale stems from, Jennings says, “I was doing research for a non-fiction book about Mount St. Helens when I ran across the unexpected role that gophers played in the mountain’s recovery. It was a wonderful fact, such a humble little creature having such a huge impact! I had to share that idea with kids.”

When a volcano explodes, debris and ash cover the landscape, making the area unlivable for many plants and animals. Jennings discovered that gophers could survive the blasts in underground burrows, and have shelter and food to eat. Gopher tunnels provide fertile soil where seeds can thrive and plants can grow, allowing the devastated area to recover. *Gopher to the Rescue!* is a fictionalized story is based on these surprising observations of how life returns to an area that has been so totally changed or destroyed.

Jennings has been heavily involved in the arts for the past 20 years, serving as a Cultural Arts Chair in her children’s schools. She is a contributor to the National Science Resource Center’s (NSRC) Science and Technology for Children and Science and Technology Concepts for Middle Grades series. Her articles have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Long Island News Day* and *Ranger Rick* and she wrote a family humor column *The Reston Connection* for four years.

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For more information about Jennings visit www.terryjennings.wordpress.com. For more information about *Gopher to the Rescue!* visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com/bookpage.php?id=GopherRescue.

Visuals & Other Requests: For cover art or Jennings’ headshot, visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm. For all interview requests or media queries, please contact Sylvan Dell’s publicist, Ashlee Rowe, at (877) 243-3457 or ashleerowe@sylvandellpublishing.com.

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 70 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>.