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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### LOCAL AUTHOR WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR DEBUT CHILDREN'S BOOK

**Mount Pleasant, S.C. (July 20, 2011)** – Local author Cynthia Kieber-King's debut children's book *Habitat Spy*, published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, has been awarded the Tillywig Brain Child Award which is given each year to "exciting products that energize the mind while seamlessly blending fun and learning." Previous winners of this prestigious award include products from the *Your Baby Can* series.

Tillywig Awards are given to a number of exceptional children's products ranging from books to toys, and they focus on recognizing especially high-quality, innovative, entertaining and educational products. The award winners are determined in an observed focus group format, with a range of testers using the nominated products and collaborating with a group of observers to determine the award recipients based on Tillywig's criteria.

Kieber-King says she was inspired to write *Habitat Spy* when she looked out into her own diverse backyard and wondered how many habitats she would encounter if she started walking and just "kept walking, exploring habitat after habitat until eventually I'd traveled across the United States out in to the Pacific Ocean." That musing led Kieber-King to write *Habitat Spy*, in which her rhyming narrative invites children to make this fictional trek across North America, "spying" on a variety of habitats and learning about their resident plants and animals in an educational adventure.

Before becoming an author of children's books, Kieber-King received a B.S. in zoology and an M.S. in biological oceanography, and worked as an environmental scientist studying wetlands and conducting ecological risk assessments. After her son was born she became involved in children's writing, and subsequently wrote *Habitat Spy*.

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For more information about Cynthia Kieber-King or *Habitat Spy*, visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/bookpage.php?id=91>.

**Visuals & Other Requests:** For cover art or Cynthia Kieber-King's headshot, visit [www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm](http://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](mailto: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 60 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>.