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## Celebrate the arrival of the Autumnal Equinox September 22! Local author Fran Hawk to appear at several Charleston events to mark the occasion

**Mount Pleasant, S.C.** (September 21, 2009) - Cooler weather brings us relief from the scalding South Carolina summers, and it manifests itself through the leaves' brown, gold, and orange hues. Its arrival is even honored by the behavior of the sun! Have you guessed what special day is on the horizon? It's the **Autumnal Equinox**! Say goodbye to summer and celebrate the first day of fall on **Tuesday, September 22**. Sylvan Dell Publishing wants you to take part in the festivities by joining Fran Hawk, author of *Count Down to Fall*, as she visits Charleston area venues for signings, readings, and exciting fall activities!

One of the only times in the year when day and night are almost equally long, the **Autumnal Equinox** marks an ancient holiday whose roots are traced back to before the Middle Ages! On this special day, the Sun appears to cross the celestial equator, from north to south; this marks the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. (The only other time this occurs is March 21, during the Vernal Equinox, marking the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.) Countries around the world still celebrate the occasion, from making special rice cakes and honoring the moon in China, to dances that encourage a fertile crop in the coming year in Nigeria. This year, follow the world traditions by getting back in touch with nature.

Fran Hawk's book, *Count Down to Fall*, provides young readers with the opportunity to pay tribute to the changing seasons and Mother Earth by introducing them to the dogwood leaves, oak leaves, linden leaves, and more! What tree's leaves bring helicopters with them? What tree's bark did the natives use to build their canoes? Fran Hawk answers these questions and more while Sherry Neidigh's illustrations capture the essence of fall's majesty through radiant and colorful depictions of its foliage and forest creatures. Sylvan Dell's *For Creative Minds* in the back of the book also provides activities to reinforce the nature lessons of the book.

To celebrate the arrival of the **Autumnal Equinox** and the release of her new title, Fran Hawk will be in Charleston and West Ashley on Saturday, September 26. At 10 AM, Hawk will be at Middleton Plantation in Charleston for a book signing and crafts, so bring your love of fall and come join the fun! Then, at 1:00 PM, Hawk will be at the Barnes and Noble in West Ashley for a reading and leaf rubbing. Can't make it to these events or simply can't get enough of Fran Hawk? Don't worry! This local artist will be hosting events in Charleston throughout the following months, so be sure to check Sylvan Dell's events page for the complete list: <http://sylvandellpublishing.com/events.htm#Count>! And enjoy the changing seasons as yet another summer turns to fall.

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### About Sylvan Dell Publishing

Sylvan Dell Publishing in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., is on a mission to excite children's imaginations with artistically spectacular science, math, and nature themed stories. Founded in November of 2004, Sylvan Dell's family has grown to include more than 64 authors and illustrators, in the U.S. and Canada, and 45 titles – honored as finalists or winners of more than 70 book awards. For more information, visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com>. AND Like FREE STUFF? We're offering a FREE trial of all 45 next generation eBooks until October 31. So go check it out, and tell your friends: <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ebooktrials.php?e=MSBL9J!>