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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# **Celebrating Earth Day with Sea Turtles and Salt Marshes**

## *Local Organizations Visit 800 Elementary Students*

**Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (April 22, 2008)** – As volunteers nationwide spruce up gardens, pick up litter and help make the planet a little greener on Earth Day (April 22), two local organizations have teamed up to turn the special day into a weeklong educational celebration.

Lowcountry Earth Force, a local nonprofit organization, and Sylvan Dell Publishing, a Charleston-based educational children's book publisher, have teamed up to visit nearly 800 elementary students in eight area schools: Memminger ES, Charleston Progressive, Mt. Pleasant Academy, Charles Pinckney, Belle Hall, Mitchell ES, Laurel Hill Primary, Buist Academy and Whiteside Elementary.

"It's going to be an exciting week," said Anna Richardson, Executive Director of Lowcountry Earth Force. "We routinely train educators and volunteers to teach students about how they can help the local environment, but it's rare we can visit so many schools in one week."

Volunteers from both organizations will read nature-themed children's books and lead the students in discussions and activities. The program will highlight Charleston's coastal environment with two Sylvan Dell books, *Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too* and *A Day in the Salt Marsh*.

*Carolina's Story*, by Sylvan Dell Editor Donna German and photographed by Isle of Palms resident Barbara Bergwerf, is a photographic journal of a sick sea turtle nursed back to health at the South Carolina Aquarium's Sea Turtle Hospital. *A Day in the Salt Marsh*, by former Charleston resident Kevin Kurtz, introduces readers to the dynamic wetlands.

"We have a passion for learning at Sylvan Dell, and I can think of no better way to share that passion than with the youth of Charleston," said Sylvan Dell Publisher Lee German. "Our plan is to get the kids thinking about our environment while still having fun."

Lowcountry Earth Force is a non-profit organization that provides elementary through high school aged youth with the skills and the knowledge to create lasting solutions to local environmental problems. [www.earthforce.org/charleston](http://www.earthforce.org/charleston).

Sylvan Dell Publishing is a young company on a serious mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular, and have educational value. To learn more about Sylvan Dell and its 35 titles, visit [www.sylvandellpublishing.com](http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com).

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