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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Learning to listen in *The Best Nest*

#### *Local children's book author to sign books at the St. Louis Zoo June 14*

**MT. PLEASANT, S.C.** (June 6, 2008) – Local Missouri children's book author, Doris Mueller, will be signing her critically acclaimed picture book *The Best Nest* at the St. Louis Zoo, Saturday, June 14, from noon to 3 PM.

*The Best Nest* was published in the spring of 2008 by Sylvan Dell Publishing. It comes highly recommended by the Midwest Book Review ("engagingly written by Doris L. Mueller and beautifully enhanced with the full color art work of Sherry Neidigh"), and it has also been reviewed by such nationally recognized publications as *Armchair Interviews* and the *Children's Literature Comprehensive Database*.

Mrs. Mueller recalls that whenever she failed to listen to instructions as a child, her mother would tell her an Old English Tale, which inspired her to write *The Best Nest*. "Retelling the old folktale on which my story was based has been a wanna-do of mine for a long time," explains Mueller, who remembers well the tale from her childhood. "If I neglected to listen to my mother's instructions for baking cookies or running an errand, she would tell me the story of a magpie who tried to teach other birds to build beautiful, strong nests like hers. All but one failed to attend to her instructions and went off to build inadequate nests."

Long ago, when the world was young, the magpies' nests were the envy of all other birds. To help the other birds, Maggie Magpie patiently explained how to build a nest. But some birds were impatient and flew off without listening to all the directions, which is why, to this day, birds' nests come in all different shapes and sizes. This clever retelling of an old English folktale features birds native to the US and teaches the importance of careful listening.

Doris Mueller has been a teacher and professor at every level from kindergarten through graduate school. She currently teaches college-level writing courses and a class in Children's Literature. Her previous books include a picture book, *Small One's Adventure*, a middle-grade novel, *Marryin' Sam*, and a biography, *M. Jeff Thompson: Missouri's Swamp Fox*. Doris and her husband live on a small lake outside of St. Louis and have many bird visitors at their bird feeders—woodpeckers, hummingbirds, nuthatches, and goldfinches, among others. Their own children are grown and have flown the nest.

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The St. Louis Zoo is located at 1 Government Dr., St Louis. For additional information or directions, call (314) 781-0900. For additional information on author Doris Mueller, contact Sara Dobie, Sylvan Dell Public Relations, at [saradobie@sylvandellpublishing.com](mailto:saradobie@sylvandellpublishing.com).

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### **About Sylvan Dell Publishing**

Sylvan Dell Publishing, based in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. The company specializes in "Science and Math Through Literature" and provides free supplemental parent/teacher resources for every title. Founded in 2004, Sylvan Dell's family has grown to include more than 55 authors and illustrators in the U.S. and Canada, and 35 titles – honored as nominees, finalists or winners of more than 50 book awards – line their bookshelf. For more information about Sylvan Dell's books and free parent/teacher resources, visit [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com).

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