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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Earth Day, "*In Arctic Waters*" Heats Up Global Warming Awareness

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (April 9, 2007) – Because global warming and its impact on the polar regions is a world wide concern, Earth Day Network is promoting "A Call for Action on Climate Change" on this year's Earth Day, April 22.

One way to participate in the call for action and to introduce children to this complex issue is through Chicago area teacher Laura Crawford's new book, "*In Arctic Waters*." The picture book is based on the rhyme "This is the House that Jack Built" and teaches children ages three to seven about the animals who live in the Arctic waters: polar bears, seals, walrus and beluga whales.

The topic is even more timely because the International Council for Science and the World Meteorological Organization recently began the 2007-2008 International Polar Year (IPY) to advance the understanding of how the Earth's polar regions impact global climate systems and to bring about fundamental advances in many areas of science. Similar to international research efforts that informed us about rainforest deforestation concerns, the IPY will be observed from March 1, 2007 to March 1, 2009 to allow researchers more time to experiment and study the polar regions.

Illustrated by award-winning artist Ben Hodson and published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, "*In Arctic Waters*" was released in February 2007 and has received complimentary reviews from "*School Library Journal*," "*The Midwest Book Review*," "*Armchair Interviews*" and "*Bookviews*." Like every Sylvan Dell book, "*In Arctic Waters*" contains a "For Creative Minds" educational section that includes information about Arctic animals' adaptations, the Arctic region, and a coloring activity to expand the book's learning possibilities. As a result, the picture book is under consideration by Renaissance Learning to be part of the Accelerated Reader program. To date, Sylvan Dell Publishing's 2005 and 2006 titles have been accepted into the program, which is used in over 57,000 schools.

In addition, Kate M. Wynne, Marine Mammal Specialist at the University of Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, and Riley Woodford and Sue Steinacher of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation vetted "*In Arctic Waters*" for scientific accuracy.

Crawford is also the author of "*The Pilgrims' Thanksgiving From A to Z*" and some leveled readers for Scott Foresman. She is an active member in the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and credits her success to the SCBWI critique groups.



Hodson illustrates full time from his home in Ottawa, Canada. In addition to illustrating “*In Arctic Waters*” for Sylvan Dell, he created the illustrations for the company’s award-winning 2006 release, “*How the Moon Regained Her Shape*.” “*Moon*” is a finalist for the 2007 Publishers Marketing Association Ben Franklin Awards in the Children’s/Young Adult Interior Art category and was chosen as a Summer 2006 Book Sense Pick. It was also selected for the Society of Illustrators’ 26th Annual The Original Art exhibition.

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children’s imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Readers can ask for “*In Arctic Waters*,” “*How the Moon Regained Her Shape*” and other titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. They can also find more information by calling Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600 or by visiting www.SylvanDellPublishing.com. Families may learn more about the International Polar Year at www.IPY.org or Earth Day 2007 at www.earthday.net.

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