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S.C. Sea Turtle Book Nominated for Local Library Association Award

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (March 25, 2007) – Carolina the loggerhead turtle celebrated the day she was safely released from the South Carolina Aquarium's Sea Turtle Hospital, and now author Donna Rathmell and photographer Barbara Bergwerf are celebrating again: their photographic journal, "*Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too!*," has been chosen as a nominee for the 2007-2008 South Carolina Picture Book Award.

The award, given annually by the South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL), was established in 1976 to encourage South Carolina's students to read good quality contemporary literature and to honor the authors of these books. The winning titles are chosen by student vote and the award medals are presented to the winning authors at the annual conference of the SCASL.

"*Carolina's Story*" was released in 2005 and has received positive reviews from *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Robert Ballard and Mary Alice Monroe, *USA Today* and *New York Times* best selling author. Monroe comments, "'*Carolina's Story*' is a delightful and educational book that will enthrall young readers and move them one step closer to understanding—and caring about—the gentle, endangered sea turtles."

The picture book was recently named "2006 Best Children's Nonfiction" by the Florida Publishers Association and was a 2005 Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Book Award short list finalist. It is also part of the Accelerated Reader program used in over 57,000 schools and contains a "For Creative Minds" educational section with facts about endangered sea turtles, turtle math games and a "Make Your Own Sea Turtle" craft. Before publication, experts from the South Carolina Aquarium and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources vetted "*Carolina's Story*" for scientific accuracy.

Rathmell, a Mt. Pleasant resident, is no stranger to the book world; before writing "*Carolina's Story*," she authored the NY Times best selling *The Bread Machine Cookbook* series. Her passion for marine animals, stems from five years of sailing the Caribbean with her husband as they boat schooled their three daughters and from volunteer work at the South Carolina Aquarium. Rathmell's second children's book, "*Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud*," was released in May 2006.



Bergwerf, a former Chicago Tribune Photographer, left Chicago for Charleston's sunny beaches. Her commitment to nature is evident in her wildlife photography business and by her volunteer work with the South Carolina Aquarium and the Island Turtle Team on Isle of Palms. In fact, her work on the Isle of Palms turtle team led to her second photographic journal, "*Turtle Summer: A Journal for my Daughter*," which was written by Lowcountry author Mary Alice Monroe and was just released.

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 "*Carolina's Story*," "*Turtle Summer*" and any other Sylvan Dell title at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information, please visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600.

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