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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****New Tale of Tails a Fun Back-to-School Read**

**Mt. Pleasant, S.C.** (Aug. 1, 2007) – “Little Skink’s Tail,” the newest children’s book release from Sylvan Dell Publishing in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., hits stands nationwide on Friday, Aug. 10, and the book offers the fun, educational opportunities parents have been looking for to pull their kids out of the infamous end-of-summer slump.

“Little Skink’s Tail” begins as Little Skink snaps off her tail to escape a hungry crow – an interesting defense mechanism that even Sylvan Dell employees admit not knowing before choosing the manuscript. Missing her tail, Little Skink pretends to try on other animals’ tails, and young readers will enjoy pretending with her as they learn about Little Skink and the animals around her.

Like every Sylvan Dell title, “Little Skink’s Tail” is scientifically accurate and includes a three-page “For Creative Minds” educational section that teaches children and parents about the adaptations and uses of different tails. The section includes a “Tail Matching Activity” and a “Footprint Map Activity.” Parents and educators who want to enhance those educational opportunities can find child-friendly “Learning Links” and suggested “Teaching Activities” on the publisher’s Web site, [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com).

“My granddaughter Monae inspired ‘Little Skink’s Tail,’ author Janet Halfmann explains. “I was in the process of researching one of my other books, ‘Nature’s Predators: Lizards,’ when I began picturing Monae playing dress-up and showing off each tail,” she continues. Before becoming a full-time freelance children’s writer, Halfmann was a manager, editor and writer of coloring and activity books for Golden Books; the editor of a national children’s magazine; and a reporter for a daily newspaper. She is also a member of the Society for Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and has published more than 25 books.

Illustrator Laurie Allen Klein has been a freelance artist for nearly 20 years and has most recently been working as the on-staff artist at a marine park. She used watercolors to illustrate “Little Skink’s Tail,” and she has also illustrated Sylvan Dell’s “If a Dolphin Were a Fish,” written by Sea World Educator Loran Wlodarski. Klein’s other books include *The Out to Pasture* series authored by Effie Wilder.

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 “Little Skink’s Tail” and other Sylvan Dell titles at local or online bookstores. Additional information can be found on [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com) or by contacting Angie Dzalamanow at [AngieDzalamanow@SylvanDellPublishing.com](mailto:AngieDzalamanow@SylvanDellPublishing.com) or (877) 958-2600.

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**Visuals:**

For cover art or author/illustrator headshots, visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm>.