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**CHILDREN'S AUTHOR RETURNS HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

*New Yorkers Can Now Enjoy "A Day in the Salt Marsh"*

**Mt. Pleasant, S.C.** (Dec. 10, 2007) – In the 1980s, Kevin Kurtz wanted to be a cartoonist. He spent his days attending Homer schools, teaching himself to draw and visiting the Cortland Free Library on a weekly basis to borrow cartoon and other books.

Ultimately, he found drawing to be a frustrating process, so he put his pen to a different use.

Nearly two decades later, he's returning home as an accomplished environmental educator and curriculum writer. He'll be revisiting Homer Elementary School and Cortland Free Library, but this time it will be to share his first authored children's book, "A Day in the Salt Marsh," with his hometown community.

"When I began my professional career in South Carolina, I quickly became fascinated with the salt marsh ecosystems, which are unlike anything we have in central New York," said Kurtz. "I'm excited to return home and share my book and that fascination with two places that played such an important part in shaping who I am."

After graduating from Homer High School in 1989, Kurtz entered the University at Buffalo and studied English literature and then attended the College of Charleston in South Carolina to pursue a master's degree in elementary education. But after college, he chased his long held interest in nature and took a job as a research assistant in a marine biology lab.

Since that first job, Kurtz has combined all of his education, experiences and interests by working as an environmental educator and curriculum writer for organizations such as the South Carolina Aquarium, the International Center for Birds of Prey, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina Marine Educators Association.

He has written and edited the South Carolina Aquarium's award-winning kindergarten-eighth grade curriculum, as well as curriculum activities for many of the aforementioned organizations.

"When I was working as an environmental educator at the South Carolina Aquarium, I realized that there wasn't a children's book that focused solely on the wonders of salt marshes. I thought 'Someone needs to rectify this situation!' Then two seconds later, 'That someone could be me!'" explained Kurtz.

Kurtz released "A Day in the Salt Marsh" in July, and the book features fun-to-read, rhyming verse that introduces young readers to hourly changes in the marsh as the tide ebbs and flows.

"I don't think kids need to live near the ocean to appreciate salt marshes," said Kurtz. "I am hoping my book will make more kids aware of this important and unusual environment that provides habitat to so many different animals."

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Kurtz currently resides in Eugene, Ore., where he continues to write while pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Oregon. His father and stepmother, Richard and Sally Kurtz, still live in Homer.

Look for Kurtz to sign "A Day in the Salt Marsh" at Barnes & Noble in Ithaca from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15. He will also read at the Cortland Free Library at 3 p.m. that day. "A Day in the Salt Marsh" is available at local and online bookstores.

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For Kurtz's headshot or "A Day in the Salt Marsh" cover art, please visit our online image gallery:  
<http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm>.

To view an eBook version of "A Day in the Salt Marsh" for immediate review, please use the following temporary viewing code:

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For a sample interview available for your use, click here:

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