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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Terrapin Nest found in Girl's Sandbox**

**Mt. Pleasant, S.C.** (September 7, 2006) – A young girl finds a diamondback terrapin nest in her sandbox in Maryland author Jennifer Keats Curtis' new picture book, "Turtles In My Sandbox."

"Turtles," illustrated by Emanuel Schongut and published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, tells the story of Maggie, a young turtle-sitter, and her hatchlings, Freckles, Tudo, Popper, Poky, Terpy, Scooter, Shelly and Junior.

The story is based on a popular terrapin head start program that gives Maryland students the opportunity to participate as experts gather, hatch and release terrapin eggs each summer.

"I hope that 'Turtles In My Sandbox' and its websites will teach children how amazing diamondback terrapins are and how important it is to protect them," explains Curtis, who is donating a portion of the book's proceeds to the Terrapin Institute.

An Annapolis area resident, Curtis aims to bring children close to the animals in their own backyard. Her first children's book, "Oshus and Shelly Save the Bay," won the Frederick Douglass Award given by the Maryland Council of Teachers of English Language Arts.

The book's websites, [www.sylvandellpublishing.com/Sandbox.htm](http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/Sandbox.htm) and [www.terrapinbook.com](http://www.terrapinbook.com), include fun facts and activities for children and teachers. In addition, [www.terrapinbook.com](http://www.terrapinbook.com) offers a unique, interactive lab and houses the first comprehensive database on head started terrapins. The site is funded by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and by a cooperative of private and public organizations including the Maryland State Department of Education and the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute.

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Each Sylvan Dell title features a three to five page educational section, "For Creative Minds." "Turtles" section includes facts about a terrapin's habitat, diet and nesting process and has a turtle craft, where children can make a diamondback terrapin, a loggerhead sea turtle and a desert tortoise.

Readers can ask for Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information, visit [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com) or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600.