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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Picture Book Focusing on Marine Mammals wins Teachers' Choice Award

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (Sept. 15, 2006) – Rocklin, CA, illustrator Connie McLennan is proud to announce that her picture book, “Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean,” is a *Learning Magazine* 2007 Teachers' Choice Award winner.

Introduced in 1994, *Learning Magazine's* Teachers' Choice Awards program is now one of the most recognized and prestigious awards in the educational market. Now in its 13th year, the 77 winners were chosen by a panel of teachers across the country.

“Water Beds,” written by Gail Langer Karwoski and published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, was released in 2005. The soothing bedtime story lets young readers follow a child's dream about sleeping in the water with ten different marine mammals—animals that live in the water but breathe air—and has been vetted for scientific accuracy by SeaWorld. It also includes a five-page “For Creative Minds” section and is aligned to National Science Standards to help teachers, librarians and parents teach children with fun facts on marine mammals and a “Make-Your-Own-Marine-Mammal” craft.

Brad Andrews, corporate vice president for Zoological Operations at SeaWorld Adventure Parks, comments, ““Water Beds’ dives into the many mysteries of animal sleep with illustrations that are a dream come true. It’s a great way to introduce youngsters to the variety of sleeping patterns found in marine animals ranging from killer whales to sea otters to walruses.”

McLennan has worked as a freelance illustrator since 1983. “When I began thinking about the illustrations for this book, I thought first and foremost of color.... I wanted to convey the excitement of the discovery of a new world,” she explains.

Her warm story is the recipient of a 2005 Mom's Choice Award and has received reviews from *School Library Journal*, the *Horn Book Review*, *NSTA Recommends* and *Science Books & Film*. “Water Beds” is also an Accelerated Reader title.

Readers are encouraged to purchase “Water Beds” or “Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud,” McLennan's other Sylvan Dell title, through their favorite neighborhood or online bookstore. Call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600 or visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com for more information.

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