

Contact: Katherine Miller, (877) 958-2600
KatherineMiller@SylvanDellPublishing.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Children Learn about Turtles on World Turtle Day**

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (May 11, 2007) – Turtles are beloved animals and have been featured in literature from the early folklore legends to present day. To celebrate turtles, American Tortoise Rescue (ATR) is sponsoring World Turtle Day this Wednesday, May 23.

ATR held the first World Turtle Day in 2000 and strives to bring awareness to turtle conservation issues by highlighting ways that people can help protect these gentle, jeopardized animals. Families who are looking for a fun way to teach children about these fascinating creatures should read Sylvan Dell Publishing's educational picture books, "*Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too!*," "*Turtle Summer: A Journal for my Daughter*," "*Turtles In My Sandbox*," and "*Tudley Didn't Know*."

"*Carolina's Story*" and "*Turtle Summer*," written by Donna Rathmell and Mary Alice Monroe respectively, both describe the endangered loggerhead sea turtle. In "*Carolina's Story*," Rathmell chronicles the rehabilitation and recovery of Carolina, a critically ill turtle at one of the many sea turtle hospitals. The award-winning journal features photography by Barbara Bergwerf and shows Carolina as she has blood drawn, x-rays taken, and receives shots—just like hospitalized children.

A *New York Times* best selling novelist, Monroe's "*Turtle Summer*" is a heartwarming scrapbook that shares the joys of a mother and daughter's summer as Turtle Team volunteers. The picture book also uses photographs by Bergwerf to explain the nesting cycle of sea turtles and the natural life along the southeastern coast.

"*Turtles In My Sandbox*," written by Jennifer Keats Curtis and illustrated by Emanuel Schongut, follows a young girl named Maggie after she discovers that a diamondback terrapin has laid eggs in her sandbox. Together, Maggie and her mother become "turtle sitters" and then release the hatchlings into the wild with the help of experts. "*Sandbox*" 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, and the picture book is a 2006 ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award finalist.

Award-winning children's author/illustrator John Himmelman's "*Tudley Didn't Know*" tells the story of a young painted turtle who adopts other animals' behaviors simply because he doesn't know he can't. Tudley flies like a hummingbird, hops like a frog, and sings like a katydid—in addition, "*Tudley*" is a finalist for *ForeWord Magazine's* 2007 Book of the Year Award. The picture book is also a finalist for the 2008 Beehive Picture Book Award and was ranked number four on Book Sense's Autumn 2006 Children's Pick's List.

Each Sylvan Dell book is part of the Accelerated Reader program used in over 57,000 schools with the exception of “*Turtle Summer*,” which is currently being considered. The books have also been vetted for scientific accuracy and contain a “For Creative Minds” educational section to expand the learning possibilities. “*Carolina’s Story*” includes information on conservation issues and a “Make Your Own Sea Turtle” craft. “*Turtle Summer*” includes fun facts about loggerhead sea turtles, a shell identification activity, a “Make Your Own Scrapbook” craft, and a “Match the Turtle Team Items” game. A turtle habitat and adaptation craft are included in “*Turtles In My Sandbox*,” and “*Tudley*” features fun facts about each of the animals in the book.

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*,” “*Turtles In My Sandbox*,” “*Tudley Didn’t Know*,” and other Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information, please visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or e-mail Publicist Katherine Miller, KatherineMiller@SylvanDellPublishing.com. Families interested in learning more about World Turtle Day should visit American Tortoise Rescue’s Web site, www.tortoise.com, or contact them by e-mail, info@tortoise.com.

#
