

Go Nuts on Squirrel Appreciation Day!

MT. PLEASANT, S.C. (1/15/2009) – Did you know that there are over 300 species of squirrel? Or that squirrels actually communicate with one another by chirping? These furry animals can even run at speeds of up to **20** miles an hour! Squirrels are fascinating creatures; simply take a look in your own backyard! So why not pay homage to these adorable bushy-tailed animals by celebrating **Squirrel Appreciation Day** on January 21, 2009?

Squirrel Appreciation Day was founded in 2001 by Christy Hargrove, a wildlife rehabilitator from North Carolina. Squirrels often have trouble finding food in the winter, so they tend to go hungry. Hargrove founded Squirrel Appreciation Day not only in the hopes that squirrels would be better appreciated, but that they may be better fed, too!

Want ideas on how to celebrate with your family? Hargrove suggests leaving an extra treat out in your backyard, such as seeds, nuts or suet. Or she recommends simply learning something new about the furry species. For example, do you know what baby squirrels are called? You and your family can learn fun facts about baby squirrels (called pups), along with other different kinds of wildlife in the children's book ***In My Backyard***. What better way to enrich your children's minds while having fun at the same time?

In My Backyard (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2007) is a clever, rhythmic tale that introduces familiar backyard animals by baby and family group name, counting from one to ten. Each stanza tells a bit more about each animal by providing clues as to what they eat, how they sound or where they live. Additionally, the book features a "For Creative Minds" section that includes more animal fun facts, information on keeping a nature journal, and how to watch for wildlife in your own backyard – another great way to celebrate Squirrel Appreciation Day as a family!

About Sylvan Dell Publishing

Sylvan Dell Publishing in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., is on a mission to excite children's imaginations with artistically spectacular science, math and nature themed stories. Founded in November of 2004, Sylvan Dell's family has grown to include more than 55 authors and illustrators, in the U.S. and Canada, and 35 titles – honored as finalists or winners of more than 70 book awards. For more information about Sylvan Dell Publishing, please visit <http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com>.
