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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mary Alice Monroe's *Turtle Summer* takes home yet another award! *New York Times* bestselling author is SC Center for the Book Award Winner

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (July 30, 2008) – When *New York Times* best-selling novelist Mary Alice Monroe released her debut picture book, *Turtle Summer: A Journal for my Daughter*, how was she to know awards would follow? But in 2007, her book won the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Henry Bergh Award. Now, in 2008, Mary Alice has been selected as the 2008 recipient of the South Carolina Center for the Book Award for Writing for her 2007 novel *Swimming Lessons* and picture book, *Turtle Summer: A Journal for my Daughter*.

The South Carolina Center for the Book is the South Carolina affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book and is a cooperative project of the South Carolina State Library, the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science and The Humanities Council^{SC}. The SC Center for the Book Awards were formerly a single award known as the Palmetto Book Award. In 2008, the Palmetto Book Award has expanded to honor excellence in Writing, Teaching and Literary Arts Advocacy. Nominees must be living South Carolina residents or active South Carolina organizations.

The SC Center for the Book Award for Writing carries with it the honor of being promoted as South Carolina's Featured Author at the 2009 National Book Festival on the Mall in Washington, DC. The National Book Festival is the largest book event in the country with attendance in previous years surpassing the 100,000 mark!

Turtle Summer (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2007) was written as a companion book to the novel *Swimming Lessons*, Monroe's highly anticipated sequel to *The Beach House*. In *Swimming Lessons*, readers witnessed a young mother making a scrapbook-journal for her daughter. *Turtle Summer* was the journal the character wrote. Using original photographs by Charleston, S.C. resident Barbara Bergwerf, the picture book explained the nesting cycle of loggerhead sea turtles and the natural life along the southeastern coast.

Readers interested in learning more about Mary Alice Monroe and her books can visit her website, www.maryalicemonroe.com. For more information on photographer Barbara Bergwerf, visit her site, at <http://www.bergwerfgraphics.com/>. Free educational materials – such as audio readings, activity ideas, related websites and interactive quizzes – are available to supplement the book at www.SylvanDellPublishing.com. Like all Sylvan Dell books, *Turtle Summer* was vetted for scientific accuracy and is aligned to various national and state curriculum standards.



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Paperback ISBN: 978-0-9777423-7-0, \$8.95

Visuals Requests:

For cover art or Mary Alice's headshot, visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm> or e-mail SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com.

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About Sylvan Dell

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 52 authors and illustrators in the U.S. and Canada, and 35 titles – honored as finalists or winners of more than 50 book awards – line the bookshelf. For more information about Sylvan Dell's books, our educational resource grant and free supplemental resources, visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com, or contact Sara Dobie, Public Relations, at SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com or (877) 958-2600.
