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## New Sylvan Dell release is already an award-winner! Children's picture book *Whistling Wings* earns a Moonbeam Bronze Medal

MT. PLEASANT, SC (October 31, 2008) – Nature inspired debut children's book author Laura Goering to write the picture book, *Whistling Wings*. It would seem that her inspiration touched the Moonbeam Award judges, because the fall 2008 release has just won a Moonbeam Bronze Medal.

"My interest in children's literature grew out of a course I teach at Carleton called 'Russian Literature for Children,'" said Goering. "There are so many splendid Russian children's writers, I at first planned to translate their work into English. As I learned more about the children's market in the US, I decided to try my hand at writing stories and poems for children myself, spurred on, in part, by spending hours reading picture books of varying quality to my young daughter."

*Whistling Wings* (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2008), illustrated by Laura Jacques, is about Marcel, a young tundra swan, tired from the first half of a winter migration. One thousand miles is a long way to fly—too long for Marcel, so he hides in the rushes to stay behind while his parents and the flock continue south. But with the lake nearly frozen over, he soon realizes that he is not cut out for life on ice. Hungry and scared, he falls asleep – only to be awakened by a big surprise!

The Moonbeam awards are held annually and are sponsored by the Independent Publisher Online Magazine. This year, *Whistling Wings* won a bronze medal among 1,085 other entries. The award couldn't have come at a busier time for Goering. Between mid-October and mid-December, approximately 25,000 tundra swans pass through the Upper Mississippi River valley on their way from their Arctic breeding grounds to the Chesapeake Bay. The swans stop to rest at staging areas in Alma, Wisconsin and near Weaver, Minnesota, making tundra swan viewing a popular activity for families and educators—and Goering will be right there with them. For more information on Goering and tundra swans, visit her website at <http://www.lauragoering.com>.

"I'm so grateful to have Moonbeam shine their light on *Whistling Wings*," illustrator Laura Jacques said when she heard the news. "What a thrill!"

Jacques has more than 25 years of experience illustrating in the advertising and publishing world. She most enjoys illustrating children's books that focus on natural history, wildlife and the environment, and those illustrations have garnered her a number of awards. Most recently, Jacques was chosen to be an Artist-in-Residence at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado to create a painting for NPS that spoke to children. "My goal is to help kids connect with nature—to become more aware of the many amazing life forms that live right in their own backyards." Jacques is currently working with the Jane Goodall Institute on a series of books about endangered species. To see more of Laura's work, visit her website, <http://www.laurajacques.com>.

According to Goering, "I'm so thankful to Laura Jacques for making my words come alive. She manages to create illustrations that are simultaneously kid-friendly, scientifically accurate and just plain gorgeous. I'm pleased that the award judges appreciated this winning combination."

For more information about *Whistling Wings* or Sylvan Dell Publishing in general, visit the Sylvan Dell Publishing website, <http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com>. For additional inquiries, contact Sara Dobie, Public Relations, at 877-958-2600 or [SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com](mailto:SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com).

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### **About Sylvan Dell Publishing**

Sylvan Dell picture books with science, math and nature themes excite children's imaginations through fun stories, vibrant artwork and a 3-5 page "For Creative Minds" educational section in the back of each book. But that is just the start...what really makes the books unique, is their tremendous amount of free, online educational material available for cross-curricular learning, including: 30-80 page Teaching Activities, Interactive Reading and Math Quizzes, and much more. They have 57 authors and illustrators on the Sylvan Dell team and their 35 titles have been honored as nominees, finalists, or winners of more than 50 book awards. Sylvan Dell eBooks, available in English and Spanish, are wonderful for use with in-classroom projection or interactive whiteboards (Smartboards) and are ideal for Spanish language classes and ESL students at all grade levels.

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