

**National Environmental Foundation Names Loudoun Valley High School  
Students Winners of Essay Contest**

*Newton Marasco Foundation asks students to put pen to paper to honor Rachel Carson*

MCLEAN, Va., June 8, 2007 – At a school-wide assembly the Newton Marasco Foundation (NMF) today announced the winners of its essay contest that asked Loudoun Valley High School (LVHS) students to describe Rachel Carson’s impact on the modern environmental movement.

The winners are: Jennifer Bell, first place; Zachary Evans, second place; and, Alexandra Wicks, third place. NMF awarded the winners cash prizes of \$300, \$150 and \$50 respectively.

The essay contest was open to graduating seniors who are currently taking, or have taken, the Environmental Explorations class. Participating students were asked to write a two to three page response addressing the following questions: How is Rachel Carson’s work still relevant today? Include such information as how she changed the way the public viewed environmental issues and the effects of her work on public policy. Elaborate on how her work reached people on both a local and global level and why that is important. Describe what positive change/contribution you envision you can make in protecting or improving the environment and how Rachel Carson’s work serves as an example that you can follow.

A panel consisting of an NMF board member, an NMF staff person, and a local community member evaluated the essays based on content, creativity, adhering to essay format, and addressing the questions.

“NMF has continued to enjoy a productive partnership with Loudoun Valley High School and this essay contest is one of several successful environmental programs we have conducted. We received 8 wonderful essays and, as always, were impressed with the dedication and creativity Loudoun Valley students put into their work,” said Amy Marasco Newton, president of the Newton Marasco Foundation.

NMF has partnered with LVHS in several environmental initiatives including an environmental guest speaker program, financial assistance for field trips, and providing equipment such as a laptop computer, projector, digital cameras, and field guides to the Environmental Explorations class.

**About the Newton Marasco Foundation**

The Newton Marasco Foundation (NMF) is a national nonprofit organization with the mission to work collaboratively on issues related to environmental stewardship through the areas of education and greening. Headquartered in McLean, Va., they have representation throughout the nation and in the U.S. Virgin Islands. To learn more about NMF go to [www.newtonmarascofoundation.org](http://www.newtonmarascofoundation.org).