



For Immediate Release

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Foundation Announces Three Winners Of Environmental Book Awards

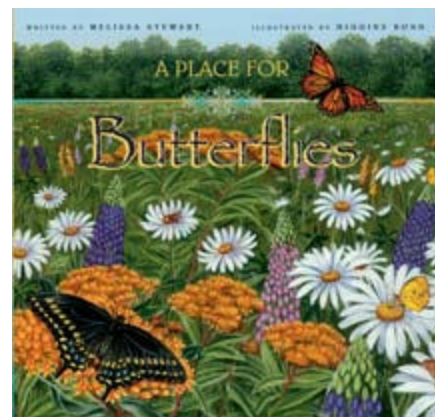
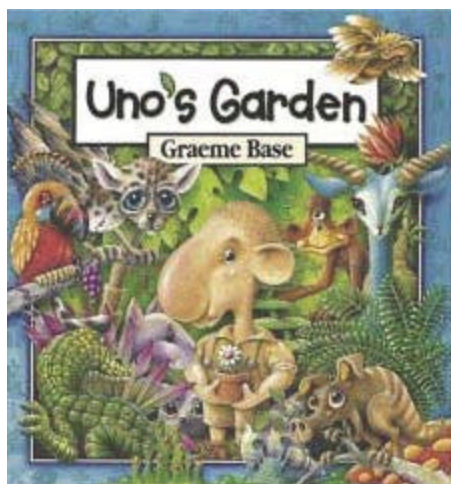
Green Earth Book Awards Honor Best in Environmental Literature for Youth

McLean, Va., – The Newton Marasco Foundation today announced the winners of its 2007 Green Earth Book Awards, recognizing three environmental books that inspire children and young adults to appreciate and care for their natural environment. Every year, the McLean, Va.,-based environmental foundation partners with Salisbury University to honor environmental books with the awards.

More than 100 books were nominated for the Green Earth Book Awards in three categories: children's fiction, for readers up to 12 years old; young adult fiction, for readers between 13 to 21 years old; and nonfiction, for readers up to 21 years old. Panels of literary and environmental professionals chose the winning books.

The winners of the 2007 Green Earth Book Awards are:

- ***Uno's Garden***, written and illustrated by Graeme Base (published by Abrams Books for Young Readers) for children's fiction
- ***Flash Point***, by Sneed B. Collard III (published by Peachtree Publishers) for young adult fiction
- ***A Place for Butterflies***, written by Melissa Stewart and illustrated by Higgins Bond (published by Peachtree Publishers) for nonfiction



“Each of these books beautifully inspires young readers to care for the environment,” said Amy Newton, president of the McLean, Va.-based Newton Marasco Foundation, whose mission is to promote responsible environmental stewardship. (www.newtonmarascofoundation.org)

In *Uno's Garden*, by Australian author and artist Graeme Base, Uno moves to the forest and discovers hundreds of plants and imaginary animals, including a Snortlepig. But as more people arrive, buildings thrive while plants and animals – including the Snortlepig – disappear. Uno's children then take extra care to recover the natural wonders, but the Snortlepig still is nowhere to be found in this tale that emphasizes the importance of balancing development and conservation.

A high school football player from a logging town learns about the delicate ecology of the forest in *Flash Point*, by Sneed B. Collard III, a biologist and author from Missoula, Mont. In a coming-of-age tale that mixes friendships, fistfights, heroism and romance, the book educates readers about logging, forest fires and birds of prey.

A Place for Butterflies is a pictorial introduction to butterflies and their specialized habitats by Boston author Melissa Stewart and Nashville illustrator Higgins Bond. Young readers learn about the role of butterflies as pollinators in complex food chains and discover their importance and fragility. The book also presents 11 species of butterflies illustrated in their preferred habitats.

The Newton Marasco Foundation annually holds the Green Earth Book Awards in partnership with Salisbury University to honor books that celebrate the beauty of the natural world and demonstrate the responsibility to protect it. The awards began in 2005 to promote literature that inspired children to practice environmental stewardship and now is part of the annual Children's Literature Festival at Salisbury University, located on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Each award includes \$2,500 to the winning author and illustrator, as well as \$500 to an environmental organization of the winner's choice. Base has designated his \$500 contribution for the World Wildlife Fund. Collard will divide his \$500 between the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Rainforest Action Network. Stewart has chosen the Massachusetts Audubon Society for her contribution.

In addition to the award winners, the **Honor Books** for 2007 are:

- *Abigale the Happy Whale*, written by Peter Farrelly and illustrated by Jamie Rama (Little Brown Books for Young Readers)
- *All the Way to the Ocean*, written by Joel Harper and illustrated by Marq Spusta (Freedom Three Publishing)
- *Firestorm: The Caretaker Trilogy: Book 1*, written by David Klass (Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers)
- *Frog Heaven*, written by Doug Wechsler (Boyd's Mills Press)
- *Home and Other Big Fat Lies*, written by Jill Wolfson (Henry Holt)
- *Quest for the Tree Kangaroo*, written by Sy Montgomery and illustrated by Nic Bishop (Houghton Mifflin)
- *Saving the Buffalo*, written by Albert Marrin (Scholastic)

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The Newton Marasco Foundation's mission is to inspire responsible environmental stewardship. NMF designs innovative programs that foster learning, appreciation and caring for our natural environment. The foundation promotes awareness and responsibility for the environment by individuals, schools, businesses and communities. The foundation educates companies on sustainable green business practices and promotes the conservation and restoration of unique community ecosystems and habitats. The foundation conducts award programs that recognize small deeds and great acts that promote environmental awareness and further sustainable, environmental solutions. For more information, visit www.newtonmarascofoundation.org.