

Green Earth Literature Program

THE NATION'S FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BOOK AWARD



What is the Green Earth Literature Program?

The Green Earth Literature Program was created to get more books with a message of environmental stewardship into the hands of children and young adults, and to connect authors with youth. A key component of this program is the Green Earth Book Award, an annual award for authors and illustrators whose books best raise awareness of the beauty of our natural world and the responsibility that we have to protect it. Captivating young people through the imagery of words and pictures is central to how we reach and inspire the next generation.

How Will We Teach Our Next Generation of Environmental Stewards?

Our children are our future stewards, and we need to teach them how to take care of the earth. What better way to educate them about their natural surroundings than through beautifully illustrated and written books that teach them how to protect the environment? Books can trigger kids to ask questions about ecosystems and habitats, about balancing development and conservation. If an award-winning book inspires a child to think or act responsibly, then a new environmental steward is born.

Who Are the Judges?

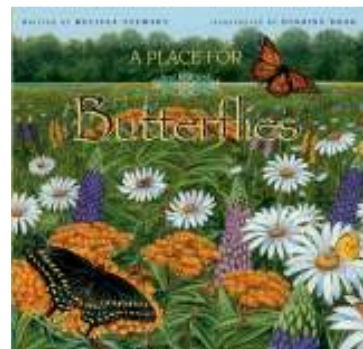
Literary and environmental professionals review each nominated book. The panel of judges represents environmental and educational organizations in private industry, associations, and governmental natural resource agencies, as well as college professors and elementary school teachers.

Who Wins the Award?

The Award is presented to authors and illustrators in four categories:

- **Picture Book:** for books for children from pre-school to age 8 where the pictures and illustrations are as important as the text
- **Children's Fiction:** encompasses novels for readers up to age 12
- **Young Adult Fiction:** includes books for readers from age 13 to 21
- **Nonfiction:** includes books for readers from infancy to age 21

The Newton Marasco Foundation (NMF) presents a monetary award to each winner. In addition, NMF donates winning books to schools it serves.



Winners get noticed by readers and publishers. "Just after the winners were announced, my publisher signed me up to write a related book, and now I have two more under contract. I'm not sure this would have happened if my book hadn't received the award."
-Melissa Stewart, 2007 non-fiction winner

Who Sponsors the Award?

The Green Earth Book Award is presented annually by NMF whose mission is to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. NMF strives to promote awareness and responsibility for the environment to individuals, schools, businesses and communities. The awards are presented in partnership with Salisbury University during their Children's and Young Adult Literature Festival each spring.

In addition to being computer programmers, lawyers, and professional basketball players, children are also going to be consumers, voters and responsible members of the community. Their childhood experiences will help shape their attitudes toward the environment and the kinds of decisions they make later in life.

What Are NMF's Other Initiatives?

In addition to the Green Earth Literature Program, NMF sponsors a variety of programs to achieve its goal:

Field It inspires and excites the next generation of environmental stewards through programs that give students real-life educational experiences in outdoor environments.

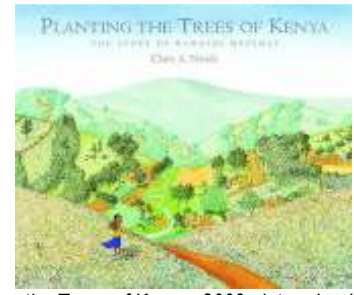
enGAUGE It gives high school students the tools to plan and implement a one-day event in their community to give away free tire gauges while providing information about the benefits to individuals and the environment of keeping tires properly inflated.

Chapman Demary Trail provides a student designed and maintained nature trail as an outdoor classroom where students learn about and develop an appreciation for the nature that surrounds them—it also serves as a nature park for the community.

Environment and the Arts fosters appreciation of the beauty and diversity of the environment through the arts and literature.



NMF Board member reading an award-winning book to children.



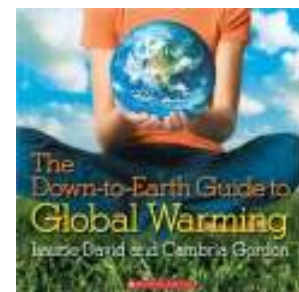
Planting the Trees of Kenya, 2009 picture book winner recounts the story of how Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize winner taught Kenyans to replant life-sustaining trees.



Winston of Churchill: One Bear's Battle Against Global Warming, 2008 children's fiction winner. This timely, funny story draws attention to the polar bears' plight and helps children understand that in the face of global warming, everyone must do their part, no matter how small.



Flush, 2006 young adult winner. Carl Hiaasen's second novel for young readers is filled with his usual quirky characters, environmental themes, and Florida landscapes. In this book, ecological concerns focus on illegal dumping of raw sewage from a floating casino.



Down to Earth Guide to Global Warming, 2008 non-fiction winner

This book is filled with facts about global warming and its disastrous consequences, loads of photos and illustrations, as well as suggestions for how kids can help combat global warming in their homes, schools, and communities.

