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**Newton Marasco Foundation Announces 2006 Green Earth Book Award Recipients**  
*NMF presents annual award to books that inspire environmental stewardship in youth*

MCLEAN, Va., March 1, 2006 – The Newton Marasco Foundation (NMF) today presented its annual Green Earth Book Award to two books and their authors for their work in promoting environmental awareness and responsibility to America’s youth. The winners are: *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs*, written by Anthony D. Fredericks and illustrated by Jennifer DiRubio; and, *Flush*, written by Carl Hiaasen.

NMF, in partnership with Salisbury University in Maryland, established the Green Earth Book Award in 2005 to promote books that encourage children to respect, appreciate and protect the natural environment. The book award is presented annually to authors in two categories: children and young adult. The winning books receive the Green Earth Book Award seal, and a monetary prize of \$2,500 is split between the author and illustrator. In addition, a \$500 donation is provided to the environmental organization chosen by each winner.

*Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs* was selected for the children’s category. Through poetry about the many creatures of the wetland, the book focuses on the ecology of a wetland ecosystem and encourages stewardship. *Flush* was selected for the young adult category and follows the detective work of young adults in discovering the dangers caused by a casino boat illegally dumping raw sewage into the Florida Keys.

“This book award is one of the Newton Marasco Foundation’s most exciting initiatives, and embodies our goal of instilling environmental awareness in children,” said Amy Marasco Newton, president of Newton Marasco Foundation. “The winning authors were chosen for their efforts to inspire children to value the environment, and to help educate a new generation on the importance of protecting our environment.”

Review of the nominated books and selection of the winners is conducted by a diverse panel of professionals, including college-level professors, environmental professionals, environmentalists, and children’s literature professionals.

In 2005, the first recipient of the Green Earth Book Award was *The Sea, The Storm, and The Mangrove Tangle*, written and illustrated by Lynne Cherry. To learn more about the author and her winning book go to <http://lynnecherry.com>. For more information about the Green Earth Book Award, a list of honorable mention books, Award criteria and the 2006 review panel, go to [www.newtonmarascofoundation.org](http://www.newtonmarascofoundation.org).

**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 chapters throughout the nation and in the U.S. Virgin Islands. To learn more about NMF go to [www.newtonmarascofoundation.org](http://www.newtonmarascofoundation.org).