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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Newton Marasco Foundation Announces 2005 Green Earth Book Award Winner

FAIRFAX, VA (April 15, 2004) – The Newton Marasco Foundation (NMF), a national voice advocating stewardship of our environment, is proud to announce that *The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle*, written and illustrated by Lynne Cherry, is the winner of the 2005 Green Earth Book Award.

NMF launched the Green Earth Book Award in 2005 in partnership with Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland. The award is intended to promote books that inspire children to grow a deeper appreciation, respect, and responsibility for their natural environment. This is an annual award for the book that best raises awareness of the beauty of our natural world and the responsibility that we have to protect it. One of the main criteria for this award is that the book should encourage the idea of environmental stewardship and the importance of the role each of us can play in nurturing, protecting, and defending our environment.

In *The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle*, Cherry cleverly weaves a story about a mangrove from propagules (sprouting seeds), to an individual tree, to a tangle (a cluster of trees), to an island. As the tree grows and becomes an island of mangroves, it provides both food and shelter for many living creatures. The story goes on to illustrate the many benefits we receive from mangroves and the mangrove's plight of being destroyed by shrimp farms and commercial development. Through Cherry's beautiful story and panoramic illustrations, children learn why they should help to protect the endangered mangroves. Cherry is the author and/or illustrator of thirty previous books and resides on a farm in the Catoctin Mountains of Maryland.

NMF is also proud to recognize the 2005 Green Earth Book Award's Honor Books: *Tree of Life* written by Rochelle Strauss and illustrated by Margot Thompson and *Garden of the Spirit Bear* written by Dorothy Patent and illustrated by Deborah Milton.

This year's award winner will receive \$2,500. In addition, the Newton Marasco Foundation is donating \$500 to an environmental cause of the winning author's choice. This year's recipient is the Mangrove Action Project whose mission is to conserve and restore mangrove forests and related coastal ecosystems, while promoting community-based, sustainable management of coastal resources.

A ceremony to present the award to the winning author, Lynne Cherry, is planned for Wednesday, April 20, 2005 in the Wicomico Room on the campus of Salisbury University. The event will take place at 7:00PM at a reception for environmental author and musician, David Rothenberg, who is performing on the campus that evening. The event is free and open to the public.

#### **About the Newton Marasco Foundation:**

Newton Marasco Foundation (NMF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to work collaboratively on issues related to environmental stewardship through the areas of education and greening. We are national, headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, with chapters in numerous states and the US Virgin Islands. We aspire to ignite the energy and passion that is embodied by our youth—to teach the ethos of environmental stewardship and to make our children more aware of the fragile nature of their local ecosystems and the role each of us can play in nurturing, protecting, and defending it. We educate and inform companies on sustainable green business practices and promote energy-efficient practices in housing, from design to home living, especially for lower income families.