

Contact: Jenny Newton Schimdt  
Director of Foundation Programs  
Newton Marasco Foundation  
703.727.8242  
jenny@newtonmarascofoundation.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Newton Marasco Foundation Announces  
2006 Green Earth Book Award Nominations**

MCLEAN, VA (October 18, 2005) - The Newton Marasco Foundation (NMF), a national voice advocating responsible stewardship of our environment, is proud to announce that the nomination period for the 2006 Green Earth Book Award is now in progress.

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 books that best raise 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 books 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.

The Green Earth Book Award will be awarded to authors/illustrators in two categories: Children and Young Adult. The Children's category encompasses books for young readers from infancy to 12 years of age, while the Young Adult category includes books for readers from age 13 to 21. The Children award is comprised of a monetary award of \$1,250 to the author and \$1,250 to the illustrator (or \$2,500 if the author and illustrator is the same person). The Young Adult award is comprised of a \$2,500 monetary award to the author. In addition, a \$500 donation is provided to the environmental organization chosen by each winner and approved by the Newton Marasco Foundation.

All nominations are due by Saturday December 10, 2005. Winners will be announced on March 1, 2006.

**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.