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CALL FOR ENTRIES – YOUTH ECO-ESSAY CONTEST

WINNER BECOMES A CONTRIBUTING WRITER FOR NEXT BOOK OF *DUCKEY AND THE OCEAN PROTECTORS*

OAKBROOK, Ill (Jan. 15, 2009) – With the release of his first children’s book, “Duckey and the Ocean Protectors” (Writers of the Round Table Press, October 2008), Author John Sexton hopes the characters he created as childhood friends will be able to reach out to kids, parents, and teachers with a clear message: celebrate the simple victories and work together to make all children strong individuals, each in his own right. In an effort to encourage people to act on this theme, the Society of Children’s Book Writers member and his publisher have announced a new Youth Eco-Essay Contest to help children express, through words, ways to help conserve and save the oceans.

The essay contest is part of the launch of the new environmental and educational tale of one lucky Duckey and his sea creature friends who are out to save the ocean from going black. “Duckey and the Ocean Protectors” was written by Sexton and Katie Gutierrez and beautifully illustrated by Maciej Zajac. They want to encourage kids to act like the Ocean Protectors, using their own unique skills and talents to help protect the ocean – and save the planet.

The contest is open to all kids age 6-16. Contestants must answer two questions in their own words, in 250 words or less per question.

1. Why is it important to save the world’s oceans?
2. If you were an Ocean Protector, what kind of creature would you be, what one special power would you have, and why?

The winner’s character will be featured in the next book as the newest Ocean Protector, and the winner’s name will be included as a contributing writer. The top 10 finalists will receive an autographed copy of the book and their essays will be featured on www.duckeyops.com. All entries will become honorary Junior Ocean Protectors and receive a certificate.

Submissions must be postmarked by May 31, 2009. The winner and top 10 finalists will be announced on June 15, 2009. Winners will be contacted prior to announcement.

For more information or to submit an entry, please visit www.duckeyops.com/contest.

Sexton has embarked on a mission to empower everyone—especially children, the leaders of the future. He hopes to inspire youngsters to see themselves as agents of positive change for our planet. Equally, he endeavors to help them see that they can find inspiration for the pursuit of their dreams—whatever form they take—at every turn, in every living thing.

To learn more about “Duckey and the Ocean Protectors,” visit www.duckeyops.com. For interviews with Sexton or to request an advance copy of the book for review, contact Sue Publicover, 207.752.4802 sue@writersoftheroundtable.com or Kim Jackson, 802.345.9730 kim@writersoftheroundtable.com.

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