

*For Immediate Release*

## **New Slant On Climate Change Inspires Young Readers**

*Twig tales sprout from fantasy obscurity in the Pacific Northwest and take root in environmental nonprofits across North America.*

SNOHOMISH – Nov 17, 2011 -- Researchers, wildlife experts, and educators across North America, are recommending *Twig Stories* by Jo Marshall to middle-graders. The series nurtures environmental empathy in zealous young gamers and sympathetic whimsy in junior scientists. Endangered wildlife and unlikely stick creatures called Twigs join forces to battle a changing climate that wreaks havoc on their old growth forest. Even though the illustrations by a talented Disney artist, D.W. Murray, offer an amusing lure, an ecosystems professor at the University of Montana, Dr. Diana Six, emphasizes the series' influence, "As a child, it was just such books that helped instill within me a desire to understand nature, and ultimately, to work in conservation."

*Leaf & the Rushing Waters* spouts a timely theme: beaver dams are solutions to flood and drought made more extreme by climate change. In *Rushing Waters* goliath beavers battle a glacial outburst. Not so fantastic—the beaver dam in Alberta is twice the length of Hoover Dam, and seen from space. Dr. Heidi Perryman, Founder and President of the nonprofit Martinez Beavers "Worth A Dam", explains their endorsement, "With her Twig tales, Jo Marshall has done something amazing—tie a story of epic adventure to a naturally anchored account of environmental awareness – all tailored to the fresh, engaging mind of the youngster."

*Leaf & the Sky of Fire* takes readers into the vast, dying forests in British Columbia, where bark beetles have infested and devastated millions of trees, and trapped desperate Twigs. A foolhardy Twig hero flies off on a starling into the eerily-real world of climate change catastrophe. Dr. David Edwards, the Manager of Education for The British Columbia Wildlife Park in Kamloops, reminds families, "The educational value of these books cannot be underestimated especially at a time when we desperately need to create a culture that is committed to protecting our natural wonders."

*Leaf & the Long Ice* and *Leaf & Echo Peak* are due out in 2012. These stories take place on the alarming, rapidly shrinking glaciers of active volcanoes. No wonder young adults are telling their friends to read *Twig Stories*. Taking arms against climate crisis can be fun. As an associate member of the Society of Environmental Journalists, Jo Marshall shares her royalties with conservation-oriented nonprofits that protect endangered wildlife, preserve forests, and research climate change.

*Leaf & the Rushing Waters* and *Leaf & the Sky of Fire* - Volumes 1 & 2, *Twig Stories* by Jo Marshall - retail for \$13.95 and \$12.95 respectively. Discounts are available through the *Twig Stories* website, [www.twigstories.com](http://www.twigstories.com), via *Twig Store* links to the publisher's E-Store. Book stores may order from their favorite vendors, and wholesalers Ingram, and Baker & Taylor. *Twig Stories* are also on Kindle.

Contact: Jo Marshall  
[twigstories@aol.com](mailto:twigstories@aol.com) – [www.twigstories.com](http://www.twigstories.com)

*"As environmental advocates, we support the underlying issues – and as avid readers, we are thrilled by the page-turning adventures within each of Marshall's stories."*

Amanda Swan, Director of Development & Communications, The Lands Council

#####.