

For Immediate Release
Contact: Jennifer Sellars
Phone: (800) 450-7383
Email: jsellars@sagbooks.com

Pelican Pete wins “Children’s Choices” for 2007

Each year 10,000 schoolchildren from different regions of the United States read and vote on the newly published children’s and young adults’ trade books they like best. St. Augustine’s own Pelican Pete, with his fourth book titled *Annie the River Otter*, was among the winners to be selected as one of the International Reading Association and Children’s Book Council’s Children’s Choices for 2007.

Aimed at connecting children with nature, the books are written and illustrated by Crescent Beach residents Frances and Hugh Keiser. “Hugh and I are honored and a little shocked to be on the winners’ podium with such great publishing giants as Harper Collins, Scholastic and Random House,” says Frances. “It’s quite an achievement for Sagaponack Books to be recognized on such a grand scale for doing something we truly love. It’s more a gift than an award ... and we are overjoyed to receive it!”

Pelican Pete, the high-flying, fun-loving adventure hero, took flight over eight years ago with *A Bird Is Born*, the first book in the series, which is also translated into Spanish. Since then, three more books have been added to the series and thousands of children across the country eagerly follow young Pete to his next outdoor adventure.

The Keisers skillfully weave together scientific and historical information in fun-to-read rhyming stories, which make their school presentations throughout Florida both enjoyable and educational. Their fifth book, due to be published this fall, will showcase the animals of the Galapagos Islands and touch on the subject of sharing habitats. Each of their scientifically accurate books has an underlying message for wildlife protection and conservation.

Children's Choices is a project of a joint committee supported by the International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council. The winners list is not only designed for use by teachers, librarians, administrators and booksellers, but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

The winning Children's Choices selections for 2007 can be found at cbcbooks.org, reading.org and PelicanPete.com. The Pelican Pete site also contains more fun facts and outdoor activities as well as archives of The St. Augustine Record's Pelican Pete column. Pelican Pete books and gifts are available at retail outlets nationwide and online at Amazon.com. Please contact Sagaponack Books directly at 904-471-5376 for further information.

###