

For Immediate Release

Contact: Glenda Caszatt, 989-723-7068

Win iPod in Curwood Writing Contest

Entries are being sought for the 31st annual Curwood Festival's 18th annual Curwood Saga writing contest for 4th-12th grade youth.

The contest is open to students in all Shiawassee County schools—public, parochial, private, and home-schooled—as well as students in the Chesaning Union Schools and the Ovid-Elsie Area Schools.

James Oliver Curwood was a bestselling author who turned his passion for nature and conservation into stories that captured the imaginations of readers all over the country. Contest chairman Glenda Caszatt encourages students, “Start with something you are passionate about, and write a story that uses that enthusiasm to captivate your readers. If you care about your topic, your readers will, too.”

Stories will be judged on style, clarity, originality, spelling and grammar. Entries will be judged in three divisions. Elementary Division (4th and 5th grades) entries should be 3-5 pages long, and may be typed or neatly printed. Junior Division (6th-8th grades) and Senior Division (9th-12th grades) entries should be between 5 and 30 typewritten pages. Entries must be the original work of the entrant.

The grand prize for the best overall story is an engraved Apple iPod touch. First prize in each of the three divisions will be an engraved Apple iPod nano, and second prize will be \$50. Additional prizes this year are \$10 gift certificates donated by The Bookmark of Owosso for the authors of stories selected for honorable mention. The grand prize winner and the three division winners will have the opportunity to ride in the 2008 Curwood Festival Heritage Parade on Saturday, June 7.

Entry forms have been sent to each school and also may be picked up at the festival office, or downloaded at www.curwoodfestival.com. Entries should be mailed to Curwood Saga, c/o Curwood Festival, P.O. Box 461, Owosso MI 48867 or may be delivered to the festival office in the Matthews Building, 308 W. Main St., Owosso. The entry **deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2008.**

Contest officials reserve the right to reject any and all entries, and all entries become the property of the Curwood Festival, Inc. and will not be returned.

Dates for the 31st annual Curwood Festival are June 5-8.

Questions may be directed to chairman Glenda Caszatt at (989) 723-7068 or hcaszatt@charter.net, or co-chairman Laurie Cook at (989) 723-5259 or cook@chartermi.net.