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**CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR HEAPS CRITICISM ON  
PACIFIC TRASH DUMP**

*3.5 million-ton "dumpster" is killing ocean life*

**OAKBROOK, Ill. (Aug. 11, 2008)** – Imagine flooding a landfill and taking a swim in those waters. Not a pleasant thought. But there is a stretch of water in the Pacific Rim that has become an underwater dumping ground, where 3.5 million tons of trash pollutes the waters for the creatures that call the vast ocean “home.”

Known as the “Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” the area is thousands of miles from shore, but a natural phenomenon draws trash to this underwater graveyard. According to an ABC News Report, the ocean’s currents cause a circular motion that draws in debris from North America, Asia and Hawaii, creating a “toxic stew.” About 80 percent of this garbage is plastic, which is not biodegradable.

John Sexton, a children’s book author and environmental activist, is appalled at the destruction of the ocean where animals are dying from the polluted waters.

“How would you feel if someone came in and dumped all of their trash in your living room and then left?” said Sexton. “The ocean is a habitat. It is home to sea creatures and plants. We can’t just routinely trash their home!”

Sexton, who grew up near the North Carolina shore, was raised to respect the great outdoors. In 1987, while stationed with the U.S. Air Force in Okinawa, Sexton’s passion for preserving the environment was reawakened.

“I learned a lot from the locals there,” explained Sexton, author of “Duckey and the Ocean Protectors” (Writers of the Round Table Press, October 2008). “They earned their livelihood from the ocean that surrounded them, but honored and preserved them at the same time. There’s a great lesson in that for all of us. We’re all responsible for more than ourselves. We are responsible for each other and this planet we call home.”

Charles Moore first discovered the Garbage Patch in 1997, while sailing the Pacific. He regularly returns to take samples from this disturbing site. These samples often include six times more plastic than plankton — which means the animals are dining on this toxic material. Moore founded the Algalita Marine Research Foundation to protect the marine environment through research, education, and restoration.

Scientists say that the area cannot be cleaned up. The only solution is to minimize dumping by better pollution controls, reducing the waste that enters the ocean to keep it out of those currents that pull it farther and farther from shore.

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.

“We are all here together—the animals, trees—all the inhabitants of our planet,” said Sexton, who now lives outside Chicago. “We all have families, dreams and goals in one form or another. We just need to take the time and think about each other...and extend a hand.”

For interviews with Sexton or to request an advance copy of the book for review, contact Sue Publicover, 207.752.4802 [sue@writersoftheroundtable.com](mailto:sue@writersoftheroundtable.com) or Kim Jackson, 802.345.9730 [kim@writersoftheroundtable.com](mailto:kim@writersoftheroundtable.com).

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