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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wisconsin Library Association Picks Top Books by Wisconsin Authors
Best of books published in 2011 honored

“Bluefish,” a young adult novel written by Wisconsin native Pat Schmatz, and “The Art of Fielding” by Chad Harbach of Charlottesville, VA, have won top honors in the Wisconsin Library Association’s (WLA) annual literary awards conveyed on authors or book illustrators with Wisconsin ties.

“Bluefish,” published by Candlewick Press, was selected for the 2012 Elizabeth Burr/Worzalla Award for best children’s literature. In the book we meet Travis, a middle school student dealing with relocating to a new town, his alcoholic grandfather at home, and being an outsider at school. Through a new friendship and guidance from a teacher, Travis finds his way. Pat Schmatz weaves a wonderfully written story, full of charming characters and a strong theme of friendship.

“The Art of Fielding” was selected for the WLA Literary Award for best adult literature. Author Chad Harbach, in his debut novel, examines the lives of 5 people and the ways in which their paths intersect at the fictional Westish College in Wisconsin. Henry Skrimshander is recruited to play baseball there, and when he commits an unlikely error during a game, it seems the lives of several characters begin to spin out of control. Not really about baseball, this story is more about perfection and failure, heartbreak and doubt, and how we find meaning in our lives. These characters will stay with the reader long after the last page.

The committees also selected several Notable Authors/Illustrators who have made long-term, significant contributions to the world of literature:

- **Tom Lichtenheld** for his contribution to the world of children’s literature
- **Ellen Hunnicutt** (Big Bend), author of “Suite for Calliope” and the short stories “In the Music Library,” “Carrot Man” and “The Clearing.”
- **Anne Powers** (Milwaukee), writer of historical fiction, including the novels “The Delaware River Man,” “Eleanor: The Passionate Queen,” “No King But Caesar,” “Ride East, Ride West” and “The Thousand Fires.”

(MORE)
Seven noteworthy titles have also been selected for Outstanding Achievement in Children’s Literature, written and/or illustrated by Wisconsin book creators:

- “Ashes” by Ilsa J. Bick (Sheboygan)
- “Ten Little Caterpillars” illustrated by Lois Ehlert (Milwaukee)
- “Stupid Fast” by Geoff Herbach
- “Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site” illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld
- “Big Turtle” by David McLimans (Madison)
- “The Adventures of Sir Gawain the True” by Gerald Morris (Wausau)
- “The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families” by Susan L. Roth

The 2012 Outstanding Achievement awards for 2011 publications for adult audiences include:

- “My American Unhappiness” by Dean Bakopoulos (Madison)
- “One Hundred and One Nights” by Benjamin Buchholz (Waupun)
- “The Home for Wayward Clocks” by Kathy Giorgio (Waukesha)
- “Separate Kingdoms” by Valerie Laken (Milwaukee)
- “The Paris Wife” by Paula McLain (Madison)
- “Mothers and Daughters” by Rae Meadows (Madison)
- “The Bird Sisters” by Rebecca Rasmussen (Spring Green)
- “Wingshooters” by Nina Revoyr (Madison/Marshfield)
- “Glass: a novel” by Sam Savage (Madison)
- “Other People We Married” by Emma Straub (Madison)

The 2012 Outstanding Achievement in Poetry awards for 2011 titles include the following four titles by Wisconsin authors.

- “Journey to Wisconsin: African American Life in Haiku” by Fabu (Madison)
- “The Uncertainty Principle” by Mark Kraushaar (Lake Mills)
- “This Small Breathing Coincidence” by Paul Terranova (Madison)
- “Tricks of Light” by Jeanie Tomasko (Middleton)

The Elizabeth Burr/Worzalla Award is made possible by the Worzalla Publishing Company, Stevens Point, through a grant to the WLA Foundation. The WLA Literary Award is made possible through individual and corporate contributions to the WLA Foundation.

For more information about the WLA’s awards, go to http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/awards-scholarships/awards/wisconsin-library-association-awards.

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