



Manchester Public Schools

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Martin School's "What Everyone Should Know About Connecticut" to be published

(Manchester, CT—November 17, 2008) Martin Elementary School's Media Specialist Lisa Plavin would do most anything to promote reading. Earlier this year, the 19-year veteran of Manchester Public Schools entered a contest sponsored by Scholastic Library Publishing for a chance to win a set of books for her school's library. To her surprise, she won!

Plavin was notified that she was one of the winners of the *America the Beautiful Scavenger Hunt* contest. Her task was to submit 10 facts everyone should know about Connecticut. These facts will be featured in *America the Beautiful WOW!: WEIRD, wacky and Out of this WORLD state facts!*

"I'm just thrilled with the news," said Plavin. "These books will be used by our fourth graders for their social studies unit on the United States," she explained. "This couldn't have come at a better time since our current *America the Beautiful* set was published almost 10 years ago." The new set has a retail value of \$1,976.

Following are the 10 facts Plavin submitted:

1. According to state law, for a pickle to be qualified as a pickle it must bounce when held one foot above an oak table.
2. There are 600,001 daffodils planted in Hubbard Park in Meriden. They are celebrated in a festival every April.
3. One of the largest dinosaur track sites in the United States is in Rocky Hill. It displays Jurassic fossil tracks that are 200 million years old.

4. The oldest stone house in New England is the Henry Whitfield House in Guilford. Puritans who had fled religious persecution in England and sailed directly to New Haven built it in 1639.
5. The Nautilus, built in Groton in 1954, was the world's first nuclear powered vessel and the first ship to go to the North Pole.
6. There are 16 houses in Connecticut identified as havens on the Underground Railroad. They are part of a Freedom Trail established by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1995.
7. Traveler's Tower in Hartford was the first building outside New York City to reach 500 feet. It was built in 1919 and is now the second tallest building in the state.
8. Pez Candy is manufactured in Orange, CT. Three billion Pez Candies are consumed annually in the US.
9. The musicals Annie, Man of LaMancha and Shenandoah all debuted at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, CT.
10. ESPN, featuring seven television sports networks, broadcasts out of Bristol, CT.

Martin Elementary School has already received the first 32 titles. The remaining 20 titles will be sent to the school as they are published along with *America the Beautiful WOW! WEIRD, wacky and Out of this WORLD state facts!*

Scholastic Library Publishing is a leading print and online publisher of children's non-fiction and reference materials.

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