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### ***Cool Creatures, Hot Planet Wins a Benjamin Franklin Award***

*Cool Creatures, Hot Planet: Exploring the Seven Continents* by Montana author, Marty Essen, has won the 2007 Benjamin Franklin Award for Travel/Essay. Over 1,800 books, in various categories, were entered in this prestigious competition sponsored by PMA, the Independent Book Publishers Association. The winners were chosen by more than 150 judges, selected for their expertise in the industry. Marty Essen accepted his award at a gala presentation at BookExpo America in New York City on May 31, 2007.

This is the third first-place book award win for *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet*. Earlier it won the Best Books 2006 Book Award for Travel/Essay and the National Indie Excellence 2007 Book Award for Travel/Essay.

*Cool Creatures, Hot Planet* also won two bronze metals at BookExpo America: one in the *ForeWord Magazine* Book of the Year Awards and one in the IPPY Awards.

Now that the book awards are over, here are the results of *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet's* impressive run:

- Winner: 2007 Benjamin Franklin Award for Travel/Essay
- Winner: National Indie Excellence 2007 Book Award for Travel/Essay
- Winner: Best Books 2006 Book Award for Travel/Essay
- Bronze Metal: *ForeWord Magazine* Book of the Year Award for Travel/Essay
- Bronze Metal: IPPY Award for Travel/Essay
- Finalist: Nautilus Award for Animals/Nature

"I didn't write *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet* with the intention of winning awards," said author Marty Essen. "I wrote it to entertain and enlighten my readers and to defend animals who aren't considered warm and cuddly. I also thought it was important to show how the U.S invasion of Iraq affected my wife's and my travels and the people we met all over the world. The awards validate my decision to break the rules of mainstream travelogues and give my readers something totally unique.

"For one book to win three first-place awards and two bronze metals is a rare occurrence. I feel honored that so many judges liked my book and look forward to more people discovering it as a result of the wins."

*Cool Creatures, Hot Planet* is available in bookstores, nationwide, and signed copies can be ordered at [www.CoolCreaturesHotPlanet.com](http://www.CoolCreaturesHotPlanet.com).

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