



**Hello again. The big news this month is that *Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist* has won a bronze medal in the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards!! Hurray!!!**

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**Northwest Beaches: Moonbeams.**

Last month we talked about moon snails. This month it will be about Moonbeams - the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards to be specific. On October 10, 2009, *Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist* was awarded the bronze medal in the Best First Chapter Book category of the [Moonbeam Children's Book Awards](#). The awards ceremony in Charleston, WV, was a thrill for me - it was inspiring to be in the company of so many good authors and illustrators. Over 1000 books were submitted for the awards which are given to increase recognition for exemplary children's books and their creators and to support childhood literacy and life-long reading. The entries were judged by expert panels of youth educators, librarians, booksellers, and book reviewers.

Next month it will be back to beaches again.....

***Erik A., age 8, of Langley, WA writes:***

***"I like your book [Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist](#). I like the way that you describe the dragons and the beach. It made it all come alive in my***



**Yvonne Palka**

Yvonne is the award-winning sumi-e artist who wrote and illustrated *Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist*.

A retired college professor, grandmother, biologist and naturalist, she is passionate about introducing children and adults to the wonders of the natural world.

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*mind. Your book also makes me want to learn how to draw dragons."*

### Dragons: Find Dragons Where You Live

Last month we talked about finding dragons in the sky or as statues on the [lamp posts in Seattle's International District](#). But you'll never guess where I found a dragon this month - in a Japanese restaurant in Kona, Hawaii! There on the sushi menu was an elegant Dragon Roll! (See the picture down on the right). With a form of rice and tempura shrimp, a back of smoked eel, eyes of green soybeans and horns of cucumber, it was most delicious! And it led to a wonderful conversation with the folks at the next table who were preparing for the Iron Man Triathlon happening in a few days on the big island. You never know how dragons will help you make friends!

Keep looking! And don't forget to send pictures to [info@nwdragons.com](mailto:info@nwdragons.com)

### Asian Art: Haiku Happening

Last month we invited you to create a haiku poem and then draw a picture to go with it. See [Write a Picture, Paint a Poem](#) on the dragon website. Did you come up with anything? My friend Elizabeth Davis, has written a wonderful little book called **Wind Whispers Softly, Northwest Forest Haiku** and takes people on Hikes and Haiku walks through the old growth forest in South Whidbey State Park near where we live. The other day as we walked in the woods it prompted our family to try and write our own haiku about the forest. Our grandson came up with one about the stinging nettles:

"The stinging nettle  
Bordering the forest path  
Only sword ferns heal"

The last line is a reference to the fact that the spores on the underside of sword fern leaves (the brown dots) can take the sting away (well at least a little bit). Just rub the fern leaf briskly over the part that hurts. And until next month try again - draw a picture (or take one from the [Write a Picture, Paint a Poem](#)) and write a haiku to go with it. Remember they are lines of 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second, and 5 in the third. Send them to me at [info@nwdragons.com](mailto:info@nwdragons.com)



### Dragon Fire Ocean Mist

Written & Illustrated by  
Yvonne Palka

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A very happy Author and  
Illustrator at the  
Moonbeam Awards  
ceremony!



Bronze Moonbeam Award



Dragon Sushi Roll - YUM!



Two horizontal dashed rectangular boxes, one above the other, intended for text input.



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