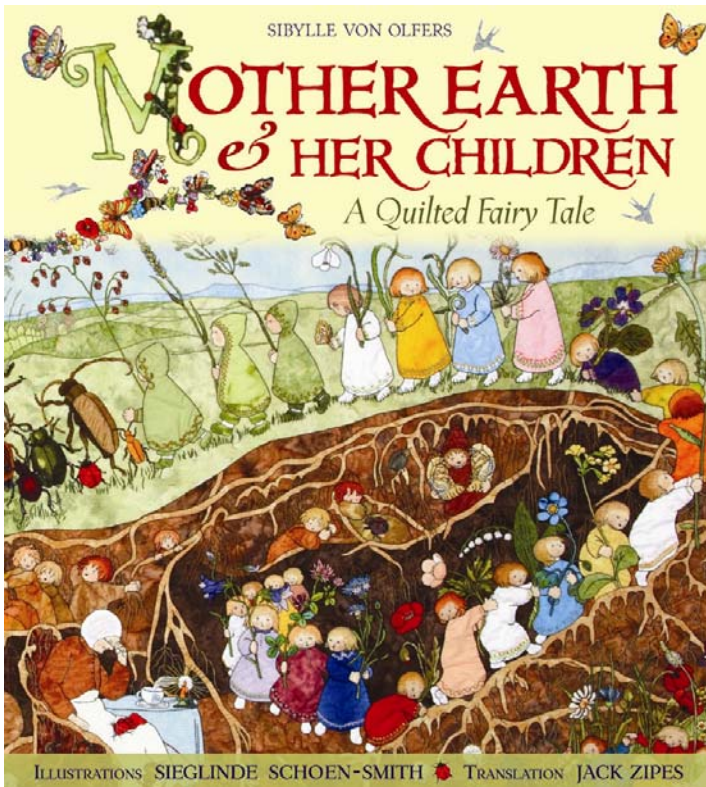


# P R E S S R E L A S E

Contact: Anne Knudsen, Breckling Press  
Tel: 630 941 1179  
[aknudsen@brecklingpress.com](mailto:aknudsen@brecklingpress.com)

## Mother Earth And Her Children Wins Growing Good Kids Book Award!



The American Horticultural Society has announced this year's winner of its prestigious children's book prize, the *Growing Good Kids Book Award*. The winner is Sieglinde Schoen Smith's *Mother Earth and Her Children*. Developed in association with AHS' Junior Master Gardener Program, the mission of the award is to recognize those children's picture books that are especially effective at promoting an understanding of, and appreciation for plants, gardening and the environment.

*Mother Earth and Her Children* is a simple story of the changing of the seasons. In 1906, a talented young artist penned a simple story of the coming of Spring, illustrating it with charming watercolor paintings of Mother Nature's little children. Winter ends and Mother Earth wakes her sleepy children. Soon, the little ones are

busy. They dust off the bumblebees, paint fresh coats onto the ladybugs, and rouse the caterpillars from their cocoons. The children make a jubilant procession up through the earth, where they bloom into the flowers of spring. As Summer draws to a close, the blustery Fall winds rush the children home to Mother Earth. They settle in for a long Winter's sleep, and the circle of the seasons begins once more.

The book is illustrated with remarkable photographs of a hand-made, hand-embroidered quilt. The quilt, which won America's top prize at Internal Quilt Festival, celebrates nature in exquisite detail, with hand-stitched ladybugs, beetles, butterflies, and much more. The story is a translation of a classic of German literature by children's writer Sibylle von Olfers. It is translated into rhyming verse by noted folklore expert Jack Zipes. The illustrations gently encourage young children to discover the wondrous world of nature just outside.



**Mother Earth and Her Children / 978-1-933308-18-0 / \$17.95 /  
hardcover/32 pages / full color**

**Contact:** Anne Knudsen, Breckling Press  
Tel: 630 941 1179  
[aknudsen@brecklingpress.com](mailto:aknudsen@brecklingpress.com)

## About the Creators

**Sibylle von Olfers** was the author the German folk tale, *Etwas von den Wurzelkindern*, first published in 1906. *Mother Earth and Her Children* is the first authentic translation into English rhyming verse. The original book is one of six popular children's stories von Olfers wrote and illustrated. She was an art teacher in northern Germany, where as a young woman she joined the Catholic order of the sisters of Holy Elizabeth.

**Sieglinde Schoen Smith** is an award-winning quilter, an expert embroiderer, and a gifted artist. Exactly a century after the original book was published, Schoen Smith created a unique quilt that retells her favorite childhood story. This masterful work, also titled *Mother Earth and Her Children*, captured the coveted Best in Show award at America's most prestigious quilt show, inspiring this new translation of the story. The quilt went on to win Best in Show at two other national shows. The quilt is stitched and embroidered entirely by hand. Made in honor of her son who had recently died, making the quilt was a form of therapy, helping the quilter through her grief. It took a year and a day to complete. Schoen Smith lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

**Jack Zipes** is the foremost expert on German folklore in the United States. He is a professor of German literature at the University of Minnesota and has contributed to, translated, and authored more than 50 books, including the *Norton Anthology of Children's Literature*. His version of *The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm* is definitive English-language translation.

**Breckling Press** is an independent book publisher based in Elmhurst (Chicago), IL. Our specialty is premium-quality books for quilters, fiber artists, and craft enthusiasts. **Mother Earth and Her Children** is our first book for children.



**Mother Earth and Her Children / 978-1-933308-18-0 / \$17.95 / hardcover**

**32 pages / full color**