Meet the Author

Wendi Silvano



The third of nine and mother of five, Wendi Silvano, author of *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos*, learned to count by sets at an early age. She picked up her love of children's picture books at the same time. A fulltime mother, writing when she has the time, Wendi earned her B.A. in Early Childhood Education from the University of Utah. She taught preschool for two years, and second and third grade for eight years. Wendi's experiences in and out of the classroom have groomed her to be the amazing children's author she is.

With a number of educational publications, children's books, and various writings for magazines, Wendi has been the recipient of numerous awards. In June of 2000 Wendi won Highlights Magazine's Humorous Fiction Contest with a story subsequently published in 2001. This award led to her later receiving Highlight Magazine's Author of the Month and the EdPress Award for Excellence in Children's Magazine Fiction.

As a teacher, Wendi's favorite subjects to teach were math and science. She used *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos* as an opportunity to exercise a practice she found useful in her classes, teaching though story. Wendi has believed in the power of story to educate her entire life and has always found it helpful for her students. By shifting perspective and redirecting the children's focus to something they can become more actively and creatively involved in, Wendi believes you can make even the most difficult task fun, engaging, and that much easier to learn.

Perspective shifts, those induced by the idiosyncrasies of others to be exact, are precisely where Wendi finds the inspiration for her stories. Wendi is a people-watcher. She has watched people from Colorado, to Utah, to Peru, where she spent a year as a missionary. And yet, her favorite subjects to watch are still her five children and their friends.



Having spoken at her children's school once, the kids have made a heroine of her always wanting to know what the "author" is doing. Wendi certainly gets a kick out of her newfound fame, but does look forward to its passing with the kids growing older. She hopes that eventually, when her presence isn't needed, she can move her office from the living room, where she currently watches the kids, to a room with a view.

Contact Wendi Silvano through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.

Counting Coconuts written by Wendi Silvano / illustrated by Marty Granius
Contando cocos escrito por Wendi Silvano / ilustrado por Marty Granius
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-6-X
Hardcover / Jacketed / English with concept words in Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

Questions for the Author

Wendi Silvano



1. Who or what inspires you to write?
Wendi is a people-watcher. She is inspired by other's behaviors and sayings. Many times the people she is watching are her children.

2. What is your favorite writing environment? Describe your workspace.
You can find Wendi typing away on her computer in the family room. From her desktop perch she can keep a watchful eye on her five kids. When they are grown, and the matriarch has her way, Wendi hopes to have a private sunny office overlooking the forest, or perhaps the ocean.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for writing?
Wendi likes to compose on her computer. Given a keyboard and a house full of angelic kids, Wendi is set to write her next book.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
Wendi likes to work when it is quiet. She finds it easier to focus then, particularly when generating new ideas. Sometimes she will put on a little background music, but that's only when she is already going strong on something.

5. Who are your favorite authors / illustrators? What influence have they had on your work?
Wendi loves the simple humor of picture book authors Rosemary Wells, Karma Wilson, Don and Audrey Wood, and Peggy Rathman.

6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
Wendi taught elementary school for 8 years and always loved to watch the kids having fun at math time. However, first and foremost, Wendi wants them to find the enjoyment in reading. She thinks it is simply great if they can do both at the same time.



Questions for the Author (continued)

Wendi Silvano



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Wendi's hobbies are the basic ones - reading, hiking, and eating chocolate.

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you write it? Where did your ideas come from?
As a teacher, Wendi has always used picture books to start a math unit. *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos* is written as a way for teachers to introduce a variety of math concepts to children (counting by sets, multiplication, division, etc).

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
The characters in *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos* live in the rain forest. Wendi lived in Peru for 18 months and visited the rain forest part of that time. That's where she learned about tapirs and sloths.

10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Having given a reading for her children's school, Wendi has a found celebrity status, well, at least at her children's school. Now, when she goes to pick her kids up, the other children wave and say "hello," asking things like, "Are you still an author?"



Counting Coconuts written by Wendi Silvano / illustrated by Marty Granius
Contando cocos escrito por Wendi Silvano / ilustrado por Marty Granius
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-6-X
Hardcover / Jacketed / English with concept words in Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

Meet the Illustrator

Marty Granius



Marty Granius is a lifelong Wisconsin resident. After earning his degree in Marking Communications and Graphic Design, Marty went directly into his field and never looked back. He has had the opportunity to work with such companies as Jansport Inc., H.C. Prange Co., and Oshkosh B'gosh. He currently works as an Illustrator and Graphic Designer at Kimberly-Clark.

Marty is a fun-loving and good-natured guy who would quickly substitute a professional article for a comic strip or picture book. In fact, for three-and-a half years Marty was the mastermind behind a whimsical strip called "Busby" that appeared regularly in The Scene, a Wisconsin entertainment publication. The illustrators who have influenced Marty, such as Mort Drucker, Al Hirshfeld, and Drew Struzan, all possess his love of eccentricity and playful character design.

Having researched rainforest animals and foliage, and fully capable of realistically rendering them, Marty used his skills as a cartoonist and his experience as a children's designer to make the rainforest denizens fun and lively. He used hand-drawn art with computer generated (Adobe® Illustrator and Adobe® Photoshop) spot and watercolor techniques to get the quality of color, depth and texture for each jungle scene portrayed in *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos*.

Marty's love of character does not stop at the drawing board. His zeal for character carries over into his acting. As an actor and director of local theatrical productions, he brings all the humor and fun of his personality to the stage. Next to his home office the stage is one of Marty's most comfortable environments.

Bridging the two, Marty works with area children. He loves their fascination with the creative process and encourages them to be a little silly themselves by drawing crazy and goofy things to make them laugh. Like in *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos*, Marty wants the kids to know that learning, even when it doesn't come naturally, can be both fun and rewarding.



Contact Marty Granius through the publisher at raven@raventreepress.com.

Counting Coconuts written by Wendi Silvano / illustrated by Marty Granius
Contando cocos escrito por Wendi Silvano / ilustrado por Marty Granius
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-6-X
Hardcover / Jacketed / English with concept words in Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

Questions for the Illustrator

Marty
Granius



1. Who or what inspires you to draw?
Perhaps just as fascinated as they are by someone who can draw, Marty finds inspiration drawing with children. He enjoys their reactions and usually draws crazy, goofy things to make them laugh.

2. What is your favorite illustration environment? Describe your workspace.
Marty's home office is a very comfortable environment. With personal effects throughout, it is a reflection of who he is, and a far cry better than his corporate walls at work.

3. Are there any special supplies you use for illustrating?
His MAC is his baby. Marty likes combining old and new technology. The combination of old school drawing with new school computer enhancement keeps the possibilities endless.

4. Describe your creative process? What is a 'must have' when you are in the creative process?
Like Nike®, Marty doesn't analyze the process; he just does it (usually after a large dose of procrastination). A highly talented artist, the only 'must have' Marty knows is time.

5. Who are your favorite authors / illustrators? What influence have they had on your work?
Marty's favorite illustrators tend to be humorous illustrators like Mort Drucker, Al Hirschfeld, Jack Davis and Wally Wood. He also enjoys the work of movie poster artists like the late Richard Amsel and Drew Struzan.

6. What specific message do you want people to get from this book and why? What experiences have you had that directly reinforce your book's message?
Marty wants kids to learn a lot about counting when they read *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos*, and, more importantly, that learning can be fun.



Questions for the Illustrator (continued)

Marty
Granius



7. Do you have any interesting hobbies that others may be interested in?
Marty is a thespian and a director of local theatre. He is also a member of the Attic Theatre board of directors in Appleton, WI.

8. How long have you been at work on this book? Why did you write it? Why did you want to illustrate it? Where did your ideas come from?
Marty wanted to illustrate *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos* because he enjoys character design, particularly of animals. Though Marty can draw very realistically, Marty has fun working in more humorous styles.

9. Did the book involve special research? Please include.
Having never heard of a tapir until he read the book, Marty had to hit the bookstores and the library for *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos*. Digging through great picture books about rainforests Marty soon discovered that he'd definitely have to "cute up" that tapir. It is not an attractive animal. The monkeys and the other animals were much easier as they are much more human and comical.

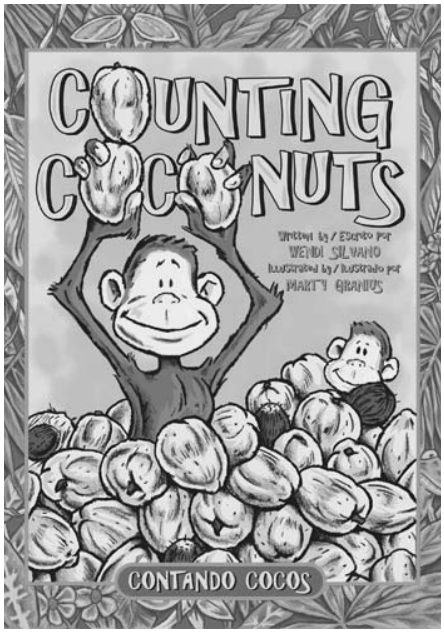
10. Detail any fun things that have happened/or are happening because of the publication of this book.
Marty enjoys seeing and meeting the people who come out for the book signings. It is especially exciting when old faces, such as that of a grade school teacher from thirty years ago, turn up to buy a book and say hello.



Counting Coconuts written by Wendi Silvano / illustrated by Marty Granius
Contando cocos escrito por Wendi Silvano / ilustrado por Marty Granius
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-6-X
Hardcover / Jacketed / English with concept words in Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

About the Book

Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos



With a rumbling grumbling belly and a hundred coconuts, Monkey needs to count them all, and fast! By twos, threes, and tens, Monkey learns to count in sets. Join him and a gang of his jungle buddies on this hilarious arithmetic quest in the great new children's book *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos*. Will Monkey get to eat before the sun goes down? There is only one way to find out.

Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos by author Wendi Silvano and illustrator Marty Granius is a playful introduction to counting by sets, the foundation for other mathematical functions such as multiplication and division. Teaching through story, and by example, children are able to pick up on the advantages of this counting strategy. Wendi Silvano and Marty Granius help them make sense of math, taking all the stress and worry away from what is some children's most difficult discipline to master.

Filled with colorful and charismatic characters that all live and breathe in vibrant jungle scenes, *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos* is a visual joy to behold. Marty Granius uses hand-drawn art with computer generated (Adobe® Illustrator and Adobe® PhotoShop) spot and watercolor techniques to get the quality of color, depth and texture for each playful jungle scene portrayed in *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos*.

Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos helps children gain an appreciation of literature, another culture/language, and teaches them the value of counting by sets. It is guaranteed to quickly become one of your children's favorite stories. Pick up your copy of *Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos* today.

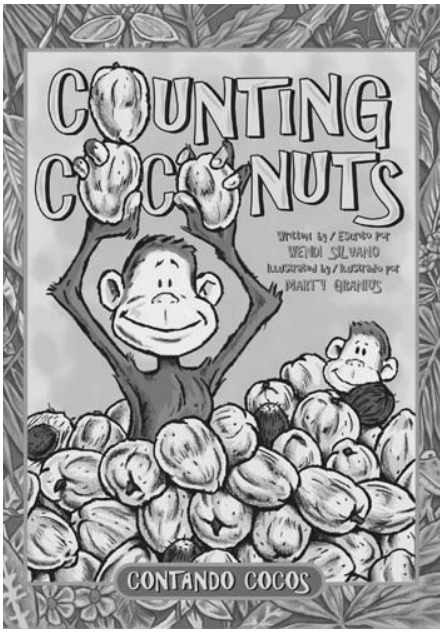
This book is presented as a concept bilingual picture book. Concept bilingual books take one concept of language and focus strictly on that concept. Numbers, colors, food items, or musical terms, for example, work well for a concept bilingual title. The story is presented in English and only the concept words themselves are presented in Spanish. The Spanish words are printed in a different color to highlight the concept. The book ends with a keyword vocabulary page for learning both languages.



Counting Coconuts written by Wendi Silvano / illustrated by Marty Granius
Contando cocos escrito por Wendi Silvano / ilustrado por Marty Granius
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-6-X
Hardcover / Jacketed / English with concept words in Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

Rave Reviews

Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos



"This picture book [*Counting Coconuts/Contando cocos*] follows the antics of monkey counting his coconuts singly, by pairs, by threes, etc. He's so busy counting in various combinations as suggested by various jungle animals, that it's a late night before he finally takes time to eat one. We rate this book three hearts." **—Heartland Review**

"*Counting Coconuts* is a fun trip for younger readers to learn counting by units...The illustrations are bright, colorful, and appropriate to the text...The story line could be a good springboard for teaching that searching for the easiest or fastest way to do something can sometimes consume a lot more time than just doing it. *Counting Coconuts* is a recommended read for young children of about five to eight years old." **— Readers Preference Reviews**

"*Counting Coconuts* is a fun, learning book that teaches how to count and speak numbers in Spanish and English...This author and illustrator combo came up with a great book for kids of all ages to learn to count and read numbers in Spanish. Visit Monkey, Macaw, and Jaguar as they get set to count coconuts in the forest." **—Book Review Café**

"...This story shows the reader that although there is more than one way to do things, you must choose one way and follow through and trying to accomplish something faster is not necessarily better...Highly Recommended." **— Betsie's Literary Page**

"...Not only can readers learn to count by twos, fives, and tens, they learn animal names, and they learn English and Spanish on top of enjoying the tale of a counting monkey..." **—Jennifer LB Leese, http://www.geocities.com/ladyjiraff**



"...The illustrations serve as aids to seeing the sets the monkey counts. This is a simple, useful and enjoyable book to help with math concepts. Recommended." **—Tucson Unified School District Library Services, Lee Instructional Resource Center**

"...a delightful blend of clever story-line, interesting and kid-friendly choice of words and delightfully crafted, colorful illustrations...The bilingual component adds another important dimension to the book..." **—Karen Fricke, 4th grade teacher, Mesa County School District #51, Grand Junction, CO**

Counting Coconuts written by Wendi Silvano / illustrated by Marty Granius
Contando cocos escrito por Wendi Silvano / ilustrado por Marty Granius
Published by Raven Tree Press, ©2004, ISBN 0-9720192-6-X
Hardcover / Jacketed / English with concept words in Spanish / 32 Pages / $16.95 Retail
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
Phone: 920-438-1605 Fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com

Tip Sheet for Counting Coconuts/ Contando cocos

Counting Coconuts / Contando cocos
Written by Wendi Silvano Illustrated by Marty Granius
32 pg. / Hardcover / Jacketed / 1st Edition / Trade Cloth
Children's Bilingual (Concept words in both English and Spanish)
ISBN 0-9720192-6-X Reading Level—3.0
Publication Date–June 2004 9 x 11
Retail Price $16.95 USD Ages 4-8 Accelerated Reader® Quiz #80434 in English

Description: Learn to count by sets in a comical jungle adventure. Monkey must find the fastest way to count his coconuts. Various rainforest animals suggest counting methods to help Monkey complete his funny, ever-changing, arithmetic task.

Selling Points:
- Math concept book—counting by groups
- Humorous illustrations engage young readers
- Counting in Spanish and English with additional numbers on vocabulary page
- Rainforest animals of high interest

Selling Sentence: This comical rainforest adventure helps Monkey count by sets.

Author Bio: Wendi Silvano graduated with a B.A. in Early Childhood Education from the University of Utah and taught preschool and elementary school for eleven years before becoming a children's book writer.

Illustrator Bio: Marty Granius has enjoyed his career as a Graphic Artist and Illustrator for JanSport Inc., Oshkosh B'gosh, where he developed his children's art style, and currently with the Kimberly-Clark Corporation where his art graces paper towels, diapers and other K.C. products.

Advertising & Promotion Plans:
- Direct marketing to booksellers, schools and libraries
- Electronic advertising to e-lists
- Introduction at local, national and international trade shows including BEA and ALA
- Catalog and galley mailings to all major book reviewers



Pre-Publication Comments and Special Sales:
- National reviews

Subrights: All subrights currently available

Market Niche: Perfect for rainforest units and math concept teaching of counting by groups

Raven Tree Press, LLC
200 S. Washington St., Suite 306 Green Bay, WI 54301
phone: 920-438-1605 fax: 920-438-1607 www.raventreepress.com raven@raventreepress.com