PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

DEBUT NOVELIST FROM ANN ARBOR MAKES 2010 MICHIGAN NOTABLE BOOKS LIST

DeKalb, IL—Switchgrass Books, an imprint of Northern Illinois University Press, is pleased to announce that one of its recently published books, *Season of Water and Ice* by Donald Lystra, was named to the 2010 Michigan Notable Books (MNB) list. MNB is the Library of Michigan’s annual selection of up to 20 recommended books reflecting Michigan’s rich cultural heritage, featuring high-quality titles with wide public appeal that are either written by a Michigan resident or about a Michigan-related topic.

Michigan Notable Books is a statewide program that began as part of the 1991 Michigan Week celebration, which is geared to pay tribute and draw attention to the many people, places, and things that make Michigan life unique. In that regard, MNB successfully highlights Michigan books and writers focusing on the Great Lakes State. Each title on the 2010 list gives readers insight into what it means to make your home in Michigan and proves some of the greatest stories are indeed found in the Great Lakes region. The selection committee spent six months discussing more than 300 submissions for the award program to reach its final list of 20 titles.

*Season of Water and Ice* was published in October 2009 as one of two debut novels of Switchgrass Books, the fiction imprint of NIU Press focused on publishing Midwestern literary novels. Donald Lystra’s stories have appeared in many publications, and his work has received Special Mention in the Pushcart Prize anthology. He is a recipient of writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the MacDowell Colony.

“We are incredibly proud to have one of our debut Switchgrass novels honored by the Michigan Notable Books program,” stated J. Alex Schwartz, Director of NIU Press and Switchgrass Books. “It is important to note that many well-established authors and fine publishing houses are included among the list. This is a significant accomplishment for first-time novelist Lystra.”

Information about the Michigan Notable Books program and the full list of 2010 Notable Books can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde). Lystra’s notable book may be purchased through NIU Press by calling 800-621-2736, by ordering online at [www.niupress.niu.edu](http://www.niupress.niu.edu), or by visiting your local bookstore.