

IOWA RUNNERS-UP

Poetry

Jude Borromeo, age 8, West Des Moines, *The Bright Sun*

Jacob Lowe, age 11, Dysart, *My Video Game*

Sarah McMurtry, age 13, Strawberry Point, *The Life of Leaves*

Blaine Herington, age 17, Davenport, *The Wondrous Forest*

Art

Sarah Clawson, age 11, Ankeny, *Testing the Waters*

Chelsey Frank, age 13, Ames, *A Bird of the Marshland: The
Purple Gallinule*

Josh Byrne, age 16, Davenport, *Ode to Odonata*

IOWA HONORABLE MENTIONS

Poetry

Ciara Haase, age 8, West Des Moines, *Palm Trees*

Racheal Heaston, age 8, West Des Moines, *Maple Trees*

Avery Anderson, age 10, Stratford, *Bumble Bee*

Bailey Leyser, age 10, Grimes, *A Field*

Farah Lee, age 13, Knoxville, *Giant Tree*

Micaiah Cvrk, age 15, Sioux City, *Apples*

Srehita Kotla, age 15, Urbandale, *You are Like the Trees*

Art

Christine Housken, age 9, Lehigh, *Fishing*

Mathias Chamberlain, age 9, Dubuque, *Under Water Ocean Scene*

Brody Hansen, age 10, Harcourt, *Lake*

Danielle Oberfoell, age 10, West Des Moines, *The Flower Garden*

Cameron Liston, age 12, Knoxville, *The Casual Fish*

Colby De Road, age 13, Knoxville, *Abandon Ship*

Brooke Hartman, age 14, Urbandale, *Uniques Fleur Jaune*

Claire Waterman, age 15, Davenport, *Drops of Life*

Gabby Hoeksema, age 16, Davenport, *Depth*

Sarah Sitz, age 16, Davenport, *Water: the life sustainer*

Kelsey Lyons, age 17, West Des Moines, *Spoonfill of Sunshine*

Every year, River of Words® conducts an international environmental poetry and art competition for youth aged 5 to 19 in grades K–12, in affiliation with the Library of Congress Center for the Book. This free contest is designed to help young people explore the natural environment and cultural history of the place they live and to express what they discover through poetry and art. Iowa entries not chosen as finalists or grand-prize winners in the international contest are returned to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, where they are judged in a statewide competition.

The IOWATER Volunteer Water Monitoring Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources coordinates the River of Words® Iowa Environmental Poetry and Art Competition. This year, over 329 students from Iowa entered the contest through their schools, community art centers, community groups, or on their own. The Iowa entries are evaluated by a panel of judges, and the top works in each category are selected to be included in an exhibit that will travel around the state for the coming year. This year's exhibit includes 39 works of poetry and art by talented Iowa students.

We hope you enjoy these efforts by Iowa's youth to explore and understand our environment and to express their experiences through art and poetry.

IOWATER

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
109 Trowbridge Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242-1319

www.iowadnr.com/riverofwords

IOWATER

presents the

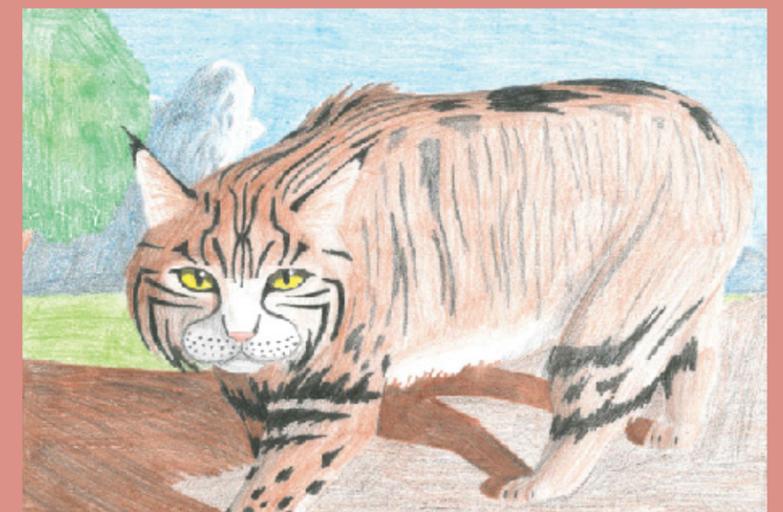
2012

RIVER of WORDS®

Environmental

Poetry & Art

International Contest



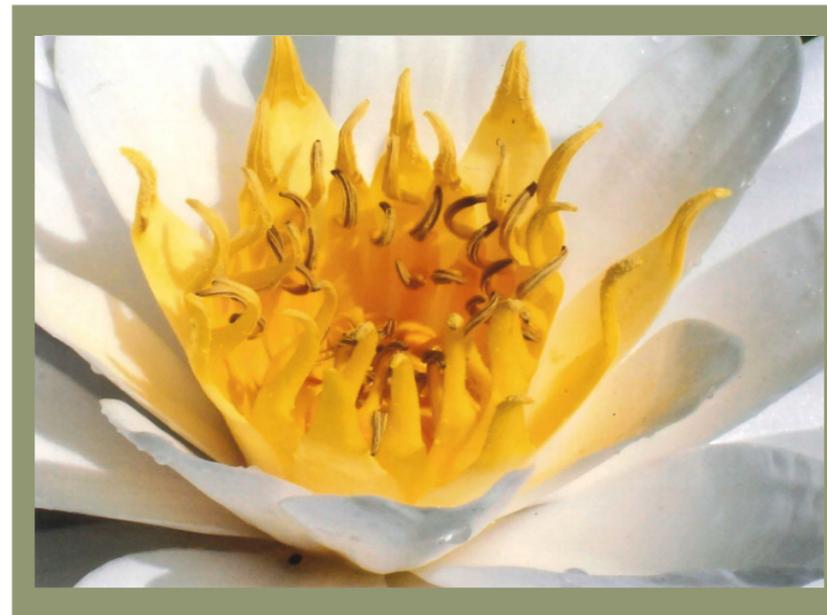
IOWA WINNERS

Backyard Creek

The water runs, bubbling over stones
Worn smooth from years of sliding and slipping
of water so cool.
It whispers and giggles and tells its own story;
tip-toeing and spinning and swirling away.
The backyard creek...
A graceful ballerina
An athletic marathoner
A mother to all creatures, above, in, and under.
The Heron, sleekly diving in to fish.
The Beaver, a pioneer, carpenter, and architect.
The Otter, so smooth and strong.
The Frogs and Toads, hopping on along.
The Worms, so slimy and small.
There are so many creatures, I could never cover them all.
The backyard creek...
So majestic and pure.
It's striking contrast to mud and snow
and so many other things we will never know.
So now you have seen
How wonderful and complete the world of the backyard creek
can be.

IOWA WINNER
Grades 10-12 Poetry
Justeen Schoner
Age 16
Des Moines, Iowa
Backyard Creek

Cover Art
IOWA WINNER
Grades 7-9 Art
Ashley Hambrick
Age 14
Windsor Heights, Iowa
The Bobcat



IOWA WINNER
Grades 4-6 Art
Kurt Sernett
Age 12
Kelley, Iowa
White Water Lily

The Moment Before Night

Sunset is a distant fire in dark lands
with trees that are fingers clawing out of the earth.
Ducks whistle overhead – or is that the wind in the trees?

A beaver crawls on some logs in the middle of the lake.
It slaps its tail on the water as if to stay balanced.
Ducks begin to land.

Their wings say dapple dapple dapple as they touch the water.
The grass smells of dry wheat.
Everything is calm, anticipating night.

IOWA WINNER
Grades 4-6 Poetry
Theo Prineas
Age 11
Iowa City, Iowa
The Moment Before Night

Waterfall

In the wilderness there is a waterfall,
Thrashing, rashing, rushing waterfall
Water rushing rapidly, thundering
Down the large waterfall.

IOWA WINNER
Grades K-3 Poetry
Micah De Boer
Age 8
North Liberty, Iowa
Waterfall



IOWA WINNER
Grades K-3 Art
Zoe Scott
Age 6
Iowa City, Iowa
Lily Pad in River

Bird-banding

In a clearing in the forest
With thick trees to one side,
We stood inside a circle of benches.

Before one of the black-capped chickadees flew
Into our mist net,
We heard them calling out to each other.

They have many calls;
I always thought they had just one –
Chicka-dee-dee-dee.
That was the call I thought they had.

As we gathered there,
Meredith went and lifted the chickadee from the net,
And brought it to us.

We banded the small bird
With a size zero band
And then passed the tiny creature
Around the circle.

The chickadee lay still on its back
As it was passed
From child to child.

The chickadee flew
Just one child away from me in the circle.
It was beautiful the way it glided so smoothly upwards
To the small branch of a tree.

The next bird we caught was a dark-eyed junco,
And all the kids who had not had a turn to hold the chickadee
Got to touch the junco.

It was amazing to see the birds up so close,
And to pet so softly, with just one finger,
The delicate feathers on the junco's head.

IOWA WINNER
Grades 7-9 Poetry
Ayla Canin
Age 12
Iowa City, Iowa
Bird-banding



IOWA WINNER
Grades 10-12 Art
Annie Delleman
Age 16
Davenport Central High School
Davenport, Iowa
Colors of the Sea

Introducing the panel of judges for the 2012 River of Words® Iowa Environmental Poetry and Art Contest:

POETRY

Holly Carver

As an editor and publisher at the University of Texas Press and the University of Iowa Press, Holly Carver edited many books of poetry, including the winners of the Iowa Poetry Prize. She retired as director of the University of Iowa Press in 2010.

Philip Bice

Philip Bice is passionate not only about poetry but also about the natural world. He studies forestry at Iowa State University with an emphasis in natural resource conservation and restoration. His studies are focused on using natural means to help improve water quality. Bice has studied poetry at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and his poetry was selected as a winner of the Church Street Writer's Competition in 2008.

Paul Brooke

Paul Brooke is a professor of English at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa, where his courses include Advanced Creative Writing, Contemporary American Literature, and Literary Theory. Early in his collegiate career, Brooke was trained as an ornithologist and later completed his BA and MA at Iowa State University and his PhD in English at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. In 1999, Brooke's "Cree Women Cleaning Fish" was awarded the Iowa Prize for Poetry.

Heather Derr-Smith

Heather Derr-Smith is received her MFA in Poetry at the Iowa Writer's Workshop. Her first book, *Each End of the World* was published in 2005. A book of her second collection of poems was published in 2008 and was selected for the Akron Series in Poetry. Derr-Smith has received numerous awards and grants, including grants from Iowa State University, the Iowa Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Bev Ellis

Bev Ellis retired from Urbandale Schools as the facilitator of Elementary Gifted Education. After retiring, she had opportunities for focusing on art and conservation through the Des Moines Art Center, MetroKids, GreenArts, SmartArt, Metro Arts Expo, Polk County Conservation Board, and the History Through the Arts Program at the Iowa Historical Museum.

NATIONAL WINNERS

Monkey's Raincoat Prize

Mitchell Oberfoell, age 8, Sacred Heart School, West Des Moines,
Pine Cones

National Finalists

Maya Freking, age 8, Sacred Heart School, West Des Moines, *The Corn Maze*

John Culver, age 9, Sacred Heart School, West Des Moines, *Frogs*

Erin Zeka, age 9, Southeast Webster Grand Middle School,

Boxholm, The Kite

Ethan Berning, age 10, Southeast Webster Grand Middle School,

Boxholm, Untitled

Margaret Shultz, age 18, West High School, Iowa City,

Communication, Untitled & A Waterfall Before the Storm

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