

IOWATER

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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www.iowater.net

IOWATER

presents the

2009 River of Words®

IOWA

Environmental
Poetry & Art Exhibit



works created by K-12 students in Iowa

August 1 – August 23, 2009

**The Carnegie Library Area
of the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art**

River of Words®

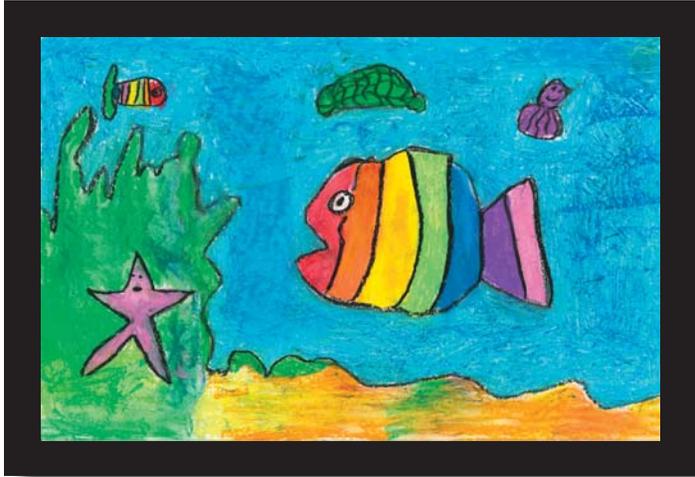
Every year, River of Words® conducts an international environmental poetry and art competition for youth aged 5 to 19 in grades K-12, in affiliation with The Library of Congress Center for the Book. This free contest is designed to help youth explore the natural environment and cultural history of the 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 IOWATER, where they are judged in a statewide IOWA River of Words® Environmental Poetry and Art competition.

The IOWATER Volunteer Water Monitoring Program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources coordinates the IOWA River of Words® Environmental Poetry and Art competition. This year, over 530 students from Iowa entered the contest, either through their schools, community art centers, local libraries, or on their own. Because of the large number of quality Iowa entries, we accepted the generous offer of the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art to host a juried River of Words® IOWA Environmental Poetry and Art Exhibit. Thirty-seven works of poetry and art were selected to be included in this exhibit.

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.



www.riverofwords.org



IOWA WINNER
Grades K-3 Art
 Julia Jones age 8
 Manson Northwest Webster School
 Barnum, Iowa
Rainbow Fish

IOWA WINNER
Grades K-3 Poetry

Lejla Cardenas
 age 9
 McKinley Elementary School
 Des Moines, Iowa
The Turtle

GRADES
 K-3

EXHIBITORS
Grades K-3

Poetry
 Arely DeLeon
 age 8
 McKinley Elementary School
 Des Moines, Iowa
Sunshine

Nashay Palmer
 age 8
 McKinley Elementary School
 Des Moines, Iowa
Night

Jacob Pleggenkuhle
 age 9
 Adel, Iowa
Magic River

Hayley Sever
 age 8
 McKinley Elementary School
 Des Moines, Iowa
The Beach

Art
 Daniel Gonzales
 age 9
 McKinley Elementary School
 Des Moines, Iowa
Fishing

Hanna Schmitt
 age 9
 Trinity Catholic School
 Protivin, Iowa
Winter Wonderland

Kyra Stoll
 age 9
 Penn Elementary School
 North Liberty, Iowa
Pretty Cockatoo

The Turtle

Swish
 swash.
 The water
 is
 slowly
 trickling
 down
 the
 rocks.
 The color
 of the turtle's
 shell
 is
 red and black.

The Mississippi

rivers
wet, winding
flowing, swerving, darting
fun, clean, soft, gentle
water

EXHIBITORS Grades 4-6

Poetry
Alanna Dixon
age 9
Mason City Family YMCA
Mason City, Iowa
A Catfish is ...

Chloe Hickok
age 11
Sacred Heart School
West Des Moines, Iowa
A Peaceful Creature

Megan Lukas
age 10
Amana, Iowa
Unexplainable Beauty

Sarah Wareham
age 10
Resurrection School
Dubuque, Iowa
Fishing in Rivers

Art
Curt Craven
age 11
The Academy
Des Moines, Iowa
Bridging over to Spring

Cassie Day
age 11
Clay Central/Everly Schools
Royal, Iowa
Summer Day

IOWA WINNER Grades 4-6 Poetry

Nicholas Moran
age 9
Resurrection School
Dubuque, Iowa
The Mississippi

IOWA WINNER Grades 4-6 Art

Sam Fletcher
age 11
Ballard East
Elementary School
Cambridge, Iowa
Birch Trees

GRADES 4-6

Alisha Gleason
age 11
Union Middle School
Dysart, Iowa
Sunset

Ingrid Messersmith Holth
age 10
The Academy
Des Moines, Iowa
Tree by the River

Megan Lukas
age 10
Amana, Iowa
Tranquility

Landon Sivesind
age 12
St. Patrick's School
Waukon, Iowa
Setting Fire



Kathleen Thompson
age 11
Manson Northwest Webster
School
Barnum, Iowa
Underwater Fun



IOWA WINNER
Grades 7-9 Art

Ali Biggar
age 12
Clay Central/Everly Schools
Royal, Iowa
A Country Sunrise

EXHIBITORS
Grades 7-9

Poetry
Ben Grothe
age 13
Howar Junior High School
Centerville, Iowa
The Senses of Water

Ashley Kollbaum
age 14
Anthon-Oto Maple Valley
Middle School
Anthon, Iowa
A Whole New River

Stephanie McMillan
age 12
Independence, Iowa
Things Are Changing

GRADES
7-9

Ocean of Clouds

An ocean of clouds
Hovers over the city
Like a soft and gushy
Pillow for the gods.
It shimmers in the light
Like a blanket of snow
Protecting its people.

IOWA WINNER
Grades 7-9 Poetry

Cody Ritner
age 12
Decorah, Iowa
Ocean of Clouds

Destiny Schmarje
age 12
Howar Junior High School
Centerville, Iowa
Drop of Water

Art
Lauren Yearous
age 13
Galva-Holstein Community
School
Galva, Iowa
Watersheds

Black-eyed Susan

Water flowing, rushing in
I am the protector
The barrier between
Absorbing water
Stopping it from streaming past
Will not back down
Will not let through
Strong stalk and bright yellow blossom
Recognized from horizons away
I am the black-eyed Susan
Preventing the flood
Halting disaster

IOWA WINNER
Grades 10-12 Poetry

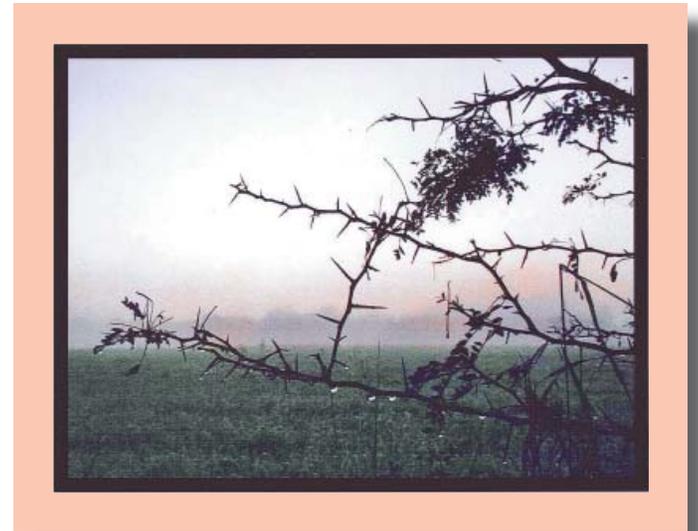
Katie Oxendine
age 18
Davenport Central High School
Davenport, Iowa
Black-eyed Susan

EXHIBITORS
Grades 10-12

Poetry
Shaina Barnes
age 16
Davenport Central High School
Davenport, Iowa
Reflection

IOWA WINNER
Grades 10-12 Art

Phoebe Jones
age 16
Fairfield, Iowa
Contrast in the Fog



GRADES
10-12

Meghan Schwab & Meg Sinnott
age 17
Wahlert Catholic High School
Dubuque, Iowa
Seasonal Haikus

Art
Sarah Alt
age 17
Wahlert Catholic High School
Dubuque, Iowa
The River

Anna Kaufmann
age 16
Davenport Central High School
Davenport, Iowa
Flow and Freeze

Lizzie Kress
age 16
Wahlert Catholic High School
Dubuque, Iowa
The Stream

Scott Skophammer
age 17
Ft. Dodge, Iowa
Spring Splash

Guest Speaker

for the 2009 River of Words®
IOWA Environmental Poetry & Art Exhibit
Opening Reception

Mary Swander
2009-2010 Poet Laureate of Iowa

Ms. Swander received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and is a graduate of the Iowa Writer's Workshop MFA Program at the University of Iowa. She is a professor of English and a Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State University.

Memoirs *Out of this World* and *The Desert Pilgrim* are Swander's best known works. Her best-selling book of poetry, *Driving the Body Back* (which she later adapted for stage), is set during homesteading times in Iowa. *Dear Iowa*, a musical Swander co-authored with composer Christopher Frank, is set during the Civil War. Both stage works have been produced across the Midwest and on Iowa Public Television. Ms. Swander performs her own work and gives solo readings throughout the United States. Currently, she is touring her play *Farmscape*, a documentary capturing the changing rural environment. She has been a regular commentator on WOI radio in Ames, Iowa, as well as National Public Radio's Sunday Weekend Edition.

Ms. Swander has won numerous awards including an Iowa Author's Award, a Whiting Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Grant for the Literary Arts, two Ingram Merrill Awards, the Carl Sandberg Literary Award, and the Nation-Discovery Award.

Mary Swander lives in an old Amish schoolhouse, raises geese, goats, and a large organic garden, and plays the banjo.

July

for the 2009 River of Words®
IOWA Environmental Poetry & Art Exhibit

POETRY
Holly Carver
Director, University of Iowa Press

As an editor and publisher at the University of Texas Press and, since 1985, at the University of Iowa Press, Holly has edited many books of poetry, including the winners of the Iowa Poetry Prize.

ART
Pat Lohmann
Iowa Coordinator, River of Words®

Pat received an MFA in painting from the University of Iowa School of Art and Art History. She is an artist and publication designer for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

To our Sponsors,

The Cedar Rapids Museum of Art (www.crma.org)
University of Iowa Press (www.uiowapress.org)
Blick Art Materials, Iowa City (www.dickblick.com)
Prairie Lights Books, Iowa City (www.prairielight.com)

Thank you for supporting Iowa's youth,
our environment, and poetry & art.

Get involved for CLEAN WATER...

Volunteer Programs available through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

IOWATER, Iowa's volunteer water quality monitoring program, provides Iowans an opportunity to monitor water resources in their own communities. Volunteers are provided with training and monitoring equipment, and can then monitor wherever and whenever they choose. The program brings people closer to the landscapes that surround them and encourages them to develop a sense of place within their own watersheds. This tie between ourselves and the water resources that give us life will lead to the understanding, respect, and protection of Iowa's water bodies long into the future. Visit www.iowater.net for more information.

Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition), is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' annual weeklong, volunteer river cleanup and watershed awareness event. Hundreds of Iowans spend anywhere from a day to an entire week paddling and hauling trash from Iowa's waterways while learning about and enjoying our water resources from the seat of a canoe. Through hands-on experience, water quality monitoring, and organized on-the-river and evening educational opportunities, volunteers not only learn about water quality, wildlife, and recycling, they experience them firsthand. Project AWARE nurtures a personal interest in Iowa's natural resources and proves that individual actions can lead to remarkable results. Visit www.iowaprojectaware.com for more information.

For more information
*about River of Words®
or to enter the 2010 competition,
please visit www.iowater.net
and click on River of Words.*