More than 500 students across Mississippi participated in the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery’s (NMFH) 2022 Youth Art Contest.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST-PLACE WINNERS:

Ashlyn McCullough (Category IV, ages 16-19), Homeschool, Hernando
Claire Rizzo (Category III, ages 12-15), Bayou Academy, Cleveland
Waverly Renick (Category II, ages 8-11), Homeschool, Clinton
Bella Tran (Category I, ages 5-7), St. Martin Gifted Center, Biloxi

Artwork by the top three finishers plus honorable mentions and runners-up in each age group is available for viewing at www.mdwfp.com/nmfh/youth-art-contest. The contest was sponsored by the Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

The Visitor Education Center (VEC), part of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks’ (MDWFP) NMFH, is located in Enid (Exit 233 east off Interstate 55). The VEC, which is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi, features a native-habitat area, a 10,000-gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, a fishing rodeo pond, gift shop, and gallery.

For more information regarding fishing in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com or call us at (601) 432-2212. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.
CATEGORY III AGES: 12-15

First place: Claire Rizzo, "First Steps of Summer," Watercolor
Second place: Mack Hutson, "The Crappie," Pastels
Third place: Abigail Griffin, "Wood Duck," Watercolor and ink

CATEGORY II AGES: 8-11

First place: Waverly Renick, "Cypress Bog,"
Wood burned with paint and colored pencils
Second place: Chloe Horton, "Horned Owl Keeps Watch,"
Acrylic painting on wood
Third place: Hendrix Gillies, "Best Buds (Wink, Wink)"
Acrylic, marker, and natural materials
**CATEGORY I AGES: 5-7**

**First place:** Bella Tran, “*The Shiny Sea Turtle,*”
Watercolor and glass beads

**Second place:** Mary Pepper, “*Black Baby Bear,*”
Watercolor

**Third place:** Alice Ruth Weeks, “*Cardinals in the Snow,*” acrylic

**HONORABLE MENTION**

(Page 31, clockwise, starting top right)

1. Darcy Renick, “*Sunday Best,*” Colored pencils
2. Anna Weems, “*American Robin in Springtime,*”
   Paper collage
3. Makayla Lindsey, “*Gone Fishin’,*” Pencil
4. Scarlett Watson, “*No Trash Catfish,*” Mixed media
5. Dabner Renick, “*Ruby Throated Hummingbird,*”
   Crayons and marker
6. Bailey Murphey, “*Bandit,*” Acrylic
7. Lyric Heavner, “*Marbled Orb Weaver,*” Mixed media
8. Abbigail Pham, “*Mississippi Gulf Coast Jelly Fish,*”
   Colored pencil
9. Gia Vainisi, “*Ruby from the North,*” Watercolor and ink

**RUNNERS-UP**

(Page 31, top to bottom)

1. Beatine Sherman, “*White Tailed Deer Fawn,*”
   Pencil and crayon
2. Ada Wren, “*Betsy Beetle Day,*” Acrylic
3. Alexandra Mickovski, “*Gator,*” Acrylic
4. Catherine Truemper, “*The Great Blue Heron,*”
   Watercolor
5. Ethan Warren, “*Bird on a Limb,*”
   Pencil and graphite
HONORABLE MENTION

RUNNERS-UP