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WATERSMART ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF FOURTH ANNUAL COLORING BOOK CONTEST

-Cobb County Elementary School Students illustrate water conservation-

MARIETTA, Ga. (Feb. 4, 2009) – The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority and Cobb County Water System are happy to announce the winners of the 2009 Allatoona Ally Coloring Book Contest. The coloring book will be composed of the top 12 student drawings from the contest, and will be distributed through partnering doctors' offices, restaurants and retailers as well as at waterSmart events throughout Cobb County to serve as a free, and fun, educational resource on water conservation. The winning students include:

Maryuri Cerna Bautista , 4 th grade, LaBelle Elementary	Sydney Higginbotham , 5 th grade, Shallowford Falls Elementary
Kelsey Durick , 4 th grade, Baker Elementary	Jeffrey Vicente , 5 th grade, LaBelle Elementary
Jenny Brown , 5 th grade, Baker Elementary	Christopher Ashby , 4 th grade, Mt. Bethel Elementary
Ethan Lewis , 5 th grade, Frey Elementary	Alannah Hale , 5 th grade, Murdock Elementary
Meara Simmons , 5 th grade, Frey Elementary	Christian Ruiz , 4 th grade, Russell Elementary
Heather Luedke , 5 th grade, Frey Elementary	Katherine Zierten , 5 th grade, Shallowford Falls Elementary

“The Allatoona Ally Coloring Book contest has become a favorite waterSmart tradition for Cobb County students because it gives them a chance to be creative while learning about saving water,” says waterSmart Program Director Becky Mixon. “We are happy the program continues to have success at reaching our young citizens with the message of water conservation.”

waterSmart launched the fourth annual Coloring Book Contest this past October, asking all Cobb County fourth and fifth-graders to create drawings showing Ally, the fish mascot for Lake Allatoona, conserving water in and around the home. More than 230 entries were submitted from 12 different elementary schools, and the top 12 illustrations selected by the judging panel will be featured in the coloring book. Each winning artist will be recognized and receive a certificate at an artist autograph party on March 3 at 4:00 p.m. in the Cobb County Central Library, which will include the unveiling of the coloring book and artist autographs.

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Margari Cerna Bautista's drawing of Ally holding a SAVE THE LAKE USE LESS WATER sign received the highest score from the judges and will be featured on the front cover of the coloring book.

Local art and water conservation experts served as the contest's judges, including:

- Ron Ransom, cartoonist for the *Marietta Daily Journal*;
- Chris Purvis, park operations team for Lake Allatoona corps of engineers;
- Angela Scherr; promotions coordinator for Radio Disney;
- Walter Reeves, Georgia Gardener;
- Becky Mixon, program director for waterSmart; and
- Kathy Nguyen, water efficiency program manager for Cobb County.

"We want to congratulate all of the schools, teachers, students and judges who took the time to participate in our Annual Allatoona Ally Coloring Contest," said Kathy Nguyen, Cobb County Water System water efficiency program manager. "Through their participation they are helping to educate younger generations about the importance of water conservation and are carrying out waterSmart's mission to help save water, time and money."

The coloring book will be available at partnering businesses in Cobb County and electronically by visiting www.watersmart.net in spring 2009.

About waterSmart

The waterSmartSM program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) in 2000 to educate their service area residents of all ages about the importance of indoor and outdoor water conservation and to help encourage sustainable, year-round conservation, regardless of climate conditions. The CCMWA is in its eighth year of providing the waterSmart program to the community. For more information on water conservation and waterSmart, visit www.waterSmart.net.

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