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waterSmart Announces Winning Classes for Fourth Annual Rain Barrel of Fun Contest

-- Cobb County students get creative and decorate rain barrels for school gardens --

MARIETTA, Ga. (May 19, 2011) – Two local classrooms were recently crowned winners in the 2011 Rain Barrel of Fun program through waterSmart – a conservation education campaign supported by Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) and Cobb County Water System.

Ms. Linda Barnwell's 2nd grade class from Addison Elementary was awarded with the Supreme Rain Barrel Award. Addison's uniquely designed rain barrel depicted the stages of a plant's life and how water is an integral part of the life cycle. Ms. Barnwell's class received top scores for creativity, artistic ability and teamwork.

The Junior Water Warriors Award went to Ms. Jennie Dang's 3rd grade students from Murdock Elementary for demonstrating the greatest effort in teaching others about water conservation. Ms. Dang's class created the campaign "Murdock Makes a Change" and promoted water conservation messages through songs, skits and persuasive papers.

"We are excited to see the quality of the entries received this year," said Becky Mixon, waterSmart's program director. "The time and effort spent designing and decorating the rain barrels is evident, and we are truly impressed by the breadth of knowledge and creativity held by students and teachers in the Cobb County School District."

More than 200 children from nine Cobb County elementary and intermediate schools participated in the contest, which emphasizes teamwork and creativity to learn about the value of water.

Other participating schools included Brumby, Ford, Nickajack, Powers Ferry, Riverside, Sedalia Park and Shallowford Falls.

Teachers and students were given just over a month to build, design and complete their rain barrels, all while encouraging the rest of their respective student bodies to save water. Supplies

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to make and decorate the rain barrels were provided by CCMWA and Cobb County Water System.

“Teaching our youth about water conservation is an important aspect of ensuring our resources are preserved for when we need them most,” said Kathy Nguyen, senior project manager of Cobb County Water System. “All participating students are winners because they were able to learn the value of water conservation in a fun and interactive way.”

Rain Barrel of Fun’s 2011 panel of judges included Alison Bartlett, Cobb County School Board Chair; Jenny Hoffner of American Rivers; Walter Reeves, Georgia Gardener and Cynthia Rozzo, editor for *The East Cobber*.

For more information about waterSmart or Rain Barrel of Fun, please visit www.waterSmart.net.

About waterSmart

The waterSmartSM program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority 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 eleventh 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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