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## **Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority Announces Top 12 Finalists for waterSmart waterArt**

*– Cobb, Paulding students featured in artists' exhibition and 2012 waterSmart calendar –*

**Marietta, Ga. (Nov. 15, 2011)** – Cobb and Paulding county middle school students make a splash in Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority's (CCMWA) second annual folk art contest, *waterSmart waterArt* – a creative competition that merges students' artistic talents with their passion for water conservation.

Local artists and conservationists judged the 78 waterSmart waterArt submissions on artistic ability, water relevance and creativity. Claudia Varnedoe, an eighth grade student at Hightower Trail Middle School, received the highest scores for her entry that encouraged peers to “do your part” and conserve drinkable water on Earth.

The top 12 entries will be featured in the 2012 waterSmart waterArt calendar that will be distributed throughout metro Atlanta. This year's finalists represent middle school students in Cobb and Paulding counties, including:

- Lora LaFore – Barber Middle School
- Bradley Lovingood – Daniell Middle School
- Damian Diaz – Daniell Middle School
- Chris Parker – Dobbins Middle School
- Sarah Gann – Dobbins Middle School
- Claudia Varnedoe – Hightower Trail Middle School
- Brazae Kearny – Lindley Middle School
- Taylor Green – Lindley Middle School
- Aaron Mortensen – Lovinggood Middle School
- Emma Zgonc – Lovinggood Middle School
- Brittany Johnson – Pine Mountain Middle School
- Christina Brown – Pine Mountain Middle School

Each participant's submission will be displayed at The Art Station-Big Shanty's artists' exhibition from now until Nov. 17. To further celebrate this year's finalists, the exhibition will conclude with a reception – featuring various guest speakers, including Cobb County Commission Chairman, Tim Lee – at The Art Station-Big Shanty on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. In addition to participants' family, friends and school faculty, Cobb and Paulding County residents are invited to be a part of the waterSmart waterArt reception.

“waterSmart waterArt provides Cobb and Paulding middle school students with a creative platform to express their thoughts on conserving our water supply,” says Becky Mixon, waterSmart program director. “We are continually impressed by positive messages of conservation shown through the students' artwork.”

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To get involved with future waterSmart programs, go to [www.waterSmart.net](http://www.waterSmart.net), or go to [www.artstationcobb.org](http://www.artstationcobb.org) for directions to The Art Station-Big Shanty.

**About waterSmart**

The waterSmart program was initiated by the 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 twelfth year of providing the waterSmart program to the community. For more information on water conservation and waterSmart, visit [www.waterSmart.net](http://www.waterSmart.net)

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