

AgNews



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Governor honors students at Arbor Day ceremony

Governor Minner commemorated Arbor Day this year by honoring young winners of the state's annual Arbor Day Poster Contest at the Education Center on Redden State Forest. The contest, now in its 14th year, is sponsored by the Delaware Forest Service.

A poster drawn by Rachel Winston, a student at the Winston Learning Academy in Milford, was selected as the overall winner of the contest. Rachel's poster was chosen from a pool of over 6000 posters submitted from students in grades K-4 across Delaware.

Fifth grade students were invited to submit posters for the 2007 National Arbor Day contest. A poster drawn by Nick Stasio, a student at Christ the Teacher Elementary School in Newark will represent Delaware.

All winners received a savings bond, a holly tree, and a flowering ornamental tree planted at their school in their honor.

"Delaware's forests provide numerous recreational, environmental and economic benefits to all Delawareans," said Governor Minner. "Through our continued commitment to land preservation, I am pleased that we have been able to preserve 82,000 acres of farmland and significantly increase the size of our state forests during my tenure as governor. Today, we celebrate our forestlands by recognizing our young artists, whose creative impressions represent the multi-faceted importance of this vital natural resource."

According to State Forester Austin Short, "Arbor Day is an opportunity for every Delawarean to remember the many benefits that our forests provide. We use products from our forests every day and Arbor Day is a moment when we can pause to reflect upon the importance of this vital natural resource and consider what we can do to ensure that future Delawareans will enjoy these same benefits.

This year's Arbor Day ceremony took place at the Education Center in Redden State Forest. The Education Center is one of three structures on Redden State Forest's Headquarters Tract listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company around 1902, the structure was originally called the Carriage House since it sheltered the horses and carriages used by company executives when they visited the property.

The facility houses various displays about our forests, and the management of these forests, provides a work area for students and teachers to participate in educational activities in conjunction with the outdoor educational trail. The Education Center is open by appointment during normal business hours.

An electronic copy of the picture is available: anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us.

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2007 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners

Trees are Terrific...and Forests are Too!



Left to right:

Front row: *Timothy Venables, Gregory Stanard, KateLynn Storms, Lasya Katta*

Second Row: *Rachel Winston, Daniel Winston, Alex McMahon, Nick Stasio, Joanna Ridley*

Third row: *Ashley Ward, Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Secretary Michael Scuse, State Representative Robert Walls*

State Winner – Rachel Winston – Winston Learning Academy, Milford

New Castle County

Kindergarten

Grade 1 – 2

Grade 3 – 4

Gregory Stanard – Carrcroft Elementary, Wilmington

Lasya Katta – Caravel Academy, Bear

Amanda Defilippis – St. Anthony of Padua, Wilmington

Kent County

Kindergarten

Grade 1 – 2

Grade 3 – 4

KateLynn Storms – Lake Forest East Elementary, Frederica

Alex McMahon – Holy Cross, Dover

Joanna Ridley – Booker T. Elementary, Dover

Sussex County

Kindergarten

Grade 1 – 2

Grade 3 – 4

Bret Venable – Honor Academy, Milford

Daniel Winston – Winston Learning Academy, Milford

Rachel Winston – Winston Learning Academy, Milford

National Rep.

(Grade 5 winner)

Nick Stasio – Christ the Teacher, Newark

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