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**waterSmart<sup>SM</sup> Celebrates 12 Cobb County Students for Diving In and Scoring Big in Fifth Annual Allatoona Ally Contest**

*- Community invited to Allatoona Ally Autograph Party on Feb. 9 -*

**MARIETTA, Ga.** (Feb. 3, 2010) – The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) and Cobb County Water System proudly salute this year’s winners of the Fifth Annual Allatoona Ally Coloring Book Contest, at a ceremony on February 9 at the Cobb County Central Library from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The Coloring Book Contest, which was held in October and November, requested Cobb County fourth- and fifth-graders to draw Ally, the scaly-but-lovable ambassador for Lake Allatoona, conserving water in her home and community. More than 250 students from 21 Cobb County elementary and intermediate schools participated. This year’s winners include:

**Stephanie Alexander**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Murdock Elementary  
**Bridget Helms**, 5<sup>rd</sup> grade, Mountain View Elementary  
**Eddie Rico**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Big Shanty Intermediate  
**Timothy Wang**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Timber Ridge Elementary  
**Amber Coleman**, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Brumby Elementary  
**Alicia Vaughn**, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Frey Elementary

**Addie Hearn**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Shallowford Falls Elementary  
**Victor Ramirez**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Green Acres Elementary  
**Catherine Saour**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Shallowford Falls Elementary  
**Vince Wilkinson**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Keheley Elementary  
**Megan Kriscovich**, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Mt. Bethel Elementary  
**Zaria Wooten**, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Bryant Intermediate

Stephanie Alexander’s drawing of Ally conserving water by washing her car in the rain received the highest score from judges and will be featured on the front cover of the coloring book.

Local art and water conservation experts selected the top 12 illustrations carefully to be featured in the coloring book. waterSmart’s panel of celebrity judges included:

- Bob Ott – Cobb County Commissioner
- Kim Isaza – editor of the *Marietta Daily Journal*

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- Walter Reeves – Georgia gardner
- Chris Purvis – park operations team for Lake Allatoona corps of engineers
- Maia Davis – senior water resource planner for the Atlanta Regional Commission
- Angela Scherr – promotions coordinator for Radio Disney

Each winning artist will receive a poster-size version of the coloring book, and all winning drawings will note the artist's name and his or her school. A book-release autograph party will be held at Cobb County Central Library in Marietta at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 9. The launch party will include the unveiling of the cover and artist autographs.

"The coloring books are a fun way to show the children in our communities that helping the environment doesn't have to take a lot of extra work," says waterSmart Program Director Becky Mixon. "Simple activities, like turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth, can make a tremendous difference over time."

"By allowing young artists to express themselves in a positive way, we give them the tools and excitement to educate their friends and family," says Cobb County's Water Conservation Coordinator Kathy Nguyen.

The coloring book will be distributed throughout the community to partnering doctors' offices, restaurants and retailers, and electronically at [www.watersmart.net](http://www.watersmart.net) in March of 2010.

### **About waterSmart**

The waterSmart<sup>SM</sup> 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 ninth 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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