

May 3, 2018

For immediate release

Contact:

Sharon Hacker, AWF Board Member
events@arwild.org

**2018 Wildlife of Arkansas Student Art Contest
Awards presentation**

May 4, 2018

6:30 pm

**Witt Stephens Jr. Central AR Nature Center
602 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock**



2017 Wildlife of Arkansas “Best of Show”
and 9th Grade 1st place
Dear, Deer – Taylor Zhang (Little Rock Central High)
with Gerilyn Hoey, National Wildlife Federation

**Wildlife of Arkansas:
2018 Student Art Exhibit opening**

Nearly 1,000 students submitted artwork to the annual ‘Wildlife of Arkansas’ art competition showcasing Arkansas’ wildlife diversity.

Little Rock, AR (May 3, 2018) – Once again, the Arkansas Wildlife Federation (AWF) and Creative Ideas have come together to promote wildlife education through the arts in the annual Wildlife of Arkansas Student Art Contest. The 2018 Wildlife of Arkansas student art winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony Friday evening, May 4 at 6:30 pm at the Witt Stephens, Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center (602 President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72201). Cash, trophies and certificates will be awarded. Winning artwork from each grade will be on display. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

The Wildlife of Arkansas statewide student art competition is open to artists from kindergarten through 12th grade. This year nearly 1,000 entries were received from across the state. “A panel of jurors select four artworks per grade; 1, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention and an overall Best in Show,” said Sharon Hacker, founder of Creative Ideas and AWF Board Member.

The competition is supported through an education grant from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) and several corporate sponsors. The 2018 Wildlife of Arkansas Student art exhibit will travel to all four AGFC nature centers throughout the summer. “We are thrilled AGFC partners with us to showcase this fine exhibit at their nature centers,” said Hacker. “Students, parents, teachers and the general public will now more opportunities to enjoy this amazing artwork.”

“Providing opportunities to get kids more connected to Arkansas wildlife and nature is a key priority for Arkansas Wildlife Federation,” stated Trey Buckner, AWF President. “Our partnership with Creative Ideas and AGFC is central to the program’s success.”



Pat Fitts, Director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, is proud to have AGFC host this educational art show. "This competition offers a unique way for youth to understand nature and express what they have learned by creating pieces of art," said Fitts. The AGFC Nature Centers are free of charge and offer a variety of educational opportunities for the entire family to enjoy in addition to the art show.

A calendar artwork will be available for purchase at the exhibit opening. The entire list of winners will be announced in the next issue of Arkansas Out-Of-Doors magazine (a publication of Arkansas Wildlife Federation).

Wildlife of Arkansas Traveling Art Exhibit Schedule

- Opening and Awards Ceremony: May 3, 6:30 pm, Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center, Little Rock
- May 4 – 31: Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center, Little Rock
- June 2 – 28: Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center, Jonesboro
- June 30-July 27: Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center, Fort Smith
- July 28: AWF Annual Conservation Achievement Awards Banquet, White Hall Community Center
- July 30-Aug 23: Governor Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center, Pine Bluff

The Arkansas Wildlife Federation's mission is to advocate for sustainable use of Arkansas' wildlife habitats and natural resources for future generations. www.arwild.org

Creative Ideas Mission is reaching our community and state through Arts & Education.

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