

Valley Education

Mountain Garden Club awards prizes to K-Kids at the John Fuller School

On Wednesday, January 25, 2012, young conservationists at the John Fuller Elementary School (JFES) in the K-Kids program were honored for their posters illustrating ways to prevent wildfires and respect the environment. This after-school program is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Mount Washington Valley under the direction of JFES teachers, Janice Andrews and Alison Memoli, and Key Club assistants. It is a leadership program that encourages primary students to work together on service projects, develop leadership potential and create strong character.

The 2012 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster contest is a joint effort with the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. It was sponsored locally by the Mountain Garden Club of the Mount Washington Valley and the Saco Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service. This Poster Contest gave students the opportunity to demonstrate, through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl, their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles. Forest Ranger Alicia Pasquerillo, a specialist in conservation education at the Saco Ranger Station, visited with the poster participants



John Fuller students proudly display their artwork at the MGC event on January 25, 2012

Photo by Greg Garrick

prior to the awards presentation. She shared information about the National Forest's recreational and natural resources, discussed wildfire safety and environmental conservation, and conducted a lively question and answer session. Although neither Smokey Bear nor Woodsy Owl were able to accompany Ranger Pasquerillo to the JFES event, they would have been very proud to see the creative posters and hear the thoughtful

ideas the participants shared with the Ranger about conservation and wildfire prevention.

Following the discussion, Mountain Garden Club representatives presented Honorable Mention certificates to Ian Martin (Grade 3), Mackenzie Ewing, Cassidy Leary, Isaiah Lenotte, Annie Loehr, Quincie Quint, Owen Robinson, and Julie Russo (all Grade 4) and Christopher Sargent (Grade 5). Certificates of Honorable

Mention were also awarded to Skylar Terry (Grade 4), Basil Goodwin (Grade 5) and Seda Korroch (Grade 6), who were not able to attend the presentation.

Third Place was awarded to Bella Goodwin (Grade 3), Second Place to Tegan Jones (Grade 4), and the coveted First Place to Marleigh-Ana Ewing (Grade 3).

The winning first, second, and third place posters have

been submitted to the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs for the state competition. All of the posters will be on display at the Saco Ranger Station, which is located just off Route 16 at the beginning of the Kancamagus Highway.

A \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds, sponsored by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. will be awarded to each of the First Place national winners in all five grades. The National Grand Prize Winner of the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest will be honored with a Recognition Ceremony in Washington, DC. Round-trip airfare and accommodations for four will be provided.

The Mountain Garden Club is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, dedicated to promoting horticultural education, civic beautification, and conservation through volunteerism and friendship in the Mount Washington Valley. Membership is open to all residents in the Mount Washington Valley.

For more information regarding the Mountain Garden Club's programs, civic beautification projects, fundraising for local charities, or the Alice T. Madden Memorial Scholarship, please visit the website at www.mountaingardenclub.org or email us at info@mountaingardenclub.org.