

FOR RELEASE AFTER 11/16



**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Gwen Baldwin  
[Gwen.Baldwin@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Gwen.Baldwin@cobbcounty.org)  
770-419-6303

## **Cobb County Water System Announces 8<sup>th</sup> Annual waterSmart waterArt Finalists**

*– Cobb County students featured in artists' exhibition and 2018 waterArt calendar –*

**Marietta, Ga. (Nov. 16, 2017)** – Cobb County middle school students have merged their artistic talents with their passion for water conservation in the eighth annual visual arts contest, waterSmart waterArt. The waterSmart waterArt contest is a collaborative program of the Cobb County Water System (CCWS) and Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) that encourages students' creativity while emphasizing the value of water.

One hundred eleven students from seven Cobb County middle schools submitted artwork, which was judged on artistic ability, relevance and creativity.

*"We are always impressed by the artwork submitted by the middle school students of Cobb County," says Becky Mixon, waterSmart program director. "It's wonderful to see how creative the students are in representing the value of water through their art. Given that Lake Lanier is still 5+ feet below full pool, the messages these students provide is very valuable," Mixon says.*

The cover winner was announced at the finalists' reception on Nov. 16 at The Art Station – Big Shanty. The top 12 entries plus two honorable mentions will be featured in the 2018 waterSmart waterArt calendar that will be distributed throughout Cobb County. This year's finalists are:

- Thulsy Krishnan – Simpson MS                      Cover Winner
- Abigail McCoy – Barber MS
- Chloe Morris – Lovinggood MS
- Shreya Sudakar – JJ Daniell MS
- Areli Garcia – Floyd MS
- Isabella Humara – Hightower Trail MS
- Abby Lynes – Simpson MS
- Maria Herrera – Floyd MS
- Madison Howard – Lovinggood MS
- Emily Ross – Dickerson MS
- Ella Wileman – Simpson
- Matai Blain – Lovinggood MS
- Ivy Nganga – Barber MS
- Kierstyn Smith – Floyd MS

In addition to the calendar there will be an E-Gallery of Honorable Mention winners on display on the waterSmart page at [www.cobbcounty.org/watersmart](http://www.cobbcounty.org/watersmart).

**-MORE-**

“waterSmart waterArt gives middle school students the opportunity to use their artistic talents to explore water conservation and value from their own perspective,” says Kathy Nguyen, senior project manager for the Cobb County Water System. “This year’s entries did a great job demonstrating why water conservation for future generations must begin now. We look forward to using the 2018 waterSmart calendar to share that knowledge with our community.”

To get involved with future waterSmart programs, visit [www.cobbcounty.org/watersmart](http://www.cobbcounty.org/watersmart).

**About waterSmart**

The waterSmart<sup>SM</sup> program was initiated by the CCMWA in 2000 to educate its 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 CCWS and CCMWA is in its 17th year of providing the waterSmart program to the community. For more information on water conservation and waterSmart, visit [www.cobbcounty.org/waterefficiency](http://www.cobbcounty.org/waterefficiency)

###