

# Dragonfly Gazette

GEORGIA PROJECT WET Environmental Protection Division

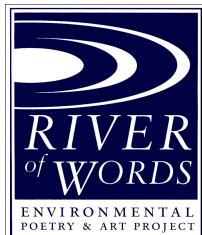
Fall 2016

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## Together since 1997!

Georgia Project WET has partnered with and supported the River of Words Environmental Poetry & Art Project an inspiring and delightful 19 years. **We had a good run.** Sadly, the national office of River of Words is no longer able to fund the program. It has closed and the national director, Pamela Michaels, will be pursuing other interests this coming year.

**The good news is Georgia will continue holding the contest in our state.** Our NEW forms and rules are here. Our NEW deadline is February 1. Let's keep this program alive!



2015 National Finalist, Jerry Yu, grade 1, Lilburn

### These things will NOT change about River of Words:

#### 1. The Excitement!

Each year when hundreds of poetry and art entries arrive in our office, we can hardly contain our excitement.

The boxes are torn open and the poetry and art are sorted out. We oo and ahhh over every one and take far longer than necessary, especially when a single piece catches our eye and we ran down the hall to share it with friends.



*2014 Grand Prize Winner, Anna Qian, grade 7, Lilburn*

## **2. The Judging**

The **Georgia Center for the Book** takes all of the poetry to judge, usually about 1000 poems! Their job is to select state poetry winners in each of the age categories.

The **Georgia Environmental Protection Division** judges all of the art-- a big job, especially in the grade 3-6 category!



*2014 Grand Prize Winner, Nicole Lewandowski, grade 4, Cumming*

## **3. The Traveling Display and Journal**

After scanning, typing and entering everything into a database, we prepare the pieces for the traveling display which goes to many libraries and other centers around the state for a year. Then the booklet of poetry and art

winners, we call the Journal, is put together and sent to the printer.



2013 Grand Prize Winner, Athena Marlin, grade 5, Duluth

#### 4. The Ceremony

Meanwhile we work on the ceremony honoring the winners, their teachers and families. We usually expect around 200 people at the celebration and plan everything from the invitations to the parking signs. We print the certificates, purchase the food and flowers, and make sure everything is perfect for our invited guests.



2013 Grand Prize Winner, Happy Leveson-Jones, grade 2 Atlanta

#### **These things WILL change about River of Words:**

##### **1. Entry Forms**

We now have just two entry forms! One for the STUDENT and one for the FACILITATOR. Individual and group entries will use the same form.

##### **2. Entry Address**

Instead of sending your entries to California, you will send it to us at Georgia River of Words, 2 MLK Jr Drive, Suite 1462 E, Atlanta, GA 30334

##### **3. The Deadline Date**

New postmark deadline is February 1.

#### 4. No National Awards

We are looking for sponsors and support for our state program so that we can honor student efforts. Can you help?

#### Take a trip back in time and revisit some of our past National winners:

To see the latest Galleries visit [ProjectWET.Georgia.gov](http://ProjectWET.Georgia.gov) (GA River of Words)



2005 National Finalist, Jesus Damian, grade 1, Atlanta



2004 National Finalist, Amanda Baron, grade 2, Roswell

To find more Project WET  
workshops visit  
[EEinGeorgia.org](http://EEinGeorgia.org)

[TOP](#)



2003 Grand Prize Winner, Kristen Van Liew, grade 12, Atlanta



2002 Grand Prize Winner, Elizabeth Sheridan Smith, gr. 12, Atlanta



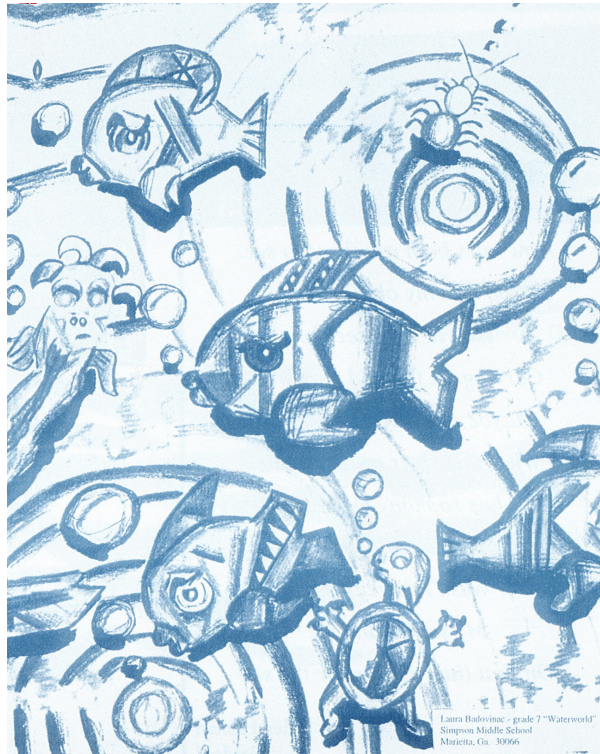
2001 Grand Prize Winner, Crystal Love, grade 11, Avondale Est.



2000 Grand Prize Winner, Eon Justin Hatter, grade 10, Avondale Est.



1999 Grand Prize Winner, Angela Giles, grade 12, Avondale Est.



1998 National Finalist, Laura Badovinac, grade 7, Marietta



1997 Grand Prize Winner, Emily Forbes, Kindergarten, Kennesaw

**Our first national winner in our first year!**

See more at [ProjectWET.Georgia.gov](http://ProjectWET.Georgia.gov)



**This year's winners!** 32 Georgia art and 20 Georgia poetry winners were selected by State judges this year. Each of the students and their teachers were honored at the 2016 Georgia River of Words Awards Ceremony held at the Decatur library earlier this month. Congratulations to all of the winners in this year's contest!

See the winning entries [here](#).

Get your students involved next year!

The deadline for entries is February 1. Complete rules and forms available on [ProjectWET.Georgia.gov](http://ProjectWET.Georgia.gov)



With great pride we announce our:

**1. 2016 Project WET School of the Year--**

- The Environmental & Heritage Center, Buford

**2. 2016 Project WET Educator of the Year--**

- Dr. Deborah Tippins, UGA professor of math and science education

**3. 2016 Project WET Facilitator of the Year--**

- Ruth Mead, Phinizy Center for Water Sciences in Augusta

Congratulations! These very special friends were honored at the EEA Conference in March.

Nominate someone you believe in:

[Nomination](#) (pdf form)



**Water We Singing About?**

Our colleague, the New Jersey Project WET coordinator, Kevin Kopp has produced a [CD of water education, kid-friendly songs](#). Each song is connected to a Project WET activity and are fun and easy to sing. They are available on CD or download on his site.



**Outdoor Learning Symposium registration now open!**

Join educators from around the state at the annual Outdoor Learning Symposium on Friday, October 14 at the SW Atlanta Christian Academy.

Registration and more information:

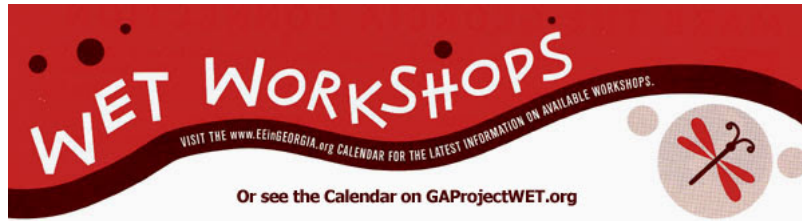
<http://www.eealliance.org/outdoor-learning-symposium>





### Save the Date: March 3-5

The Southeastern EE Association Annual Conference will be held here in Georgia this year at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford. Look for more information on [EEA's site](#).



Find more workshops on [EE in Georgia!](#)

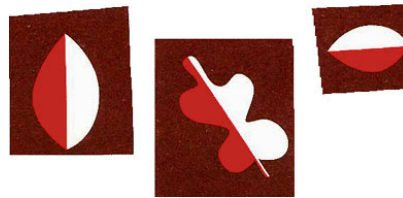
### Projects WET, WILD and Learning Tree Educator Workshop

Monday and Tuesday November 7-8, 2016  
8:00-5:00 each day

Fortson 4-H Center  
Hampton, GA

Full registration (includes all meals and 2 nights lodging): \$145  
One night registration (includes Monday meals and lodging and Tuesday breakfast and lunch): \$130  
Days only registration (includes Monday and Tuesday breakfast and lunch): \$115

For registration information, contact [Melanie Biersmith](#) at [706-484-2894](tel:706-484-2894).



Your Georgia Project WET Coordinators:

[Jo Adang](#)

[Monica Kilpatrick](#)

Georgia Project WET/River of Words

[Unsubscribe jadang117@gmail.com](mailto:jadang117@gmail.com) from this list.

Our mailing address is:  
Georgia Environmental Protection  
2 MLK Jr. Dr.  
Suite 1462  
Atlanta, GA 30334

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