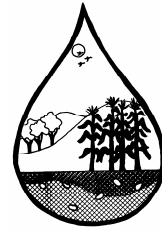


News from the

MERCER COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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MERCER COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT **ANNOUNCES CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

(HAMILTON) - The theme for the 2010 New Jersey Conservation Poster Contest was "*Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats.*" Students were challenged to create a poster that interprets this theme and its relevance to their everyday lives. Entries were judged by the Mercer County Soil Conservation District, and the contest winners are listed below.

"*Just a few simple changes can make a bigger difference in the environment than one would think,*" says Mimi Fang, a ninth grade student and second place winner from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South. Fang's poster illustrates a combination of simple conservation habits, "*For example, by using cloth shopping bags, reusable water containers and compact fluorescent light bulbs, we can reduce the pollution and energy used to make so much plastic.*" Other winning posters depict green energy alternatives, the varied habitats of New Jersey, and ocean animals enjoying a healthy ecosystem.

"*Kids have a lot to say; a poster contest is a good way for students to express themselves,*" says Ron Maurais, a third grade teacher at Grant School in Trenton. "*Students are able to provide a voice in their community and even help protect their environment,*" explains Maurais. "*Our class was able to combine our Science lessons with this activity. We learned about water, the ecosystem, evaporation and precipitation. Students were concerned about ground water and keeping our Earth healthy and clean. They understand that the small things they do can make a big impact for our environment.*" Two of Mr. Maurais' students earned prizes in this year's poster contest.

First and Second Place winners in each grade category receive \$100 and \$50 cash prizes, respectively. The First Place entries will be forwarded to the State level competition, with the potential to continue on to the National competition. The Conservation Poster Contest is sponsored by your local Soil Conservation District and the New Jersey Conservation Partnership, which includes the NJ Association of Conservation Districts, the NJ Department of Agriculture - State Soil Conservation Committee, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension. The Partnership's mission is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment.

Photos of the winning posters are posted at <http://mercerscd.org/education/contest.htm>. For details about next year's contest, call the Mercer County Soil Conservation District at (609) 586-9603.

2010 Poster Contest Winners

7th – 9th Grade

First Place: Yanjie Qiu, Grover Middle School, West Windsor

Second Place: Mimi Fang, West Windsor-Plainsboro HS South, West Windsor

4th – 6th Grade

First Place: Sophia Cai, Princeton Charter School, Princeton

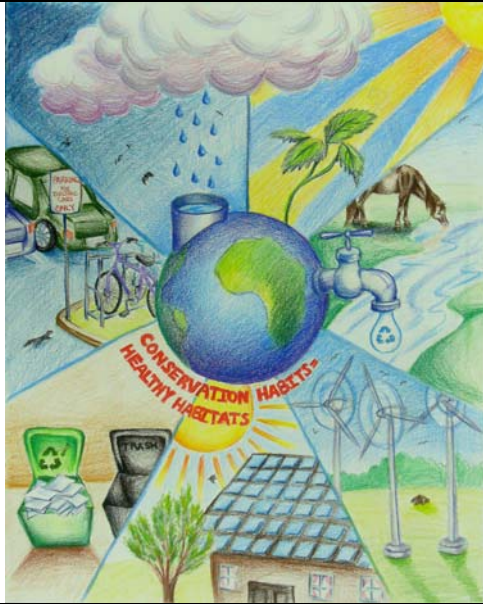
Second Place: Michelle Ancil, Timberlane Middle School, Pennington

2nd – 3rd Grade

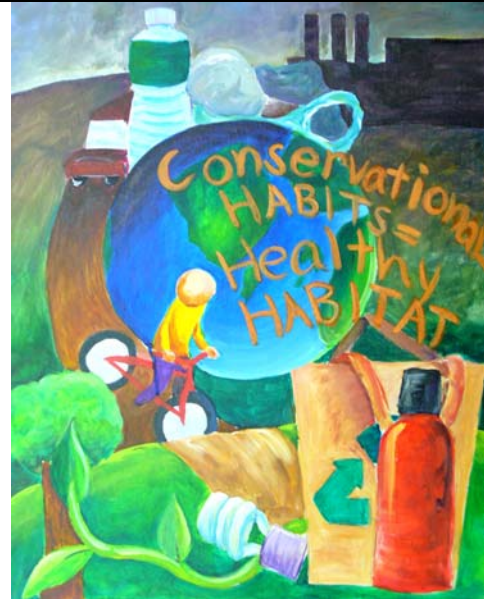
First Place: Bernabe Lugo, Grant Elementary School, Trenton

Second Place: Angel Chaj, Grant Elementary School, Trenton

2010 Mercer County Conservation Poster Contest Winners



7th – 9th Grade, First Place: Yanjie Qiu, Grover Middle School, Princeton Junction



7th – 9th Grade, Second Place: Mimi Fang, West Windsor-Plainsboro HS South, Princeton Junction



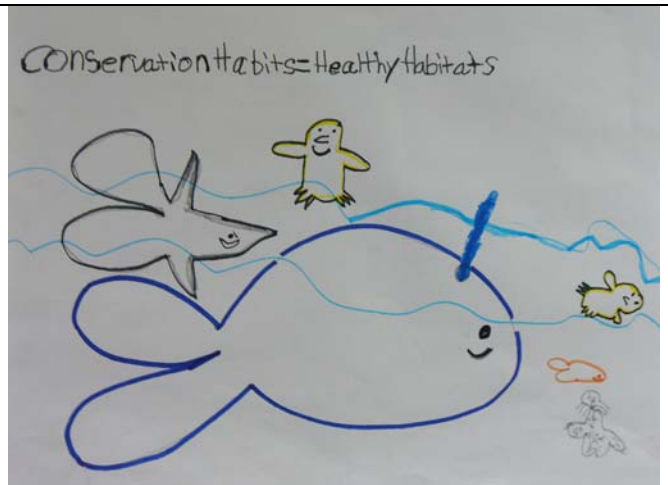
4th – 6th Grade, First Place: Sophia Cai, Princeton Charter School, Princeton



4th – 6th Grade, Second Place: Michelle Ancil, Timberlane Middle School, Pennington



2nd – 3rd Grade, First Place: Bernabe Lugo, Grant Elementary School, Trenton



2nd – 3rd Grade, Second Place: Angel Chaj, Grant Elementary School, Trenton

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