



Wildlife Forever Announces the Winners of the 2021 Fish Art Contest

For Immediate Release:

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WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN – Wildlife Forever and *Title Sponsor* [Bass Pro Shops](#) are proud to announce the [winners](#) of the **2021 Art of Conservation® Fish Art Contest™**. A distinguished panel of judges selected winners from over 4,000 entries received from 48 states and 43 international countries. For many students, the Fish Art Contest is their first experience learning about fish and fishing. The Wildlife Forever contest was born from a child's idea 23 years ago and has since inspired more than 59,000 youth to create, learn, and become uniquely connected to the outdoors.

"Art helps to build the foundation for youth development. Through the Fish Art program, young people learn the value of our natural resources and their role in protecting it. The artwork this year was incredible, showcasing world-class talent and future conservation leaders," said Pat Conzemius, President and CEO of Wildlife Forever.

"Each year, we're inspired by the incredible artwork submitted by students from around the world for the Fish Art Contest," said Bob Ziehmer, Senior Director of Conservation at Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's. "Congratulations to the winners and all who participated in the 2021 contest. Thank you for sharing your talents and creativity with us, and we hope you will continue to find ways to share nature's beauty and the importance of conservation with others."

An international panel of distinguished judges utilized an innovative platform to help to select this year's winners. Artists competed for state, national and international recognition including several unique award categories including the *Guy Harvey Award*, *Migratory Fish Award*, *Invader Crusader Award*, and *Western Native Trout Award*. Participants also submitted essays eligible for state awards and the *Fish Habitat Writing Award*.

And the Winners are...

Best of Show Award

Sehyun Choi, Virginia, Atlantic Tarpon



Art of Conservation™ Award

Anissa Gao, New York, Rainbow Trout



National Winners

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade Division



First Place Lusia Gu, Massachusetts, Garibaldi

Second Place Edison Lee, Maryland

Third Place Lisa Hwang, Texas

4th-6th Grade Division



First Place Elaine Lin, Arizona, Largemouth Bass
Second Place Grace Cao, Texas
Third Place Emma Feng, Alabama

7th-9th Grade Division



First Place Anissa Gao, New York, Rainbow Trout
Second Place Seohyn Lee, Maryland
Third Place Yasmina Habib, Michigan

10th-12th Grade Division



First Place Sehyun Choi, Virginia, Atlantic Tarpon
Second Place Alana Yang, Washington
Third Place Jubilee Lin, Arizona

Guy Harvey Award

Sehyun Choi, Virginia, Atlantic Tarpon



Invader Crusader Award

Bill Park, North Carolina, Bighead Carp



Smile Award

Bohan Jin, Virginia, Garibaldi



Migratory Fish Award Winners

Kindergarten - 6th Grade Division



First Place Allie Kwon, Illinois, USA, Chinook Salmon

Second Place Christabella W. Gozali, Indonesia

Third Place Tongfei Karen Ji, Virginia, USA

7th - 12th Grade Division



First Place Jingyi "Alana" Yang, Washington, USA, Arctic Char

Second Place Allison Whittle, Missouri, USA

Third Place Andrew Han, California, USA

Western Native Trout Award Winners

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade Division



First Place David Jeong, Georgia, Westslope Cutthroat Trout

Second Place Katherine Zou, New Jersey

Third Place Hailey Kim, Virginia

4th - 6th Grade Division



First Place Seha Jeong, Texas, Colorado River Cutthroat Trout

Second Place Alexandra Huynh, Georgia

Third Place Celine Yin, Texas

7th - 9th Grade Division



First Place Alice Won, Texas, Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout

Second Place Shi Dong, California

Third Place Alexandros Lamarinis, New Jersey

10th - 12th Grade Division



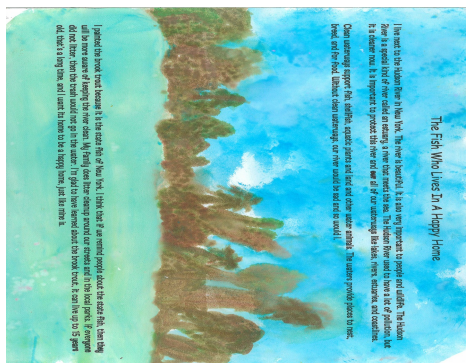
First Place Jingyi "Alana" Yang, Washington, Arctic Char

Second Place Celine Min, Washington

Third Place Cindy Zhou, California

Fish Habitat Writing Award Winners

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade Division



First Place Rebecca Rose, New York

Second Place Gracelynn Mehta, New Hampshire

Third Place Claire Chou, Oregon

4th - 6th Grade Division

Hello!

My name is Henry and I would like to share with you a few facts about me and my species, the California Golden Trout.

My scientific name is *oncorhynchus aguabonita*. Personally, I think my scientific name is a bit long so my friends just call me Henry.

I take great pride in having the most beautiful golden and green scales and blue-grey dots on my fins and tale. Some people say my species is the most beautiful of all the trout types – and I agree! Californians decided we were so magnificent that they made us the official state fish in 1947.

Biologists are very concerned about my species here in the upper Kern River in the Sierra Nevada. This is our home but we face a growing danger. Too many cows and sheep liked to graze near our rivers and they ate too many shady trees and bushes. Our water got too warm and my neighbors got nervous in the warm water and the trout stopped breeding.

New protections have been made in the Golden Trout Wilderness, where we live, so that our river stays shaded and cool.

Conservationists also created waterfalls to keep other types of trout out of our river so that Golden Trout stay golden forever!

The kind people at the Fish and Wildlife Service help to protect me, and you can too, by always recycling and never leaving garbage on the street – because the garbage washes into our river and the oceans too.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about my species, the California Golden Trout. I have to swim off now as I seem to have lost my top hat – and I know it's here somewhere!

Sincerely,
Henry

First Place William Snyder, California
Second Place Madeline Male, Kansas
Third Place Alyssa Zhang, Pennsylvania

7th - 9th Grade Division

Christian Yao
Grade 7
California

Water Means Life

Water is a necessity of life. Without a healthy source of water, we could not grow food to eat, engage in water sports to keep our minds and bodies healthy, or stay alive for long periods of time due to the effects of dehydration. Protecting Earth's water and keeping it healthy really equates to protecting ourselves and keeping our own bodies healthy. Unfortunately, chemicals and waste which have accumulated in our waters, as well as human land development, have degraded many bodies of water that are vital to human and animal life.

Keeping our waters clean and safe is a matter that deserves focused attention. Protecting our lakes, rivers, estuaries, and coastlines is of vital importance because these bodies of water are homes to many species of animals, provide humans with drinking water and food, and give rise to recreational activities for many people.

To start, because humans share our world with many other living creatures, it is our responsibility to not harm the habitat of other living things. It is important to keep aquatic habitats healthy for the many animals that live within or depend on these habitats. These animals include all forms of aquatic life such as fish, amphibians, and shellfish. With unhealthy aquatic habitats, not only do these species suffer, but wildlife that depend on these species as a source of food, such as birds and bears, would also be negatively impacted. Moreover, a healthy habitat means more biodiversity which means humans can enjoy more of nature whether through sport or simple observation.

Secondly, preserving our lakes, rivers, estuaries, and coastlines is important because these bodies of water provide us with food and drinking water. Many people who live in cities get their drinking water from water companies that pump their water from lakes or rivers. If these sources of water were more polluted, it would take more time and resources to make this water safe to drink. Some degree of contamination inevitably remains, entering our bodies which can lead to short term symptoms and long-term health effects. Also, although we don't usually think of coastline or seawater as drinking water since it is so salty, coastline water is part of the water cycle, and some of it eventually becomes drinking water. In addition to keeping us hydrated, these bodies of water serve as a large source of food. The waters provide us with many species of fish that we can not only eat but enjoy eating. In addition to fish, other sources of food provided by these waters are shellfish, algae, and seaweed. Healthy water from lakes and rivers is also essential to grow food crops.

Thirdly, it is important to protect our lakes, oceans, estuaries, and coastlines so that we can continue to enjoy the many recreational activities that depend on these bodies of water. Imagine swimming in a lake that is a brew of chemicals, plastics, and prescription drugs that have made their way there from human activity. It is not only uninviting but repulsive. Imagine fishing in the river and either being unsuccessful because most of the fish have died or catching a mutant fish from the effects of antibiotics that have polluted the waters. This recreational activity would be much less appealing. Other activities that depend on healthy waters include but are not limited to canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling, surfing, and rafting. Participating in these activities keeps our bodies and minds healthy through exercise, fresh air, and exposure to nature. In order to continue enjoying these nourishing activities, we need to keep our waters clean and healthy.

Our lakes, oceans, estuaries, and coastlines are crucial to the life and health of humans and wildlife alike. We should not take these indispensable bodies of water for granted. If we all do our part to protect these bodies of water, they can continue to be a source of life, health, and recreation for generations to come.

First Place Christian Yao, California
Second Place Kira Hamilton, Minnesota
Third Place Chris Han, Georgia

10th - 12th Grade Division

Jingyi Yang (Alana) 杨婧怡 : 11 华盛顿州
Why do you think it is important to protect our lakes, rivers, estuaries, and coastlines?

Water is everywhere: from the kitchen sink to the bottom of the ocean. The interconnection of our water systems ensures pollution of any part could quickly evolve into more severe problems on a greater scale. That's why it is so important to protect our lakes, rivers, estuaries, and coastlines, which not only ensures the health and well-being of all organisms but also contributes to the preservation of cultures.

Clean water is vital to our health; in fact, all living organisms rely on water. This is especially true for the life forms that live in the water. Through bioaccumulation, the gradual build-up of harmful substances in an organism, and biomagnification, the movement of toxins moving up the food chain, our pollution to the waters impacts virtually every part of our ecosystem. Especially with the rise of global warming, air pollution, soil runoff, toxic metals and substances, etc., it is now more critical than ever to protect the water that nurtures us.

Our civilizations also started with water. Early societies mainly settled along rivers and water-bodies because of the numerous benefits such as food source and transportation. Later, water connected our world, mixing people, goods, ideas, and cultures. Cleaning waterways also has other benefits like supporting our economy and tourism. If we want to preserve our cultures for the next generation, we need to ensure that these water bodies are protected.

How, you may ask, should we, as ordinary people, preserve our water? While governmental actions like setting sustainability limits, creating animal conservation programs, assessing and improving water quality, and much more, there are more that we can do. By actively using less water, taking care of runoffs, properly disposing of chemicals and medicine, you and I can contribute. Let's not only do it for ourselves but also for the future generations and those who share the same home as we do.

First Place Jingyi "Alana" Yang, Washington
Second Place Xiao Jun Dong, Oregon
Third Place Alexis Lightner, West Virginia

View all the winning artwork and essays at [FishArt.org](https://www.fishart.org) Digital images are available upon request.

About the Fish Art Contest: The award-winning Wildlife Forever Fish Art™ Contest, with support from *Title Sponsor* Bass Pro Shops, the USDA Forest Service and Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, brings children, art and aquatic conservation together! The annual contest reaches thousands of youth each year. New distance learning resources allow students to participate from home or classroom and complement a wide array of educational programming. **To enter**, young artists create an original illustration of any fish from the Official Fish list and written words detailing its habitat, and efforts to conserve it. Entries are categorized in four grade levels: K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Educators nationwide utilize *Fish On!*, the full-color Fish Art Lesson Plan, integrating the disciplines of science and art. Entries are due postmarked or emailed by March 31st each year.
www.fishart.org.

About Wildlife Forever: Our mission is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife. Wildlife Forever is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to investing resources on the ground. Recent audits reveal that 94% of every dollar supports our award-winning conservation programs. **Please, Join Today** and learn more about the Fish Art Contest®, Clean Drain Dry Initiative™ and Prairie City USA® at www.WildlifeForever.org.

About Bass Pro Shops®: [Bass Pro Shops](https://www.bassproshops.com) is North America's premier outdoor and conservation company. Founded in 1972 when avid young angler Johnny Morris began selling tackle out of his father's liquor store in Springfield, Missouri, today the company provides customers with unmatched offerings spanning premier destination retail, outdoor equipment manufacturing, world-class resort destinations and more. In 2017 Bass Pro Shops acquired Cabela's to create a "best-of-the-best" experience with superior products, dynamic locations and outstanding customer service. Bass Pro Shops also operates White River Marine Group, offering an unsurpassed collection of industry-leading boat brands, and Big Cedar Lodge, America's Premier Wilderness Resort. Under the visionary conservation leadership of Johnny Morris, Bass Pro Shops is a national leader in protecting habitat and introducing families to the outdoors and has been named by Forbes as "one of America's Best Employers."

About the USDA Forest Service: The USDA Forest Service is a multi-faceted agency that manages and protects 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 43 states and Puerto Rico. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Learn more about the Forest Service fisheries program at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fish-wildlife-plants/fisheries-program>



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