



VILAS COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2006

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2006 Land & Water Conservation and Environmental Awareness Speaking Contest winners

Northland Pines Middle School 5th and 6th graders from Ms. Dar Kadulski's class [Language Arts 6], and twelve 7th and 8th grade students from Mrs. Laura Weber's class [Communications 7 & 8], participated in the *2006 Vilas County Conservation and Environmental Awareness Speaking Contest* this October. On Thursday, October 19th, at the Northland Pines Middle School, these eighteen students competed in the final judging event for the speaking contest. The purpose of the contest is to heighten students' environmental awareness and understanding for the conservation of natural resources such as soil, water, energy, air, minerals, wildlife, and forests. The event is also an opportunity for students to hone their presentation skills and practice the art of public speaking. The speaking contest is sponsored by the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Committee working with the UW-Extension youth development agent Nancy Anne Livingston and local teachers.

2006 participants spoke on topics ranging from littering, forest management, ATV's on state land, to wildlife subjects on West Nile virus, CWD, lyme disease, *Blastomycosis*, Wisconsin deer populations, and timber wolves, to environmental themes exploring global warming, recycling, air pollution, and renewable resources. Judges for the event were impressed with the organization of the speeches and by the overall high quality of the student presentations.

"The students had speeches that were well-crafted from beginning to end, and loaded with interesting information about their topic; hats off to the students and teachers for their hard work and commitment to learning about wildlife and environmental issues important to Vilas County and beyond," said one judge, Mariquita Sheehan, from Phelps. "The students did an exceptional job with their speeches; every student should be congratulated for their effort," said Carolyn Scholl, another judge who helped with the event from the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department. Speeches were given in two divisions - the elementary division (grades 5 and 6) and the junior division (grades 7 and 8). Trophies were awarded to the top three students in each division. Certificates and pins were presented to everyone who took part in the event.

Sixth grade students involved in the elementary division speaking contest included: Amanda Baneck, Brandon Wallace, Dan Finke, Ally Alft, Kyla Pobjoy, and Amber Cato. Seventh and eighth grade students who competed in the junior high division included: Helen Chang, Lucas Ferber, Tiffany McFarland, Taylor Neis, Samantha Pusateri, Courtney Weber, Samantha Bybee, Destry Bunnell, Lindsey Janklow, Kathryn Hoffman, Luke Gober, and Jenna Quinn.

In the elementary division, first place was awarded to Abby Alft for her speech entitled *"What kind of litter bug are you?"*; Amanda Baneck earned second place for her speech examining lyme disease entitled *"What does lyme disease mean to you?"*; and third place went to Brandon Wallace for his speech called *"Don't bite me, infected mosquito!"*. First place in the junior division went to Helen Chang for her speech focusing on baiting deer entitled *"Baiting deer in Wisconsin"*; second place went to Destry Bunnell for her speech reviewing human impacts to wildlife entitled *"Human effects on wildlife populations"*; and Tiffany McFarland placed third for her speech entitled *"Blastomycosis"* which analyzed a serious problem here in the Northwoods.

The first-place winners in each division advanced to the area speaking competition held at the Wausau School Forest on October 26th, 2006. The area contest includes conservation speech winners from ten other counties in the North Central region of Wisconsin. Abby Alft finished second at the area contest in the elementary division while Helen Chang finished third in the junior division area contest. Both students did an exceptional job representing Northland Pines Middle School and Vilas County at the event.

Anyone interested in additional information about the speaking contest can contact Patrick Goggin, county conservationist with the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, via e-mail < pagogg@co.vilas.wi.us > or by telephone at (715)-479-3747.

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Pictured from (l) to (r) are the winners of the elementary division: Brandon Wallace (third place); Abby Alft (first place); and Amanda Baneck (second place).



Sixth grade students involved in the elementary division speaking contest included: Amanda Baneck, Brandon Wallace, Dan Finke, Ally Alft, Kyla Pobjoy, Amber Cato, and their teacher Ms. Dar Kadulski.



Pictured from (l) to (r) are the winners of the junior division:
Destry Bunnell (second place); Helen Chang (first place); and Tiffany McFarland (third place).



Seventh and eighth grade students who competed in the junior high division included:
Helen Chang, Luke Gober, Destry Bunnell, Lucas Ferber, Tiffany McFarland, Courtney Weber, Samantha Bybee,
Lindsey Janklow, Kathryn Hoffman and Jenna Quinn with judge Patrick Goggin-Vilas County LWCD--
[Taylor Neis and Samantha Pusateri are not pictured]. The photo was taken by their teacher Mrs. Laura Weber.