

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009

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Winning Contests and Influencing Policy IPP Announces Water Essay, Photo Winners

IOWA CITY, Iowa (Jan. 22, 2009) — Iowa's water quality has the spotlight and nine winners have the honors in an essay and photo contest sponsored by the nonpartisan Iowa Policy Project (IPP).

The contest attracted original work in three categories — long essays, short essays/poetry, and photography — coinciding with a year in which flood disasters heightened attention on water-quality issues.

IPP is exhibiting the winning entries, and selected others, on its website, www.IowaPolicyProject.org, and in a 2009 calendar designed by University of Iowa graduate Thomas Fullmer.

“As we said in announcing this contest last spring, Iowans' livelihoods and recreation depend on our water, and many Iowans have strong memories and emotions associated with our water,” said Teresa Galluzzo, an IPP research associate who focuses on environmental and energy issues.

“This contest produced the result we'd hoped for, understanding the importance of Iowa's water resources in the words of those who live with it. We received tremendous submissions of prose and photography to enhance our appreciation of Iowa's water. These perspectives need to be part of the discussion in our debates on water-quality policy.”

Cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 were awarded for first, second and third place in the three categories: written submissions of fewer than 500 words, writing for between 500 and 1,000 words, and black-and-white photography.

First-place winners were: John Pearson, Indianola, long essay, for a story mixing natural history and adventure with a tragic tale of environmental degradation; Steve Rose, Indianola, short essay, for a poem about fishing on a summer evening; and Stacy Schlader, Lancaster, Mo., photography, for a close-up photo of dew droplets on a Grey-headed Coneflower, one of Iowa's native prairie species.

Second-place winners: Laura Julier, Lansing, Mich., long essay, about birds and other wildlife along the Iowa River and changes in that river over the decades; Jennifer Huffman, Des Moines, short essay, about the role of water in an individual's life and the volatile nature of water; and Clark Colby, Urbandale, photo, of a creek running through a pasture north of Waukee.

Third-place winners: Jim Riggs, Urbandale, long essay, remembrances and observations about changes in water quality from a lifelong paddler; Phyllis Goodman, Des Moines, short essay, a humorous account of a harrowing float trip; and Dan Givens, Iowa City, photo, of cormorants perched on a dead tree in the Hawkeye Wildlife Refuge, photo taken from a kayak.

To view and read the winning entries, visit <<http://www.IowaPolicyProject.org/2009docs/090115-watercontest.pdf>>.

The Iowa Policy Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research and policy analysis organization based in Mount Vernon, with its principal office in Iowa City. IPP reports on job and income trends, budget and tax issues, and energy and environmental policy are available at <<http://www.IowaPolicyProject.org>>.

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