

ART



LILLY CENTER FOR
**LAKES
& STREAMS**



FEATURING 4-12 GRADE ART FROM AROUND KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

ISSUE II: FALL 2026

CONTEST



WATER THROUGH THE SEASONS

Hands-on education really means **hands-on** at the Lilly Center. While the majority of students' experiences take place outside in a wetland or in a lab with microscopes, learning also engages the right side of the brain.

Through the Art Contest, Kosciusko County students in grades 4 through 12 create a work of art related to local lakes and streams. This year, young artists depicted **Water through the Seasons**. Many explored the various changes that occur in our lakes through the transitional seasons of spring and fall.

Caleb Handy's piece (pictured left) titled "What a Wonderful Day..." illustrates the effect nature has on him. He said, "I wanted to present the idea of getting done for the day, forgetting everything bad that happened, and resetting for the next one."

Others used vibrant colors and striking compositions to highlight the **stunning beauty** of summer in Indiana. Each artist's description invites the viewer into a fuller appreciation of their chosen season.

May this art magazine **inspire you** to look at the ecosystems around you in a new light! •

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COVER: "Where the Cattails Grow" by Whitko High School 9th-grader, Kate Long.

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CELEBRATING *YOUNG ARTISTS*

This spring, Art Contest winners gathered at the Lilly Center to share their artwork and interact with other artists.

Lillian Walker, pictured above, is a 6th grader who attends Lakeland Christian Academy. During the reception, Lillian shared about the inspiration for her piece, titled

“The Duckling’s First Swim.”

“I chose ducks because I think they are very beautiful,” Lillian explained. “I learned that water changes throughout seasons and that animals adapt to the conditions of the environment.”

Through art, students in Kosciusko County deepen their

appreciation for the world around them and share that inspiration with their school and their community. Turn to the next page to see Lillian’s art piece! •

Visit lakes.grace.edu to see more award-winning artwork and how you can support programs like the Art Contest at the Lilly Center.

2026 WINNERS

4-5-6th:

Claire Lindquist
Bridgette Mast
Lillian Walker

7-8th:

Laura McCullough
Caleb Handy
Nayomee Smith

9-10th:

Kate Long
Breawynn Neer
Elyse Engle

11-12th:

Hannah Moore
Julia Stover
Alena Hindbaugh

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Edgewood Middle
School

Homeschool

Lakeland Christian
Academy

Lakeview Middle
School

Pierceton Elementary

Warsaw Community
High School

Wawasee High
School

Whitko High School

1st**Flying Through Time and the Seasons**

Claire Lindquist

6th Grade

Homeschool/Lakeland Christian Academy

SEASONAL CRITTERS

4th, 5th & 6th Grades

Artist Description: *Flying Through Time and the Seasons*

This painting was inspired by my love for the seasons. I thought it would be cool to show how lakes change through them, and, as always, the blue heron is also here, flying through the seasons with grace. I put a lot of time and effort into this, and I am proud of my achievements.

Artist Description: *Spring Peeper*

In the spring and summer I can hear spring peepers in the back of my woods and it soothes me. Spring peepers are frogs that have come out of hibernation, which is crazy because frogs actually hibernate. I love frogs because they're so green, slimy, and their eyes are so big with their golden specks. So that's why I drew a spring peeper.

Artist Description: *The Duckling's First Swim*

I drew ducks because I love animals. I love to look at the outdoors and all of the different birds and plants that are outside. I love all of God's amazing creation, and ducks are part of it. I also think that birds, especially ducks, are very cute. Someday I dream to live in the woods and live by a pond.

Artist descriptions are edited for clarity and length.



2nd

Spring Peeper

Bridgette Mast
6th Grade
Lakeland Christian Academy



3rd

The Duckling's First Swim

Lillian Walker
6th Grade
Lakeland Christian Academy





1st

Leaves & Streams

Laura McCullough
8th Grade
Lakeview Middle School

NATURAL BEAUTY

7th & 8th Grades

Artist Description: *Leaves & Streams*

I drew a stream at my friends house during the fall because it is quiet and peaceful there. I used watercolor pencils for my project. The watercolor provided a subtle, almost dull, background, base color for the bright and vibrant colored pencils to add detail. My art piece relates to the theme, "water through the seasons" because it shows my favorite streams in Kosciusko County during my season of the year. I layered paints to create value in my piece and used colored pencils to smooth out the blending and add even more details.

Artist Description: *What a Wonderful Day...*

My art piece was inspired by one of my favorite photos I took on Lake Tippecanoe. It is supposed to give off a sense of relaxation and peacefulness. Acrylic was my main choice because it makes me relax. My main goal of my art piece is to make the viewer immersed into the scene itself, muttering to themselves, "what a wonderful day," as they glance and reflect over the time spent and amazing moments created during the day. My goal is to help the viewer reflect and find the good side of life, instead of only taking in the negatives.

Artist Description: *Spring Blossoming*

I chose to paint this because spring is here. These flowers bloom late spring-early fall. Though this isn't through many seasons it is throughout many months (May-Oct). I chose this water lily to paint because I feel it had a lot of challenges, but I was very excited to finish this painting. I also chose paint because I have achieved many paintings that turned out well.

Artist descriptions are edited for clarity and length.

2nd

What a Wonderful Day...

Caleb Handy
8th Grade
Lakeview Middle School



3rd

Spring Blossoming

Nayomee Smith
8th Grade
Lakeview Middle School





1st

Where the Cattails Grow

Kate Long
9th Grade
Whitko High School

NATURE IN FOCUS

9th & 10th Grades

Artist Description: *Where the Cattails Grow*

For this piece, I chose to focus on a quiet moment in an Indiana wetland — a raccoon standing in the water surrounded by cattails. I wanted to showcase how water can support life in many ways. Even when the water looks still, it is full of energy. The raccoon represents the wildlife that depends on these wetlands throughout the seasons. Our wetlands are fragile; when protecting our water, it connects us all. The future is in our hands, so let's make it count.

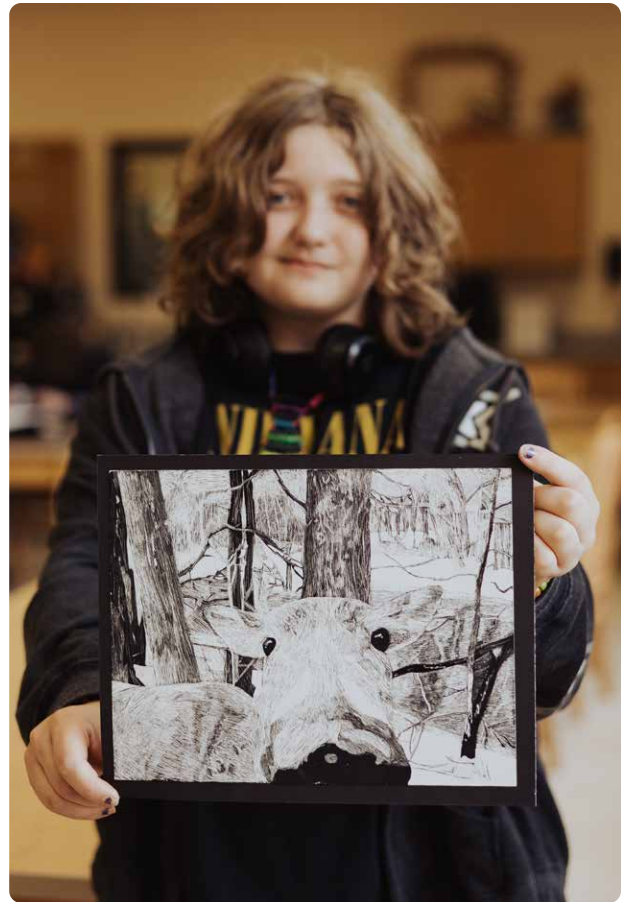
Artist Description: *Golden Silence*

My piece is a hooded Merganser duck swimming in a lake during spring with a sunset behind it. Ducks used to come into my backyard when I was a kid. The water also reminds me of summer, when I used to swim in my Grammy's pool during golden hour. I hope that when people see my piece, they feel calm because of the soothing waters and the peace of the sunset. I hope that they realize how important the environment is for all animals, not just ducks.

Artist Description: *Hello, Camera!*

I drew a deer smelling a trail camera in front of a river a few days after the snow. I drew this because I really enjoy showing how silly deer can be and how woods look during the wintertime. It also reminds me of my grandparents' woods that I walk in all the time. It ties into the theme because white-tailed deer mess around all the time in Indiana. I hope people looking at my art piece see the silly side of deer that we need to protect by keeping our waterways clean.

Artist descriptions are edited for clarity and length.



2nd

Golden Silence

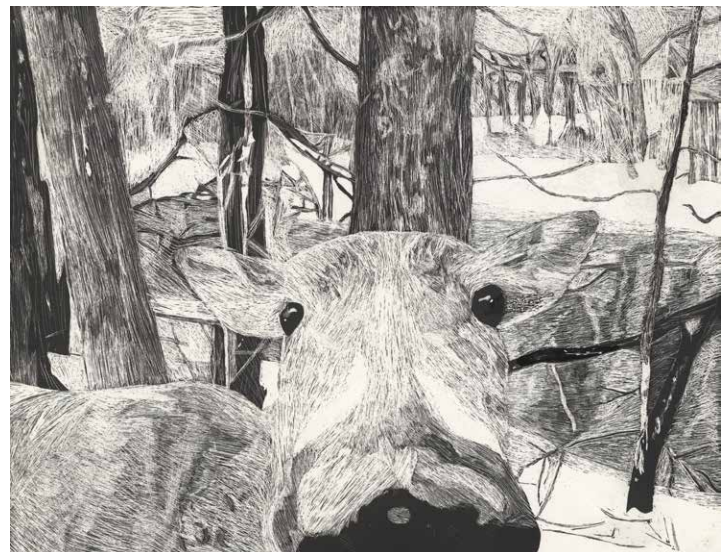
Breawynn Neer
9th Grade
Whitko High School



3rd

Hello, Camera!

Elyse Engle
9th Grade
Whitko High School



1st**Steady through the Seasons**

Hannah Moore
12th Grade
Whitko High School

STRIKING COLORS

11th & 12th Grades

Artist Description: *Steady through the Seasons*

I created a peaceful lake at sunset with a small boat resting on the waters. I wanted to show how lakes and streams stay steady through the season. The colorful sky reflects on the water to represent those changes, while the lake continues to give life and support nature. The waters and sky give me a sense of peace and calm that you only find in the outdoors. Our lakes and streams are worth protecting. Once they're gone, their beauty and life can't be replaced.

Artist Description: *Misty Morning*

Sandhill cranes remind me of the past because their call sounds almost prehistoric. I love to hear them flying overhead and see their majestic wingspan as they fly from the marshland behind my house. Sometimes we pull to the side of the road when we see a large flock in a field just because they are so beautiful. I hope one day we have as many as Jasper County during fall migration. I love these birds!

Artist Description: *Spring Beauty*

I created a yellow swallowtail butterfly resting on pink phlox flowers during a peaceful evening at the lake. Soft pastel colors and a distinct focal point draw attention to the calm environment and highlight the season of spring. Spring is a time when the dull winter colors gradually turn into bright summer colors. Swallowtail butterflies represent a time of new beginnings and transformation, reflecting the transformation of winter to spring. Simple things carry more beauty than people realize; they just have to slow down and open their eyes.

Artist descriptions are edited for clarity and length.

2nd

Misty Morning

Julia Stover
11th Grade
Wawasee High School



3rd

Spring Beauty

Alena Hindbaugh
12th Grade
Whitko High School





LILLY CENTER FOR
**LAKES
& STREAMS**

GRACE
COLLEGE

OUR MISSION & VISION

The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams conducts research, provides resources, engages and educates residents, and collaborates with local organizations to make the lakes and streams of Kosciusko County clean, healthy, safe, and beautiful.

THE LILLY CENTER FOR LAKES & STREAMS

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