

Washington State Federal Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit on Display at Centralia College

Centralia College is hosting the 2014 Washington State Federal Junior Duck Stamp exhibit in Washington Hall through the first week of May.

Displayed by Centralians Bryn and JoAnne Watson and Bob and Karen McInturff, the 36 winning entries feature the original artwork of K-12 students from art academies and schools throughout Washington.

The Watsons, who have long been involved in wildlife art competitions, initiated the traveling Junior Duck Stamp exhibit in Washington about four years ago.

"When we asked what happened to the artwork after the contest, we found out that the winning entries were not displayed anywhere," said JoAnne Watson.

With a vision to see the beautiful artwork showcased across the state, the Watsons suggested a traveling exhibit. Excited by the idea, the Friends of Nisqually helped purchase frames to display two complete sets of copies of the winning artwork.

After finding suitable places to host the art show each year, the couple hit the road, taking the pictures with them to various locations around the state where the winning artwork is displayed and admired for about one month before moving on. The exhibit just arrived at Centralia College after being on display at Maryhill Museum, Goldendale.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest for Washington state is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and held at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge every March. The overall winning Best of Show piece will be sent to Washington, D.C., to compete with other state winners for the U.S. Federal Junior Duck Stamp. The purpose of this program is to help students K-12 learn about habitat conservation through art education.