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10/26/11

**NEWS RELEASE – “MANATEE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN ART AWARDS”**

Fourteen Manatee Middle School (MMS) students won top awards at the state level in this year’s Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition. This program is a great way for students to learn about refuges and wildlife while displaying their artistic abilities. Each year, only 100 awards are given in Florida. Winning students were recognized at a ceremony at the J. N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge on October 22. Congratulations to the following students and to their art teacher Jennifer Johannes.

**First Place:** Miche Andre  
Lindsay Tindell

**Second Place:** Zaira Garcia  
Ricky Ortiz

**Third Place:** Marisol Lugo

**Honorable Mention:** Yilliane Gonzalez  
Nayeli Lopez  
Johann Charelus  
Cynthia Valdez  
Ricky Ortiz  
Melissa Rodriguez  
Endi Chavez  
Aurora Medellin  
Amerinda Amicy

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program (JDS) is an arts curriculum that teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. The program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into a visual arts curriculum with participants completing a JDS design as their visual “term papers”. The competition is an excellent example of art and science integration.

To learn more, contact Collier County Public School’s Fine Arts Coordinator Linda Cummings at 377-0087.