



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDMR Awards Young Marine Scientists for Excellence

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) presented five local students with the MDMR Excellence in Marine Sciences Award at the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair held Feb. 29, 2012, at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum. This is the 16th year the MDMR has sponsored the award.

The MDMR's Excellence in Marine Sciences Award was established to encourage local students to develop research projects involving Mississippi's coastal resources. With this award, the MDMR hopes to encourage students to identify and find solutions to the Coast's environmental problems. Each winner received a certificate and monetary award.

"The winners of the younger classes each receive \$100. The older winners each get \$200, because they will most likely be advancing to the state competition. The extra money will enable them to enhance their exhibits, so they will have a better chance of winning at that next level of competition," said Jennifer Buchanan, education coordinator for the MDMR/Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Class I entries represent students in grades kindergarten through three; Class II, grades four through six; Class III, grades seven and eight; Class IV, grades nine and ten; and Class V; grades eleven and twelve.

Winners of the 2012 MDMR Excellence in Marine Sciences Award, in order of class:

- **Carter Lee**, 3rd grade, Magnolia Park Elementary, for "Home Sweet Home, Creating a Marine Habitat," Class I entry, \$100.
- **John Michael Miller**, 5th grade, Anniston Elementary, for "Dawn vs. Cheer When Cleaning Oil from Birds," Class II entry, \$100.
- **Taylor Farr**, 8th grade, D'Iberville Middle, "Goo Be Gone, Cleaning Up Oil Spills," Class III entry, \$200.
- **Elizabeth Moore**, 10th grade, Ocean Springs High, "Bio Monitoring Weeks Bayou Watershed," Class IV entry, \$200.
- **Morgan Hertz**, 12th grade, St. Patrick High, "Effectiveness of Aquatic Phytoremediation of Stormwater," Class V entry, \$200.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the MDMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Photos Courtesy of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS:



PHOTO A: These students received the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Excellence in Marine Sciences Award at the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair. From left to right: Morgan Hertz, Class V; Elizabeth Moore, Class IV; Taylor Farr, Class III. Each student received \$200 to enable them to enhance their exhibits for the next level of competition.



PHOTO B: John Michael Miller won the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (MDMR) Excellence in Marine Sciences Award that includes \$100 at the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair for the Class II entry level. He is pictured with Jennifer Buchanan education coordinator for the MDMR/Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.



PHOTO C: Carter Lee won the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (MDMR) Excellence in Marine Sciences Award that includes \$100 at the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair for the Class I entry level. He is pictured with Jennifer Buchanan education coordinator for the MDMR/Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

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