



---

**CONTACT:**  
Kelley O'Brien 404.463.3259  
or  
Grace Trimble 404.463.3192

## Fulton County Student Wins Water Essay Contest

Ricky Moore, a student at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, is the Fulton county winner and second runner up overall in the third annual water conservation and preservation essay contest, sponsored by the Clean Water Campaign and the waterSmart program. Moore is an eighth grader in Mrs. Rast's class. **Commissioner William "Bill" Edwards, District 7 and Mayor Alan Hallman** presented his award on **Friday, November 5, 2004**.

Mayor Hallman began the award presentation by saying, "We think that protecting streams & water quality is very important. In Hapeville, none of our streams is on the state's list of poor water quality streams." He added that, "I am glad to know that water conservation and pollution prevention are also important to young people."

"What you do at home and at school makes a difference in whether our streams are clean or polluted," said Commissioner Edwards. "When you pick up your litter and trash, you help us have clean water in Hapeville and Fulton County," he said. "When you turn off the water while you brush your teeth, you help make sure there is enough water for all of us."

Commissioner Edwards and Mayor Hallman presented a poster and certificate to Moore in a presentation in front of the school.

The annual essay contest is held to encourage children and parents to address the growing need to improve water quality and conservation efforts in Georgia. Students researched and shared their thoughts on why conserving water and preventing water pollution is important for the future of their river, lakes and streams. The main goal of this program was to encourage students to create inventive solutions to water conservation and water quality in metro Atlanta.

"If everyone pitches in, we can have a cleaner, safer place to live, where water is valued for the very precious and essential thing that it is," Moore said in his winning essay. "Water conservation and protection starts with you and continues every day; if your community can do it, then so can Georgia. When we protect the water, we are also protecting our future."

The contest was open to sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Winners were selected in each county and an overall winner was selected from the county winners. County winners were awarded a Clean Water Campaign / waterSmart certificate given by their respective elected official at an award presentation. To view the essays go to the Campaign's website ([www.cleanwatercampaign.com](http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com)) and click on the essay contest link. The contest is only offered for middle school students because their science classes offer in-depth curriculum on water quality and quantity.

In honor of the essay contest, Governor Sonny Purdue declared the month of October 2004 as WATERSMART MONTH in a proclamation given to the Campaigns. In the proclamation, he said, "I encourage all citizens to promote the importance of year-round water conservation and pollution prevention for the future of Georgia's natural resources.



### **About the Clean Water Campaign**

The **Clean Water Campaign** is a cooperative, multi-agency public education initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta, supported by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the Atlanta region.

### **About waterSmart**

The **waterSmart** program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority to educate metro area residents about "state of the science" methods for conserving water while maintaining beautiful lawns and landscapes. waterSmart tips were developed in conjunction with the Georgia Water Wise Council and the Cobb County Extension Service.

# # #