



**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



June 20, 2014

Contact: Anne Smrcina, 781-545-8026 ext. 204 or 781-738-2242

### **Winners announced for annual student marine art contest**

Massachusetts Marine Educators (MME) and NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary have announced winners for the annual student marine art contest for 2014. The contest, with a theme of "Amazing Ocean Creatures of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary," attracted nearly 800 entries from students in grades K-12. The winning art will become part of a traveling exhibition that will tour the region starting this summer.

Sponsored by MME, the annual art contest offers categories for elementary school (grades K-4), middle school (grades 5-8), high school (grades 9-12), scientific/nature illustration (all grades), and computer graphics (all grades).

Judges for the contest include professional artists and graphic designers, scientists and marine policy specialists, and marine educators. Chief Judge was Tom Freeman, an acclaimed maritime artist, who has eight paintings hanging in the White House and now serves as artist-in-residence for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Co-sponsors for the contest include Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, New England Aquarium, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, and Whale and Dolphin Conservation. Although most entries came from Massachusetts schools or as individual entries from Massachusetts students, entries also were received from students in five other states.

Winning artwork will be posted on the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary website and will become part of a calendar that will be web published later this summer on the MME and Stellwagen sanctuary websites: <http://www.massmarineeducators.org> <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov>.

Top honors in the high school division went to Keegan Gilmore of Nauset Regional High School who won first place for his artwork showing a squid hunting pink shrimp. Second place went to Meghna Tunnala of Washtenau International High School in Ypsilanti, Michigan, for her work depicting green sea turtles. Emily Nickerson of Plymouth South High School took third place with a painting of a loon, while fourth place went to Greater Lawrence Technical School's Saiya Rivera for her illustration of a wolfish. Fifth place was awarded to Mary Negri of Falmouth High School for her minke whale woodcut. Daniel Xue of Marshall Simonds Middle School took the top honor in the Middle School Division along with the award for the best seabird art for his painting of a great shearwater. All of these works will become part of the touring exhibit; check the sanctuary website for dates and locations.

"I am constantly amazed at the quality of the artwork that is submitted each year," said contest director, Anne Smrcina, education coordinator for the Stellwagen Bank sanctuary and an MME member. "This contest is a way of challenging students to research and interpret these fascinating ocean creatures, and their artwork, when installed in the traveling exhibit, becomes a

means of educating the public about local marine life. Over the years this contest has grown remarkably in its scope and quality. We are all proud to be associated with this program and to encourage and support our budding young artists.”

MME will offer this contest again next year. The deadline will be May 1, 2015. Contest rules will be posted on the MME and Stellwagen Bank sanctuary websites in September.

Massachusetts Marine Educators (MME) is a grass roots organization of teachers, informal educators, students, educational institutions, and others whose goal is to develop a marine literate society and promote awareness of the ocean world by integrating marine studies into existing curricula. Massachusetts Marine Educators help develop and share curriculum materials, hold frequent workshops and conferences, provide in-service teacher training, and facilitate networking among teachers and other educators. MME cooperates with other educational organizations to advance the cause of marine education on the local, state, and national levels. MME is a regional chapter of the National Marine Educators Association.

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 842 square miles of ocean, stretching between Cape Ann and Cape Cod. Renowned for its biological diversity and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary is famous as a whale watching destination and supports a rich assortment of marine life, including marine mammals, seabirds, fishes and marine invertebrates. The sanctuary’s position astride the historic shipping routes and fishing grounds for Massachusetts’ oldest ports also makes it a repository for shipwrecks representing several hundred years of maritime transport.

NOAA’s mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

**On the Web:**

Massachusetts Marine Educators: <http://www.massmarineeducators.org>

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary: <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

For photographs of the winning art, contact Anne Smrcina at 781-545-8026 ext. 204 or 781-738-2242 or [anne.smrcina@noaa.gov](mailto:anne.smrcina@noaa.gov).

# # #