






Best of Show  
2005



**John Early Jr.**  
Grades Category 10-12



# January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16  Martin Luther King Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Best of Show  
2006



**Stephanie Potts**  
Grades Category 10-12



# February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents' Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



Best of Show  
2007



**Kelly Kemp**  
Grades Category 10-12



# March 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	<div> DNR</div>

St. Patrick's Day



Best of Show  
2008



**Morgan Watts**  
Grades Category 7-9



# April 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16  Easter Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



Best of Show  
2009



**Angelica Halvarsson**  
Grades Category 7-9

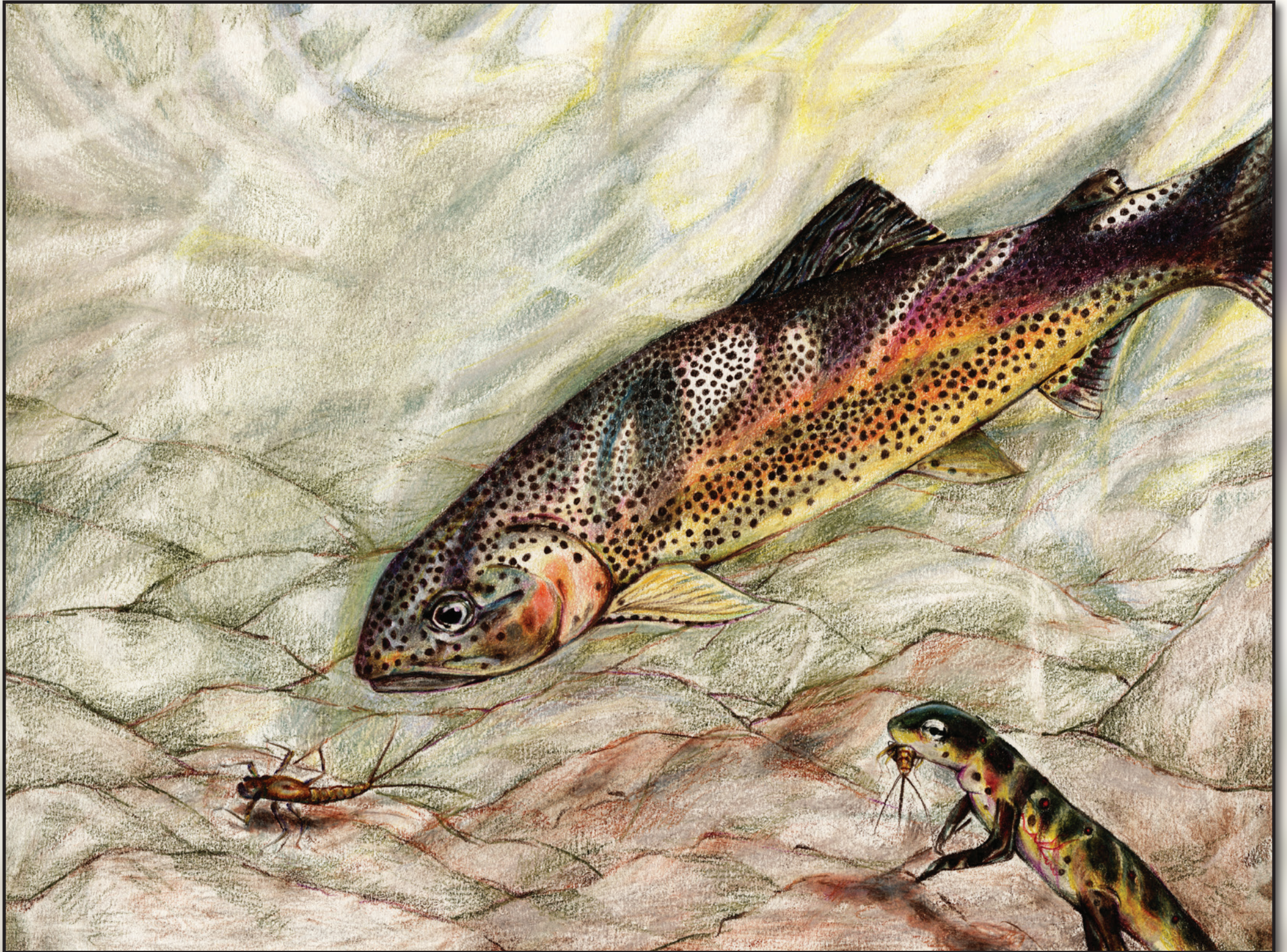


# May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			



Best of Show  
2010



**Angelica Halvarsson**  
Grades Category 10-12



# June 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day						
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Best of Show  
2011



**Angelica Halvarsson**  
Grades Category 10-12



# July 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Best of Show  
2012



**Amanda McDaniel**  
Grades Category 10-12



# August 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	21		



Best of Show  
2013



**Ellen Vance**  
Grades Category 10-12



# September 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Best of Show  
2014



**Ethan Lopez**  
Grades Category 7-9



# October 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween				



Best of Show  
2015



**Grayson Caroline Lutz**  
Grades Category 4-6



# November 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Best of Show  
2016



**Areli Peña**  
Grades Category 10-12



# December 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25  Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						





# Aquatic Education Programs

The Aquatic Education Section of SCDNR offers FREE education programs on recreational fishing techniques, opportunities and angler ethics. Here are some of the unique, fun fishing and learning opportunities available.

## Family Fishing Clinics

Family Fishing Clinics are an introductory class to fishing. Families with kids ages 4 and up can learn how to tie fishing knots, rig



a rod and reel, cast and try their hand at fishing. The classes are a great opportunity for all anglers, regardless of age and skill level! Clinics can also be scheduled for your scout, school or church group. The family fishing clinics are led by certified fishing instructors trained by SCDNR to teach the classes. If you have a passion for fishing and teaching others, consider signing up for the training.

## Youth Bass Fishing Clubs

SCDNR, The Bass Federation of SC and B.A.S.S. have teamed up to help bring youth bass fishing clubs to schools around the state.

Students can establish school bass fishing clubs to compete for prizes, scholarships and more on a club, state and national level. SCDNR hosts a state bass fishing championship to invite middle and high school teams during the weekend of the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic at the state fairgrounds in Columbia.



## Fishing Tackle Loaner Program

The tackle loaner program has sites all around the state in various state and county parks as well as all of SCDNR's regional offices that allow adults, kids and families to try their hand at fishing. Whether you are visiting the state or just want to try fishing- checking out a rod, reel and tackle is free. Bring your own bait, purchase a license for those 16 years and older and the fishing fun is free (some parks may have an entry fee).



## Fishing Rodeos

Fun for the kids and the whole family! Rodeos are offered throughout the state as an opportunity to land a fish and take it home for dinner. Sign up online, bring your gear and a cooler.

## Trout in the Classroom

From egg to fingerling schools in select counties are eligible to apply for the program for the opportunity to raise rainbow trout in the classroom. The tank is utilized as a teaching tool to introduce concepts such as statistics, engineering, life cycles, biology, chemistry, environmental impact, recreational angling and resource management.

To learn more about these education programs, visit [www.dnr.sc.gov/aquaticed](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/aquaticed) for more information or email [aquaticed@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:aquaticed@dnr.sc.gov)









# Reel Art Reveals a Real Life Success Story

Technical Sergeant Jennifer Hilton Thomas reconnects with Reel Art painting of years past

by Cindy Thompson



Technical Sergeant Jennifer Hilton Thomas at her twelve year mark in the United States Air Force.

This connect-the-dots story goes full circle to chronicle the paths of a U.S. Air Force technical sergeant, an aquatics educator and a youth art program.

The Reel Art contest, sponsored by the SCDNR for more than a decade, sparked excitement about aquatic education through art in countless schools across the state. The final Reel Art competition was held during the 2016 school year, concluding a remarkable collection of vivid fish paintings.

SCDNR Aquatics Education Coordinator Sarah Chabaane, remembering so many of the talented students who have participated over the years, decided to spotlight one of the program's first entries — 2000 Reel Art winner Jennifer Hilton Thomas.

Thomas, now serving as a technical sergeant in the U.S. Airforce, received an out-of-the-blue phone call from Chabaane. This was an unexpected surprise and a fun opportunity to reconnect with the Palmetto State. She graciously consented to share her extraordinary story.

Her journey started out in Hartsville, when a teacher sparked her interest in art. "I am so humbled and thankful to have the pleasure of meeting Mr. Tarleton Blackwell," Thomas says. "He saw something greater in me that I did not see within myself."

Soon, a vision for her career began to take shape. "After high school graduation, I chose to continue my education by attending Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina," she recalls. "There I continued to study fine arts, which led to a bachelor of fine arts degree. While in college, I took on an interest in the

military. In September 2004, I joined the most unique force there is, the United States Air Force." Since joining the Air Force, Thomas has worked in seven different states and four countries!

"I'm still the same shy girl at heart, but I have grown spiritually, mentally and physically into who I am today," she says. "As a member of the United States Air Force, it has been a part of my life to travel. My love for the outdoors has made me adventurous, and this adventurous spirit has directed my career path by forcing me to have an open mind. Traveling around the world and doing or seeing incredible things that I would have only dreamt of if I stayed at home." She adds that her "ability to put a pen, pencil, brush or whatever medium on paper to tell a story" has been a valuable outlet.

Thomas and her family reside in Maryland. "I have an awesome husband of over nine years, who I met in the military. He and I are the proud parents of two of the most beautiful girls in the world — one and four years old. We all share a love of the outdoors and nature. Our oldest loves drawing, sculpting, painting, singing and



"A promotion to Technical Sergeant is one of the hardest in the United States Air Force. I've been blessed to share this accomplishment with my lovely family, great friend (member of the United States Coast Guard), and the White House Communications Agency Command!"



dancing, and her sister seems to follow the same footsteps."

"The fishing environment is one which is calming and stress free," Thomas says. "Making art is also one of those calming and stress free passions that rekindles that fire within me. There is always a story to tell, and I have a lot of them."

There are many success stories that continue to emanate from Reel Art, Chabaane explains. "We are so thrilled with the quality of art, diversity and creativity students submitted to the competition over the years. The skill that exists with our state's youth and interest in natural resources makes us proud! Please continue to make and share your fish artwork."