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SPRING-FORD INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS SCORE TOP PRIZES IN PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER “PROTECT OUR WATERSHEDS” ART CONTEST

Spring-Ford collects grand prize for third consecutive year

ROYERSFORD, Pa. (May 6, 2010) – A pair of Spring-Ford Intermediate School students earned two of the three top prizes for eastern Pennsylvania in Pennsylvania American Water’s 8th Annual “Protect Our Watersheds” Art Contest, with one of the students earning the grand prize for the entire state. The announcement coincides with National Drinking Water Week, which runs from May 2-8.

Spring-Ford fifth-grader Taylor Ruffo earned first place for eastern Pennsylvania and the grand prize for her artwork depicting a healthy stream with fish and wildlife, titled “Let’s not lose sight, let’s all unite.” Classmate Emma Holliday placed third for eastern Pennsylvania. The two students will receive gift cards to Barnes & Noble for their winning entries.

This is the third year in a row that a Spring-Ford Intermediate School student collected the top prize in Pennsylvania American Water’s art contest. As the grand prize winner, Ruffo will have her artwork featured on “bloomer cards” distributed across the state by Pennsylvania American Water. Bloomers are seed-filled cards that, when planted and tended, produce a variety of wildflowers. In 2009, Spring-Ford’s Sydney Hill won the grand prize.

Statewide, more than 700 fifth-grade students submitted artwork for Pennsylvania American Water’s contest. The students accompanied their artwork with a short description of how watershed protection affects them personally. After reviewing the entries, a panel of judges selected three top drawings from both eastern and western Pennsylvania before naming Ruffo as the grand prize winner.

The Spring-Ford students received their awards on Thursday, May 6, from Pennsylvania American Water Company Field Operations Manager Brian Hassinger, along with Spring-Ford Intermediate School Principal Edward Smith and fifth-grade/sixth-grade teacher Dacia Williams.

"It’s very refreshing to see so many students using their imagination and creativity to express the need to protect our watersheds," said Pennsylvania American Water President Kathy L. Pape. "With an increasing number of children participating again this year, we are pleased that the contest helps them better understand the importance of environmental stewardship."

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Pennsylvania American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.2 million people. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 16 million people in 35 states, as well as Ontario and Manitoba, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

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