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Steffen Thomas Museum of Art
(STMA)

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Greene County High School art students proudly display their wire sculpture diorama of a lakeside scene, now a permanent installation at GA Power's Parks Ferry Recreation Area

Greene County Student Art Project Unveiled

BUCKHEAD – The young artists of **Greene County High School** were honored on Tuesday, May 5th, when their beautiful wire sculpture diorama was unveiled as a permanent installation at GA Power's Parks Ferry Recreation Area.

The students participated in **OP Art: Opportunities for Employment and Empowerment through the Visual Arts**, a Steffen Thomas Museum Arts Outreach Program. This was the first year of a three-year program designed to introduce students in the tri-county Lake Oconee area to careers in the visual arts and the importance of ecological

responsibility. The sessions began last fall with a mixed group of 9th through 12th graders from Davilyn Rainwater's art classes.

Working professionals with a wide variety of experience, education and training spoke to the students about opportunities in careers related to the visual arts. Guest lecturers included an illustrator, textile and fashion designers, a floral designer and fine artists. They described the numerous employment opportunities associated with the visual arts as well as the skills, experience and education necessary to qualify for these professions. Based on their first-hand experience, the speakers also explained how to research job opportunities, apply for various positions, experience the creative process associated with these employment opportunities and helped to design an education and employment strategy for interested students.

Lee Glenn, a Georgia Power representative, spoke about water conservation and the importance of keeping Lake Oconee water and shores clean by recycling items or disposing of them properly. Under the guidance of STMA Lead Artist Karen Strelecki and with the help of local artists Barbara Kimbrough and Joanna Ralston, students then created small wire sculptures made from recycled wire and metal. The sculptures were exhibited at STMA, Greene County High School and BB&T Bank in Greensboro.

In January, awards were presented for the most outstanding works at a ceremony held at the high school. Subsequently, a small group of Greene County High students, inspired by the award-winning selections, worked with professional artists to construct a wire sculpture diorama depicting a lakeside scene. Now displayed in a beautiful sculpture case created by Ricky Moore, a Georgia Power employee, and permanently installed at the GA Parks Ferry Recreation Area, the diorama highlights the importance of the arts and the urgent need to protect Lake Oconee's water and shores. Please come see it!

Students in Putnam and Morgan counties will participate in the second and third years of the Op Art project, respectively. A related program is currently underway at the Morgan County CrossRoads School.

STMA thanks the following for making this event possible: Georgia Power – A Southern Company; Georgia Power Foundation; Reynolds Plantation Foundation; David P. Crawford, CPA; DreamTeam Technologies; Frances Wood Wilson Foundation; Jim Boyd & Associates; Madison Studios; Vanishing Rural Georgia Art, and Whidby Jewelers.

For more information, please contact the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art at 706-342-7557 or visit www.steffenthomas.org.