

For Immediate Release

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Booth Western Art Museum Hosts 6th Annual Georgia Youth Cowboy Poetry Contest

APRIL 2010 – The Booth Western Art Museum recently hosted the 6th Annual Georgia Youth Cowboy Poetry Contest as part of the annual Southeastern Cowboy Gathering in early March. Eight hundred and fifty-one poems were written, and the top 10 in each of four grade designations (fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth, ninth and tenth and eleventh and twelfth) were invited to the finals to recite their poem for judging.

The winners of this year’s Cowboy Poetry Contest included:

Grades 5-6: Caleb Smith, Cartersville Middle, 3rd place; Isabel Montoya, South Central Middle, 2nd place; Bethany Inabnit, Home Schooled, 1st place.

Grades 7-8: left to right: Steven Inabnit, Home Schooled, 3rd place; Anna Hightower, Cartersville Middle, 2nd place; Jordan Croy, Chestatee Middle, 1st place.

Grades 9-10: left to right: Saharra Griffin, McIntosh High, 3rd place; Joshua Parker, McIntosh High, 2nd place; Logan Austin, McIntosh High, 1st place.

Grades 11-12: left to right: Emily Rogers, Adairsville High, 3rd place; Alex Kollhoff, Woodland High, 2nd place; Elizabeth Brown, Home Schooled, 1st place.

“The Georgia Youth Cowboy Poetry Contest has grown significantly from its humble beginnings in 2004 when two schools in Bartow County participated and 51 poems were submitted,” said Booth Museum Director of Education Lisa Wheeler. “This year, students from 14 Georgia counties participated, and workshops were presented to 2,218 students. We could not be more thrilled at the success this contest has seen over the years, and that we are able to continue teaching students about cowboy poetry – something that helps to enrich their writing skills and oral presentation.”

The Georgia Youth Poetry Contest has become one of the keystones of the Museum’s Annual Cowboy Gathering held each March. The Poetry Contest introduces students to the oral traditions of Cowboy Poetry and is open to all students in grades 5 through 12.

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Original cowboy poems submitted by the students are judged in age categories by working cowboy poets and cash prizes are awarded. To help prepare students to enter the contest, workshops conducted by Georgia's official Cowboy Balladeer, Doc Stovall, cowboy poets, and Booth Museum education department staff and volunteers are available to classroom teachers, home school groups, and 4-H clubs. These workshops focus on the basic components of poetry, rhyming schemes and oral presentation, and can be scheduled for the classroom or Museum setting.

Of the 20 participants in the top two grade levels, 12 were from Adairsville High School. This great participation is in large part thanks to Adairsville High teacher Kim Knight. Knight recently accompanied Stovall to the State Capital for Governor Sonny Perdue's signing of the Cowboy Poetry Week Proclamation.

For more information about the Cowboy Poetry Contest or to schedule a workshop, please call 770-387-1300 or visit www.boothmuseum.org.

Booth Western Art Museum

The Booth Western Art Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate and a member of the Museums West Consortium. In addition to its Western core collection, the Museum houses a Presidential Gallery, Civil War art gallery, Native American artifacts, and Sagebrush Ranch children's gallery, allowing visitors to "See America's Story." To learn more, visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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