Congratulations to all of the talented artists who brought their paintings, drawings, mixed media items and photographs to the Warwick Mall for the 28th Annual State 4-H Photo & Fine Arts Show. The event was held March 18-20, 2011, and featured over 100 pieces of art. Artists and photographers judged each piece of art and offered advice to the artists who learn artistic techniques in their 4-H clubs, school or on their own and have the opportunity to present their artwork in our state art show. Art was entered in painting, drawing, photography and mixed media categories.

In the drawing category, Best of Show recognition went to Juniors Emily Seekell of Charlestown for her pastel drawing “The Sunny Sunflower” and Natalie Stebner of Wyoming for her pastel drawing “Indigo Bunting”. Kelly Bryant’s (Coventry) drawings “The Wolf” and “Freshly Picked” both earned Best of Show honors in the Intermediate division along with Hunter Silvestri’s colored pencil and marker drawing “Abstract Whirl”. In the Senior division, “Evening Grosbeak Bird” by Christopher Bates of East Greenwich earned a Best of Show award.

Photography is always a popular category. Photos are recognized in three divisions: color photography, black and white photography and a new category this year, Photoshop. Best of Show honors in the color photo division went to Juniors Caleb Seekell of Charlestown for “Bobbing for Apples” and Sarah Titus of West Greenwich for “Fushia Flower”. In the Intermediate division, Newell Roberts of West Greenwich earned recognition in two categories this year. His black and white photo “Waterfall in New York” and his color photo “Bird in the Everglades” both caught the judge’s eye. Jessilyn Ring of Coventry was recognized in the Photoshop category for “Dragonfly” in the Intermediate division. In the Senior division, Paige Griffin of Oneco, CT, earned an award for her color photo “Winter Sunlight” and Allie Nekrasz (Portsmouth) for her color photo “Shadow Lines”.

Recognition in the Mixed Media category went to Timothy Hourihan of Warwick for his “Garchamp” 3-D monster in the Jr division, Hunter Silvestri of South Kingstown in the Intermediate division for his paper mache shoe titled “March” and to Megan Morrissey of Foster in the Sr division for her Mixed Media collage “Puzzle”.

Best of Show recognition in the painting category went to Emily Seekell in the Jr division for “A Hint of Spring”, Kelly Bryant of Coventry for “Old Oak Tree” in the Intermediate division and to Megan Morrissey in the Senior division for her fingerprint painting “Hugh Jackman”. “Hugh Jackman” was also awarded the “People’s Choice Award” which is determined by the public who cast votes for their favorite piece of art from our judge’s favorites.
This year, the RI 4-H Foundation gave special recognition to several pieces of art. The Special Foundation awards were selected by Foundation directors for their appeal to our donors. Drawings “Evening Grosbeak Bird” by Christopher Bates (East Greenwich), “Sunflower” by Hannah Bates (East Greenwich), Renee Pendleton’s (Warwick) oil painting, “Morning in the Forest” and Molly McKenna’s (Exeter) color photo “Butterfly and Flower” were selected for this award. The youth artists have the opportunity to have the artwork reproduced as prints to be given as gifts to our generous donors. The artist's name and 4-H club will be clearly shown on each print. The mission of the RI 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. is to support the youth programs of the URI/College of the Environment and Life Sciences. The 4-H Foundation funds 4-H programs, provides scholarships, awards, recognition and travel opportunities.

Congratulations to all of this year’s State 4-H Photo and Fine Arts Show participants and thank you to all of our judges.

Rhode Island 4-H is the Youth Development Program of the University of Rhode Island, Cooperative Extension, College of the Environment and Life Sciences. 4-H programs focus on learning opportunities for youth aged 5 to 18 years old, in school and in after-school settings, community clubs and Operation Military Kids initiatives. 4-H members reside in towns, suburbs and cities and complete educational projects, ranging from science and technology to healthy lifestyles; animal science to citizenship. Members focus on learning by doing, applying leadership skills, making a difference in RI communities, and learning to respect others. They learn life skills such as responsibility, decision-making, communication skills, problem solving, commitment, leadership, and teamwork.

To become a 4-H Volunteer or for information on the 4-H program, call the URI 4-H Office at 401-874-2959 or email kstone@uri.edu.