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PRESS RELEASE

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TCWN Announces Wilma Dykeman Prize for Essay Writing Winners

Location – Knoxville TN

TCWN announces the winners of the Wilma Dykeman Prize for Essay Writing. The two winners are Leigh Stanfield of Soddy Daisy, TN for the prize in the 17 and under category and Arthur Stewart of Lenoir City, TN for the prize in the 18 and over category.

"I am grateful to be a part of honoring Ms. Dykeman's memory and works, and this year's contest entries were excellent," said Janet King, Board member of TCWN. "The winners' essays not only reflect Ms. Dykeman's love of our natural resources, specifically water, but the writers also deserve recognition for their research and creativity. I applaud TCWN's commitment to sponsorship of this event."

The prizes are awarded in two categories in honor of the late Wilma Dykeman, the 2007 recipient of the Bill Russell River Hero Award: 17 and under and 18 and over.

Ms. Dykeman's legacy includes being the writer of 16 books, including *The French Broad* and *The Tall Woman*; being named Tennessee Conservation Writer of the Year; holding the honorary title of Tennessee State Historian; and leaving a love of nature and environmental stewardship and education for future generations.

"Our mother would have loved to meet and gotten to know this year's winners of the Dykeman Prize," said Jim and Dykeman Stokely, Wilma's sons. "As she wrote thirty years ago, 'We sat around the campfire, speaking quietly - and not at all, listening to the rasp of katydids and the falling waters of the nearby mountain stream as it rushed to join the lake in front of us. We felt the strangeness of our human voices, intruders in this wilderness where tall trees had grown for generations, the springs had sent forth their clear water for centuries, the earth had endured for eons. There was a sense of time different here than in the daily world we knew, a reminder and a pledge of eternity.'"

The contest is currently open for 2010. For more information on the winners and their winning essays, please visit the TCWN website at <http://www.tcwn.org/dykeman>.

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Empowering Tennesseans to claim their right to clean water and healthy communities by fostering civic engagement, building coalitions and advancing water policy for a sustainable future.