

And The Winner Is ...

Wildlife Forever was pleased to host a celebration of youth art, aquatic conservation, and the great outdoors at the 2004 State-Fish Art Expo at Mall of America on June 12th and 13th. State winners of the 6th annual Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest traveled to **Minnesota** from as far away as **Idaho, New Jersey, Nevada,** and **Texas** to participate in the action-packed weekend that included an awards ceremony, a family fishing event, and a special afternoon with the Minnesota Twins.

The winning artwork was on display for hundreds of thousands of Mall of America visitors to admire. The awards ceremony was held in the Mall's central rotunda and acknowledged the hard work and creativity of the talented young artists before an excited crowd. Wildlife Forever's Chairman of the Board Scott Grieve presented each student with a blue ribbon and prizes.

The young aquatic artists and their families participated in a fishing event with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Minn Aqua program. The event took place in Buffalo, Minnesota and provided an introduction to fishing and outdoor recreation. "The future of our wildlife heritage and natural resources depends on quality conservation education for today's youth. The support of parents in traveling all the way to Minnesota from across the United States



Each winner has their moment in the spotlight as they are congratulated on stage by Wildlife Forever Chairman Scott Grieve and President/CEO Douglas H. Grann.



The Minnesota Twins welcomed all the attending winners on to the field for a pregame salute of their efforts.

demonstrates that, together, we're accomplishing that goal," remarked Wildlife Forever President & CEO Douglas H. Grann. The Minnesota Twins also recognized the contest winners in a pre-game awards presentation on the Metrodome playing field before their game with the Philadelphia Phillies on June 13th. The

contest winners and their artwork were displayed on the giant Jumbotron screen for the Sunday crowd to admire. Twins first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz and his wife Jodi provided Expo attendees and their families with free tickets to the game. According to Grann, "The Twins are huge supporters of the youth of our community and throughout the nation. To see Doug Mientkiewicz personally shake hands with the winning artists just minutes before playing baseball demonstrates his commitment to sharing the wonders of the great outdoors with America's youth."