

Morning Star Publications - Feature Story



Laurel

CRABBY ART - International exhibit celebrating the horseshoe crab opens. Page 6

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By Rebecca J. Davis

The Bethel Heritage Museum has opened its most recent traveling exhibit: Young Voices, Horseshoe Crabs and the Arts display. The display comes from the Ecological Research and Development Group (ERDG) which focuses on bringing awareness and protecting the horseshoe crab.

Every year the ERDG holds an art contest for students around the world. The students range from Pre-K to 12th grade and entries have come from New Jersey, Mexico, France, Pennsylvania and Virginia, among others. This year the ERDG received 600 entries and there were 40 winners.

Entries included colorful drawings, one of a kind statues and creative poetry about the horseshoe crab.

The exhibit is well displayed, including the artwork drawn by kindergarteners who put smiley faces on their horseshoe crab drawings.

"The horseshoe crab is native to the Eastern Shore," Bethel Historical Society member Kevin Phillips said. "I'm hoping to get the younger kids in here [to see the exhibit.]"

A modest number of visitors attended the exhibit's opening day, including Carol Davidson with her two grandsons.

"My grandsons are big drawers and I thought the exhibit was very nice," Davidson said. "My eight-year-old grandson enjoyed it and I want them to appreciate the things our ancestors had."

Visitor Keith Henry agreed that, "It is important to recognize the ecological value of the incredible horseshoe crab. It has remained unchanged since prehistoric times."

The exhibit will be open for three more weeks from 2 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 22, March 8 and March 22. For more information about the ERDG and the horseshoe crab, visit www.horseshoecrab.org.
