

# E-1: Peggy Polak Award for Youth Education Award

## Submitted by: Harbor Island Garden Club

### Brief summary and objectives:

The Wrightsville Beach Elementary School 5th Grade Rooty Rascals Junior Gardeners Club have a long standing history of working with the Harbor Island Garden Club (HIGC) as junior stewards of the environment in their beloved coastal community of Wrightsville Beach and surrounding barrier islands. Our garden club always sponsors the local Audubon Society to come in and do a presentation on birds in the area. A particular emphasis is placed on the nesting shore birds on the southern end of Wrightsville Beach as well as the adjacent barrier Islands in the area. After the presentation, the Rooty Rascals create posters to raise public awareness of the necessity to allow the birds to nest in peace. This proactive activity teaches the kids about how important it is to be stewards of their environment. Once completed, the posters are turned over to Audubon Society along with a \$450 donation from the Harbor Island Garden Club to make permanent signs for the nesting season. Due to the posting of our Rooty Rascals signs, the idea has caught on in other communities around the country.

### Involvement of club members and other organizations:

The HIGC Rooty Rascals leaders, as well as other club volunteers, assist the students by arranging for the Audubon Society to make their presentation as well as providing poster paper and drawing materials along with pictures of the birds. The volunteers assist the kids when needed.



### Project expenses and means of funding:

The HIGC provides for the materials and provides for the cost to create the signage.

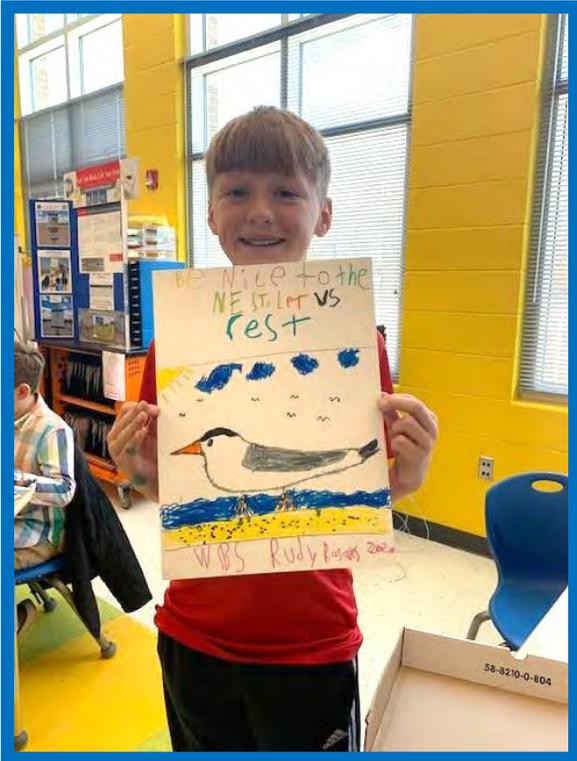
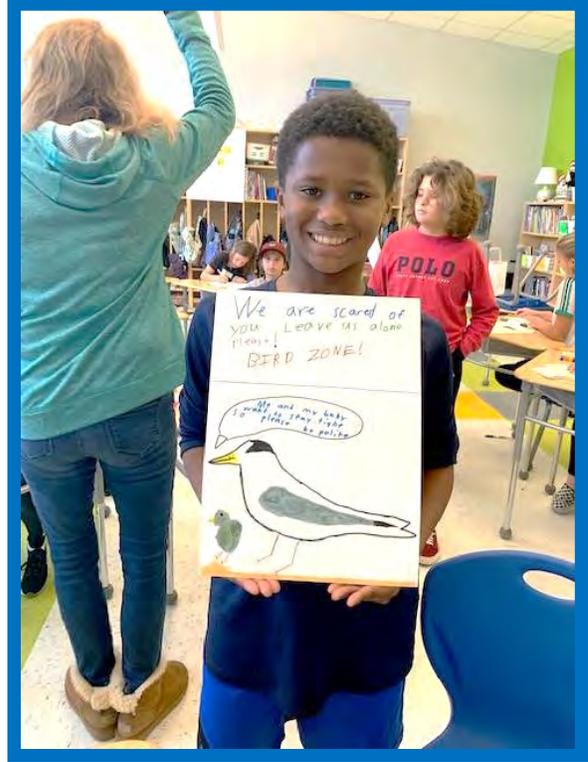
### Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:

The signs are monitored by the Audubon Society. Each year the signs are retired, and new signs are created by the next group of Rooty Rascals.

### Attach or insert photos, digital photos:

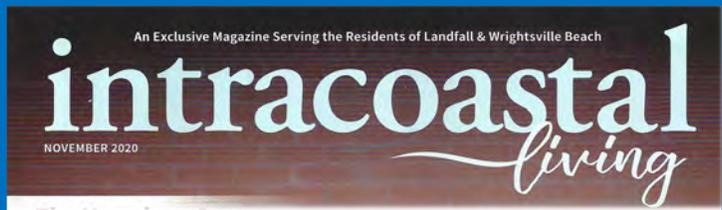
See the following pages for additional photos and local media coverage of the project.

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An Exclusive Magazine Serving the Residents of Landfall & Wrightsville Beach

# intracoastal living

NOVEMBER 2020



Fiona Sakowski, WB Elementary (2018)      Hudson Patterson, WB Elementary (2018)

Another of the projects that Heidi is eagerly anticipating working on is the Junior Garden Club Committee, to help fifth grade students at Wrightsville Beach Elementary make colorful and fun signs that educate and encourage visitors to the South End of the beach to avoid disturbing the shorebird nesting colony.

"If you've ever been kayaking behind Wrightsville Beach Elementary and seen all the plants and the birds, it's amazing, but I don't know what half of it is," Heidi said. "I'm really looking forward to learning more about the local habitat and educating others, especially the children. That's very interesting to me." ~

