

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES FOR 1976 DUCK STAMP CONTEST

A record number of entries is expected for the 1976 Duck Stamp contest and this year, for the first time, the general public is invited to view the judging. The contest will be held at 1 p.m., October 29 in Room 7000 A & B in the Department of the Interior.

Over 800 applications for entries have been received since the contest opened July 1. All qualifying entries postmarked before midnight, October 15, will be eligible.

The winning drawing or painting will be reproduced on the 1976-77 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp. This stamp has become familiar to migratory waterfowl hunters, philatelists, and conservationists since the first issue in 1934. Everyone over 16 years of age who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to buy one of the stamps. Stamp revenues, beyond printing and handling costs, are used for the acquisition of additional migratory bird habitat.

Applicants are allowed only one entry each. Previously, each artist could submit up to three entries. A panel of five judges, made up of prominent artists, conservationists, and ornithologists, will be announced the day of the contest by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed.

Prior to 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to provide a design for the annual stamp. Since that time, the design has been chosen by a contest open to all artists who are residents or citizens of the United States. The prestige of winning the contest has enhanced the reputations of established artists and has elevated otherwise unknown artists to public acclaim.

The annual competition is the only art contest regularly sponsored by the Federal Government. The colorful stamps constitute the longest running, annually issued series of stamps in revenue or postage stamp history.

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