

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release October 31, 1979

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JUDGING FOR "DUCK STAMP" ART SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 8

The public is invited to attend the judging of waterfowl art to select the winning design for the 1980-81 "Duck Stamp" at 9 a.m., Thursday, November 8, in the Interior Department's auditorium, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. More than 1,300 entries will go on display at the same time. The entire procedure will take about 4 hours.

The colorful \$7.50 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, popularly called the "Duck Stamp," has been purchased by duck and goose hunters, conservationists, and stamp collectors since the first issue in 1954. The stamps are sold through post offices and certain National Wildlife Refuges and must be carried by every migratory waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older. Stamp revenues are used to buy additional migratory bird habitat under a program administered by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A panel of five judges, made up of prominent artists, conservationists, and ornithologists selected by the Secretary of the Interior, will be announced the day of the contest by Service Director Lynn A. Greenwalt.

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

The winner's financial reward is also significant. While the Federal Government offers no prize, commercial wildlife art dealers are eager to market limited edition reprints for the winner.

The Federal Government does provide a sheet of the stamps to the contest winner after they are printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

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 U.S. revenue or postage stamp history.