



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCES WINNER OF 1986 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP COMPETITION

With his fifth entry in the annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest, Wisconsin artist Arthur G. Anderson prevailed over 798 contenders to take first place in this year's edition of the prestigious waterfowl art competition with his painting of three redheads flying low over a backwater marsh.

"This is great, just great!," said Anderson when reached by telephone at his home in Onalaska, Wisconsin. "I was painting a bald eagle when the phone rang and I was so engrossed in my work I had almost forgotten about the contest."

Anderson's redheads, two males and one female, will appear on the 1987-88 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

In announcing the winner as judging concluded in Washington, DC, on November 5, 1986, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle referred to the Duck Stamp as the backbone of the agency's wetlands conservation effort. "The dollars spent on Duck Stamps by hunters and non-hunting conservationists work to ensure the future of this Nation's waterfowl populations," Dunkle said.

Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older must purchase this stamp each year. The stamps are also purchased by many non-hunting conservationists to support wetlands acquisition through the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Over 90 million Duck Stamps have been sold, providing more than \$300 million for the purchase of more than 3.5 million acres of prime wetland habitat for waterfowl.

Anderson, 50, who "hunts mostly with a camera," moved his family to Onalaska, Wisconsin, which overlooks the Mississippi River near the town of La Crosse, in order to be close to the marsh habitat frequented by the redheads, canvasbacks, and other waterfowl during their annual migrations. In addition to waterfowl, Anderson likes to paint bald eagles, white-tailed deer, and other species inhabiting the area. He was first runner-up in Wisconsin's 1982 lake trout stamp contest and exhibits frequently in the Midwest and at The Waterfowl Festival held annually in Easton, Maryland.

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He gained international recognition in 1985 when one of his paintings, "Riding the Wind," was selected as one of the six companion pieces to the Artist-of-the-Year's painting in the 1985 contest sponsored by Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Anderson began painting at the age of 12 with a set of oils borrowed from his uncle. He studied art at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and at the Art Instruction School in St. Paul, Minnesota. Supporting himself as a graphic artist, Anderson painted at home in the evenings and on week-ends until 1983 when he finally became economically able to devote all of his time to wildlife art.

He says his winning design was inspired by his wife, Virginia. "She's a redhead," he quipped, "and I told her that I'd enter redheads until I won." The painting features three redheads flying low over water in late afternoon. A typical backwater river marsh habitat is depicted--a scene which Anderson chose because "just about anyone in the country would be able to identify with it."

The redhead is a common duck found in all four North American waterfowl flyways. The male is distinguished by a large, chestnut-colored head with a light bill and dark breast, and the female by a plain bluish bill and a light brown body.

Second place in the Duck Stamp contest was won by Lynn R. Kaatz of Grafton, Ohio, with an acrylic rendition of two Canada geese in flight. Ronald Louque of Orange, Virginia, who was in the Interior Department audience during the contest, placed third with an acrylic depicting a pair of snow geese in flight over water.

As part of this year's Duck Stamp ceremonies, a sealed-bid auction of ten sheets of Golden Anniversary commemorative 1984-85 Duck Stamps raised over \$65,500 for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

Judges for this year's competition included Col. Robert Brantly, executive director of the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission; Peter Coors, chairman of the board of Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; Martha Hill, picture editor for Audubon magazine; James Norine, director of the hunter services division of the National Rifle Association; and Beatrice Pickens, member of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's board of directors. Jim Eckes, art director for Outdoor Life magazine, served as an alternate judge.

The Duck Stamp has been issued annually by the Federal Government since 1934 when J.N. "Ding" Darling's drawing of a pair of mallards in flight became the first design for the stamp. Subsequent artwork was commissioned until the contest began in 1949. That year, eight waterfowl designs were received for the competition. Last year, 1,243 wildlife artists vied for the honor of winning what has become the Nation's premier waterfowl art competition.

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The Federal government offers no prize or award to the winner other than a sheet of the following year's Duck Stamp autographed by the Secretary of the Interior. However, commercial wildlife art dealers usually are eager to market limited edition prints of the winning design under private agreements with the winner. Through this contest, the reputations of previously unknown wildlife artists have been established and those of professionals considerably enhanced.

Duck Stamp Contest rules and regulations are published each spring in the Federal Register. They also are available at that time from the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Contest Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC 20240. Prospective entrants are urged to read the regulations carefully as they are subject to change from year to year.

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Note to Editors: Single black-and-white glossies of this year's design are available on a loan basis by calling 202-343-8770.

