



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DUCK STAMP CONTEST DATES ANNOUNCED; SOUVENIR CARDS GO ON SALE

Waterfowl artists have until October 1 to submit entries to this year's Duck Stamp Contest, which is held annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to select the design for the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as the Duck Stamp. The contest will be judged November 9 and 10 at the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC. The two-day event typically attracts more than 800 entries and a considerable gathering of prominent waterfowl artists from across the Nation. The event is free and open to the public.

"The Duck Stamp contest marks the beginning of an annual conservation effort which typically raises millions of dollars for wildlife," commented Frank Dunkle, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Through the sale of Duck Stamps alone, the Service has been able to preserve almost 4 million acres of wetlands, which are the prime habitat for waterfowl and many other wildlife species."

Regulations for this year's Duck Stamp competition include the following:

- o Entry image area must be in a 7-inch-by-10-inch horizontal format.
- o Entry must be matted with one white 9-inch-by-12-inch mat and not exceed 1/4 inch in total thickness. No protective cover shall be attached.
- o Subject of entry must conform with the list of North American waterfowl species eligible for entry as published in the official contest regulations. Winning species over the last 5 years are not eligible. They are: fulvous whistling duck, American wigeon, pintail, redhead, and cinnamon teal.
- o Judges will be instructed to look for "waterfowl in action," such as waterfowl in flight, moving on water, and other scenes that depict active waterfowl in their natural habitat.
- o Entry fee is \$50, payable by cashier's check, money order, or certified check. No personal checks will be accepted.

Those planning to enter this year's Duck Stamp Contest are advised to obtain official regulations and entry forms from the Duck Stamp Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 18th and C Streets NW., Washington, DC 20240. Entries that do not conform to all regulations will not be judged.

The Duck Stamp is required for waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older, but it is increasingly purchased by conservationists wanting to make a contribution to wetlands preservation. Money from the sale of the stamp goes directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and is used to acquire prime waterfowl habitat for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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