



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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NEWS BRIEFS--DUCK STAMP PROGRAM LOOKS BACK,
LOOKS TO ITS FUTURE, LOOKS ACROSS THE SEA

1990 Federal Stamp Contest Opens in Washington, DC, November 6

Some 626 artists nationwide have submitted designs, each hoping that their entry will be selected to grace the 1991-92 Federal Duck Stamp. Competition in the annual contest is again intense and the stakes are high. Unknown wildlife artists compete against artists with established reputations and anyone can win.

For example, last year's winner, Minnesota artist Jim Hautman was, at 25, the youngest person ever to take first prize. His painting of black-bellied whistling ducks was chosen over 602 other entries as the design for the 1990-91 Duck Stamp. That stamp is currently on sale for \$12.50 at U.S. Post Offices and many national wildlife refuges.

Although the winning artist receives no compensation from the Federal Government except a pane of his or her stamps, artists usually become millionaires through the sale of limited-edition prints of the winning design.

One of the most innovative and successful conservation efforts in the world, the Federal Duck Stamp program, has raised, since its inception in 1934, over \$350 million, which has gone to preserve nearly 4 million acres of wetlands. Many of the more than 450 national wildlife refuges in the United States have been purchased entirely, or in part, by Duck Stamp revenues.

And the popularity of these beautiful stamps continues to grow. While all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older are required to purchase a Duck Stamp annually, many people who are merely interested in conservation or simply enjoy observing wildlife in its natural habitat purchase the stamps as a way to ensure the future of this Nation's wildlife. The stamps also enjoy a strong following in the stamp collecting world.

"Because of the long-term success of the Federal Duck Stamp program in generating revenue to protect and preserve wetlands, other countries are beginning to use it as a model for their own conservation stamp programs," Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan said recently.

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This year's judging will take place November 6 and 7 in Washington, DC, at the Department of the Interior's auditorium, 1849 C Street NW. This year, the exhibit will also be open to the public Sunday, November 4, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., but closed Monday. It is also open to public view during the judging.

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Duck Stamp Hops South--Big Hit Down Under

Whether it's billabongs and burdekins or marshes and mallards, the concerns are the same. Wetland habitats for ducks and other migratory waterfowl are in trouble worldwide. A recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report estimates that 117 million wetland acres have been lost since Colonial times in the lower 48 states. Likewise, over half of Australia's wetlands have vanished since European settlement in the 18th Century. Today, the United States and Australia are cooperating to preserve and restore these invaluable resources.

The American Federal Duck Stamp Program, now over 50 years old, is considered the grandfather of all conservation stamp programs and its success is recognized throughout the world. Within the past 2 years, Australia initiated its first duck stamp and established a wetlands conservation and management program within the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (ANPWS). These accomplishments are attributed to the efforts of the Australian Wildlife Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to funding conservation programs of the ANPWS.

Headed by Jim Jude, the fund sponsored in 1989 the "First of Nation" Australian Duck Stamp featuring plumed whistling ducks by Dan Smith, designer of the 1989-90 U.S. Duck Stamp. The 1990 Australian Duck Stamp, of chestnut teals, has been designed by Jim Hautman, artist for the 1990-91 U.S. Duck Stamp.

In a spirit of partnership, and recognizing the international interdependence of conservation interests, one third of the U.S. sale of Australia's duck stamps will be donated to the U.S. Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and will be used for wetlands preservation in the United States. In addition, under a licensing agreement with the U.S. Duck Stamp program, a commemorative miniature sheet is being produced reproducing both the current Australian Duck Stamp and the U.S. Duck Stamp. Royalties of 33 1/3 percent will also be paid to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

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During this year's Federal Duck Stamp contest, the Embassy of Australia is, on November 7, hosting a reception to mark significant Australian and U.S. strides in wetlands and wildlife conservation. The event will give American conservation officials the opportunity to experience Australian wildlife art from some of that country's foremost artists, and celebrate issuance of Australia's 1990 Duck Stamp.

In describing the event, Ambassador Michael J. Cook said, "We are heartened to share this event with our American counterparts who also have an interest in and commitment to wildlife and wetlands preservation. We share the world's natural resources and beauty--it is only appropriate that we work together to maintain those riches."

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Service Honors "Mr. Duck Stamp Contest"

His work appears on a Federal Duck Stamp as well as in the pages of a book by Rachel Carson. His paintings turned refuge office walls into art galleries, while his sketches helped puzzled birdwatchers identify their quarry. He is Bob Hines, "Mr. Duck Stamp Contest," a rare bird under whose wing the Federal Duck Stamp Contest took off.

Hines was an early advocate of a contest to select the design for the Federal Duck Stamp, even though he himself was commissioned as artist for the 1946-47 stamp. Now in its 40th year, the internationally known contest was launched largely through Hines' efforts.

His career with the Service as artist/illustrator began in 1948 and brought his talents to the entire Nation by way of such works as "Ducks at a Distance," a waterfowl identification guide used by generations of waterfowl enthusiasts and published in three languages.

Since his retirement in 1981, Hines continues to be involved in the Duck Stamp program and is still an active wildlife artist. His recent mural depicting life-sized waterfowl was one of the highlights of a Smithsonian Institution waterfowling exhibit entitled "The Legacy Endures." That exhibit has been circulating in major museums throughout the United States, and will go on a world-wide tour in 1991.

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New Ducks on the Block--Results of the First Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest

A pilot project sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is giving aspiring young artists the opportunity to test their artistic talents as part of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest. California students in grades K through 12 submitted their best artwork depicting six popular species of waterfowl for the first-ever competition, held October 24 in Sacramento.

Nearly 3,000 entries were received for the competition, and when judging was complete, 17-year-old Juston Plummer of Wilton came away with top honors. Juston's colored-pencil rendering of a male wood duck earned "Best of Show" in this prototype contest that will eventually be expanded to all 50 states. For winning the contest, Juston receives a trip, with his teacher and a parent, to attend the Federal Duck Stamp Contest in early November in Washington, DC, where his winning art, along with 11 other top finishers, will be on display.

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest was developed as a means of teaching youngsters about waterfowl and wildlife conservation. California was considered an appropriate site to launch the program since the Golden State consistently provides the most entries to the Federal competition and was the first to develop a state waterfowl stamp program.



FISH & WILDLIFE

Facts

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1990 Contest Regulations

Regulations governing the annual Duck Stamp Contest were revised in 1988 to ensure that all species of North American waterfowl eventually will be represented in the Duck Stamp series, thereby increasing its collection appeal.

The number of species of North American waterfowl which artists can depict for the 1990 contest is limited to the following five:

- (1) Barrow's Goldeneye
- (2) Black Scoter
- (3) King Eider
- (4) Red-breasted Merganser
- (5) Spectacled Eider

The five species were selected from a list of seven that have never before appeared on a Federal Duck Stamp. An attempt was made to select a combination of species whose collective ranges cover the contiguous United States and Alaska.

The contest opened July 1. All entries had to be postmarked no later than midnight, September 15, 1990. The Duck Stamp Contest judging will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, November 6 and 7, at the Department of the Interior Auditorium, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC. This event is free and open to the public. The exhibit of entries will be open to the public Sunday, November 4, from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m., and during the contest. It will be closed Monday.

Through an annual process of elimination established by the regulations, all 42 species of North American waterfowl will become part of the Duck Stamp series by 1997. Copies of next year's Duck Stamp Contest regulations will be available in March 1991 from the Federal Duck Stamp

FWS-

For further information, contact:

Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Dept. of the Interior
 Washington, D.C. 20240 ()

Please refer to FWS- when making inquiries.

Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Room 2058, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240, phone: 202-208-4354.

Contest Statistics

Contest Entries: 626

Male Artists	476	76%
Female Artists	150	24%
Acrylic	304	48%
Oil	121	19%
Other	111	18%
Water Color	85	14%
Scratch Board	5	1%
Barrow's Goldeneye	202	32%
Red-breasted Merganser	196	31%
King Eider	109	18%
Spectacled Eider	84	13%
Black Scoter	35	6%

California	54
Minnesota	51
New York	34
Wisconsin	34
Pennsylvania	32
Virginia	29
Texas	27
Ohio	22
Florida	21
Michigan	20
New Jersey	19
Colorado	18
Maryland	17
Alabama	15
Illinois	14
North Carolina	14
Louisiana	12
Washington	12
Connecticut	11
Georgia	11
Indiana	11
Montana	11
Oregon	11
Missouri	10
Arizona	9

Massachusetts	9
Oklahoma	9
Tennessee	9
Utah	9
Alaska	8
Iowa	8
South Carolina	8
Arkansas	5
Kentucky	5
Idaho	4
Nebraska	4
South Dakota	4
Kansas	3
New Mexico	2
Washington, DC	2
Hawaii	2
Maine	2
Mississippi	2
North Dakota	2
New Hampshire	2
Nevada	2
West Virginia	2
Wyoming	2
Delaware	1
Vermont	1