



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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FEDERAL DUCK STAMP CONTEST ACTIVITIES BEGIN NOVEMBER 8

More than 600 waterfowl paintings by artists from across the country go on display November 8 in Washington, DC, as 1992 Federal Duck Stamp Contest activities get underway. An expert panel of wildlife art judges will select a single entry which will become the design used for the 1993-94 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly called the "Duck Stamp." The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host the annual event November 8-10.

Considered one of the world's premier wildlife art competitions, the Duck Stamp Contest attracts unknown as well as established artists. This year the entrants come from 49 States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands.

Recognized as one of the most innovative and successful conservation efforts, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has raised \$414 million to acquire over 4 million acres of wetlands since its inception in 1934. Many of the Nation's 485 national wildlife refuges have been purchased entirely, or in part, with funds from the sale of Duck Stamps.

Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older are required to have in their possession a signed, current Federal Duck Stamp, but

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purchases of the \$15 stamp are not limited to hunters -- Duck Stamps have become increasingly popular among stamp collectors, wildlife artists, conservationists, and others.

"The Federal Duck Stamp Contest is more than just an art competition," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Turner. "It represents the commitment of Americans as a people, and hunters in particular, to conserve waterfowl and their habitats for future generations."

Eligible species for this year's competition include the Canada goose, and canvasback, greater scaup, mallard, and pintail ducks. Minnesota hosts the largest number of entrants with 49, while California is a close second with 47. Pennsylvania is third with 35.

Judging of entries will take place November 9-10 in the Department of the Interior Auditorium, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC. The public can view the entries on November 8, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; November 9, from 10:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.; and on November 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Judging will conclude around noon on November 10, when the contest winner will be announced by Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan.

Anyone can win the contest, and rewards are substantial. Winning artists receive significant monetary gains through the private sale of limited-edition prints of their design. The Federal Government's award to the winner is a panel of the Duck

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Stamps, using his or her design, signed by the Secretary of the Interior.

An artist's involvement with the program does not necessarily end with the design of the stamp. For example, Vermont artist Nancy Howe, the 1990-91 Federal Duck Stamp Contest winner, continues to be active in wetlands conservation efforts. She became the first to donate for conservation purposes a portion of the proceeds from the sale of her limited-edition Duck Stamp prints. Most recently, she is offering to the National Wildlife Refuge System up to half of the funds raised through sale of one of her newest prints.

"I gained so much in a personal sense from winning the Duck Stamp Contest," said Howe, "and I think it's important to give something back to the waterfowl and wildlife conservation cause."

The success of the Federal Duck Stamp Program has expanded into other conservation efforts during the last several years. For example, the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Education Program is a new effort to educate America's youth about wetlands and waterfowl. Thousands of students in grades K-12 get a chance to test their artistic abilities by designing their own "Junior Duck Stamp." This year's "Best of Show" winning designs chosen from the nearly 4,200 entries from the six participating States are: Maneela Ninkham, Arkansas; Sanjay Patel, California; Li Shyu, Florida;

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David Hurt, Illinois; Jennifer Mosher, Kansas; and Glen Gilman, Vermont. Along with their teachers, the winning students will be honored during the Federal Duck Stamp Contest in Washington, DC, on November 10.

Another activity is the licensing of reproductions of the Duck Stamp image on a variety of products. To participate in this increasingly popular practice, companies form a partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Service to use the designs on caps, T-shirts, mugs, crafts, and other products. Royalties received from the sale of licensed products are deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and used to acquire wetlands. To date, over 60 companies have become licensees in partnership with the Service.



FISH & WILDLIFE

Facts

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1992 Federal Duck Stamp Contest

The 1992 Federal Duck Stamp Contest opened July 1, 1992. All entries had to be postmarked no later than September 15.

Through an annual process of elimination established by the contest regulations, all 42 species of North American waterfowl should become part of the Duck Stamp series by the turn of the century. The five species listed below were those eligible for this year's contest.

Regulations for next year's Federal Duck Stamp Contest will be available in March 1993. Contact the Federal Duck Stamp Office, 1849 C Street, N.W., Suite 2058, Washington, DC, 20240, telephone (202) 208-4354.

Contest Statistics

Entrants:

Total Contest Entries:	630	
Male Artists	458	72.70%
Female Artists	172	27.30%

Medium:

Water Color	75	11.90%
Oil	136	21.59%
Acrylic	297	47.14%
Scratch Board	5	0.79%
Other	117	18.57%

Eligible species:

Canada Goose	263	41.75%
Canvasback	82	13.02%
Greater Scaup	26	4.13%
Mallard	170	26.98%
Pintail	89	14.13%

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Artists per State

Alabama	11	1.75%	Montana	7	1.11%
Alaska	5	0.79%	Nebraska	10	1.59%
Arizona	10	1.59%	Nevada	4	0.63%
Arkansas	2	0.32%	New Hampshire	5	0.79%
California	47	7.46%	New Jersey	21	3.33%
Colorado	19	3.02%	New Mexico	1	0.16%
Connecticut	7	1.11%	New York	34	5.40%
Delaware	2	0.32%	North Carolina	12	1.90%
District of Columbia	2	0.32%	North Dakota	6	0.95%
Florida	22	3.49%	Ohio	18	2.86%
Georgia	16	2.54%	Oklahoma	11	1.75%
Hawaii	2	0.32%	Oregon	8	1.27%
Idaho	6	0.95%	Pennsylvania	35	5.56%
Illinois	17	2.70%	South Carolina	12	1.90%
Indiana	10	1.59%	South Dakota	7	1.11%
Iowa	15	2.38%	Tennessee	7	1.11%
Kansas	6	0.95%	Texas	25	3.97%
Kentucky	5	0.79%	Utah	4	0.63%
Louisiana	9	1.43%	Vermont	2	0.32%
Maine	5	0.79%	Virgin Islands	1	0.16%
Maryland	19	3.02%	Virginia	23	3.65%
Massachusetts	9	1.43%	Washington	10	1.59%
Michigan	23	3.65%	West Virginia	2	0.32%
Minnesota	49	7.78%	Wisconsin	27	4.29%
Mississippi	3	0.48%	Wyoming	5	0.79%
Missouri	12	1.90%			