



# Duck Tracks™

*Dedicated to Making a Difference*

The Official Journal of the National Duck Stamp Collectors' Society

Fall 2009  
Whole No. 53

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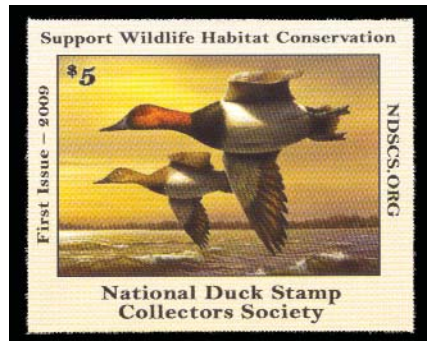
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APS Chapter # 210

## NDSCS issues its first stamp



*NDS1 - the society's first duck stamp!*

The National Duck Stamp Collectors Society, the only stamp society devoted to duck and conservation stamps, is pleased to announce the issuance of their first Society stamp.

The stamp features a canvasback, painted by two-time federal duck stamp artist Robert Hautman. The painting is owned by Bob and Rita Dumaine, who, with the artists permission, donated the use to the Society for its initial stamp issue.

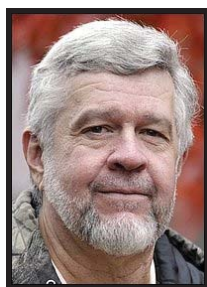
Stamps are issued in sheets of 12, with a \$5 face value. Full sheets are available for \$50 and a purchase of five

sheets or more will receive a 30% discount. Shipping and handling is \$2 per order or \$5 for a sheet order. Postal insurance is optional and extra. Orders should be sent to: NDSCS Stamp, c/o Dr. Ira Cotton, 9939 Broadmoor Rd., Omaha, NE 68114-4926.

The National Duck Stamp Collectors Society was formed in 1992, founded by Bob Dumaine. The purpose of the NDSCS is to promote and encourage the study of migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps.



*A sheet of 12 with decorative selvage.*



*Robert Bealle*

## Bealle wins federal contest

Robert Bealle an artist from Waldorf, Maryland, took top honors at the 2009 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest. Bealle's painting of an

American wigeon will be made into the 2010-2011 Federal Duck Stamp, which will go on sale in late June 2010.

*continued on page 3*

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### NDSCS Financial

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2008  
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Beginning Balance, July 1, 2008 ..... \$4,874.31

**Income:**

# 600 Advertising .....	\$580.00
# 605 Dues-Life Member .....	\$988.40
# 606 Dues-Regular Member .....	\$3,927.36
# 607 Interest Earned (CD's) .....	\$363.63
# 607 Interest Earned (Checking) ..	\$24.93
# 609 Contributions (Bob Dumaine)	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Income</b> .....	<b>\$8,384.32</b>
<b>Total Cash Available</b> .....	<b>.\$13,258.63</b>

**Expenses:**

# 802 Miscellaneous .....	\$675.00
# 803 Postage .....	\$1,063.68
# 804 Printing .....	\$3,912.61
# 810 Website Development .....	\$150.00
<b>Total Expenses</b> .....	<b>\$5,801.29</b>
<b>Ending Balance Checking 6.30.09</b> ....	<b>\$7,457.34</b>
<b>Net Change from previous year</b> .....	<b>\$2,583.03</b>
<b>Investment Income (10 CD's)</b> .....	<b>.\$10,000.00</b>

*Interest is transferred directly to checking account.*

*Duck Tracks* is published by the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society. Subscriptions are included with membership, which is available by writing to the secretary. Submit articles, photographs and advertising materials to the editor. © 2009 NDSCS

Editor - Rita Dumaine Houston, Texas  
e-mail: ritadumaine@aol.com

## Letters



Rita,

Thank you so much for such a nice write up in the latest issue of *Duck Tracks*. You really did your homework researching this as I didn't pick up on even one mistake ... all accurate information. It's clearly a lot of information about one duck stamp artist in this publication and I just wanted to say I appreciate it.

Thanks again!  
Wally Makuchal, Jr  
Girdletree, Md.

### Welcome to all our new members!

New Regular Members

Dennis R. Puccette	Woodland, Calif.
William J. Brown	Houston, Penn.
Andrew D. Berry	Gresham, Ore.
Harold A. Davis	Chadds Ford, Penn.
Myra Florance	Houston, Texas
Brian Winchester	Tallahassee, Fla.
William Foshee	Birmingham, Ala.
William C. Alexander, Jr	Crystal River, Fla.
Terry Toney	Mount Hermon, La.

New Life Members

Timothy O'Shea Granby, Mass.

Member totals as of November 8, 2009

Charter - Life .....	29
Life .....	39
Associate, Charter - Regular, Regular, Junior .....	266
<b>Total Active Membership</b> .....	<b>334</b>
<b>Total Complimentary Copies</b> .....	<b>18</b>

**To receive a copy of this newsletter in full color via e-mail, send your request to: kward33@cogeco.ca**



First place by Robert Bealle.



Second place by Scot Storm.



Third place by Jeffrey Mobley.

### Contest continued from page 1

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service produces the Federal Duck Stamp, which sells for \$15 and raises about \$25 million each year to fund wetland habitat acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Of the 224 entries in this year's contest, eight entries made it through to the final round of judging in the two-day art contest, the oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competition in America. Scot Storm of Freeport, Minn., placed second with his acrylic painting of a pair of wood ducks, and Jeffrey Mobley, of Tulsa, Okla., took third place with an acrylic painting of a gadwall.

"The magnitude of this moment has not escaped me," said Bealle, who has previously entered the Duck Stamp Contest numerous times. "I'm so humbled and appreciative of this. I just don't know what to say."

The Federal Duck Stamp Contest was held this year at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Md. Service Director Sam Hamilton announced the contest winner and congratulated Bealle - who was present at the contest judging - on his achievement.

"We recognize Robert Bealle and personally thank our distinguished panel of judges for their hard work on behalf of waterfowl conservation and the Federal Duck Stamp," said Sam Hamilton, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "This year's contest is particularly special for me because it is my first opportunity to take part in the contest as Fish and Wildlife Service Director, and I am honored to step into the shoes of the many past directors and play a role in this landmark program."

This year's five-judge panel included former Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, an active conservationist; Jeff Hedtke, a conservation in his personal and professional life as well as collection of duck stamps and decoys, Marshall Jones, retired deputy director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Peter Martin, a writer, editor and duck stamp expert; and Judith Warfield Price, a waterfowl art

expert and Executive Director of the Waterfowl Festival in Easton, Maryland. The alternate judge was Evan Hirsche, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. Jim O'Donnell, frequent **Duck Tracks** contributor, of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, served as the stamp expert. O'Donnell spoke at the judge's briefing, helping to explain what design elements make a good stamp design.

All waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase and carry the current Migratory Bird Conservation and Hunting Stamp - commonly known as the Duck Stamp - but conservationists, stamp collectors and others also purchase the stamp in support of habitat conservation. Ninety-eight percent of the proceeds from the \$15 Duck Stamp go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which supports the purchase of acres of wetlands for inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Since 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp program has raised more than \$750 million to purchase nearly six million acres of wildlife habitat for the Refuge System.

The contest attracted a number of artists, including Ron Louque, Tim Taylor, Wally Makuchal, Jr, Rebekah Nastav, Adam Nisbett, Robert Bealle and more. NDSOS members in attendance included Society president Wes Miller, Dr. Murray Touche, Dave Goyer, and Bob and Rita Dumaine. Friday evening, Maryland Ducks Unlimited hosted a fundraiser, a very well attended event.

The 2010 contest is scheduled to be held in the San Francisco Bay Area. When dates and location are set, we will publish the information.

A complete list of artist by entry and each entry itself may be viewed on the Sam Houston Duck co. website - [shduck.com](http://shduck.com).

**See page 4  
for a break-  
down of the  
scores!**



# 2009 Federal Duck Stamp Contest Judging

**Round 1** The contest began with 225 entries. Two were withdrawn by the artist (#84 and 106). The judges selected 42 entries in the In / Out round. Eight paintings were selected as "Bring Backs," to enter the second round. The "Bring Backs" were entry numbers 23, 30, 45, 144, 152, 161, 198 and 210.

**Round 2** The 50 entries that passed to the second round were judged on a scale of one to five, with five being the highest score. At the end of Round 2, the paintings with the five highest scores moved on to Round 3.

Entry #	Species	Artist	Hedtke	Jones	Price	Gilchrest	Martin	Total	Entry #	Species	Artist	Hedtke	Jones	Price	Gilchrest	Martin	Total
6	Wood duck	Novak	2	2	2	3	4	13	96	Wigeon	D. Anderson	4	3	5	4	3	19
8	Wigeon	Feeley	1	3	1	3	4	12	97	Wood duck	R. Hautman	5	3	5	5	3	21
9	Wood duck	Hughes	3	2	1	3	3	12	98	Wood duck	Blight	3	4	3	4	3	17
13	Cinnamon teal	Welty	2	3	3	4	3	15	100	Blue-winged teal	Padgett	2	1	2	3	3	11
18	Wood duck	Borgreen	2	4	2	3	2	13	105	Wood duck	Alexander	3	4	2	3	2	14
23	Wood duck	Miller	1	2	1	3	4	11	109	Wood duck	C. Black	3	3	4	4	3	17
25	Wigeon	French	2	4	2	3	3	14	136	Cinnamon teal	Latham	4	4	3	3	4	18
26	Gadwall	Roe	3	2	3	4	5	14	144	Wood duck	Klinefelter	2	5	3	3	4	17
28	Wood duck	Collins	2	3	2	4	3	14	146	Blue-winged teal	Eckhoff	1	4	4	4	2	15
29	Cinnamon teal	Fisher	4	4	4	4	4	20	149	Cinnamon teal	Humphrey	5	5	3	3	5	21
30	Wood duck	Shephard	1	2	2	3	3	11	152	Wigeon	Kleiber	1	4	1	3	4	13
31	Wigeon	Berger	3	4	2	4	3	16	157	Wigeon	G. Putt	2	3	5	4	3	17
34	Gadwall	Pousson	3	3	1	3	3	13	161	Wigeon	Stevens	1	2	2	3	3	11
45	Wood duck	LaVanish	2	2	4	4	2	14	170	Wood duck	J. Hautman	5	3	2	4	4	18
49	Blue-winged teal	Kness	4	2	3	3	4	16	172	Wood duck	Storm	4	3	5	5	2	19
50	Wigeon	Bealle	5	4	5	4	4	22	190	Wigeon	Nisbett	3	2	3	4	2	14
60	Wigeon	Allard	1	3	2	3	4	13	193	Wood duck	Grimm	4	4	3	4	3	18
68	Wood duck	Snyder	5	3	1	4	3	16	197	Blue-winged teal	Maurer	2	3	1	3	3	12
71	Gadwall	R. Kray	1	4	2	3	3	13	198	Cinnamon teal	Edwards	1	3	2	3	3	13
73	Wood duck	E. Simmons	3	4	3	5	3	18	210	Wood duck	H. Smith	2	4	1	3	3	13
77	Blue-winged teal	Russell-Meline	2	4	4	3	4	17	213	Wood duck	J. Harris	4	3	3	3	2	15
81	Blue-winged teal	Gilbert	2	1	2	3	2	10	214	Blue-winged teal	G. Mobley	2	2	1	3	3	11
85	Wood duck	Schablitsky	3	3	3	3	2	14	222	Wigeon	Murry	2	3	3	5	5	18
93	Gadwall	Crawford	4	3	2	3	5	17	223	Wood duck	Mathios	3	3	3	4	4	17
95	Gadwall	J. Mobley	5	4	4	5	5	23	225	Cinnamon teal	Jacque	2	5	5	5	3	20

**Round 3** The eight entries that passed to the third round were judged on a scale of three to five, with five being the highest score. At the end of Round 3, the third place finisher's was known, but there was a tie for first and second place.

Entry #	Hedtke	Jones	Price	Gilchrest	Martin	Total	Entry #	Hedtke	Jones	Price	Gilchrest	Martin	Total
29	3	4	4	4	4	19	97	5	3	3	5	3	19
50	5	4	4	4	4	21	149	4	4	3	3	5	19
95	4	4	3	4	5	20	172	4	4	5	5	3	21
96	4	3	5	3	3	18	225	4	5	3	4	3	19

**Round 4** There was a tie for first place. Judges must continue to vote until a clear winner is found.

Entry #	Hedtke	Jones	Price	Gilchrest	Martin	Total	Entry #	Hedtke	Jones	Price	Gilchrest	Martin	Total
50	5	5	4	4	5	23	172	4	4	5	5	3	21

## Who to Contact

Would you like to assist the society? Please contact: Wes Miller - wesmiller3@aol.com

Questions about your membership?

Contact Tony Monico - tmonico@comcast.net or write to P.O. Box 43, Harleysville, PA 19438

## Duck Fun!

Here's a new take on the old saying, "If it quacks like a duck ..." this web site features photographs of all types of things that look like a duck!

Post your "Looks like a duck" photos here.  
<http://www.thispeanutlookslikeaduck.com/quack/>

# The Art of Politics

## As the Federal Duck Stamp turns 75, what's coming out of the national government's only art contest?

by Jesse Smith

Art and the government make such strange bedfellows, as the new head of the National Endowment for the Arts recently demonstrated. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Rocco Landesman – the Broadway producer appointed to the post by President Obama – rose to defend his ward against the constant criticism of NEA funding: “The arts are a little bit of a target. The subtext is that it is elitist, left wing, maybe even a little gay.”

Clearly not a fan of subtexts, Landesman is a frank leader of the nation's art budget, especially when it comes to which parts of the nation should get a piece of the NEA's financial pie. “I don't know if there's a theater in Peoria, but I would bet that it's not as good as [Chicago's] Steppenwolf or the Goodman,” Landesman told the Times. “There is going to be some push-back from me about democratizing arts grants to the point where you really have to answer some questions about artistic merit.” You can imagine how that played in Peoria.

Over at the Department of the Interior, they see things a little bit differently. The Department is responsible for the only federally-sponsored annual art competition: the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. Each year the Department chooses a new image for the stamp (known officially as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp) that sportsmen must purchase annually to hunt migrating waterfowl. The contest is open to anyone willing to pony up \$125. For the Interior Department, art can be open to all, and it doesn't have to be anything someone could ever misconstrue as “gay.”

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the duck stamp – the first was issued on August 22, 1934. The government had laid the groundwork five years earlier with passage of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Facing a decline in the number of migrating waterfowl due to both hunting and habitat loss, Congress granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to purchase or lease land to be set aside as reserves for the birds. The Act provided meager funding, however, so Congress followed-up with the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act in '34.

J.N. “Ding” Darling designed the first stamp. Darling was a Des Moines, Iowa political cartoonist who specialized in

the classic Thomas Nast-ian style of the era, in which governments and industries are identified by words blazoned across their chests – steel, oil, the Republican vote. In one of Darling's cartoons, for example, a cigar-chomping man (“Political Mismanagement of our Cities”) holds out a bowl (“Bankrupt City Treasuries”) to a blind beggar (“Taxpayer”). Zing!

But Darling was a conservationist as well; many of his cartoons warned of the danger of mismanaging natural resources. Franklin Roosevelt appointed Darling Director of the Bureau of Biological Survey (later the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service); mangrove wetlands off the Gulf coast of Florida he saved from development are today a National Wildlife Refuge named in his honor. He also came up with the idea of having sportsmen help save the waterfowl they hunted through revenue stamps.



The first duck stamp, purchased by J.N. Darling on August 22, 1934. It is now part of the collection at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, donated by Jeanette C. Rudy.

Darling designed a simple stamp. “Mallards Dropping In” depicts male and female birds about to land on a calm surface. It's a windy day, judging from the blowing grasses in the background. The authoritative, staid serif font of the U.S. government frames the blue-toned image, indicating both its administrative overseer – then the Department of Agriculture – and the stamp's original \$1 price tag. (Darling ceremoniously purchased that first stamp back in August '34 from a Washington, D.C. postmaster).

The FWS oversees the duck stamp program today, and boasts that 98 percent of stamp sales go into the Migratory

*continued on page 16*

## Hamilton becomes new FWS Director



*Sam Hamilton,  
Director of the U.S. Fish  
and Wildlife Service.*

On September 1, 2009, Sam Hamilton was sworn-in as the 15th Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the nation's principal Federal agency dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Hamilton brings to the position over 30 years of experience with the Service, beginning when he was 15 years old working as a Youth Conservation Corps member on the Noxubee

National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi. Prior to his appointment as Director, he served as Regional Director of the agency's Southeast Region in Atlanta, Georgia. As head of the Southeast Region, made up of ten states and Caribbean, he provided oversight and management of a \$484 million budget and a 1,500-person work-force dedicated to protecting more than 350 federally listed threatened and endangered species and operating 128 national wildlife refuges.

Throughout his career, Hamilton has exhibited outstanding leadership and has fostered creative and innovative solutions to the challenges facing wildlife conservation. In the Southeast Region, he supported efforts leading to the establishment of a carbon sequestration program that has helped biologists to restore roughly 80,000 acres of wildlife habitat. His emphasis on partnership activities has bolstered the Service's fisheries program and helped establish the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership to restore vital aquatic habitats across the region.

Hamilton provided leadership and oversight to the department's restoration work in the Everglades, the

largest ecosystem restoration project in the country, and oversaw recovery and restoration work following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which devastated coastal wetlands, wildlife refuges, and other wildlife habitat along the Gulf of Mexico. Prior to becoming regional director, Hamilton served as assistant regional director of the ecological services in Atlanta and the Service's Texas state administrator in Austin. Hamilton graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in 1977.

Hamilton provided key leadership and oversight to the Interior Department's restoration work in the Everglades, the nation's fabled "River of Grass", and the largest ecosystem restoration project in the country. He oversaw the extensive recovery and restoration efforts required following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which devastated coastal wetlands, wildlife refuges, and other wildlife habitat areas along the Gulf of Mexico.

Hamilton remains a strong advocate for the National Wildlife Refuge System, comprised of 550 units and encompassing 150 million acres of protected habitat. Throughout his career he has supported the expansion of existing refuges and the addition of new refuges as an essential step in providing for America's wildlife heritage.

Earlier in his career, Hamilton served as Assistant Regional Director of Ecological Services in Atlanta and as the Service's Texas State Administrator in Austin. Hamilton graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in 1977.

Sam strongly believes no single entity, whether Federal, State, or private, can ensure the sustainability of the nation's fish and wildlife resources working independently, and continues to work toward building collaborative partnerships that allow for the development of ideas and solutions that are greater than any one entity, working on its own, can accomplish.

Hamilton was a presence during this year's federal duck stamp contest. He attended the Maryland DU party on Friday evening and was on hand to announce the contest winner on Saturday afternoon (in spite of a traffic jam that delayed him more than two hours). Hamilton has attended many duck contests over the years, and spoke of how proud he was to be able to announce the winner this year.

### **Attention Members!**

**The by-laws of the NSDCS would have had this as an election year. It should be noted we received no additional nominees and there was no vote taken on incumbents to save time and money.**



# Arizona waterfowl stamp program breaks new ground with two stamps

## **Artwork selected from award winning artist and elementary school student.**

There are three great reasons to pick up a 2009 Arizona Waterfowl Stamp.

The reasons start with the beautifully detailed and life-like rendition of a pair of hooded mergansers by 2006 Federal Duck Stamp winner Sherrie Russell Meline.

Meline is well known for her impeccably textured feather work, using an acrylic wash, delicately applying layer by layer from a self-mixed color palette. Meline's artwork has graced the face of more than 30 other state and Canadian province duck stamps.

Secondly, for the first time, an alternative stamp is available, unofficially deemed the state's junior art duck stamp.

"We created it in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recognize young inspiring artists who are learning about the importance of wetlands and waterfowl conservation through the Federal Junior Duck Stamp program," said Mike Rabe, duck stamp administrator and migratory bird biologist for the department. "It's really a neat thing and I'm glad we are able to do it."

"To be able to recognize the contribution of our Arizona kids in this state category is truly heartwarming and inspiring," said Margot Bissell former Arizona Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator with the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. "Now our young artists have the excitement of a second opportunity to display their conservation and artistic learnings."

Ten-year-old Olivia Raiff, of Scottsdale, has the honors of being the first artist from the competition to have their artwork featured on the state's annual waterfowl stamp.

"When I got the phone call, it took me awhile to process that I won," said Raiff. "Then I was in shock for a minute. I couldn't think straight when the judges asked me questions. It still seems crazy now."

Raiff, a fifth-grader from Pinnacle Peak Elementary, created an inspiring piece of art of an American wigeon taking flight out of the cattails titled "take-off" using watercolor pencils under the passionate guidance of art teacher, Gay Kohl. Her composition captured the realism of the



AZ23 Hooded Mergansers by Sherrie Russell Meline.



AZ23J American wigeon by Olivia Raiff.

duck's wings direction at first flight, identified accurate habitat, and incorporated a flock of ducks in the sky off in the distance.

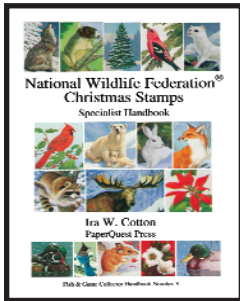
When asked what she liked best about the art program, Raiff added, "I like it all, but my favorite part would be the competition. I always try to add details that would make my picture stand out."

A limited run of 500 of the alternate stamps were available for purchase, but the state has sold out. Hunters and collectors had the opportunity to choose to purchase one or both of the stamps. Either stamp will validate a general hunting license (along with a federal duck stamp) for the legal take of waterfowl, ducks, and geese during the 2009-10 season.

Lastly, the good news is the money generated from the sale of the state's waterfowl stamp is used to for the conservation of wetlands to benefit Arizona's waterfowl species. When buying either stamp, you are supporting waterfowl conservation. Now in its 22nd year, some of the investments from the program have resulted in amazing resting grounds for wintering sandhill cranes, geese, waterfowl and many other birds and wildlife.

**To learn more about the Federal Junior Duck Stamp art contest, visit [www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck).**

# New collector handbook on National Wildlife Federation® Christmas stamps



Just in time for the holidays, PaperQuest Press announces the publication of a new collector handbook, the third in a series of fish and game philatelic handbooks by noted author Ira Cotton.

National Wildlife Federation® Christmas stamps were issued from

1956 through 2000 to promote wildlife conservation and to raise funds for wildlife conservation. These stamps are interesting because of their colorful designs by leading wildlife artists and because of the many varieties in the sheets. Over 80 Christmas sheets and booklets are all illustrated in full color (headers and top row for sheets) and

varieties are described in detail. Lists are provided for all sheets and booklets, over 400 stamps, artists, and stamp subjects. About 20 of the stamps picture migratory waterfowl.

Philatelists, conservationists, wildlife topical collectors, cinderella collectors, and anyone who loves Christmas should find this handbook appealing. The handbook is available in both saddle-stitched and spiral bindings.

Collectors can order and pay on-line at [www.PaperQuestPress.com](http://www.PaperQuestPress.com) or download and mail an order form at the site. Prices are \$38 for the saddle-stitched binding and \$39.50 for the spiral binding, each plus \$5 shipping and handling. The cover, Table of Contents, and a sample page may be viewed through the website.

## Canada goose planned for 2010 Massachusetts stamp



*Artwork for the 2010 Massachusetts stamp by Janice Sexton.*

An exceptional painting by Janice Sexton of Westport, Massachusetts, of a Canada goose decoy that was carved by J. Thomas Wilson of Ipswich captured the top honors in the 2010 Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp competition.

The Waterfowl Stamp competition celebrates both the folk art of decoy-making and excellence in wildlife painting. Entries for this competition must be paintings of decoys by deceased Massachusetts decoy makers, and the resulting paintings offer unique views of these beautiful and fascinating works of art. The winning paintings for each year are reproduced on the Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp, which is required for anyone hunting waterfowl in the Commonwealth and also is popular with collectors, many of whom have sought the stamps since the program's inception in 1974. Judging for the 2010 competition was held at the Westborough Field Headquarters of

the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (the Division) on August 10, 2009.

Janice Sexton was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and moved to the West Coast in her early twenties. She has studied fine art at the University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee), the University of California (Sonoma State), and the University of Nevada (Reno), as well as with several private instructors. Sexton's work has been honored previously in the Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp competition, taking second place in 2000 and in 2007, and the Honorable Mention in 1999, 2001, and 2003. Her painting in the 2001 competition depicted a Red-breasted Merganser drake decoy that was also carved by J. Thomas Wilson.

Prints of the winning 2010 painting will be available to purchase on Sexton's website, [www.janicesexton.com](http://www.janicesexton.com).

Income generated from the sale of stamps is dedicated to the acquisition and management of wetlands critical to the conservation of migratory birds throughout North America. These same areas provide important habitat to a host of other wetland-dependent species of wildlife as well. The Division's Waterfowl Stamp program, supported in part by the efforts of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., has generated over \$1 million in stamp sales for wetland conservation since 1974 when the program began.



## Ask the Expert



Hi, my name is Alexander and I am a life member of NDSCS. First I would like to thank all of members of NDSCS who work on *Duck Tracks* Journal.

My question is regard to 1974 Iowa State Conservation Commission Trout Stamp (IAT 14).

I bought 1974 Iowa Trout Stamp from a dealer on eBay (with artist signature, as I believe).

I looked out for a price of (IAT14) with artist's signature I could not find, but at your website the stamp without signature costs \$35. I think approximated price of mine is \$50.

I would like to know the artist's name and how many stamps has been artist signed.

Sincerely,  
Alexander Kishinevsky  
Member # 0083-0841

Hi Alexander,

Thanks for your question. The artist for the 1974 Iowa trout stamp is Craig Ritland. I have no way of knowing how many artist signed stamps exist.

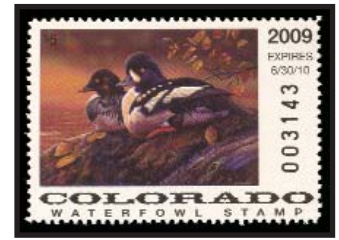
The value of artists' signatures on stamps vary greatly. Some factors are how many were signed; the artist's accessibility; if still alive to sign more, age of the stamp, and authenticity of the signature. In most cases, comparison to other signatures will be very helpful. Generally, personalized signatures on a stamp, i.e. "To Bob" tend to lessen the value to another collector unless a very rare signature. On modern stamps, the artist's signature adds \$10 to 20. to the stamp's value.

Bob Dumaine

*If you have a duck stamp question that you would like to have Bob Dumaine answer, please submit via e-mail to ritadumaine@aol.com or mail to: c/o Duck Tracks P.O. Box 820087, Houston, TX 77282.*

## CO features Barrow's

The Barrow's goldeneye, one of two similar ducks to visit Colorado during migration, is featured on this year's Colorado Waterfowl Stamp.



*The 2009 Colorado stamp.*

Award-winning Wisconsin wildlife artist Craig Fairbert's vivid portrait captures a

Barrow's goldeneye drake and hen resting amid autumn leaves on a mossy rock in fast water. Fairbert's "Golden Colorado" bested the work of 36 other wildlife artists to secure the highly coveted spot on this year's stamp.

"The 2009 Colorado Waterfowl Stamp is truly one-of-a-kind," said Brian Sullivan, DOW wetlands coordinator. "Hunters and collectors alike will appreciate the amazing detail and design of this year's stamp. It will make a great addition to anyone's collection."

Each year, the Colorado Waterfowl Stamp program holds a contest for original waterfowl artwork to be depicted on the collector waterfowl stamp. Stamps and a print of the stamp are created for sale to waterfowl and wetland enthusiasts, bird watchers, and stamp collectors. Since 1990, the program has raised \$6.7 million.

All hunters age 16 or older must purchase a Colorado Waterfowl Stamp to hunt waterfowl in Colorado. The \$5 fee \$5 and has not increased since the program's inception in 1990. Hunters receive electronic stamps to validate their small game licenses, but they may also request traditional 'gum-back' collector stamps, featuring Fairbert's artwork. Gum-back stamps will be mailed to hunters upon request. Beginning mid-December 2009, a \$2.50 fee will be charged to cover the mailing and processing of the gum-back stamps. Print, as well as stamps and art prints from previous years, are available through the Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

## Clifton wins Louisiana duck stamp contest

After winning 27 duck stamp contests, wildlife artist Richard Clifton could be forgiven for greeting another victory with boredom. But upon winning this year's Louisiana Duck Stamp Contest, Clifton was all smiles.

"I'd never entered it before," said Clifton. "Pretty neat to enter for the first time and win it"

Since he started painting full time in 1990, Clifton has

triumphed in contests across the nation, including five Delaware duck stamps and the supremely coveted federal duck stamp. The painting that won the Louisiana contest showcases a pair of pintail ducks in flight, a hunter and boat floating in the water below. "It's moody," he said.

The prize yields no money, Clifton said, but he gets to

*continued on page 12*

## Artist reaches goal with waterfowl stamp victory

A painting of a pair of wood ducks by Wisconsin artist Craig Fairbert is the 2010 Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp contest winner, completing Fairbert's goal of winning all five stamp contests by the state DNR. After winning the 2005 Great Lakes Trout stamp, Fairbert, 41, set a goal to win all DNR contests for state hunting or fishing stamps.

"Even though there's no money in it, it's neat to see your artwork on the stamp. I've been buying stamps for years, and my dad, my friends, they're all hunters," Fairbert said.

He also won the 2007 inland trout stamp contest with a painting of a pair of brown trout, followed by the 2008 pheasant stamp and the 2009 turkey stamp.

In between, he won the Great Lakes trout stamp a second time in 2008 and the 2010 inland trout stamp a second time, giving him a total of seven stamp contest wins.

His latest win, announced Monday, was his fourth attempt at the state waterfowl stamp. There were 23 entries.

In April, Fairbert also won the Colorado waterfowl stamp contest with a painting of a pair of Barrow's goldeneye.

Proceeds from the \$7 state waterfowl stamps are used for developing, managing, preserving, restoring and maintaining wetland habitat in Wisconsin and Canada for waterfowl and other wetland-associated species.

Wisconsin duck and goose hunters are required to purchase "stamp approval" through an automated system but will not receive an actual stamp unless they request it.

DNR service centers will have the stamps available for free to everyone with stamp approval. Anyone else interested in collecting the stamp may purchase one directly from the DNR.

Fairbert said it's too bad hunters and anglers don't automatically get the stamps anymore when they pay for them because many sportsmen never see the artwork.

"The ultimate goal for me now is the federal duck stamp," Fairbert said. "That's a huge shot in the dark. They get from 350 to 500 entries, but I think I can do it some day."



*Fairbert's wood ducks will appear on the 2010 Wisconsin duck stamp.*

## Dumaine resigns as Duck Tracks editor

### Volunteers needed

This issue of *Duck Tracks* will be the last produced by Rita Dumaine for the NDSCS. Dumaine, who took over as interim editor in 2005, has notified the Board of Directors that she will no longer be able to serve as editor. The society is now seeking a replacement.

If you are interested in helping with the production of the newsletter, please contact society president Wes Miller. You can reach Miller via e-mail at wesmiller3@aol.com or write to him at: P.O. Box 5289, Clearwater, FL 33765.

Producing the newsletter requires assistance in several different fields. With the convenience of desktop publishing, the newsletter can be created and printed in two entirely different locations.

**Are you a printer or know a printer?** Maybe you could help the society by handling the printing and mailing of the newsletter.

**Good at layout and design?** Perhaps you could handle the process of doing the prepress.

**A good proofreader?** Volunteer to look over the newsletter before it goes to press.

In addition, the Society will still need **YOUR** input to keep **YOUR** award-winning newsletter interesting and informative!

---

## Wood ducks for Minnesota

Mark Kness will have his painting of a wood duck featured on the 2010 Minnesota Duck Stamp.

Kness' design was chosen from among 46 entries in the DNR-sponsored contest. Sixteen entries advanced to the second stage of judging, from which six finalists were selected.

Kness won the same contest in 2003. He has placed fourth in Federal Duck Stamp competition in 2004.

All Minnesota waterfowl hunters ages 18-64 are required to buy the \$7.50 stamp. Sales generate from \$500,000 to \$900,000 per year for habitat enhancement projects in state wildlife management areas and shallow lakes.

Each year, the entries are limited to a predetermined species that breeds or migrates through Minnesota. The eligible species for the 2011 stamp design will be the red-breasted merganser.



# First Day of Sale Ceremony for 2009 Federal Duck Stamp

by Jim O'Donnell

On June 26, 2009, the first Federal Duck Stamps of 2009 went on sale across the United States. The official First

Day of Sale ceremony was held at the Bass Pro Shop in Nashville, Tennessee.



Paul Schmidt, Director of the Migratory Bird Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, began the ceremony. Schmidt has become a regular fixture at these functions.



Martin McDonald, conservation director for Bass Pro Shops, spoke. Martin has a dry wit which makes him an entertaining speaker.



Rowan Gould, Acting Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, then spoke and purchased the first duck stamp of 2009.



Artist Joshua Spies, who painted the Long-tailed duck which appears on the 2009 Federal Duck Stamp, spoke. A selection of Mr. Spies' artwork was on display.



Junior artist Lily Spang spoke. Her painting of a wood duck won the Junior Duck Stamp art contest earlier this year in Washington, D.C.



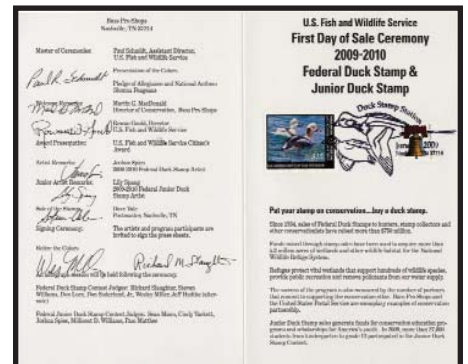
Rowan Gould gave a conservation service award to Mrs. Jeanette C. Rudy who attended the ceremony.



Two sheets of each format of the 2009 Federal Duck Stamp were signed by the ceremony speakers. Here, Junior Duck Stamp Artist Lily Spang adds her autograph.



Afterwards, there was signing of programs, cards and stamps by the ceremony speakers. Here, artists Lily Spang and Joshua Spies sign programs.



If one buys a 2009 Federal Duck Stamp and a postage stamp, obtains a First Day Postmark and the signatures of all who spoke, then the result is a valuable collectible, such as this.



After the ceremony, I was able to visit with Mrs. Rudy, duck stamp collector extraordinaire, who show me her service award. Mrs. Rudy built one of the finest and most comprehensive duck stamp collections in the United States. In 2006, she gave a large portion of it to the Smithsonian Institution, where she had sponsored a display for the previous decade. She has also been a strong supporter of the Junior Duck Stamp program.

The Jeanette Rudy collection can be seen online at: [www.postalmuseum.si.edu/ARAGOGloriousFlight](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/ARAGOGloriousFlight)



## Sanctuary rehabs ducks, Duck man

Bill Volkart, the Duck Man of Clermont County, Ohio, had a stroke and died in 2005.

"I was dead for two minutes," according to Volkart, 58. "I don't know exactly how they brought me back. I got resuscitated, but I wasn't in the emergency room. I was in heaven."

After getting home from the hospital, paralyzed on his left side for months, he had an epiphany.

"I became convinced I was sent back for a purpose," Volkart said. "My whole life changed."

He had no insurance to pay for physical therapy, but Volkart regained his health by caring for seven wild ducks that had taken up residence near the half-acre pond in his yard five months earlier.

His rehabilitation included "coming out here at dawn and late evenings to feed them, carrying 50-pound bags of duck food," Volkart said.

Now, he and his wife, Gigi, operate the Mount Holly Duck Sanctuary from their stone house and surrounding five acres.

It is the only duck sanctuary in Southern Ohio that Bill Volkart knows of, and possibly one of only three in the state.

About 50 ducks and a goose named Howard depend on the Volkarts for food and shelter, which includes a heated duck coop that Bill built. Breeds include pekin, Muscovy, mallard, rouen and blue Swede.

It's possible that some of the ducks could live in the wild without the sanctuary, but would Bill Volkart survive without them?

"I fell in love with all these animals," he said. "I believe they are the reason I'm alive. They motivated me to be more than I was."

Some ducks are popular as Easter presents for children

but grow to be too much trouble to keep, Bill Volkart said.

"Taking care of ducks is a totally different experience than taking care of most anything else," he said. "They have special food requirements and (need) particular medical care."

One room of the couple's modest house has been dubbed the animal hospital. Classical music plays on a radio to soothe ruffled feathers.

Dewey, who has deformed feet because of an improper temperature setting on a school incubator project gone awry, lives there in a box. Another box holds a duck recuperating from an attack by a raccoon.

"We go through hundreds of cans of air freshener," Gigi Volkart said as she sprayed the room. "It's a lot of work."

The sanctuary has all the water fowl it can handle.

"We need donations more than ducks," Bill Volkart said. "The flock eats upwards of 100 pounds of duck food a week, which costs about \$30."

There is a 32-page children's book written by Bill Volkart, "Meep Finds His Way." It can be found on the web site [www.MtHollyDuckSanctuary.com](http://www.MtHollyDuckSanctuary.com).

Illustrated by Maureen Heidtmann, a children's librarian in Connecticut, the book is about a blind duckling who is adopted by a loving woman.

People can adopt a duck from the sanctuary, but Bill Volkart must be sure the bird is going to a good home, rather than a restaurant.

"I don't let just anybody who shows up here take one," Bill Volkart said. "No, you're not going to make soup out of my ducks."



### Clifton continued from page 9

keep the original, and he retains publishing rights for the prints.

He said the painting took him about a week to execute, from concept sketch to the last brushstroke. The planning, he said, takes much longer - paintings will sometimes percolate in his mind for months before he picks up a brush.

Clifton's painting of ring-necked ducks won the Federal Duck Stamp Contest in 2006, cementing his reputation as a preeminent waterfowl artist. After the many speaking

engagements and public appearances that come along with the prize, Clifton said he's finally catching up with painting, and producing his best work yet - a new painting of canvas-back ducks shows a new virtuosity with light



*Pintails for the 2010 LA stamp.*

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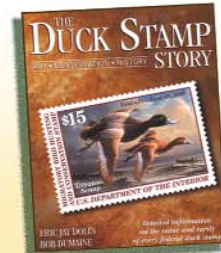
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## Ruddy ducks selected for Ohio stamp



*Winning artwork in the Ohio duck stamp contest.*

The artwork of a pair of ruddy ducks by North Dakota resident Jeffrey Hoff won first place in this year's Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp Design Competition, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

(ODNR), Division of Wildlife. Hoff's painting will appear on the Ohio wetlands stamp issued in the fall of 2010.

The winning entry was selected from a field of 24 original paintings submitted by artists from 12 states, including 10 entries from Ohio. The contest was held earlier this year in conjunction with a Ducks Unlimited banquet.

"The ruddy duck is my favorite waterfowl and I have entered the Ohio competition in hope that it would be the

first time this species was depicted on an Ohio stamp," said Hoff, who has entered the state competition three previous times, but has never won. Hoff added that he has won state stamp competitions in Nevada and Oklahoma.

Approximately 25,000 Ohio wetland stamps were purchased last year, according to the ODNR Division of Wildlife.

The judges for this year's event included Al Faber, chief of the joint staff for the Ohio National Guard and an avid duck hunter; Jim McCarty, reporter and avian columnist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer; Julie Zickefoose, writer and naturalist from southeastern Ohio; Celeste Baumgartner, president of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio; and Kenn Kaufman, noted speaker and author of the Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America now living in northwestern Ohio. Steve Dey from Ohio Ducks Unlimited served as the alternate judge.

## New Jersey foolishly discontinues stamp

The state Division of Fish and Wildlife has discontinued the sale of paper waterfowl stamps and prints, a decision that makes former state Division of Fish and Game Director George Howard is just a little melancholy.

Howard, currently the conservation director for the state Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, said selling the beautiful paper stamps and prints helped the division preserve a lot of waterfowl habitat during the past quarter century.

"I own quite a few myself," said Howard. "It was a very good program."

The stamps and artwork were hugely popular for many years but recently sales declined. This year, waterfowl hunters are required to buy "certifications" instead of paper stamps. The certifications, available from hunting license agents or on the division's website, cost the same as did the duck stamps: \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents.

"The artwork and the paper stamp were discontinued as cost saving measures," explained the division in a statement announcing the change.

The division is still selling prints of the 2008 duck stamp featuring canvasback ducks painted by Rob Leslie

Duck stamps and collectible prints depicted ducks, hunting dogs and other waterfowl-related images painted by the nation's best outdoors artists. They were first sold in

New Jersey in 1984 and their sales combined raised about \$4.2 million. The money was used to preserve more than 13,000 acres of prime waterfowl habitat, according to the division.

Howard noted that money from the sale of the waterfowl certifications will still be earmarked for habitat preservation. As for the future value of the collector prints, Howard is optimistic but uncertain.

"They still have value," he said, noting that one print of particular interest depicts an American brant but has "brant" mistakenly spelled "brandt."

For more information on the state waterfowl stamps, including how to purchase the final collector stamps and prints, visit [njfishandwildlife.com/prod\\_stamps.htm](http://njfishandwildlife.com/prod_stamps.htm). Orders must be postmarked by December 31, 2009.

**Editors note:** And why does our headline read "foolishly?" Because New Jersey has chosen to throw away the collector dollar. Each duck stamp collector who purchased a set of New Jersey stamps contributed an additional \$15 to the waterfowl fund that the state will now **not** receive. Collectors who also collect hunter-type stamps doubled that number, contributing \$30 to the fund without ever setting foot in a marsh.

If you wish to comment to the state, you can send an e-mail to: [njfishandwildlife@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:njfishandwildlife@dep.state.nj.us).

### Art of Politics continued from page 5

Bird Conservation Fund, used to expand the National Wildlife Refuge System; since its inception, duck sales have generated over \$700 million in income and funded the preservation of more than five million acres of wetlands, according to the FWS.

Duck stamps prices started at \$1, but rose to \$2, \$3, \$5, \$7.50, \$10, and \$12 before settling at the current \$15 rate; last month, a bill to raise the fee from \$15 to \$25 in 2016 passed the House Committee on Natural Resources. To be sure, the program has faced criticism, largely from the right. In *Political Environmentalism: Going Behind the Green Curtain* (published by the conservative Hoover Institute), Kurtis Swope, Daniel Benjamin, and Terry Anderson argue that the stamp program “has been more expensive and less effective at conserving waterfowl habitat than might be suggested by the FWS.” According to the authors, between 1934 and 1958, only 15 percent of stamp revenue funded land purchases, the rest supporting development, administration, and enforcement. Two things changed that pattern – a 1958 amendment required the FWS to use all stamp revenue on land leases and purchases; the 1961 Wetlands Loan Act provided a \$105 million loan for greater acquisitions. But at the same time, they argue, federal agriculture policy and price supports compelled farmers to convert wetlands into cultivated acreage, increasing wetlands’ financial value and therefore the cost to the FWS: “[F]or much of the period under consideration,” the authors write, “the FWS was competing head-to-head with USDA, paying productive farmland prices and receiving in return wetlands duck habitat ... [T]he Duck Stamp Program was paying top dollar for farmland that was probably marginal at best for agriculture. This was solely a product of set-aside programs that substantially increased the value to the farmer of marginal land.” For FWS’s take on its spending, visit “Your Stamp Duck Dollars at Work” on the agency’s Web site, where you can see state-by-state just what stamp money has purchased.

The federal government isn’t alone in the stamp business. States quickly followed the nation’s lead and created their own, beginning with Ohio in 1938. A collecting base quickly developed as well, and is today led by the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society – a fervent group that’s been featured on Jeopardy! (“It quacks me up that NDSCS is a club for people who collect stamps featuring these”) and that ranks duck stamps up there with god and coun-

try (“This issue finds us getting ready to adjust to a new presidential administration, a new duck stamp winner, winter and most importantly the holiday season for many of the world’s religions,” a recent newsletter opined). Each year it hands out the annual “Worst Stamp Award” (sorry, Connecticut!).

But duck stamps are largely about the artists. In 1949, the task of creating the stamps’ design opened to the American public. To win is today considered one of the highest honors a wildlife artist can achieve. Each summer – from June 1 to August 15 – painters send a check for \$125 and a 9”x12” image to Washington; judges appointed by the Secretary of the Interior select the winner in October.

Success requires a mastery of three areas: basic waterfowl biology (“if you choose to depict a spring scene, is the bird’s plumage correct for that season?”), artistic composition (“is the image artistically interesting, does it ‘pop’ when you look at it?”) and suitability for engraving (this is ultimately going on a stamp, people!). Five species are eligible each year: American widgeon, Wood duck, Gadwall, Cinnamon teal, and Blue-winged teal are up for 2010’s stamp; Brant, Northern shoveler, Ruddy duck, Canada goose, and White-fronted Goose for 2011’s. The bird must be the design’s centerpiece, but painters are given a fair amount of artistic freedom in how exactly to depict the animals. Hunting dogs, hunting scenes, and decoys are allowed, even if they rarely show up as winners (1959’s Labrador retriever, the 1952 and ‘53 National Retriever Field Trial Club champ, and 1975’s Canvasback decoy being the exceptions). 1996’s Surf scoters and 2003’s Snow geese each contains a lighthouse in its background. A meta reference to stamp collecting itself is permissible, though it has yet to appear.

Long-tailed duck by Joshua Spies won last year’s contest. The realism is striking, especially the sun-lit ripples of water that splash off the duck’s breast. Consider the stamps as a whole and a narrative of improvement is



*1950's Trumpeter swans, the first winner of the public design contest.*



*1959's Mallard with retriever.*

*continued on next page*

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### **Art of Politics continued from previous page**

obvious. One can see the fine, individual feathers of 2005's Hooded merganser, the faint glimmer on the eyes of 2008's Northern pintails. Yet the progress from Darling's original Mallards to 2009's Long-tailed ducks is less an evolution of artistry and more one of technology. More colors are introduced, printing quality improves.

One imagines that Darling and Spies shared the same impulse: to create as realistic a scene of waterfowl as possible given their respective technological constraints. All the images of course bear the imprint of their creators – the artists' impressions as to the best time of day to depict a Black-bellied whistling duck, say, or whether to capture Harlequin ducks taking off or landing, or whether to give a pair of Ruddy ducks a brood. But instead of exploring the fringes of the art – of finding new ways to convey the idea of wildlife – the stamp artists work toward a single, communal goal: create as true-to-life a scene as possible. Unlike the fine arts, it's as if the history of the craft builds on itself, layer upon layer, aided by innovation in stamp production not to explore the limits of what's possible, but to edge closer toward a single and ultimately unreachable point.

Which, in the end, is probably why the contest is administered by the Department of the Interior, and not the NEA.

*Jesse Smith is managing editor of The Smart Set from Drexel University, where this article first appeared. Reprinted with permission.*

## **Indiana requires stamp for hunting mourning doves**

Beginning in 2009, Indiana hunters who wish to pursue mourning dove must purchase a game bird habitat stamp.

Mourning doves are the most abundant game bird in the world and the most popular game bird in Indiana. Each year, roughly 35,000 hunters pursue morning dove in Indiana. It is estimated that over one-third of all doves harvested in Indiana are taken from DNR-owned properties.

When the game bird stamp was developed, doves could not be hunted in Indiana. Had dove hunting been legal at the time the game bird stamp was developed, doves would have been included on the list of species requiring the stamp.

This year, the DNR took advantage of the opportunity to bring doves under the game bird stamp provision. Money collected from the sales of game bird stamps is used to purchase and manage land on which the public can hunt pheasants, quail, turkeys grouse and doves.

"Habitat development has been traditionally focused on eradicating fescue, establishing native grasses, developing firebreaks, planting food plots, enrolling Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land in strategic locations, conducting prescribed burns, strip disking, and strip spraying," said Mitch Marcus, DNR wildlife staff specialist.

Of the money collected from the sale of game bird habitat stamps, 75 percent is used to acquire game bird habitat, including development on fish and wildlife areas and other public land, while the remaining 25 percent is used to fund game bird habitat developments on privately owned land throughout the state. On the average, \$130,000 is used each year to develop approximately 2,600 acres of game bird habitat on private lands.

Funds collected from the sale of the game bird habitat stamp provide landowners standardized habitat development/management payments and one-time incentive payments for enrolling lands in the CRP and for voluntarily enrolling existing CRP lands into mid-contract management activities designed to increase habitat quality for game birds.



*The 2009 Indiana game bird stamp.*



## Oliver wins Delaware contest

Pennsylvania artist Steve Oliver's painting featuring a canvasback duck will become the 2010 Delaware Duck Stamp.

The painting won top honors in the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife's annual stamp art competition. This year's event drew 47 entries for the 2010 Duck Stamp.

The 2010 Duck Stamp winner, Steve Oliver, who resides in Brookhaven, Pa., will receive a \$2,500 prize and 150 artist's proofs of the limited edition print series of his first place duck entry. A full-time artist for nine years, Oliver has placed in a number of wildlife stamp contests and wildlife art competitions in other states, including a third place on North Carolina's 2008 Duck Stamp Competition and first place in Maryland's 2007-2008 Black Bear Stamp contest.

The 2010 Duck Stamp judges were Ducks Unlimited Chairman Scott Crawford, artist and past Duck Stamp winner Richard Clifton of Milford, collector Charles Sheppard, teacher Don Parks and biologist Charlii Miller.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, began the duck stamp and print program in 1980 to raise funds for waterfowl conservation, including acquiring and improving the wetland habitats that are vital for the survival of migratory waterfowl. To date, more than \$2.5 million has been raised.

Duck Stamps go on sale July 1 for \$9 and are required when hunting migratory waterfowl in Delaware.



Steve Oliver with his winning entry in the Delaware contest.

## Virginia program welcomes new artist

The artwork for the 2009 Virginia waterfowl stamp depicts a ring-neck duck arching up with outspread wings on the water. The stamp was painted by John Obolewicz, and is his first stamp for the state.

Obolewicz specializes in watercolors, yet his versatility is shown in paintings of landscapes, old farms, hunting and fishing scenes, wildlife, and dog and horse portraits. Among his commissions he has done historic homes as well as the categories above.

In keeping with his love of the outdoors, John Obolewicz is an avid sportsman who enjoys fishing, hunting, golf, skiing, and boating. He and his wife Barbara and their daughter Haley reside in Powhatan, where he maintains his studio.

Last year, 22,622 duck stamps were sold bringing in \$203,598. Stamp collectors who would like the 2009 Virginia waterfowl print by John Obolewicz can request it by contacting Mike Hinton at ducks@hintons.org



The 2009 Virginia stamp. Also available as a hunter type stamp.

## New quarters to feature National Parks & Wildlife Refuges

### 50 DOI Sites Selected for the America the Beautiful Quarters™ Program

Hot Springs, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Grand Canyon National Parks will be the first sites commemorated in a new quarter-dollar program.

Starting in April 2010, the America the Beautiful Quarters Program will begin producing quarters with reverse (tails side) designs showcasing a national park or other federally preserved area from each state, U.S. territory, and the District of Columbia.

"The new quarter program recognizes that public places of inspiration and recreation have always been important to Americans," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "The quarters highlight the diversity and magnificence of 48 National Park Service sites and two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges cared for by the Department of the Interior as well as six national forests administered by the Department of Agriculture.

Hopefully the coins will encourage people to learn more about each area and its significance to our heritage."

A new quarter will be introduced approximately every 10 weeks for eleven years. The 56 coins will be issued sequen-

*continued on next page*

**Quarters continued from previous page**

tially in the order in which the featured location was first placed under the care of the federal government.

The first, Hot Springs National Park, was established as Hot Springs Reservation in 1832 and later became a national park. Yellowstone was established in 1872, Yosemite in 1890 and the Grand Canyon in 1893.

Congress authorized the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter DollarCoin Act of 2008 to celebrate the nation's legacy of conservation. The legislation recalls noteworthy steps in the nation's preservation movement and quotes Theodore Roosevelt who said that nothing short of defending this country in wartime "compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

Salazar and the United States Mint selected the places based on recommendations from the governor or chief executive of each jurisdiction.

In addition to the coins for circulation, the Mint will produce collectable items including proof sets, silver proof sets, a five ounce silver bullion coin, coin bags, and coin rolls for each quarter. For more information about the America the Beautiful Quarters Program, please visit: [http://www.usmint.gov/mint\\_programs/NSQuartersProgram/index.cfm](http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/NSQuartersProgram/index.cfm).

# Upcoming Events

- **Illinois – November 20-22** CHICAGOPEX, Sheraton Chicago Northwest, [chicagopex.com](http://chicagopex.com).
- **Florida – December 4-6** FLOREX Florida Fair Grounds, Commercial Exhibit Hall, Orlando. [florexstampshow.com](http://florexstampshow.com); 407-493-0956.
- **New York – December 11-13** MetroExpo NY, Midtown Holiday Inn, [metroexpos.com](http://metroexpos.com); 1-800-635-3351.
- **New Jersey – January 8-10** 37th Annual Garden State Stamp Show, Bethwood Manor, Totowa. E-mail [njshows@optonline.net](mailto:njshows@optonline.net); 732-247-1093.
- **California – January 15-17** SANDICAL, Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, San Diego. [sandical.org](http://sandical.org); 760-746-1505.
- **Florida – February 5-7** Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. [sarasotastampclub.com](http://sarasotastampclub.com); 941-933-0919.
- **Arizona – February 12-14** ARIPEX, Mesa Convention Center. [aripexonline.com](http://aripexonline.com); 602-956-3497.
- **California – February 19-21** APS AmeriStamp Expo, Riverside Convention Center. [stamps.org](http://stamps.org); 814-933-3803.
- **Missouri – February 26-28** St. Louis Stamp Expo, Renaissance Airport Hotel. [stlstampexpo.org](http://stlstampexpo.org); 800-782-0066.

## NDSCS Member Application

*All membership categories except Associate and Junior require the applicant to be 18 years of age.*

### Membership Categories

- Patron Life Member Limited to 50 ..... \$ 500.
- Life Member Limited to 150 ..... \$ 250.
- Junior Member Must be under age 18 ... per year \$10.
- Associate Member Open to any non-profit stamp club, society, association or corporation, museum, public library or school ..... per year \$30.
- Regular Membership  One year \$20  Two years \$35  
 Three years \$55  Five years \$90

### Privacy Information

The Society publishes each new member in the Quarterly Newsletter. Your name, city/state, collecting interests and e-mail address will appear unless you check any or all of the following boxes:

- Name/Membership Number  City/State
- Collecting Interests  E-mail Address

***Online application and dues payment at [ndscs.org](http://ndscs.org)***

### Collecting Interests

- Federal Ducks  State Ducks  Foreign Ducks
- Souvenir Cards/Appreciation Certificates  First Day Covers  Artist Signed  Prints  Other

### Event Participation

Would you be interested in contributing to the Society newsletter, *Duck Tracks*?  Yes  No

Are you interested in participating in Society functions and stamp shows?  Yes  No  Local only

Send completed application to:

NDSCS Secretary, P.O. Box 43, Harleysville, PA 19438-0043

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

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