



Duck Tracks™

Dedicated to Making a Difference

The Official Journal of the National Duck Stamp Collectors' Society

Summer 2009

Whole No. 52

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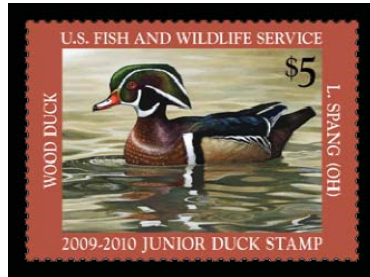
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We are proud to print your newsletter on recycled paper.

Ohio student wins Junior Duck Contest



JDS17 - Wood duck by Lily Spang

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce that a single wood duck was selected to appear on the 2009-2010 Federal Junior Duck Stamp.

The design for the new stamp, painted by 16 year-old Lily Spang of Toledo, Ohio, was chosen by a panel of judges on April 22 at the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest held at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. She was awarded \$5,000.

Abraham Hunter, age 15, of Vienna, Illinois took second place with an a hen and drake pair of common goldeneye.

Third place went to Rebekah Nastav, age 18, of Amoret, Missouri for her rendition of a pair of common goldeneyes. Nastav previously won the Junior duck contest in 2006.

The 2009 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Message Contest winner was 8-year old Christopher Voelkel from New Mexico, with his entry: "Our environment, our responsibility, our future."

Allen Kane, Director of the National Postal Museum said, "The National Postal Museum is always honored to be associated with the Junior Duck Stamp Program, as this is a vital tool in conserving our nation's natural resources.

continued on page 12

2009 First Day of Sale

The First Day of Sale event for RW76 and JDS17, the 2009 Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp will be held on June 26.

Once again, the duck stamp office will partner with Bass Pro Shops to host the main celebration.

This year, the first day ceremony will take place at Bass Pro Outdoor World in Nashville, Tenn.

The Nashville store is located at: 323 Opry Mills Dr., Nashville, Tennessee.

The event is free and open to the public. Both duck stamp artists, Joshua Spies and Lily Spang, will be available to sign stamps and covers at this event, and the U.S. Postal Service will have a special cancellation on-hand for collectors.

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Welcome to all our new members!

New Regular Members

Phillip J. Bratta	Davis Junction, Ill.
Luis D. Hermo	Los Angeles, Calif.
Charles W. Natola	Brook Park, Ohio

New Life Members

Adam Nisbett	St. James, Mo.
Joshua Spies	Watertown, S.D.

Member totals as of June 10, 2009

Charter - Life	29
Life	38
Associate, Charter - Regular, Regular, Junior	260
Total Active Membership	327
New members since 1/1/2009	17

NDSCS Financial

Certificates of Deposit:	\$ 10,000.00
Checking Account:	\$ 6,561.60
Total Assets:	\$ 16,561.60

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Letters



Just to alert you, Rita, I've been trying for over 10 months now to get my local post office to get some WAGs (water activated gum) and while they have been trying, they continue to be told from above that they can't do that.

I just talked to my postmaster and he said he, personally was going to try one more time today and would let me know. I've sent him every thing we have on the subject and he agrees he should be able to get them. I also told him the problem would be published again in our "national publication" and that got his attention.

I'll keep you posted.

John R. Moss
Jackson, Tenn.

According to the June 22 issue of Linn's Stamp News, only the self-adhesive stamps will be sold at post offices. Gummed stamps and press sheets will be sold through the duck stamp fulfillment center, Amplex, www.duck-stamp.com and the USPS 1-800-Stamp24. The artist signed pane of one is only sold through Amplex.

However, Duck Tracks had a note from Laurie Shaffer. Ms. Shaffer is the Director of Marketing and Development for the Federal Duck Stamp Office. Her reply to Mr. Moss' note is:

Good Morning,

I have been assured that the postmaster can order the stamps. They just need to submit an order form to the SDO ... then Kansas City will fulfill. I have stamps available from the office for those that still experience difficulty.

Mr. Moss followed up with a note to Ms. Shaffer, which includes information he learned from Kevin Russell.

Laurie

Here's our answer from Kevin Russell, Acting Manager, stamp distribution, USPS. The double-cross was in. Many thanks for all your help.

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

National Wildlife Federation Labels



View From the Blind

by Ira Cotton

I have written in past columns about charity labels from non-profit wildlife conservation organizations. In this article I will focus just on labels featuring waterfowl from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Even with this narrow focus, I don't know exactly how many waterfowl labels the NWF issued, as I am not aware of a comprehensive list from the Federation or a catalog that lists their issues. I am working on compiling such a list and invite members who collect these labels to contact me (Cotton@Novia.net) so we can share what we know.

NWF labels are a natural extension to any waterfowl license stamp collection because the Federation was founded by someone well known to all informed duck stamp collectors - Jay N. (Ding) Darling, who persuaded Franklin Roosevelt to initiate the federal duck stamp program and who designed the first federal duck stamp.

Darling, a political cartoonist by profession and conservationist by avocation, was appointed by Roosevelt in 1934 to head the U.S. Biological Survey. He urged the President to convene a conference in Washington D.C. to bring together individuals, organizations and agencies interested in the restoration and conservation of wildlife resources.

The North American Wildlife Conference took place in 1936 and resulted in the creation of an organization called the General Wildlife Federation. Darling had resigned his position with the Biological Survey just before the conference and was elected president of the GWF. The first annual meeting was held March 3, 1937, in St. Louis, Missouri. The General Wildlife Federation became the National Wildlife Federation in 1938.

The General Wildlife Federation issued its first sheet of fund-raising stamps in 1938. It was an oversized sheet of 100 stamps with 17 different designs, all drawn by Ding Darling. Of the 17 stamps, four illustrated ducks: Canada geese, canvasbacks, mallards, and scaup.

The stamps from the first NWF sheet are easy to recognize because they all bear the legend Help Restore Our Wildlife across the bottom of the stamp.



Does the Mallard stamp look familiar yet somehow off? It should! Shown here is RW1 as the Bureau of Engraving and Printing produced it; the NWF label shows the original artwork in full color. You can find the color version in many dealers' Cinderella books for under \$10, sometimes substantially under.



NWF did publish an index of species shown on their labels for the period 1938 -1959. Here are the listings for waterfowl (*with species and spelling exactly as in the list*):

- Baldpate - 1941, 1956
- Black Duck - 1944
- Black Bellied Tree Duck - 1945
- Blue Goose - 1943
- Blue-Winged Teal - 1946
- Brant, American - 1941, 1959
- Buffle Head - 1942
- Cackling Goose - 1955
- Canada Goose - 1938, 1954
- Canvasback - 1938, 1954, 1958
- Cinnamon Teal - 1943
- Eider, American - 1943
- Eider, King - 1948
- Emperor Goose - 1946
- Gadwall - 1951
- Golden Eye, American - 1942
- Golden Eye, Barrow's - 1945
- Greenwing Teal - 1939

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Secretary's Column



by **Tony Monico**

This issue finds the Eastern U.S. slowly moving into summer and getting ready for the First Day of Sale for the new Federal and Junior Duck Stamps.

The winning artist of the 2009-10 Federal Duck Stamp (RW-76), an acrylic oil painting of a male long-tailed duck floating with a decoy, is Joshua Spies from Watertown, South Dakota.

I am sure I can start a discussion with a couple of thoughts – how about that bright blue background on the stamp and the black border on two of the stamp sides? For another thought – how about the decoy featured with a floating duck on the stamp? Not many federal stamps feature non-live specimens – can you name another?

A single wood duck was selected to appear on the 2009-2010 Federal Junior Duck Stamp (JDS-17). The design for the new stamp was painted by 16 year-old Lily Spang of Toledo, Ohio.

Interestingly, both stamps feature a single live duck.

Both items go on sale on June 26 at the First Day Ceremony in Nashville, Tenn.

In the last issue of *Duck Tracks* our president made a call for nominations and, so far, none have been received. The existing officers will be presented in their current positions for re-election.

Our society needs more members volunteering to become active in the society activities. Please consider sharing some of your free time with the society.

On to the society business items –

Web Site: Check out our web site ndscs.org. Late breaking information and membership renewal, by credit card and printing of membership forms for mail-in, is all available from our web site.

Society membership business – Your *Duck Tracks* mailing label is the key to your membership expiration date (Expires: Month Year). All memberships that have a note of EXPIRES: April 2009 or earlier on the first line of their mailing label are now past due! Please renew your membership as soon as possible to risk missing the next society newsletter or e-mail information message.

Using your mailing label as a guide, jot your membership number on your check and save the society time and

money by renewing as soon as possible. The society also accepts PayPal for renewing on-line (ndscs.org). A reminder, your dues are fully U.S. TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Membership Renewal Invoices – We continue to use the *Duck Tracks* mailing to send a renewal invoice in all envelopes of past-due, current-renewal and coming-due members to make it easier for members to renew their memberships. This saves the society time and money so please use your mailing label and the invoice enclosed in your *Duck Tracks* mailing envelope to renew today, if applicable.

Mailing Labels – The Membership Summary Table provides the details on the current membership by type. The mailing labels used for this issue of *Duck Tracks* were generated around June 15, 2009. All membership renewals received through that date are reflected on the mailing labels. If you feel there is something wrong with your membership expiration date – drop me a quick note and we will resolve it quickly. If your renewal arrived after that time, accept our apology and the next mailing should reflect your update.

Address Changes – Please continue to let us know when you move or change mailing addresses so your copy of *Duck Tracks* and any other society mailings can follow along with you without interruption.

E-Mail List – We continue to build our e-mail mailing list for society use only. We use the mailing list to provide you late breaking duck stamp news and a full-color preview copy of *Duck Tracks*. If you want to receive timely electronic messages sent by the society, please keep your e-mail address up-to-date by e-mailing your address changes to ndscs@hwc.org. Also, note that the NDSCS does not sell our mailing list or e-mail list to anyone! Your personal information is used to only send duck stamp information and society mailings to you.

Continued success in your collecting adventures!

A special “QUACK” to new artist members who have joined the Society.

Joshua Spies - the current reigning Federal Duck Stamp winner who is mentioned in several spots in this issue and **Adam Nisbett**, a former Junior Duck Stamp winner (2004 JDS 12). It is an honor to have them join the society as Life Members.

Wally Makuchal, Jr., winner of this year's Maryland duck stamp contest, has reactivated his membership.

Winning entry chosen for California duck stamp



Artwork for the 2009 California stamp.

For the first time in nearly 15 years, a contest was held to select the image to appear on the duck stamp that will adorn 2009-10 licenses of California waterfowl hunters.

Jeffrey Klinefelter's painting of a pair of northern shovellers was selected by a panel of wildlife experts at an open judging event held at the California Museum in Sacramento on May 27. Klinefelter's winning design will appear on the 2009-10 California duck stamp, which will be available to the public in August.

The winning painting depicts a pair of shovellers wading in a pond against the backdrop of a golden sky. According to the judges, the vibrant colors in the background gave it an edge over the other contenders. It beat the second place winner by only one point.

Klinefelter, who resides in Etna Green, Ind., has previously won 20 state duck stamp competitions in other states. This will be the first time his work has been featured on a California duck stamp. Klinefelter was not present at the judging but was notified of his win by telephone shortly after the judges' decision.

Since 1995 the California duck stamp art has been commissioned or awarded through a contract. After 15 years, the contest was revived to "put some excitement into the duck stamp program," said John Carlson, director of the state Fish and Game Commission, who presided at the event. The contest drew 18 entries from 10 states.

A duck stamp is required for hunting waterfowl in California. The money generated from stamp sales can only be spent on waterfowl-related conservation projects. Since it began in 1971, the California duck stamp program has raised more than \$22 million. It is also the first, and oldest, state duck stamp program in the country.

This year's contest rules required that the species depicted be a Northern shoveler, the waterfowl species chosen by the Fish and Game Commission for the 2009-10 duck stamp. Entries were judged for originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy and suitability for reproduction as a stamp and print.

California was the first state to create its own duck-

stamp program. Launched in 1971, it has raised \$22 million, with 70,000 stamps sold annually at about \$16 apiece.

Its paintings have evolved from black-and-white line drawings to fine art filled with color, light and movement.

Enthusiasts collect limited-edition prints and stamps. There is fierce competition among artists to become the official painter with the right to sell reproductions.

California continued on page 12

Book about 1996 duck stamp being prepared



RW63 by Wil Goebel

The Complete Story of the 1996 Federal Duck Stamp is currently being prepared by Peter Martin, a past editor of *Duck Tracks*.

As the book title implies, all aspects of the stamp (Scott RW63) will be covered, starting with the contest and including stamp production, ceremonies, first day covers, usages on state licenses, remarques, prints and more, such as a feature about winning artist Wil Goebel.

A preliminary list of known cachetmakers for RW63 includes: Russ Benning (2), John Byrnes, Collins, Colorano, Colorano/Dunne, Drabkin, Dave Dube, Edkin, Fleetwood, GAMM, Wil Goebel (2), Bernard Goldberg (2), Ham, K.A. Harwood, House of Farnam, Art Kober, Milford, Moon, Mueller, Piskewitz and Pugh (2). If you have FDCs from these or other cachetmakers, please send a scan or photocopy to identify which cachetmakers created varieties and which ones used different cancellations with their designs.

An illustrated listing of known remarques also is being compiled.

Examples of usages on state licenses are particularly sought as only 12 states have been documented to date.

Photographs of the judging, winning artist, first day and other ceremonies are also sought.

Anyone with information, photographs, licensed products, usages, remarques or first day covers is asked to contact the author at P.O. Box 463, Naugatuck, CT 06770; e-mail: pmartin2020@aol.com. Scans or photocopies would be appreciated. Contributors will be listed in the book unless anonymity is requested.

Duck stamps need to catch up to economy

Legislation introduced by John Dingell of Michigan and Robert Wittman of Virginia, Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus members, would increase the cost of the federal duck stamp from \$15 to \$25 for the 2010-11 hunting season, and then jump to \$35 in 2020 if passed.

Dingell (D-Mich.) and Wittman (R-Va.), introduced legislation to increase the availability and buying power of the Federal Duck Stamp, a move designed to continue the success that the stamp has had in conserving waterfowl habitat across the United States.

It has been 18 years since there was an increase in stamp fees. According to Dingell's office, a \$15 duck stamp in 1991 (the first year at that price) would be just shy of the proposed \$25 if adjusted for inflation.

Skyrocketing land prices have greatly diminished the buying power of the stamp in recent years, prompting several attempts to adjust the price.

"Raising the price to \$25 brings the cost of the stamp about equal with the buying power of the \$15 stamp in 1991, once you adjust for inflation," said Ducks Unlimited Chief Biologist Dale Humburg. "Compare that to the 300% increase in land values that we are seeing in Minnesota, one of the breeding hot spots."

The Federal Duck Stamp, which is required for all waterfowl hunters age 16 and older, was introduced in 1934. Funds from sales of the stamp have conserved more than 5 million acres of waterfowl breeding, migrating, and wintering habitat across the United States.

"Waterfowlers have invested more than \$760 million into Federal Duck Stamps, and it needs to remain a viable conservation tool if we are going to protect that investment into the future," said Humburg. "In order to ensure that we can continue to protect waterfowl habitat, there must be an increase to the buying power of the duck stamp."

"If we increase the stamp by \$10, we could conserve an additional 16,000 acres of prime waterfowl habitat in just the next year," said Humburg.

Among all of the costs of hunting, the one item that gets relatively few complaints is the Federal Duck Stamp -- more correctly but less often called the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

Waterfowl hunters, it seems, are more in tune with the habitat needs of their targets, and they are more aware of

"Money paid for Federal Duck Stamps may be the most efficient use of federal funds."

the costs of maintaining that habitat. They are more generous than hunters in general. Also, groups including Ducks Unlimited do a great job of publicizing the need for wetlands conservation.

Unknown to most people who purchase Federal Duck Stamps, these stamps can be used as entrance passes to any national wildlife refuges that charge entrance fees.

Money paid for Federal Duck Stamps may be the most efficient use of federal funds, with 98 cents out of every dollar going directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Since President Theodore Roosevelt designated Pelican Island in Florida as the first national wildlife refuge in 1903, the system has grown to 550 national wildlife refuges and other units covering a total of 150 million acres.

A detailed yearlong study by Management System International, a private firm, ending in September 2007 determined that the refuge system has suffered an 11 percent decline in purchasing power from 2003 through 2008, leaving it unable to meet some strategic goals.

It has been 18 years since the cost of the stamp increased to \$15, the longest period without an increase in history.

Local Connecticut artist designs new stamp

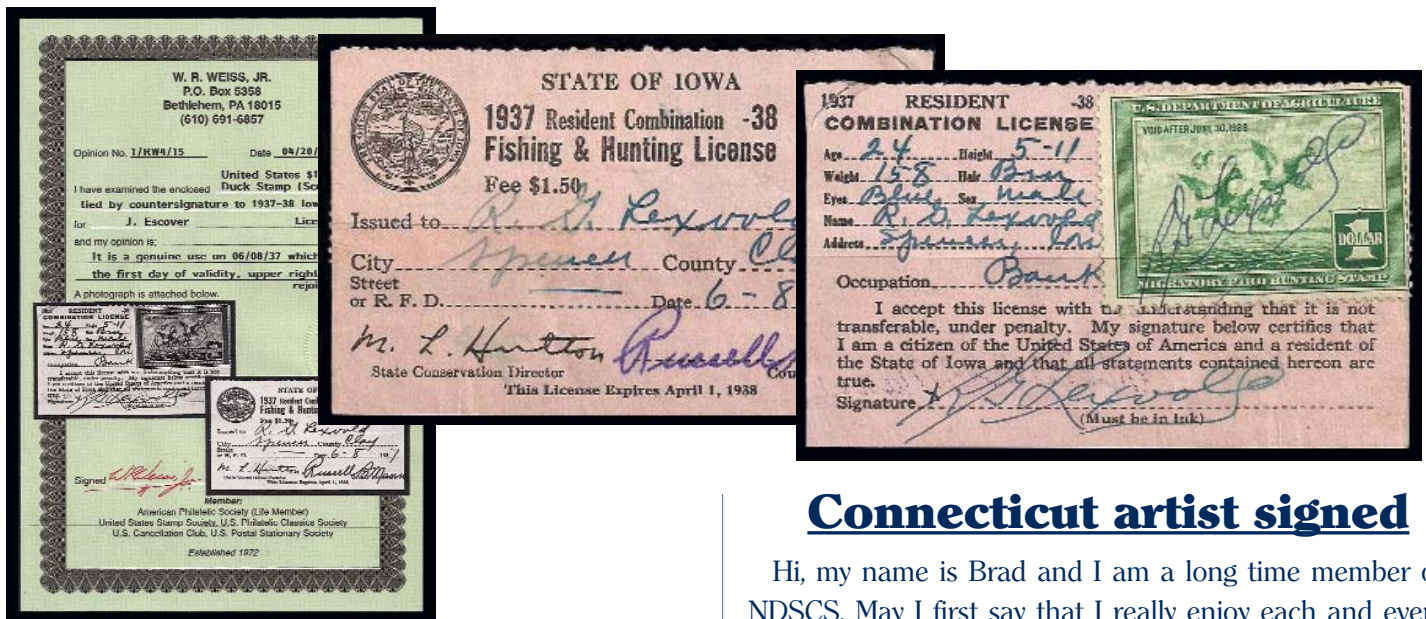


The 2009 Connecticut Duck Stamp features an American black duck illustrated by Clint Herdman, a wildlife artist from Beacon Falls, Conn.

Clint possesses a lifelong interest in art and wildlife,

especially waterfowl. His inspiration comes from the years he has spent in the field enjoying the outdoors and nature photography. He prefers the medium of graphite and loves the challenge of bringing a subject to life with the contrast of black and white. Clint is also an avid waterfowl hunter and fisherman.

Ask the Expert



RW4 early usage?

I have an RW4 tied by signature to an Iowa fishing and hunting license that is signed off by the issuing agency three weeks prior to the first day of issue for the duck stamp.

I have obtained a Weiss Certificate that attests to the authenticity of the issue. Do you have any idea as to the value of this early use of the stamp?

Are there any collectors out there with similar items?

Jack Escover

jlesco@email.Phoenix.edu

Dear Jack,

Thank you for sending the photos of the RW4 license and Weiss Certificate. The licenses themselves were issued before the July issue date of the federal duck stamp. The license may have been purchased for fishing early and the federal duck stamp affixed late. Therefore the entire document is not unusual.

Basically, the early "license" date does not confirm the early issue of the duck stamp. There is no cancel on the duck stamp to confirm the early issue of RW4, therefore absolutely no proof the stamp was issued in June, **only** the license.

Bob Dumaine

Connecticut artist signed

Hi, my name is Brad and I am a long time member of NDSCS. May I first say that I really enjoy each and every NDSCS publication I receive. Every one at NDSCS does a fantastic job!

My question is in regard to artist signature errors.

I have a plate block of Connecticut stamps (CT5 - I think) that I believe has the wrong artist signature on it. The signature was signed in the selvage area of the plate block and NOT on the picture part of the stamps themselves. Is this a common occurrence and does it make the stamps more collectible? How would one place a value on this kind of item?

Thanks,
Brad

Hi Brad and thanks for your very kind comments!

The 1997 CT5 issue depicts green-winged teal; Robert Steiner was the artist. The year before was done by Keith Mueller and the year after by Joseph Hautman.

The wrong artist signature on the stamp does not add any value. Most collectors prefer the artists' signatures on the stamps themselves, so those are higher in demand/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.



Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

by Jim O'Donnell

The 2009 Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest was held at the National Postal Museum on **Earth Day**, April 22, 2009.



The artwork was displayed on a table in the atrium of the National Postal Museum.



Mr. **Mike Kreiger**, Deputy Chief of Migratory Bird Habitat observation at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was the master of ceremony. Mike entertained the crowd with jokes and waterfowl questions.



Expert waterfowl caller **Sean Mann**, one of the five judges, entertained the audience by demonstrating the art of duck calling.



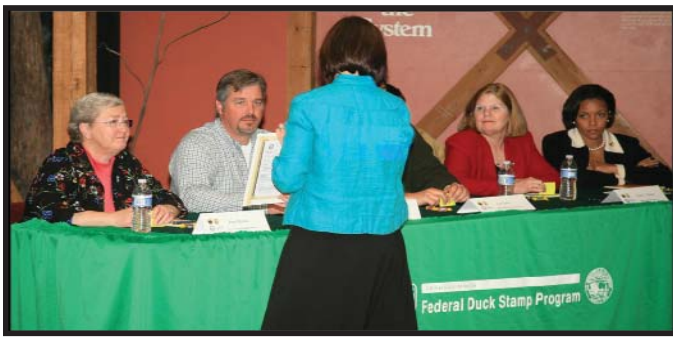
Judges selected the best artwork by placing poker chips on it. Here **Pam Mathes** and **Millicent Wilson** consider the entries. In the background, **Joshua Spies**, winner of the 2008 Federal Duck Stamp Contest, looks at the entries.



Sometimes, the judges consulted "Ducks at a Distance" by Bob Hines for reference. Here **Millicent Wilson** looks at the brochure, while **Cindy Tackett**, of the U.S.P.S., contemplates the entries. Judges are not allowed to discuss the entries.



Junior artist **Olivia Hughes** of Tennessee was in the audience.



In the finals of the contest, the artwork was brought to the judges.



After viewing, they displayed the scores which they gave the artwork.



Mr. Kreiger continued to interact with the audience as the contest took place. Most of the audience were students from St. John's Regional Catholic School in Frederick, Md. Joshua Spies, led a program on stamp design with the students after lunch.



The winner of the 2009 Junior Duck Contest was this wood duck drake painted by Lily Spang of Ohio. The artwork is now on tour.



Junior artist Yi Patrick An of Maryland was also recognized by Mike Kreiger.



Junior artist Katie Duffin of Arizona was present as well. Her entry was the pintail pair at lower right.



Patricia Fisher, chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Office, examines the Rudy collection in the museum.

Jeanette C. Rudy, who donated a portion of her extraordinary duck stamp collection to the museum in 2006, has been an enthusiastic proponent of the Junior Duck Stamp Program in her home state of Tennessee.

Patricia believes in the Junior Duck Stamp Program. "This is the future," she said. "We are nurturing the next generation of Federal Duck Stamp artists."

Longtime observers of the program noticed how every move at the contest was photographed and videotaped in front of an audience. This writer was a judge at the contest for the 1998 Junior Duck Stamp. It took place in a couple of back rooms at the Department of the Interior with no audience and no cameras present

What's in my Collection

by John Frie

For years, I have collected stamps signed in the selvage by the artist.

However, as I sought material for my collection, in 2006, I found some interesting pieces on eBay.

Over a period of several weeks, I won all these old business cards. I liked the large signatures and nice condition and knew they would be a welcome addition to my artist signed collection.

I sent the Ron Jenkins card to him and asked about it. He sent me a letter that reads:

John;
 Thanks for sending postage - everything is enclosed.
 I did paint that card, probably just a way of showing off. My ducks have improved quite a bit since that one.
 It's nice to know you still have an interest in these things, all of the stamps are nice and very interesting to see how the designs have changed over the years.
 I hope you enjoy your retirement. I doubt if I will ever retire, what I do isn't hard work and I'm just now beginning to learn how to paint.
 Have a nice autumn, it's usually pretty back there at this time.
 Ron J.

I wonder if this card could be a very early remarque from 1965, some 30-years before the beautiful artwork that we see now on the stamp. Ken Michaelsen and Ron Jenkins are really doing a nice job on the remarques.



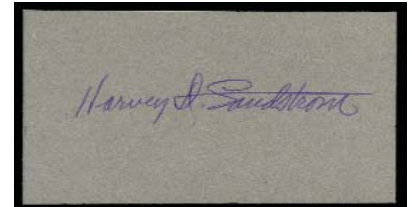
Business card signed by Walter Bohl (RW10).



Business card signed by Owen Gromme (RW12).



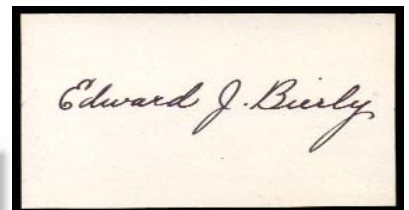
Card and stamp signed by John Dick (RW19).



Card signed by Harvey Sandstrom (RW21).



Card and stamp signed by Stanley Stearns (RW22, 31, 33).



Card signed by Edward Bierly (RW23, 30, 37).



Business card signed by John Ruthven (RW27).



Business card signed by Edward Morris (RW28, 29).

John:
 Thanks for sending postage - everything is enclosed.
 I did paint that card, probably just a way of showing off. My ducks have improved quite a bit since that one.
 It's nice to know you still have an interest in these things, all of the stamps are nice and very interesting to see how the designs have changed over the years.
 I hope you enjoy your retirement. I doubt if I will ever retire, what I do isn't hard work and I'm just now beginning to learn how to paint.
 Have a nice autumn, it's usually pretty back there at this time.
 Ron J.



Card, stamp and letter signed by Ron Jenkins (RW32).

NDSCS joins Facebook



The NDSCS has joined the social networking site, Facebook. A group page for our society, which is open to all duck stamp collectors, has been established by Adam Nisbett.

Registration is free and easy. Go to Facebook.com and register with your e-mail address. Once you are logged in, enter National Duck Stamp Collectors Society in the "search" field (in the upper right corner) and then join the group. Hopefully this will give us one more forum by which can all enjoy our hobby of collecting duck stamps!

The Society would like to extend their thanks to Adam, a society life member, who was the artist for the 2004 Federal Junior Duck Stamp and continues to enter the Federal Duck Contest while attending college.

Rogers wins Ohio contest



Artwork for the 2009 Ohio stamp.

The artwork of a pair of common goldeneye by Joel Rogers of Hudson, Ohio, 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. Rogers' painting will appear on the Ohio wetlands stamp issued in fall of 2009.

The winning entry was selected from a field of 30 original paintings submitted by artists from 18 states, including 10 entries from Ohio. The competition was held Saturday, March 1, at the annual Ducks Unlimited convention in Columbus.

"A neighbor who is a duck hunter talked me into entering the Ohio competition years ago," said Rogers, who has entered the state competition several times, but has never won. Rogers added that he doesn't enter many competitions, and that the win has inspired him to enter the federal duck stamp competition.

"A neighbor who is a duck hunter talked me into entering the Ohio competition years ago," said Rogers, who has entered the state competition several times, but has never won. Rogers added that he doesn't enter many competitions, and that the win has inspired him to enter the federal duck stamp competition.

Approximately 25,000 Ohio wetland stamps were purchased last year, according to the ODNR. Proceeds help fund vital wetland habitat restoration projects in Ohio. Such habitats are important to many resident wildlife species, including state-endangered trumpeter swans, wetland birds, amphibians and numerous migratory species.

DUCKS

The NEW duck stamps are here!



All stamps F-VF NH. Better grades available, please call.

RW76 – Long-tailed duck by Joshua Spies

- RW76 Mint single \$19.00
- RW76A Self adhesive 19.00
- RW76(s) Artist signed 30.00
- RW76A(s) Self-adhesive artist signed 30.00
- RW76A(s) Self-adhesive artist signed 30.00
- RW76b Artist signed pane of one (mini-sheet) 50.00

JDS 17 – Wood duck by Lily Spang

- JDS17 Mint single \$10.00
- JDS17(s) Artist signed 15.00
- JDS17pb Plate block of 4 42.00

Duck Stamp Mini-Sheets

All Mini-Sheets are F-VF NH.



- RW72b 2005 \$1,350.
- RW73b 2006 One Sig 120.
- RW73bv 2006 Dual Sig 155.
- RW74b 2007 95.
- RW75b 2008 49.
- RW76b 2009 50.

Graded and certified examples of the federal mini-sheets are available, please call for price.

THE FIRST 53 YEARS RW 1-53!

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Junior contest continued from page 1

We are excited to continue our partnership by hosting this year's contest."

Did your favorite design win? View the entries: <http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2009/JDPSA/JDSWebGallery09/index.htm>

The painting was selected from more than 28,000 entries to appear on the 2009-2010 Federal Junior Duck Stamp.



Contest winner Lily Spang.

Lily, who is home-schooled by her mother, Sandy Spang, is familiar with feathered waterfowl, considering she's entered the annual design contest for several years.

In 2008, she won the Ohio Junior Duck Stamp Contest and placed in the top 10 at the national level.

Her top honor this year is the first for an Ohioan, and it means it will be Lily signing her name June 26 in Nashville when the stamp goes on sale to collectors, conservationists, and the general public.

Proceeds from Junior Duck Stamps, which sell for \$5 each, support environmental education efforts and awards for contest winners.

Renowned wildlife artist Greg Clair, one of Lily's mentors and art teachers, encouraged her to select the wood duck for her entry, and her national win was bittersweet.

Mr. Clair, formerly of Bowling Green, died in January before the announcement.

Lily then turned to artist Harold Roe of Sylvania for sug-

gestions and asked him to critique her work.

Mr. Roe was the first person Lily called on April 22 when she learned her work would be featured on the stamp.

"It is a very prestigious thing," Mr. Roe said. "The competition is extremely fierce."

Lily had shown him her idea for the design, and Mr. Roe liked it.

"A single bird, not complicated. Some people can get too complicated with their designs," he said.

When the wood duck painting was nearly finished, she returned for a review, and Mr. Roe suggested she lighten the background.

Other than that, "it was good. I could tell then she would be 'in the running' for the top prize," he said.

"I am just so happy for Lily. She's an excellent artist. She has an excellent future," Mr. Roe said. He is a four-time Ohio stamp-design winner who has placed several times in the top 10 in the federal duck stamp contest open to artists 18 and older.

The junior stamp closely mimics various state duck stamps and the iconic federal duck stamp. Sales of federal stamps since 1934 have raised funds for acquisition or lease of wetlands habitat across the country.

Required as part of licensing for hunters of waterfowl, the federal stamps also serve as entrance passes to national wildlife refuges.

The junior duck stamp contest culminates a yearlong conservation curriculum used by educators across the nation.

Lily hopes to someday own a horse farm and plans to go to a college with a strong horse program and strong art program.

California continued from page 5

The California Museum is hosting a first-of-its-kind exhibit of four decades of the state's original duck-stamp art. Among the more than three dozen artworks are paintings of cinnamon teal, wigeons and snow geese.

An eager audience gathered in the museum Wednesday to watch four judges select this year's winning entry.

The northern shoveler, which migrates from northern prairies to California in winter, has a spoon-shaped bill with bristles to filter food from water. Its peculiarities make it hard to paint.

Beginning with 18 paintings, the judges then narrowed the field to four, looking for artistic expression and anatomical accuracy - the texture of a bird's legs, the posi-

tion of its feathers, the color of its eyes.

They also consider how the painting will look when it's reduced to the size similar to a jumbo postage stamp.

Klinefelter wasn't present but said by phone he was thrilled. He said he hunts ducks only "with a camera."

All entries can be viewed on the California Fish & Game website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/about/duckstamp/contest/>

Sign up for e-mail notices of breaking news and upcoming events. Receive your duck stamp news when it happens! Register today at ndscs.org

National Wildlife continued from page 3

- Harlequin Duck - 1944
- Labrador Duck - 1947
- Mallard - 1938, 1951
- Merganser, American - 1950
- Merganser, Hooded - 1947
- Merganser, Red Breasted - 1953
- Ne Ne Goose - 1948
- Old Squaw - 1949
- Pintail - 1940
- Redhead - 1940
- Ring Necked Duck - 1948
- Ross's Goose - 1953
- Ruddy Duck - 1950, 1955
- Scaup - 1938
- Scaup, Lesser - 1954
- Scoter, American - 1957
- Scoter, Surf - 1952
- Scoter, White Winged - 1946
- Scoter, Shoveler - 1949
- Scoter, Wood - 1939
- Snow Goose - 1939, 1958
- Trumpeter Swan - 1939
- Whistling Swan - 1942
- White Fronted Goose - 1945

NWF labels continued to be issued through the early 2000's, so many more labels featuring waterfowl were certainly issued.

Letters continued from page 2

God willing and the creek don't rise, I'll see you in Nashville on the 26th..

Sincerely,
John Moss

The note from Kevin Russell concerning distribution of the gummed stamps reads as follows:

No, the customer will need to go through SFS (stamp fulfillment service).

The decision was made to let all collectors go to SFS for the gummed version to reduce unnecessary printing and destruction expense of putting the issue in post offices.

Kevin A. Russell
Acting Manager, Stamp Distribution



From the first sheet, the NWF labels were drawn by the most prominent wildlife artists, including many who went on to win the Federal Duck Stamp contest. Among these were Lynn Bogue Hunt, Francis L. Jacques, Walter A. Weber, Robert Hines, Maynard Reece, and Edward Bierly.

For some, employment at NWF provided the training and opportunity to perfect their skills; for others it was an opportunity to have their art reach a national audience or even to give-back to conservation causes.

These labels have a place in any duck stamp collection. Better yet, now would be a good time to join the National Wildlife Federation at www.NWF.org. Its goals are very compatible with those of the NDSOS, though somewhat broader.

Duck Stamp Office sets contest dates

The Duck Stamp Office is proud to announce the dates for the 2009 Federal Duck Stamp Contest. The contest will be held October 16-17, 2009.

Patricia Fisher, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office said, "After several years of taking the contest on the road, we are delighted to bring the contest back to the Washington D.C. area. We are grateful to our Service colleagues at Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland for generously agreeing to host the next Duck Stamp Contest."

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Makuchal takes 1-2 in Maryland contest



Winning artwork in the 2009 Maryland stamp contest.

An acrylic painting by Wally Makuchal Jr. entitled "Icy Refuge" will become the 2009 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Stamp. The entry shows a pair of blue-winged teal resting on the water. It was judged as the best of 35 entries from 18 Maryland artists.

"This was one of the more exciting contests in recent history as the panel of expert judges remained deadlocked after the final round," said Doug Wigfield, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Stamp Contest Coordinator.

Mr. Makuchal has taken part in Maryland's duck stamp competition since the early 1980s and was the winner in 1999. He also took top honors in the 1996 Maryland Trout Stamp Contest.

The stamps produced are a required purchase by all who hunt migratory game birds. The proceeds from the \$9 stamps are used to fund migratory game bird research and habitat enhancement on the state's public lands. More than \$4.5 million in stamp sales have been spent on migratory game projects since the stamps inception in 1974.

The contest is limited to Maryland residents. The 2009 event took place at the 20th Patuxent Wildlife Art Show held in March at the National Wildlife Visitors Center in Laurel.

"I was very excited," Wally Makuchal Jr. said about the day he learned his piece took top honors in the competition. He was in the audience when the announcement was made.

Makuchal, 46, stays busy with his business, Makuchal's

Signs and vehicle lettering, but said he occasionally finds time to paint wildlife, a passion he's had for many years. He started painting wildlife in 1979, when he was a ninth grader at Pocomoke High School.

"I grew up in the country and I was exposed to so much wildlife," Makuchal said. "I was always interested in birds, always had an interest in flight birds. They just always amazed me and that got me started."

He won the Maryland duck stamp contest once before, in 1999, and he won the Florida duck stamp contest and Maryland trout stamp contests in 1996. He submitted three paintings for last year's duck stamp contest, but all were disqualified because they had been submitted too late.

As the winner, Makuchal keeps his painting so he can publish and distribute prints. You can order a print of this year's winning entry visiting his website at www.makuchal-signs.com or by calling 410-632-2825. Internet users may view Makuchal's artwork at www.makuchalsigns.com.

The duck stamp will be out in July. The stamps, which sell for \$9, are required for duck hunting. Proceeds from their sale are used to fund migratory game bird research and to enhance their habitat on the state's public lands.

But the duck stamp isn't the only honor Makuchal has been awarded with recently.

Earlier this spring, when he came across an advertisement in a local newspaper for the International Migratory Bird Celebration art logo contest at Chincoteague Island, he grabbed the nearest black ink ballpoint pen he could find and sat down to draw.

About two hours later, Makuchal had completed what would be the winning drawing -- a great horned owl perched on a log.

"Although there will be no stamp made out of it, I thought it would be fun to enter," he said of the Chincoteague contest. "I'll get to see my owl on T-shirts instead of in print like the duck stamps."

Chincoteague Island, Virginia's only resort island, is one of the many and perhaps the most beautiful island that dots Virginia's Eastern Shore. World famous for its oyster beds and clam shoals, this picturesque island is the gateway to Assateague Island National Seashore.

Makuchal, the son of commercial artist Wally
continued on next page

Makuchal continued from previous page

Makuchal Sr., has been drawing and sketching local birds since a young age.

"I'm self-taught," he said. "The only training that can really amount to anything is just sitting at my desk and looking at bird books. Although the best way to learn is to go out and bird watch and view wildlife."

In 1987 his father suggested he enter the federal duck stamp contest. After a poor showing there -- Makuchal described his entry as "not up to par" -- he shied away from submitting any more work until the mid-1990s. Meanwhile, in 1995, Makuchal opened a sign and vehicle lettering business.

Since then, Makuchal has continued to enter the annual contests -- often placing in the top 10 -- and worked on growing his business.

"If I had spent more time on duck stamps and entered more, I would have won more," he said. "But the sign business keeps me busy."

Makuchal says he now has a better idea of details and nuances that make a winning duck stamp. And with this year's federal contest quickly approaching, Makuchal said it might be time to give the national stamp another try.

"I think I'm either at my peak or getting close, so I will possibly enter," he said. "When you take first and second place in Maryland, it's kind of a confidence booster."

While contest rules won't allow Makuchal to submit to the Maryland contest for the next three years, he plans to give other state and the national contests a try.

As for why he got into painting ducks in the first place?

"Well, there is no giraffe stamp contest," Makuchal said.

This is Maryland's 35th year of issuing duck stamps. Maryland was the fourth state to issue a duck stamp preceded by California, Iowa and Massachusetts. Maryland's original face value was \$1.10. It is now \$9. Stamps are valid from August 1 through July 31.



Makuchal's second place entry in the 2009 Maryland contest is an oil painting of green-winged teal.

2009 Artist signed pane-of-one on sale now

The Federal Duck Stamp Office is offering the 2009 artist signed pane-of one. To order, collectors must complete the required order form and mail in to the address listed on form.

Artist signed panes of one (commonly called mini-sheets) are \$25 each, plus \$5 shipping. Only one pane per form is allowed and a set limit of two panes per household.

Forms and payments received will be honored on a "first-come-first-serve" basis until all items are sold. When quantities are depleted, all orders received after that time will be returned to sender. Orders will be shipped beginning June 26, the first day of sale. Please allow 4-6 weeks from that date for delivery.

To download an order form, visit the Federal Duck Stamp web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/> or call 1-877-887-5508.



2009 duck stamp pane of one.

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Dingell receives Canvasback Award



*Congressman John Dingell
of Michigan*

Congressman John Dingell of Michigan has been recognized for his major lifetime contributions to waterfowl conservation by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee, an international body that provides leadership on waterfowl conservation and management issues.

Congressman Dingell received the Plan Committee's International Canvasback Award, an honor recognizing individuals, corporations or organizations that have made substantial contributions over a long period to the implementation and continuation of the Plan throughout North America. The award was presented on June 10, 2009, during a meeting of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, of which he has been a member for nearly 40 years.

"The many contributions of Congressman John Dingell to waterfowl conservation are legion and a testament to his dedication to preserving our natural world," said Rowan Gould, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director. "During his 53 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Dingell has demonstrated time and time again that he is a champion of wildlife conservation and natural resource management."

Congressman Dingell has served nearly 40 years as a member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, identifying and approving wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico that best serve the needs of North American waterfowl and other wildlife.

During his tenure in Congress, Congressman Dingell has provided leadership in efforts to pass landmark legislation such as the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act and the Clean Water Act. He is also a founding member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus. Congressman Dingell was the catalyst for the creation of the first wildlife refuge that spanned national borders - the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

"The success of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is directly tied to the contributions of

our dedicated partners," said Paul Schmidt, co-chair of the Plan Committee and the Service's Assistant Director for Migratory Birds. "And with his tireless support for wetlands and waterfowl conservation, Congressman Dingell has certainly proven himself to be one of our most valuable partners."

The Congressman has also been intimately involved in the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, or NAWCA, one of the most successful efforts dedicated to waterfowl and wetland habitat conservation and a key program for implementing the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Awards from the NAWCA Standard and Small Grants programs have fostered thousands of partnerships and resulted in well over a billion dollars being invested in habitat restoration and enhancement in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Congressman Dingell was nominated for the award by Ducks Unlimited, Inc., a major international wetlands and waterfowl conservation organization.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is an international strategy for conserving migratory waterfowl throughout the continent. The Plan's goal is to return waterfowl populations to their 1970s levels by conserving wetland and upland habitat. Canada and the United States signed the plan in 1986; Mexico joined in 1994.

Federal Duck Stamp winner appearance

Save the date for 20th annual "Ding" Darling Days

Mark your calendars for this year's "Ding" Darling Days the week of Oct. 18-24, 2009. The theme of this year's event is "Let's Go Outside!"

Art Through Conservation Day on Saturday, Oct. 24 will include visits from Federal Duck Stamp winners.

The 20th Annual "Ding" Darling Days celebrates the birthday of the refuge's namesake, father of the Duck Stamp program and Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist, Jay N. "Ding" Darling. The festival takes place at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, Florida,

Visit www.dingdarlingdays.com for updates on events and to sign up for weekly bulletins or call the refuge at 239-472-1100.

2009 Pennsylvania Duck Stamp & Print



“Hoodie Hangout” by Gerald Putt

Purchase the 2009 Pennsylvania duck stamp and print. Single stamps are \$5.50, signed stamps are \$8.50. Print images are 6½x9 inches and sell for \$135 each. Framed prints are \$220. Medallion edition prints are also available. PA residents add 6% state sales tax.

Visit *The Outdoor Shop*, www.pgc.state.pa.us, or call 1-888-888-3459 with your credit card to order. Make checks payable to: Pennsylvania Game Commission and send with order to: Pennsylvania Game Commission, Dept. MS; 2001 Elmerton Ave.; Harrisburg PA 17110-9797.

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\$150.01 to \$200 =	\$12.95
\$200.01 to \$250 =	\$14.95
over \$250 =	\$16.95

Upcoming Events

New York July 10-12

Metro Expo New York Stamp Show, Midtown Holiday Inn, 440 W. 57th Street. Elaine Dunn, metroexpos.com; 603-424-7556.

Minnesota July 17-19

Minnesota Stamp Expo, Crystal Community Ctr., 4800 Douglas Dr., N., Minneapolis. Tom Eckers, stampsminnesota.com; 763-533-1860.

Massachusetts July 31-August 2

AMERICOVER, American First Day Cover Society, Holiday Inn, 342 Adams Place, Boxboro. Norm Elrod, afdcs.org; 931-473-6164.

Pennsylvania August 6-9

APS STAMPSHOW, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd., Pittsburgh. Dana Guyer, stamps.org; 814-933-3803.

Maryland September 4-6

BALPEX, Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd., Hunt Valley. Robert E. Gibson, Sr., balpex.org; 410-332-4741.

Nebraska September 12-13

Omaha Stamp Show, Omaha Philatelic Society, Metro Community College-South Campus, 2909 Babe Gomez Ave., Edgar Hicks, omahaphilatelicsociety.org; 800-228-2316 ext 2506.

Texas September 18-20

Greater Houston Stamp Show, Humble Civic Ctr., 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy., Humble. Denise Stotts, houstonphilatelic.org; 281-955-9664.

New York September 25-27

StampExpo 400, Empire State Plaza, 25 Quackenbush Sq, Albany. Conrad Novick, stampexpo400.org; 518-512-3776.

Wisconsin September 25-27

MILCOPEX, Mount Mary College Bergstrom Hall, 2900 N. Menomonee River Parkway, Milwaukee. Carol Schutta, milwaukeephilatelic.org; 414-464-6994.

Maryland October 16-17

Federal Duck Stamp Contest, Patuxent Research Refuge, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel. fws.gov/duckstamps 703-358-2000.

Classified Ads

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- **California Duck Stamps and Prints** also Indian Reservation hunting and fishing stamps. Discount prices. Contact Tom Richardson 530-894-1057 or e-mail tomr@trducks.com.
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NDSCLS Member Application

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

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- Regular Membership One year \$20 Two years \$35
 Three years \$55 Five years \$90

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- Souvenir Cards/Appreciation Certificates First Day Covers Artist Signed Prints Other

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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

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