



Duck Tracks™

Dedicated to Making a Difference

The Official Journal of the National Duck Stamp Collectors' Society

February 2005

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APS Chapter # 210

Anderson scores first Federal win!

Mark Anderson's acrylic painting of two hooded merganser drakes bested 223 other entries and will grace the 2005 Federal Duck Stamp (RW72).

"Generations of waterfowl hunters, stamp collectors, art lovers and conservationists have bought these beautiful stamps for more than seven decades," said Interior Secretary Gale Norton. "Their purchases directly contribute thousands of acres of irreplaceable waterfowl habitat to the National Wildlife Refuge System."

This is Anderson's first win. He has missed only one contest entry since 1985, and his entries have been highly ranked several times.

Anderson has also won 15 state stamp contests including Florida, Iowa, Oklahoma, Ohio and South Dakota. His work was featured on the National Turkey Stamp in 2003. Anderson was the winner of the National Wild Turkey Federation 1998 Grand National Art Competition, and was DU's Artist of the Year in Oklahoma 2005 and South Dakota 2004.

"I'm sitting on cloud nine right now," said Anderson soon after Secretary Norton called to inform him of his victory.

Anderson told Secretary Norton, why he chose his subject. "I won a contest for Ducks Unlimited a couple years ago with hooded mergansers," he said.



Wildlife artist Mark Anderson, from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was the winner in the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest on October 5, 2004.

"Later, I had some luck selling a few hooded merganser originals, so I decided on painting two drakes for the Duck Stamp Contest. It was a gamble since most judges like to see a hen and a drake."

Anderson also experimented with blue and brown water but settled on the sunset color reflection.

Anderson is very active in conservation. He is a life sponsor of Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation. He is also a member of Pheasants Forever. "I grew up hunting and fishing, that's where I get the inspiration. When I am outside, I can look at something and see five paintings," said Anderson.

Second place went to Jim Hautman of Chaska, Minn., with an acrylic of a pair of wood ducks. Hautman has won the contest three times. Third place went to Don Moore of Monona, Wisc., for an acrylic of a male hooded merganser.

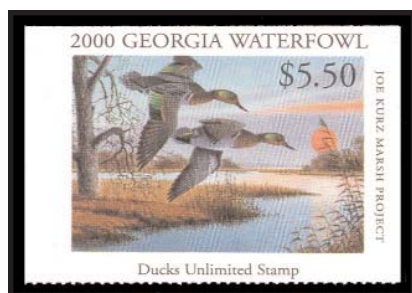
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Ask Papa Duck

Question: None of the major dealers or Scott catalogues list or price the Georgia 2000 issue. What is the official status of that issue? – *Jim Owens*



The elusive GA16.

Answer: The 2000 Georgia duck stamp was prepared but not issued by the state. Dealers don't list them because of their unissued status and because they don't have any to sell.

My understanding is that a quantity of unissued stamps were provided to the Georgia chapter of Ducks Unlimited who sold or gave them to members. In 2003, I saw several copies auctioned on eBay at an average price of about \$100. I'm sorry to say I did not buy one at the time.

– *Ira Cotton*

New Members

New Regular Members

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mikko Arevuo | London, England |
| Douglas Bagarus | Mishawaka, FL |
| Rog Beals | Henning, MN |
| Keith Becker | Galveston, TX |
| Emanuel Beyer | Benkelman, NE |
| Michael Bishop | Tyler, TX |
| Michael Bonacorsa | Holbrook, NY |
| Bernard Bren | West Palm Bch, FL |
| Homer Briggeman | Rolla, MO |
| Gregory Bruno | Hermitage, PA |
| Patrick Casey | Boise ID |
| William Christensen | N Richland Hills, TX |
| Raymond Corwin | Port Jefferson, NY |
| James Day | Walterboro, SC |
| David Fedric | Grenada, MS |
| Cliff Feldheim | W. Sacramento, CA |
| Walter Ginglewski | Troy, NY |
| Vaughan Grundy | Newtown, PA |
| Steve Habarka | Lytle, TX |
| Louis Holmes | Phillips Ranch, CA |
| Katie Hulett | Astoria, IL |
| Art Jeffries | Carmel, IN |

Name

Location

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| David Kempff | Maryland Hts, MO |
| Patrick Klim | Greenville, SC |
| Roxanne Lynnes | Grand Forks, ND |
| Thomas Melius | Sterling, VA |
| Richard Neff, Jr | Houston, TX |
| Palo Albums, Inc | Park Ridge, IL |
| Pierre Pecault | France |
| Robert Peterman | Salina, KS |
| Phil Reiland | Lakeville, MN |
| Lynn Robertson | Tullahoma, TN |
| Barry Rowe | Arlington, TX |
| Frank Sabatini | Granby, CT |
| Evan Salmore | Greenwich, CT |
| Charles Stepp | Greenville, PA |
| Frederick Warnken | Hopewell Jct, NY |
| Richard Wendorf | Sun City West, AZ |
| Robert Williams, Jr | Spotsylvania, VA |
| Wayne Youngblood | Iola, WI |

New Life Members

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Chris Falk | Ridley Park, PA |
| Jana Henderson | Puyallup, WA |
| Thomas Lynch, MD, PC | Springfield, MO |
| Bryce Monroe | Oakford, IL |

Membership Type

Active

| | |
|--|-----|
| Charter - Life | 28 |
| Life | 28 |
| Associate, Charter-Regular, Regular, and Junior | 314 |
| Total Active Membership | 370 |
| Total Complimentary Copies | 15 |
| Total Mailing List | 385 |
| New Members Since 1/1/2005 | 4 |

NDSCS Financial

Certificate of Deposit – the total value is now \$15,804.86.

The total in the checking account through December 31, 2004, is \$6,523.00.

Duck Tracks™

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Advertising

Duck Tracks display advertising rates for camera-ready copy are:

Full page \$ 100.

Half page \$ 60.

Quarter page \$ 35.

Classified word ads are free to members.

Submit copy to *Duck Tracks* editor.

President's Corner

by Ira Cotton

This column I'd like to address a variety of issues and items that I think should be of interest to all Society members.

Foremost among these is the gradual decline in the number of states issuing duck stamps.

To my mind, there are three principal categories for the states:

1. Issue a mandatory duck stamp.
2. Issue a non-mandatory duck stamp.
3. Do not issue a duck stamp.

Categories 1 and 3 are easy to understand, but there are also states that issue a duck stamp but do not require it to be affixed to the license. Most of these states distribute the stamp only if specifically requested.

Here's what I think the current tabulation of states is through 2004:

1. Mandatory duck stamps (31) – Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas (resident and non-resident), California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana (resident and non-resident), Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey (resident and non-resident), North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.
2. Non-mandatory stamp (12) – Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.
3. No stamp (10) – Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Utah, and West Virginia.

Since I hunt only in my home state of Nebraska, I may not understand correctly which states don't require the duck stamp to be on the license. Please send me any corrections and I will keep this list updated.

The trend for fewer and fewer states to issue mandatory duck stamps should be distressing to collectors and conservationists alike. As collectors, fewer states issuing duck stamps means less for us to collect, but also less interest in duck stamp collecting due to lower recognition and interest from hunters and the general public in those states where the stamp is not mandatory. The states without stamps are also foregoing revenue from collector sales as well as the attention to conservation on the part of the general public that the stamps promote.

Most of the states that have dropped the stamps have done so ostensibly for greater efficiency in licensing – e.g., automated terminals in license outlets and Internet sales of licenses. A few states have complained of the cost of the stamp program and of printing the stamps, but I find that

hard to believe when comparing the cost of printing a stamp versus its sale price.

On the other hand, Kansas has gone to a monochrome, repetitive design for its duck stamps that are likely cheaper to produce, and South Dakota issued a text-only stamp, but I think that was due to a production glitch with the pictorial stamp, as was the text-only stamp for its Dakota neighbor to the north in the previous year.

If you're a hunter, it is handy to be able to buy a license on the Internet, print it out with a validating reference number, and go hunting the same day – but I don't think this should be the basis for eliminating stamps.

Neither do I much like the totally optional stamps from Iowa nor the collector-only stamps from Texas (that can only be bought from the state in a booklet with many other non-required, collector-only stamps).

I think the states could retain the validity and requirements for signed stamps on licenses by requiring Internet issued licenses to have the stamp affixed after a period of, say, ten days to allow for mailing from the state office. This way the importance and validity of the stamps is not diminished and the collectability and conservation message-bearing of the stamps after the license period is preserved. States that can't attract enough professional artists to submit stamp designs could use the art from the winners of their state's Junior Federal Duck Stamp competition. If the cost of stamp production is an issue, it is likely that conservation groups such as Ducks Unlimited would agree to underwrite production, perhaps in return for some number of remainders for after-license year sales.

I only know of one state, Tennessee, that has revived its duck stamp program after a period of dormancy. I was encouraged to learn, through a survey that was e-mailed to me by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission that Nebraska is considering reviving its



Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota have all adopted new formats.



Tennessee 1996 – last of the old style and 1999 – first of the new style

Continued on page 14.

Secretary's Column

by
Tony
Monico

Another year, another Duck Stamp Contest, a new artist and painting to grace the 2005-2006 Federal Duck Stamp.

Congratulations are in order to artist Mark Anderson for winning the contest with a nice painting of hooded mergansers.

This is a great time for collectors and waterfowl lovers in the Mid-Atlantic states as the geese and ducks will soon begin to make their way north for the summer. Duck watchers and stamp collectors all can appreciate these

times as the seasons change the environment right before our very eyes.

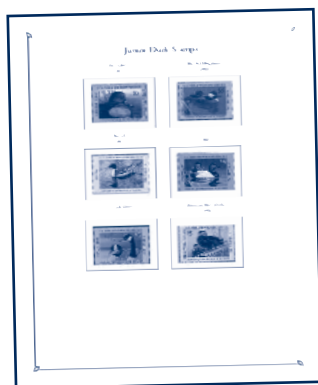
Kudos are also in order for Michael Jaffe, a Charter Life and dealer member of the society for being selected as a judge for the contest.

Lastly, a "bridesmaid" consolation prize to artist and charter life member Jim Hautman for placing second two years running; they say "the third time a charm," but I bet Jim wants to turn the tables on that old axiom and keep it from coming true for him this fall.

Enough duck dreaming and contest watching and on to Society Business ...

Several members have noted tardy processing of

New Album pages issued for Duck Stamps



Collectors who use pre-printed album pages for their duck stamp collection, now have another choice.

Palo Albums, of Park Ridge, Ill., has just added pages for State and Junior Duck Stamps to their product line. Federal pages had previously been issued.

The pages are oversized, on high quality stock, and punched for the standard post or ring binders that the company produces. The pages include the basic stamps, Governor Editions and souvenir sheets. Pages for hunter and booklet stamps are planned if there is enough collector interest.

NDSCS President Ira Cotton was an (unpaid) advi-

their renewal checks during the year. I assume full responsibility for the delay in processing the renewals and new membership applications. All mail was never in jeopardy of being lost or misplaced, it was just a matter of too many activities requiring my "free time." No members missed a *Duck Tracks* due to this situation.

Our web site ndscs.org continues to attract visitors surpassing the 36,000 mark recently. Check out the web site for updates and news periodically. The on-line Dues Payment page has been redesigned to make credit card payment even easier and more convenient. In addition, we have added PayPal as an option. Please remember that we can no longer accept credit card payments mailed to the society. Our on-line credit card vendor now requires the security code from the reverse side of the credit card to complete the transaction.

Thanks to a cooperative effort, Kathy Ward, our web site designer, and I have converted our society master file from WordPerfect to Microsoft Excel. This seemingly small item will allow faster and easier membership processing. It will also allow us to maintain all of the data and statistics in the same file and generate information more efficiently. It has been a long time coming but we finally switched.

Finally – a few reminders:

- The Whole # 40 Duck Track mailing continued to have several Postal Address Change forms sent back

Continued on page 14.

sor to Palo during the production of these pages. Dr. Cotton is very excited about the product as Palo will continue to develop pages for other conservation stamp series where no printed albums exist if the duck pages are successful.

Palo Albums is offering a special discount to NDSCS members, so ask about it when you contact them.

If you already have an album for duck stamps, but would be interested in pages for such items as pheasant, turkey, upland game bird and other conservation stamp series, please e-mail the owner, Paul Bartolomei and let him know of your interest. Contact the company at: 1-800-572-5967 or Sales@PaloAlbums.com. You can order via their website paloalbums.com. The mailing address is: Palo Albums, Inc., 1411 Petersen Ave., Suite 202, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

A Word from the Federal Duck Stamp Office

By Chris Tollefson

Chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Program

The Federal Duck Stamp is one of history's great conservation success stories, due in no small part to its strong support among stamp collectors. Over the past seven decades, collectors have purchased millions of dollars worth of Duck Stamps, helping the Fish and Wildlife Service protect thousands of acres of important habitat.

As Chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Office, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the National Duck Stamp Collectors Society for your commitment to our program. I would also like to assure you that the Service values your support and is working to ensure that the Duck Stamp remains a valued collector's item for years to come.

Several articles that appeared in the August 14, 2004 issue of *Duck Tracks* may have left the misleading impression that the Service has abdicated this commitment to collectors. I refer specifically to an otherwise excellent tribute to former Duck Stamp Office Chief Norma Opgrand, and to continuing coverage of errata found for the 2003-2004 Duck Stamp.

Norma's contributions to the Federal Duck Stamp Program were truly significant, and she is well deserving of the tribute. She led the Federal Duck Stamp Program through some of its most important accomplishments, and deserves enormous credit for her efforts to promote the program. However, I take strong exception to assertions in the article that this office has abandoned those promotion efforts. Let me address these charges point by point.

- Appreciation Certificates have not been discontinued. They are still printed and available to the public free of charge through U.S. Postal Service's Stamp Fulfillment Services (www.usps.com or 1-800-782-6724) and Amplex Corporation (www.duckstamp.com or 1-800-852-4897). In fact, for the 2004-2005 Appreciation Certificate, we returned to a full-color format that features both the Federal and Junior Duck Stamp. These cards proved extremely popular with collectors at our First Day of Sale Event last July.

While it is true that Souvenir cards were discontinued (largely because they were not generating enough income to justify the expense of printing them), we have for some time sold other products that generate greater interest from collectors. Our Artist Cards feature two cancelled Federal Duck Stamps – the current stamp and the stamp issued three years prior – along with the autograph of both artists. Another product that is popular with collectors is the First Day of Sale Ceremony Program, which includes a cancelled Federal Duck Stamp.

- The Federal Duck Stamp Office has increased, not decreased, the number of shows at which the Federal and

Junior art is shown. The Federal and/or Junior Duck Stamp art was on display at more than twenty shows in the past year. Duck Stamp Office staff attended several of these shows and other events in which the art could not be displayed. We plan to expand our events schedule yet again in the coming year, traveling to new venues that will expand our exposure to the general public.

- The Duck Stamp Collection, which you referenced as "the collector's book," is no longer printed because decreasing volumes made the printing economically unfeasible. Now the same information is available free of charge on our web site: <http://duckstamps.fws.gov>.

- The Duck Stamp Office is actively working on other public promotion efforts. For example, coverage of the 2004 Art Contest was shown on ESPN Outdoors through an initiative we put together with the network. By contracting out management of the licensing program to Ducks Unlimited, we expect to substantially increase the number of licensed products bearing Duck Stamp images. We are also exploring potential partnerships with a number of conservation organizations that hold great promise for the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to correct several other inaccuracies and misleading statements made in a separate article discussing errata found for the 2004-2005 Federal Duck Stamp.

The 2002 (RW69) Federal Duck Stamp and the 2004 (RW71) Federal Duck Stamp were printed by Banknote Corporation of America, not American Bank Note Company. The article also states "several hundred million postage-type commemoratives and definitive stamps are printed per issue." While definitive Flag stamps are printed in the billions, on average, a commemorative stamp print run is far less than 100 million stamps.

We share the disappointment of many collectors that errata managed to find its way into the hands of the public. However, the article's suggestion that the solution to this isolated problem is to return to the days when the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) produced the Duck Stamp is unworkable.

It is highly unlikely that the BEP will ever produce another Duck Stamp, at any price. As most stamp collectors know, the BEP will cease producing any stamps for the Postal Service next year to focus exclusively on currency production. What is more, the BEP currently lacks the printing equipment necessary to produce an offset intaglio stamp without retrofitting currency presses at significant expense and lost production. This is why the BEP has declined to bid on the Duck Stamp printing contract in each of the last two years, despite our invitation.

Continued on page 11.

Judging the Federal Duck Stamp Contest

by Michael Jaffe

Armed with notebook and pen, I arrived at the Department of the Interior at 10:00 Monday, October 4, 2004. As one of five people chosen by the Federal duck stamp office to select the design for the 2005-06 Federal duck stamp, I wanted to give myself as much time as possible to view the 224 pieces of art entered in this year's contest.

The paintings were arranged at eye level on viewing stands, four per row, three rows high with lighting running above the entries. The lighting wasn't on when I first arrived, so I took a slow walk viewing each entry. When the lights came on, I went back to the beginning and began to study each print one by one.

Before writing anything down on my pad, I had decided to be a little lenient on my first round decisions. I had several reasons for this.

Last year, only 13 entries advanced to round two. The Federal Duck office likes to take the top 20 paintings on tour. If fewer than 20 advance to round two, then that is how many go on tour.

As a major duck stamp player, it is to my benefit (as well as the entire duck stamp/print market) for the artwork to be the best possible. This can only happen if good artists are encouraged to keep entering the Federal duck stamp contest. By giving a piece of artwork an "In" vote (even if I don't

plan on giving this piece of artwork a very high numeric score), I am trying to send a message to the artist that he or she has potential and to keep trying.

I had already prepared my notepad numbering from 1-229 (five of the entry numbers weren't used due to computer error.) On my notepad, I put a "+" or a "-" depending on whether I thought that it was a good design and an accurate depiction of the species. After that initial look through, which took about 90 minutes, I had 60 of the entries marked positive. I then started at the beginning again and took another look at the paintings. I decided to give two more prints a "thumbs up."

Before continuing, let me explain how the judging process works. The duck stamp office selects five people who have expertise in various fields (I assume all duck related). This year's judges included Tom Hutchens, immediate past chairman of the Delta Waterfowl Foundation; Kenn Kaufman, field editor for *Audubon* magazine; Rich Smoker, noted taxidermist and carver; John Tomke, president of Ducks Unlimited, and myself, duck stamp dealer and waterfowl stamp exhibitor.

We were told not to disclose to anyone except our spouses that we had been selected to be judges. We met each other for the first time while viewing the art. This, I am told, is to protect the integrity of the program. Judges are not to talk to each other about the specific art. The Department of the Interior wants five individual opinions, not a collective one.

The judges have from 10:00-2:00 the first day for an initial preview. At 2:00, the auditorium is cleared and a formal judges' briefing is held. The judges are introduced to various technical advisors who can

Klinefelter wins OK contest



Klinefelter's design for 2005 Oklahoma.

Jeffrey Klinefelter, of Etna Green, Indiana took first place in the 2005 Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp. An accomplished wildlife artist, Klinefelter has also taken top honors in several other state duck stamp contests.

The Oklahoma duck stamp program was designed to ensure quality habitat for the hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese that migrate through the state. The program, which began in 1980, features portraits of the state's diverse waterfowl species by the nation's best artists.

"Oklahoma waterfowlers have benefited greatly from the duck stamp program," said David Warren, information and education chief for the Department. "Through the program, critical funds have been generated to establish and maintain 40 wetland development units across the state. Not only do these areas provide resting habitat for migrating waterfowl, but they provide habitat for a host of other species such as wading birds and small mammals."

The program generates funding for waterfowl conservation projects through the sale of waterfowl licenses, which are required of waterfowl hunters, and stamp sales, many of which are purchased by collectors. The program has helped purchase 11,675 wetland acres and enhance, create, restore and maintain thousands of additional acres of critical waterfowl habitat. Wetland development units such as Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area in southwest Oklahoma and the Red Slough Wildlife Management Area in McCurtain County, have benefited from duck stamp funds.



Michael Jaffe greets Interior Secretary Gale Norton.

Continued on page 7.

Ruthven Honored

John Ruthven became the first wildlife artist to receive the National Medal of Arts when President Bush presented the annual awards on Nov. 19. Ruthven learned of the honor the day before his 80th birthday.

Established in 1984, the medal is the highest award given to artists by the U.S. government.

More than two dozen musicians, com-

posers, writers, and artists were honored at the White House ceremony.

Ruthven won the 1960 Federal Duck Stamp Contest competition and also did the first Ohio duck stamp.

To learn more, visit ruthven.com.



Michaelsen wins redesigned Louisiana contest

Ken Michaelsen, a well-known wildlife artist from the state of California was selected as winner of the 17th Annual Louisiana Duck Stamp Art Competition. Runners-up were Michael Braun from New Jersey with the second place entry and Tony Bernard of Lafayette, Louisiana, who placed third.

Michaelsen's painting was chosen from a field of 15 artists to appear on the 2005-2006 state Waterfowl Conservation Stamp.

The winning image depicts a black Labrador retriever in a marsh-hunting scene with pintails in the background. The department initiated a "Retrievers Save Game" series that featured the black lab. Competition requirements specified that entries had to also include a discernable species of live waterfowl. A second retriever will be chosen for the duck stamp contest in 2005.

Ken Michaelsen has combined a love of nature and a talent for art, which have made him an outstanding wildlife painter and California's Ducks Unlimited 1991 Artist of the Year. The major breakthroughs in Ken's career occurred with his win of the first duck stamp competition in California in 1978 followed by winning the most coveted honor in the field of sporting art, the Federal Duck Stamp Contest in 1979.

Judges for the 2005 Louisiana Duck Stamp contest included Dr. Headley Adelman, biology professor and artist from Hammond; Bimbo West, Leesville dog trainer/contractor and current state Ducks Unlimited chairman; Bob Kennon retired Baton Rouge attorney and lifelong Labrador trainer/judge; Charles Frank, New Orleans artist/author and Dale Pousson, the winner of the 2003 Louisiana duck stamp competition.

According to Robert Helm, LDWF waterfowl program manager, prints will be available from the artist in the summer. The 17th

anniversary 2005-2006 stamp, featuring Michaelsen's work, is expected to go on sale on June 1, 2005.

The Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program was

established in 1988 by the Louisiana Legislature to generate revenue for conservation and enhancement of state wetlands and has generated over \$8.5 million since its inception. Approximately \$4.5 million has been used to acquire wetlands for the department's wildlife management areas. Other duck stamp funds have also been used to manage wetland projects on the state's Wildlife Management Area's and to fund the Louisiana Wetland Project in association with Ducks Unlimited and the U. S. Department of Agriculture's National Resource Conservation Service.

To receive information on the 2006 contest to be held later this fall, please contact Robert Helm, Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Program, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, 225-765-2358 or e-mail helm_rn@wlf.state.la.us.



Michaelsen's design for the 2005 LA stamp.

Contest judge continued.

be asked questions about any aspect of an entry from "Is there enough contrast in the painting to make a good stamp?" to "Are the tertial feathers accurately depicted on this duck?" The judging process is also explained.

I was very familiar with it since over the years, I have talked to several people who have either been judges or have attended the judging. Let me give it to you in a nutshell.

Judges are seated alphabetically on stage facing the audience. A black divider separates each judge so the judges reach their opinions independently. In round one, a member of the staff holds onto a piece of art and steps in front of each judge in turn to show the art. Two large monitors are also positioned facing the judges with the image on view during this process.

When each judge has viewed the selection, the staff person says, "Please vote" or "Your vote please." At that time, all five judges hold up one of two cards on their desk. One cards reads "In" and the other reads "Out." The paintings receiving three or more "In" votes advance to the next round. Judges hear whether the entries are "In" or "Out", but do not know how many "In" or "Out" votes were cast. At the end of that round, the auditorium is cleared again and the judges can go back and select up to an additional five entries each to add to those already voted in (essentially becoming a majority of one).

In round two, judges are given cards with the numbers 1 through 5 printed on them. After each entry is shown to them, the judges hold up one of these numbered cards. Everyone in the auditorium is aware

of the vote and total received (from 5-25), but the judges are clueless, as no announcements are made. Those entries receiving the five highest point totals (not necessarily five paintings) advance to round three.

The auditorium is cleared again and the judges are given plenty of time to closely examine the entries that have made it this far. This is when the experts are really called upon. The same procedure is used for round three as in round two except judges vote only using the 3, 4 or 5 cards. The entry receiving the highest total wins.

Now that I have told you more about the Federal Duck stamp judging than you probably ever wanted to know, let me get back to my story before I digress into the intricacies that shall be left for another time.

As I was looking at the entries one by one, I made additional marks in my notebook. These included a question mark (for paintings that were marginal that I would probably give a positive vote on), a small number "2" (for entries that I really wanted to see in round two), and an asterisk (for paintings that I felt were exceptionally good). I had a total of seven entries that I put an asterisk next to.

The first day judges briefing took about 90 minutes. We were introduced to Jim Wortham, a Waterfowl Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Terry McCaffrey, Manager of Stamp Development for the U.S. Postal Service; and Larry Mellinger, Solicitor with the U.S. Department of the Interior. The judges were free to look at the entries again, asking any questions about the art that came to mind. I left the Department of the Interior around 4:15

Continued on next page

Contest judge continued.

and took a long walk around the area. There is so much to do in Washington D.C., I recommend a game plan when visiting. My wife Ann, and daughter Miriam came with me (after spending a few days playing tourist and attending The Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition where I showed my Waterfowl stamp exhibit – I received a Gold Medal as well as an ARA and SRS gold). While I was carefully looking over duck paintings, my family was visiting monuments and museums.

The judges were invited to a very nice dinner at Chef Geoff's sponsored by Ducks Unlimited. A total of 23 people attended the dinner including several DU executives and employees, Scot Storm (2004-2005 Federal Duck Stamp winner) and his wife Kristin; Adam Nisbett (2004 Junior Duck Stamp Winner) and his mother/teacher Kim; Chris Tollefson (Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office) and Matt Hogan (Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Food and service was wonderful, the program just the right length and conversation was excellent. (Each judge received a "goody bag" prepared by Ducks Unlimited that included information about DU, a calendar, a cap, a pin and more). By about 9:30 we were ready to head back to the hotel for the much needed rest we were sure to need for judging the next day.

Tuesday morning, I made my way to the Department of the Interior shortly after 8:00. There was a little time to look at the art again before the auditorium opened at 8:45 to the public. Behind the stage was the "Judge's Room." The five of us needed to be in "our room" before the public was admitted. We had conversations about duck stamps, prints and hunting while waiting for the 9:00 program to begin. The judges were introduced to the public, and we took our seats on stage. The "In" and "Out" process went smoothly and we finished shortly before noon. A total of 35 paintings had made it to round two. After lunch on the top floor of the Department of the Interior Building (what a great view!), each judge had an opportunity to select up to five pieces of art to add to the already selected entries. Four judges selected two entries and one judge selected four. Due to duplication, ten additional entries were brought back, making a total of 45 paintings that continued to round two.

There were several excellent pieces of art that failed to advance to round two because the artist failed to take into consideration that this is a competition for a stamp that measures roughly 2" x 1½". A piece of art with beautiful reeds, foliage, or other items in the background may look fantastic when hanging on the wall in your home, but will not look very good when reduced by over 80% to fit on a stamp! In my opinion, I would recommend that the artist keep the selected duck as the focus with no more than 10% of the painting showing reeds, grass or other additions. If you look at the entries that made it to the final round, all have this in common.

What they also had in common was realism. If you are going to paint a duck for the Federal duck stamp competition, familiarize

yourself with the selected species. Observe them in realistic habitats. Make sure that the position you paint them in is a position in which they can be found in nature. If you are going to paint summer plumage on the duck, don't put snow in the background. Although there is some artistic interpretation in the competition, a small detail can make the difference between one or two points. Olympic medals can be decided by a hundredth of a point and duck stamp competitions by one point. Accuracy will make the difference.

Looking over my records, I find that of those entries making it to round two, I voted "In" for 34 of them in the first round. These paintings were now displayed in the front of the auditorium. Forty-five is a much more manageable number of paintings to look at.

Consulting my notes, I focused more on which images would make a good stamp. I mentioned earlier that heavy backgrounds, lack of contrast, or muted colors don't make good stamps, so I decided to give those prints lower numbers (1 or 2) when it came time to vote. From my notes, after looking over the 45 prints after lunch, I was planning to give 7-1's, 12-2's, 20-3's and 6-4's.

When the voting actually took place, I did change my mind a couple of times (the voting is public so you can see for yourself how many times, my actual numbers were 4-1's, 14-2's, 20-3's, 6-4's and 1-5) including giving a "5" to entry 91. At the end of round 2, eight entries remained. My notebook shows that I had put an asterisk next to six of these.

Prior to round three, some very specific questions were asked of the experts. One had to do with the number of tail feathers on one of the entries, another with the engraving that could be done on a painting. (McCaffrey told us that he really wants to use more engraving on the duck stamps. The plan is to put even more engraving on the peel and stick stamp than the lick and stick stamp next year. No longer will the difference in the stamp design be limited to the perforations). In my opinion, each of these eight entries was a winner. I would be proud to hang any of them on my wall. This opinion was echoed by all of the judges.

Round three went fairly quickly. As each of the eight entries stopped in front of me, I contemplated my vote. I ended up giving 3-3's, 4-4's and 1-5 vote.

The winner was announced! A pair of male hooded mergansers received a total score of 22 (I gave this entry my 5 vote).

The artist is Mark Anderson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Second place, with a total score of 21 (I gave this painting a vote of 4) went to Jim Hautman of Chaska, Minnesota, with a pair of wood ducks. Third place, with a total score of 20 (I gave this entry a vote of 4) went to Don Moore of Monona, Wisconsin for a male hooded merganser.

Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior made the phone call to Anderson. "I'm sitting on cloud nine right now, I won a contest for Ducks Unlimited a couple years ago with hooded mergansers," Anderson said. "Later, I had some luck selling a few hooded merganser originals, so I decided on painting two drakes for the Duck Stamp Contest. It was a gamble since most judges like to see a hen and a drake."

These judges, myself included, say Anderson hit the jackpot this time.

Being a duck stamp judge is a once in a lifetime experience. I enjoyed every aspect from the initial letter informing me that I had been selected to the extremely helpful and friendly staff leaving no detail unattended. I look forward to attending the first day ceremony on July 1, 2005, at the National Postal Museum and hope to see you there as well!



The judges picked a very nice selection of entries to go into the final round.

Grading and Encapsulation come to duck stamps!

By Bob Dumaine

Scott Publishing Company and the PSE (Professional Stamp Experts) both issue valuing grading guides. These revolutionary guides expand pricing for 6-8 different grades of stamps, from average to superb. The values of the two grading guides are very close to each other, usually within 5-10%. PSE is also a *certifying agency*, and issues certificates on various grades of stamps.

In the Spring of 2003, PSE began issuing a quarterly value guide which expanded prices to seven grades, and included photos of the stamps in the various grades. The PSE also provides a grading service as part of their expertizing service, and for a fee will give an opinion of the grade.

Scott followed with the first edition of their semi-annual Valuing Supplement, much like the PSE's guide but larger and with a slightly different set of grades. The Scott publication lists six grades, compared to seven by the PSE. Both guides offer a range of values for early United States stamps, as well as all federal duck stamps. The Scott product assumes a fault-free stamp, but the PSE offers a chart of variable values for grading and soundness.

I have found PSE's grading to be fair, but to attain the highest grade of superb is very difficult and most stamps so graded by sellers would not come close to qualifying.

The variations in different thinking is obvious, plus Scott has a grade of F-VF which the PSE does not offer, and the PSE has a grade of XF-Superb which Scott does not

provide. Overall, the guides prove an invaluable reference on approximately what to pay for a certain stamp, which is particularly useful at auctions. However, be certain the "grading" by the auction house is commensurate with that

of Scott and the PSE, and the respective example grading photos will be very useful in this respect.

"GRADING is the *Essential* Ingredient of Pricing!"

Which one is best? Both have advantages. For example, the PSE actually certifies grades on their certificates; Scott does not. However, Scott VF values are identical to those in their catalogues, which are commonly used by most auction houses. These values coincide with the VF grade listed in the Valuing Supplement, and extrapolate higher and lower estimates from the prime VF grade, so there is a consistency.

Either is a welcome reference to collectors and dealers to form a common pricing benchmark for a specific grade. Not to have one or the other in your possession is to fly blind.

The PSE guide is \$10 and the Scott Valuing Supplement is \$12 (also available on a CD-Rom for \$12).

Both guides have clear photos of each grade to help apply valuing estimates. This product was long overdue and should be a great help to buyers and sellers.

PSE also sponsors a FREE Set Registry web site to compete for the finest set – www.psestamps.com.



An encapsulated RW64 with PSE grade of Superb 98.

Quick Guide to PSE Grades

Grade 75 FINE-VERY FINE – Perforations well clear of design.

Grade 80 VERY FINE – Nicely centered stamp, balanced, perfs well clear of design, above the norm.

Grade 90 EXTREMELY FINE – A select grade; nearly perfect centering, may be *very slightly off-center* on one side, excellent color and freshness. Excellent stamp overall.

Grade 95 EXTREMELY FINE-SUPERB – As above, nearly a superb stamp!

Grade 98 SUPERB – ELITE STAMP – Top of the Line! A visually

perfectly centered stamp; excellent color and freshness.

Grade 100 GEM Virtually a 100% "perfect" as man and machine can produce. RARE GRADE; seldom awarded.

JUMBO (J) Rating means stamp is a JUMBO example. Each priced individually when available. JUMBO margins on stamps *always* command a substantial premium, as do "100 GEM" stamps.

ENCAPSULATED Stamps that are encapsulated (similar to coins) in a plastic holder.

RW72 continued from page 1.

Eligible species were the American wigeon, wood duck, gadwall, ring-necked duck and hooded merganser.

The Federal Duck Stamp Contest is the nation's longest running federally-sponsored art competition.

There are more than 540 National Wildlife Refuges spread across all 50 states and U.S. territories, and a valid duck stamp can be used for free admission to any refuge open to the public. Duck stamp dollars have been used to acquire land at hundreds of refuges in nearly every state in the nation.

Duck stamps bearing this year's winning design will go on sale at post offices, national wildlife refuges, some

national retail chain stores, and various sporting goods stores nationwide July 1, 2005. The stamp will be available in both a self-adhesive format and the traditional gum stamp.

The hooded merganser is primarily identified by displaying its attention-grabbing black and white crest. It is a small duck that nests in tree cavities. It breeds across eastern North America except for the extreme north and south areas. It also occurs in the Pacific Northwest. "Hoodies" frequent wooded sloughs and swamps. Their diet consists of small fish, crustaceans, insects and plant matter.

Hooded mergansers are often found utilizing nest boxes in similar habitats as wood ducks.

Spectacular artwork highlights Ohio Contest



First place – Wood duck by Adam Grimm.

The artwork of a drake wood duck by Ohio native Adam Grimm will appear on the 2005 Ohio duck stamp.

The winning entry was selected from a field of 27 original paintings submitted by artists in 13 states. The top six finishers pictured here show that the Ohio contest draws some of the biggest names and best artwork by noted wildlife artists.

This was Grimm's first win in the Ohio conservation stamp contest. "It's great to win in my home state and especially with this species," Grimm said.

"The Wood duck has such a history here. It was the first duck species ever featured on the Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp. The colors of this duck are what capture most peoples' attention. In the past when I have had paintings of wood ducks in my display at shows, I always have people that say 'Wow, that is a beautiful duck, where are they from?' and it's always fun for

me to answer ... 'Here.' The peoples' reaction is shock and they always say the same thing ... 'Well I've never seen one.' The truth is, they are very common in many places, especially Ohio. If they

were white or blaze orange people would notice

them more often but unless you see this duck up close, you won't see the amazing colors. Part of the reason I love painting things from nature is to get people to take notice at the beauty that is all around us. So many people don't even realize what they are missing out on ... sometimes is right in their own backyard.

"Wood ducks can be found on creeks, ponds, rivers, lakes, sheet water, bogs, and marshes. While the wood duck is a beautiful subject against almost any backdrop, I wanted to show it in a cattail marsh with duckweed. It is a habitat that may look almost surreal to anyone who has never seen it before but it is one of the wood duck's favorite places to hang out."



Second place – Mallard by Gregory Clair.



Third place – Oldsquaw (long-tail) by Dick Benson.



Fourth place – Green-winged teal by Donnie Hughes.



Fifth place – Shoveler by Jeffrey Klinefelter.



Sixth place – Canada goose by Mark Anderson.

In 1999, Grimm became the youngest artist to ever win the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. He has also produced the artwork for state duck stamps in Alaska, New York and Washington.

More than 35,000 of the \$15 wetland stamps are purchased every year, according to the Ohio DNR. Proceeds from stamp sales help fund vital wetland habitat restoration projects in Ohio. Such habitats are important to many resident wildlife species, including trumpeter swans, wetland birds, and amphibians, as well as numerous migratory species such as ducks, shorebirds and other birds that pass through Ohio each spring and fall.

Obituary

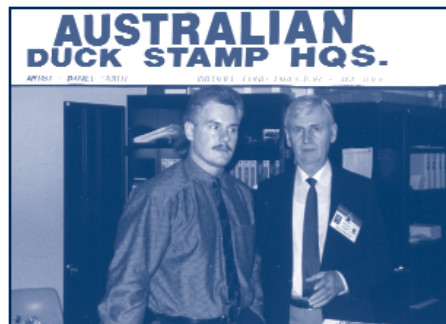
Word has been received of the death of Jim Jude, one of our Charter Life Members and founder of the Australia Duck Stamp Program and Koala Preservation stamps.

Details are sketchy at this time and we will provide more information when it becomes available.

Jude served as a judge in the 1990 Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

Collectors will remember Mr. Jude for the number of stamp shows he attended in the U.S. over the years,

particularly the large international shows.



Jim Jude (right) with artist Dan Smith during World Stamp Expo in 1989.

Classified Ads

Collector seeks fish and game stamps, licenses, e.g., CA 2000 resident sport upgrade, abalone, ocean enhancement, striped bass, 2nd rod; CO 2003 2nd day/2nd rod.

Many others wanted, including your clean 2004 license.

I. Cotton, 9939 Broadmoor Rd., Omaha, NE 68114. E-mail Cotton@Novia.net.

Remember – classified ads are free for all members!

NJ 2004 Stamp - Second in Retriever Puppy Series

New Jersey proudly presents the 21st Edition Retriever Puppy Series; the second collectible series of state duck stamp prints depicting waterfowl and various breeds of retriever puppies. Painted by artist Phillip Crowe, the artwork features a yellow lab puppy with a hooded merganser carved by New Jersey carver John Potts.

Crowe attended the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida. Over the years, he has dedicated his time and art, raising millions of dollars for various organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Quail Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Nature Conservancy as well as many state and wildlife agencies. In addition, by donating his time at charity events like the Louise Mandrell Celebrity Shoot, he has helped raise money for the Boy Scouts of America and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

John Potts is a self-employed house painter and began his carving career in 1985 during a recovery period from surgery. He spent time in Louisiana studying with Tan Brunet, a world class carver considered among the best in the world. Since then Mr. Potts has been entering competitions on the state and national levels, accumulating more than 600 awards. Mr. Potts is a respected judge amongst waterfowl competitors, having judged at state and national events. He has donated many carvings to charitable organizations including several chapters of

Ducks Unlimited, the New Jersey Waterfowlers, hospitals and animal shelters.

New Jersey's Waterfowl Stamp Program began in 1984 with an act of the State Legislature requiring all waterfowl hunters aged 16 and older to buy state waterfowl stamps. The Division currently administers the program for the purpose of purchasing wetlands for waterfowl habitat. To date, proceeds from the sale of New Jersey's duck stamps and prints have raised more than \$3.9 million to acquire wetlands for waterfowl habitat and public use. More than 13,000 acres of waterfowl habitat have been purchased or donated.

Limited edition, signed and numbered prints of the 21st waterfowl stamp may now be purchased directly from the Division. NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.



2004 NJ features a yellow lab and hooded merganser decoy.

Duck stamp office continued.

Our current printer, Sennett Security Products, has done a fine job of printing the 2004-2005 Duck Stamp, and we see no reason that they and other USPS Multiprint Contractors cannot continue to produce quality Duck Stamps. We will continue to monitor stamp production to ensure that quality remains high.

The Federal Duck Stamp Office is currently exploring the possibility of producing other stamp products that should have great appeal to collectors. I urge collectors to stay tuned for future announcements, and to contact our office with suggestions and comments. As I have stated, the Fish and Wildlife Service values the support of the collecting community and is working to deepen that support. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to comment.

I welcome your comments and suggestions. You can reach me at: Chris Tollefson, Chief, Federal Duck Stamp Office, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4070, Arlington, VA 22203-1622. Phone: (703) 358-2010, Fax: (703) 358-2009, E-mail: Chris_Tollefson@fws.gov.

The entry form for the 2005 Federal Duck Stamp Contest will be posted on our web site in February.

<http://duckstamps.fws.gov>

WANTED!

The National Duck Stamp Collectors Society seeks a qualified newsletter editor!

NDSCS seeks a candidate to handle the quarterly editing and composition of the newsletter.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit a sample of your work to Dr. Ira Cotton, 9939 Broadmoor Rd, Omaha, NE 68114. E-mail Cotton@Novia.net. Please include any compensation requirements with submission – volunteers happily accepted!

At this time we would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Frank Jordan for the fine job he has done on the newsletter.

His duty to our country comes first, however, and this leads the society to seek a good replacement.

Thanks Frank; good job!

Preparing for a Duck Stamp Competition!

by Larry Seiler

First of all ... why a competition? I personally found the competitions invaluable in my own growth, because a standard is raised which pits the artist against his/her own potential laziness to do whatever it would take to develop.

Its a bit disconcerting to arrive at the judging day and note that your piece is the brunt of humor because you failed to do your homework. My very first duck stamp was of a decoy ... and I was so self-assured I would do well with it. Boy, was I naive and stuck on myself without a cause! I was so embarrassed I felt like crawling into my skivvies and slither along out the door hopefully without being noticed!

So ... I got to know a number of the artists I admired. I began to go to shows to see other artist's works and chit chat. I observed what publishers were looking for.

Now ... many new and young wildlife artists might have no desire at all for competitions, but it should be understood that 20 years of such competitions has raised a bar for the standard of excellence which galleries have come to demand. It would still do you much benefit to attend shows, listen, and take notes.

I've spent about 17 years hunting waterfowl on the historic Green Bay waters, often breaking 20 feet of ice from the shore to slip a skiff into the water, and put out 100 decoys with friends (which bob in the chilly November waters and form ice beards). Such long hours over the spacious waters indelibly fixes flights of ducks in the mind, and became the substance for many art works to come.



To begin ... we begin where many of my directions in painting come from, and that is my sketchbook.

I go to aviaries, zoos, to wetlands fighting sparrow-sized mosquitoes, and take photographs of birds swimming, birds in flight. I sketch a gazillion quick sketches, noting that various species of waterfowl have their own unique group flight patterns.



Puddle ducks such as mallards flying in their powerful formations taking dramatic drops ... literally falling and going into banks and comical turns to land.

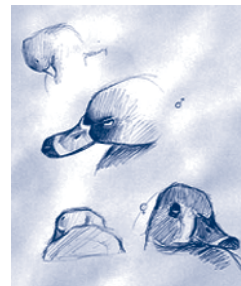
Green-winged teal, the smallest of the ducks fly in little balls of members that constantly change shapes rising and lowering, twisting and turning ... looking very reckless. Most diver species flying within feet of cresting waves at breakneck speeds. What a treat to take it all in!

My body studies strive to see beyond



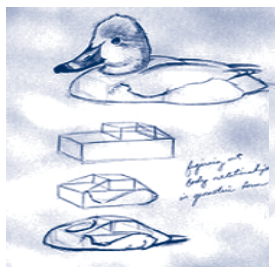
public stereotypes or knowledge, to understand slight nuances that suggest personality. For this, I do many head studies from life, again at aviaries, or getting my hands on video tapes.

A great resource is "The Duck Blind," available online by querying that name on a search engine. They video tape individual specie pairs and put together one hour tapes of the pair swimming, preening, drying their wings, getting out of the pond, standing, etc.

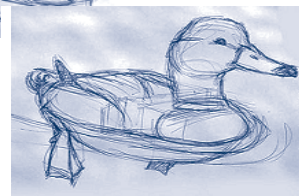
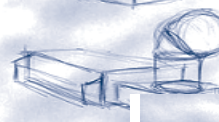


I often get hold of plasticene clay and build 3-D models. Some artists carve bodies from white styrofoam and attach cardboard wings so they can be viewed from various angles

and shadows can be studied. I invested in woodcarving pattern books, such as Patrick Godin's Championship Waterfowl Patterns books, volume one and two. I also have a back-



ground in woodcarving, having also entered competitions at that level. Thinking three-dimensional and working even with modeling clay helps you visually this 2-D work in the round.

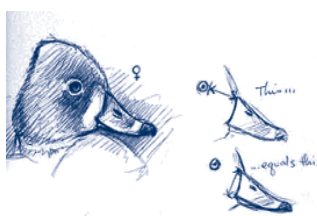


In my sketching, I often think in terms of two-point perspective, and build a drawing from rectangles, blocks and cylinders to help understand the volume the mass of this bird would consume.

Let me give a couple quick demos here how I do a geometric study. I begin with a rectangle, add a lower level or shelf for which the neck will attach and sit erect upon. On that a circle for the head.

You can see the progression here, and I build the shapes up eventually darkening the contour lines that finally represent the bird.

The eye is placed back from the top of the bill ... and the distance from that top corner of the bill to the eye equals the distance of the space from the top corner to the lower base of the corner of the bill's mouth.



I often work with mounts, and here, just looking at this Mallard's head, check out the distance of eye from bill. Look at the shape of the bill, or mandible.

I'll put a few of my flight studies up here and note that sometimes just scribbles are



enough to suggest to me shapes that the flight pattern takes.

Sketches need not be detailed, as I already know ducks have ten primary feathers, ten secondaries, tertials, greater and lesser coverts. What I'm looking for are "patterns" that isolate and identify one particular duck from another. After years of being on the bay hunting, I got to the point where I could identify waterfowl species while the birds were in flight and nearly a mile away.



Diving species are not able to simply rise in flight. They have to literally run with their webbed feet across the top of the water until they gain enough flight speed to get their fat bodies airborne. Such ducks wings are shorter.

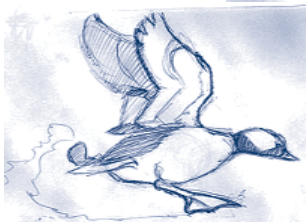


Their feet are located further back in the bodies, closer to their tails, which help propel and push them in

u n d e r w a t e r swimming, but make them very awkward and more upright when standing.



Puddle ducks, such as mallards, have feet that are more centrally located, making them poor underwater swimmers. Their wings are longer and take to flight easily.



Here is a sketch of a Bufflehead drake, a diver species, and I had particular fun studying how the feet push the bird across the water's top to get airborne.

One device that helps the birds appear to be sitting "in" the water is to place small water droplets that often can be seen, along the line where the body and water meet. These are basically sparkles of direct light, and easy to do but make a big difference. Here is a pair of Green-winged teal done with acrylics, and the close-up of the sparkles I'm referring to.



I want to really emphasize that one needs to do their homework. You have to become part biologist AND part artist. It takes years to acquire and accumulate the working knowledge to become a professional wildlife artist.

What I have described here is the same process I've undertaken to become intimately familiar with turkeys and here is one last image of one of my turkey stamp designs.

The process described is one I have used to understand deer, bear ... and any number of wildlife.

I have had some unique encounters with bears and great bull moose, some quite life-threatening. The odd thing is, I would never wish to have those experiences again, but I don't regret having had them. Nor do I necessarily take all the precautions that such things do not happen again. I have also been charged three times by whitetail bucks during the rut season, and many might be surprised to know that the whitetail deer is considered the most dangerous of the big game mammals, as more individuals have been gored, kicked, and killed by the deer than any other.



Some artists rely upon images that photographers have worked hard to get and get published in outdoor magazines, but the reader should know there are copyright issues when such works are copied directly and then sold by the artist. Some photographers do sell many of their photos, which is another outlet for the budding wildlife artist.

I hope you have enjoyed this bit of a look into the lifestyle of a wildlife artist. Many know that I have moved on to engage more into landscape paintings the last several years, but my intentions are to remain active in a number of competitions. I have won a number of such, and placed as runner-up or finalist 23 times.

My sights are set on two major competitions currently, the Federal duck stamp competition which invariably leaves the artist a millionaire, and the National Arts for the Parks competition. I would enjoy hearing from anyone that likewise engages in the practice of art contests.

After 20 years experience as a musician and winning Midwest wildlife artist, Larry Seiler, (winner of Wisconsin's 1984 Wildlife Artist of the Year, and Wisconsin's 1998 Inland Trout Stamp) finds a reinvention of himself over the last 2-3 years with a passion for landscape painting. His pursuit of the contemplative and spiritual sanity in life finds a special connection with his love of direct on location painting often referred to as "Plein Air."

Larry is represented by Art International, and his work is in a number of Midwest galleries including Grassland Gallery in the Mall of America. His background includes teaching art education for the public schools, participation in artist's workshops, travels and seminar speaking. Larry's works are primarily oils and acrylics, with the practice often of doing plein air studies to produce larger in-studio images.

Larry can be reached via email at: lseiler@wetcanvas.com.



President's Corner continued from page 3.

program. I urge you all to participate in the survey at:
cybersurvey.com/ng&pc-2005-permits.htm

I encourage all members to be alert for opportunities to resist the further elimination of state duck stamp programs and to encourage resurrections of full programs in the 22 states in categories 2 or 3 above. Letter-writing and e-mail can be very effective in letting your local representatives and officials know that you support duck stamp programs in your state.

* * * * *

Finally, I want to again encourage all members to become

more involved in the operation and activities of our society. I invite you to:

- Write a long or short article for *Duck Tracks*.
- Volunteer to work on or with the Operating Board.
- Give a talk about duck stamps at a local stamp or wildlife show.
- Exhibit your collection of duck stamps.
- Staff a table at a local show and distribute literature about NDSCS.
- Organize any other related activity that might interest you.

Please, get involved!

Secretary's Column continued from page 4.

to the society. 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.

Seasonal Addresses – We are eliminating sending *Duck Tracks* to a summer and winter address unless we receive specific instructions which months apply to each address. We will not rely on Post Office address change forms as in the past.

E-mail List – Over the last few months we have increased the use of our electronic mailing list. We even sent an advance notice of the last issue of *Duck Tracks* to the electronic mailing list. Please keep your e-mail address up-to-date so that the time sensitive information gets to you before it gets too old. Send it to ndscs@hwcen.org. We protect your e-mail address when using it so other members will not see it.

E-mail Address Storage – Previously, we could not differentiate between using your e-mail address for Society news and business and publishing it in a member roster. With the new master file format we have the ability to identify if an e-mail address should be published. When providing your e-mail address please let us know if you want us to use it but not publish it in a roster.

Privacy Note – NDSCS does not sell our mailing list or e-mail list to anyone. We use the information to

provide our members with information and reminders about society business only.

All memberships that expired in 2003 and 2004 are now past due. Please review your label and renew your membership as soon as possible. All of these members will be sent postcards reminders after this *Duck Tracks* is mailed. Please take a minute out of your busy schedules and renew your memberships while you are thinking about it. It will save you and the society a little time and money. It isn't too early for the Spring 2005 renewals.

Your *Duck Tracks* mailing label is the key to your membership expiration date (Expires: Month Year). Using your mailing label as a guide, jot your membership number on your check. Visa and MasterCard, as well as PayPal, are accepted for your renewal. You can make your credit card payment at this link:
www.hwcen.org/link/ndscs/member.html.

(A reminder, your dues are fully US TAX DEDUCTIBLE!)

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 January 31, 2005. All membership renewals received through that date are reflected on the mailing labels. If you feel there is something wrong with the expiration date – drop me a quick note and we will resolve it quickly.

Continued success in your collecting adventures!

Duck Stamp Story Told in New Zealand

Wes Miller, NDSCS Vice President, presented the U. S. Duck Stamp story to the Christchurch Philatelic Society in early November 2004. The presentation was well received by the membership and Wes was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Society secretary. NDSCS has a set of overhead slides that is

available to the membership to give presentations to your local philatelic clubs or if you travel abroad. Wes is in the process of converting this presentation to a Power Point format. You may contact Ira Cotton or Wes Miller for more information., Wesmiller3@aol.com or Cotton@Novia.net.

Ducks Unlimited to manage Duck Stamp Licensing Program

Ducks Unlimited will manage how Federal Duck Stamp images are licensed to manufacturers who place the images on a wide variety of consumer products.

Under the agreement, Ducks Unlimited will use its expertise to expand and manage the licensing program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Duck Stamp Program.

"We're excited to have Ducks Unlimited manage our Duck Stamp licensing program and the potential it will have to provide even more money for wetlands conservation," said Service Director Steve Williams. "I am confident that this agreement will help us fulfill the goal announced by President Bush of conserving three million acres of wetlands across the nation over the next five years."

Since 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp, has been sold to hunters, conservationists, and stamp collectors. In that time, stamp sales have generated more than \$670 million that has been used to acquire more than 5.2 million acres of important wetlands and associated upland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Recognizing the stamps' popularity with the public, Congress authorized the Service to license stamp images for use on a variety of products in 1984, with proceeds going to acquire additional habitat for the Refuge System.

Since that time, dozens of licensed products ranging from embroidered hats and sweatshirts; to knives, keychains and prints have been successfully marketed by private companies

across the country.

By engaging the professional marketing and licensing expertise of Ducks Unlimited, the Service hopes to take full advantage of the valuable stamp images to generate more money for conservation and raise public awareness of the Duck Stamp itself.

Under the agreement, Ducks Unlimited will help the Service broaden the awareness of Federal Duck Stamps and the role they play in past, current and future conservation efforts.

Like Ducks Unlimited's current licensing programs that raise money for waterfowl and habitat, royalties generated from the sale of products with the stamp images will be dedicated to waterfowl conservation efforts.

"When waterfowlers purchase a product depicting a Federal Duck Stamp image, they're not only supporting a great conservation program and tradition, they're enabling the manufacturer of that product to donate important funds to habitat conservation, as well. Everyone wins," said Don Young, Executive Vice President of Ducks Unlimited.

"Ducks Unlimited and its members share our strong commitment to wetlands conservation, and understand the values that the Duck Stamp represents," Williams added.

"The Service has a long history of partnership with Ducks Unlimited on wetlands conservation projects, and we look forward to deepening this partnership through our licensing program."

For more information on the Duck Stamp Program and how Duck Stamp funds have benefited a refuge in your state, visit the Duck Stamp home page at:

duckstamps.fws.gov

With more than one million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world's leading wetland and waterfowl conservation group. For more information, visit the DU website:

ducks.org

Grisham's art boosts duck stamp program

Larry Grisham's love of wildlife art has helped raise millions of dollars for waterfowl and other wildlife in Arkansas.



Larry Grisham

Grisham, a banker from Jonesboro, has handled the duck stamp artwork for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission through Grisham's Wildlife Art since 1982. Sales of prints created from duck stamp artwork have made the Arkansas program the most successful in the country, thanks to top-notch artists.

"I've just had a lifelong love of hunting," Grisham said. "I go duck hunting most every day during the season. My interest in wildlife art developed when I became friends with Maynard Reece."

Arkansas leads the nation in duck stamp prints with about 1,600 collectors who buy prints each year. Texas probably is a close second. Without excellent artists, programs in some states have struggled or have been abandoned.

"We totally design the stamps for Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's specifications," Grisham said. "We select the artist each year, work with him or her on the art, then we produce the stamps and the prints. We give the duck stamps to the Game and Fish Commission at no cost."

"There is not a pattern to selecting the artists for our duck stamps," Grisham said. "We go to the top people and try to work it out. We have used David Maass and Phillip Crowe three times each; Maynard Reece Jim Hautman, Dan Smith, Larry Chandler, Ken Carlson and Larry Hayden twice each."

Non-resident stamp issued.

Beginning in 2004, non-resident waterfowl hunters will pay just a little more for the opportunity to hunt ducks in Arkansas.

Commissioners from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission raised the stamp price for non-resident hunters to \$20 at its July meeting. The price increase went into effect on Sept. 1. The cost of duck stamps for Arkansas residents will remain at \$7. Stamps are available for collectors with both the \$7 and \$20 face values.



Duck stamp collectors are familiar with a variety of products featuring duck stamp images.

Delaware begins lighthouse series

The 2004 Delaware Duck Stamp was a special year as it's the 25th anniversary of the Delaware Duck Stamp Program.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife partnered with Delaware Ducks Unlimited to begin the duck stamp and print program in 1980 to raise funds for waterfowl conservation. During this time more than \$2 million has been raised to acquire and improve waterfowl habitats in Delaware and Canada.

With declining print sales over the past few years, the state set up a committee to improve sales of these highly collectible prints and stamps. The committee decided to include a lighthouse in the print, thus expanding this collectible to the lighthouse community. It was decided to include a lighthouse in the duck stamp/print competition through 2008, with each year having a specific lighthouse and duck.

Because of the dual subject matter, the 2004 contest took on a new twist as the duck and the lighthouse had to both be correctly portrayed.

The state picked five judges and two alternates to pick the artwork for the 2004 stamp and print. Each of the judges brought a different expertise to the competition. A wildlife biologist and a decoy carver made



The 2004 Delaware duck stamp picturing the Cape Henlopen lighthouse.

sure the duck was correctly done. A printer and an art gallery owner made sure the chosen artwork could be reproduced both as a print and a stamp without difficulty. A judge with lighthouse expertise made sure the lighthouse was properly portrayed. The judges were Herb Von Goerres, Larry Marvel, Doug Gibson, Brian Havertine, Terry

Villanueva, with alternates Earl Reed and Oscar Reed.

There were 22 entries this year from various states, down from the expected 35 to 40, possibly due to the dual subject matter. Participants were told where pictures of the lighthouse could be found on DNRC and State Archives web sites. The judges had some really tough choices. Some entries had beautifully detailed and correct ducks but the lighthouse was incorrect and vice versa.

Some of the lighthouse renditions appeared to be on a rocky coastline and some didn't resemble Cape Henlopen Light at all. After approximately two hours a watercolor by Bonni Field of Newark, Delaware was declared the 2004 winner.

For more information on the Delaware Duck Stamp Program contact Laura Rau at 302-739-5841 or visit the states website: dnrec.state.de.us/fw/duckcot.htm.

National Duck Stamp Collectors Society

NDSCS Secretary

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