



Duck Tracks™

Dedicated to Making a Difference

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APS Chapter # 210

Hautman's pintails win Federal Duck Stamp Contest



Pintails by Joe Hautman will appear on RW75.

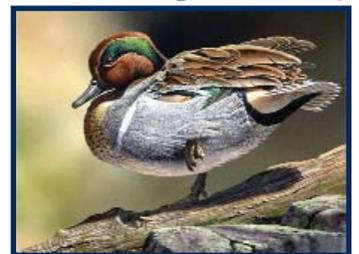
Wildlife artist Joe Hautman of Plymouth, Minn., won the 2007 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest - the oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competition in America - with his depiction of a pair of pintail ducks. Department of the Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced the winner in front of a crowd of 300 people at the contest, held at BIG Arts in Sanibel, Fla.

"It was a privilege for me to congratulate Joe Hautman when the judges chose his art to grace the 75th Duck Stamp," said Secretary Kempthorne. "The Duck Stamp program is unique in the realm between art and conservation. This art will be transformed into an equally beautiful stamp and help protect wetlands by generating funding through the sale of that stamp to hunters, stamp-collectors and conservationists. People talk about how art can change the world, and the Duck Stamp is an excellent example. You just need to look at the more than five million acres of waterfowl habitat protected by their purchase using funds

from the stamp for proof of the power of this art."

Hautman's painting - chosen from among 247 entries from artists across the country - will be featured on the 2008 Federal Duck Stamp which will go on sale in late June 2008. Federal Duck Stamp sales raise about \$25 million each year to fund wetland habitat acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System. The annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest is the only federally-sponsored juried art competition, and is run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This year's contest crowns the winner of the 75th duck stamp since the program's inception in 1934. Before 1949, a commission selected the design.

"This was the most exciting Duck Stamp contest in history," said H. Dale Hall, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "To have a three-way tie for first place, then to have the artist and his family right here in the audience, was fantastic."



Second place by Harold Roe.



Third place by Scot Storm
continued on page 9

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Welcome to all our new members!

New Regular Members

Nathan C. Boyan	Shirley, Maine
Don Woske	Valdosta, Ga.
Stephan R. Mallory	Lakeland, Fla.
Gene J. DeVries	Baton Rouge, La.
Rudolf Saporito	Staten Island, N.Y.
William J. Luckett	Madison, Mich.
Evan R. Salmore	Sarasota, Fla.
Clair M. Haakenson	Albuquerque, N.M.
Doug Scheier	Elk Grove, Calif.
Database Services	Liverpool, N.Y.
John Hancock	Cheshire, England

New Charter Life Members

Greg Wood	Bradbury, Calif.
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New Life Members

Christ W. Taylor	Quarryville, Penn.
Dwight A. Palmquist	Ashby, Minn.
Charter - Life	29
Life	34
Associate, Charter - Regular, Regular, Junior	274
Total Active Membership	337
Total Complimentary Copies	17
Total Mailing List	354
New Members Since 1/1/2007	29

NDSCS Financial

Certificates of Deposit:	\$ 10,000.00
Checking Account:	\$ 6,558.55
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Letters



Duck stamp collector and NDSCS member John Moss sent this letter to the Federal Duck Stamp Office. Mr. Moss also directed a copy to Duck Tracks. We include his letter here along with the response he received from the Duck Stamp Office, provided to us by Pat Fisher.

Every year, for more years than I care to remember, I go down to the post office (38301) and buy my duck stamp for hunting and water activated stamps for collecting, picking the best ones out of the available stock.

I usually spend between \$350. and \$450., depending on the quality. I'm not a dealer. I don't usually sell my extras. I give them away or use them to trade for other duck stamps. Some are sold to other collector friends at my cost.

This year, I was told that the water activated stamps weren't available. They were not allowed to order them. They only had the self adhesive variety.

If this is true, some decision maker, at the post office I presume, has done a great disservice to collectors. I will now have to buy from the Postal Store and rely on luck to get XF or better stamps, or buy from a dealer and pay a premium. I'm still going through the chain at the post office, but no answers yet.

What's up? Do y'all know about this? I understand the trend toward the easier to handle self adhesives, but this is leading to no more lick and stick.

John Moss
Jackson, Tenn.

Patricia Fisher, Chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Program has responded to Mr. Moss, but would also
continued on page 6

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

State License Badges

President's Corner



by Ira Cotton

Quick - where else can you find pictures of ducks on license besides on duck stamps and paper licenses? You only have to have read the title of this article to know the answer!

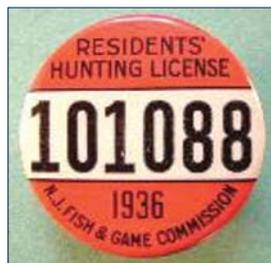
License badges are visible indications of a license privilege that are intended to be worn - typically affixed by a pin on the back of the badge. Badges come in various forms, including metal, celluloid,

and plastic, though the most common form used for hunting licenses is the celluloid button.

License badges or buttons have been issued by about a third of the states. In all cases to my knowledge, a paper license was issued in conjunction with the badge, typically with a matching serial number, and many badges have a clip or pocket in the back in which the paper license can be stowed. The purpose of the badge is to make it easy for game wardens to spot hunters without licenses.

Badges were issued for various types of seasons, including fishing, small game and deer. The small game badges should be of most interest to duck stamp collectors, because it is the license usually required for waterfowl hunting. Thus, small game license badges "qualify" to be in a duck stamp and license collection. Additionally, some of the badges are pictorial, and some of the pictorial licenses feature waterfowl.

The basic elements on a license badge, as shown on this 1936 New Jersey resident hunting license, are the year and state of issue, the privilege, and a serial number that is different on each



1936 NJ resident hunting license

badge. This "basic" license has no artwork and contains text only.

The next design concept in badges is to include the state seal, as illustrated in this 1940 New York citizen resident hunting license. This is a constant element in the design of all the badges in the New York series.



1940 NY citizen resident hunting license.



License that would have been required for duck hunting by a CA resident citizen, shown with its matching paper license.

My interest grows when the badge include a fish or game animal in the design. California issued a total of ten different badges, all in 1934, for different classes of license. All the fishing badges portray a trout design and all the hunting badges portray a bear as shown below. This is the license that would have been required for duck hunting by a resident citizen, shown with its matching paper license. Having been issued in 1934, this license would also have required a duck stamp in order to be valid for waterfowl hunting.

I have seen only a few pictorial license badges that portray waterfowl (and would welcome learning of others). The 1931 Michigan resident and non-resident small game licenses both show the same simple but striking image of a duck with wings extended in the reeds.



Michigan resident small game license

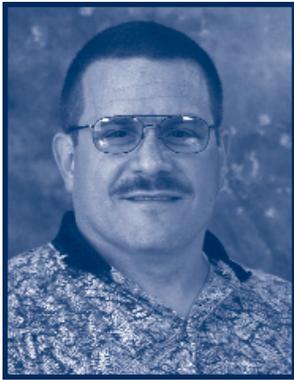
This 1931 Michigan resident small game license is showing its age somewhat, but the image of a duck in the reeds is striking, as the enlargement shows. I have not seen all of Michigan's small game badges, so other illustrations of waterfowl could exist.

Mississippi issued a series of illustrated license badges, *continued on page 10*



Mississippi issued a series of illustrated license badges,

Secretary's Column



by **Tony Monaco**

Another win for a Hautman brother in this year's Federal Duck Stamp contest. Joe Hautman's painting of a standing and nesting pair of pintails took first place honors. After a 3-way tie in Round 3 Joe's painting emerged a winner by a slim margin in the final round of voting. Brothers Jim and Bob finished in 5th and 11th place.

This year's stamp marks the 75th anniversary of the Duck Stamp. The FDSO has made some major changes in the last 10 years and I hope the one change they never make is eliminating the contest or the use of the winning art on the hunting stamp.

We need more members volunteering to become more active in the society. We could use a few hands to help and maybe even assume some of the board positions. Please consider sharing some of your free time with the society.

We are also giving our members advance notice that on or before March 31, 2008 our credit card web site, BigStep will no longer be in operation. NDSCS will continue to use PayPal as our on-line payment source for credit card and bank transfers.

On to the society business items –

E-mail lists and Web Site – Visit our web site ndscs.org. Late breaking information, membership renewal, printing of membership forms for mail-in, is all available from our site. It also allows for secure credit card renewals and general donations. We continually update the site with useful information so make it a point to check it out! **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 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 address up-to-date by e-mailing your address changes to ndscs@hwcen.org. The NDSCS does not sell our mailing list or e-mail list to anyone! Your information is used to only send duck stamp information and society mailings to you.

Society membership business – Your **Duck Tracks** mailing label is the key to your membership expiration date. All memberships that have a note of EXPIRES: October 2007 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 Visa and MasterCard for your renewal by using our on-line payment page. A reminder, your dues are tax deductible! **Continued on page 12**

Glowing self-stick ducks may be common

by **Wayne L. Youngblood**

Apparently at least one version of the 2007-2008 Federal Duck stamp, picturing Richard Clifton's painting of two swimming ring-necked ducks, is phosphor tagged. The stamp was released June 22, 2007.

In December 2007, several collectors reported they had found tagged versions of the self-adhesive automatic teller machine (ATM) version of the popular \$15 revenue stamp (Scott RW74A). The coating, which makes the stamps glow a yellow-green color, is visible only under shortwave ultraviolet light.

Since the self-adhesive version is already considered a separate and distinct collectible variety from the traditional sheet version, the tagging is not a determiner of type, but it is an interesting variety nonetheless. What is unknown, however, is whether all examples of the self-

adhesive stamp are tagged. According to a spokesperson for the printer, Banknote Corporation of America, a subsidiary of Sennett Security Products, it's quite possible they are all tagged – as are self-adhesive ducks from previous years. All self-adhesive stamp production paper used by the firm is supposedly phosphor coated prior to printing. As a result, for low-denomination stamps and self-adhesive ducks (neither of which should be tagged), an additional coating of a UV-blocking agent is applied over the surface of the paper to kill the glow. It is uncertain whether this additional coating is applied before or after printing.

Initially it was speculated that this unusual variety – the first of its kind in U.S. philatelic history – was likely the result of either a paper order error, or the time-honored tradition of grabbing whatever paper that meets broad **continued on page 14**

The 75th Anniversary Duck Stamp Art Contest



by **Wes Miller, VP**

At the conclusion of the 2006 Duck Stamp Art Contest, the Duck Stamp Office started to hint of great things to take place for the 75th Anniversary of the Duck Stamp Program.

It wasn't long after the official announcement came. The contest would take place on Sanibel Island, Florida.

Sanibel is the home of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Preserve. What more fitting place for the contest than at a wildlife preserve named after the innovator of the Duck Stamp Program?

Special consideration was made for this contest, waiving the three-year waiting period for recent winners of the Federal contest. Invitations were sent to former duck stamp entrants, inviting them to be at the contest. Many wildlife artists were in attendance. They included former federal winners Joe, Jim and Bob Hautman, Richard Clifton, Adam Grimm, Florida winners John Harris and Ernest Simmons, Tim Taylor of New Jersey, who has entered the federal contest numerous times, as well as Junior artists Rebkah Nastav, Adam Nisbett and Paul Willey.

The venue at Big Arts Gallery, adjacent to Ding Darling was ideal for the contest. There auditorium had room for all and the big screen presentation was great. Attendance by the local art aficionados was impressive. The number of duck stamp collectors attending has increased over the past few years.

I was unable to attend the Gala the night before the contest, but was informed that it was spectacular with the exception of an air conditioning problem which demonstrated to the attendees the heat and humidity of a typical Florida October day.



Bob Hautman and Wes Miller.

This was the first contest I have been in which the Secretary of the Interior took such an active part in the entire contest.

Secretary Dirk

Kemphorne was well received by the audience and it was evident that he has a true interest in Wildlife conservation and the duck stamp program. H. Dale Hall, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, did an outstanding job with the ceremonies and proved the Duck Stamp Program is in good hands. Pat Fischer and Laurie Shaffer were in attendance and kept the program running smoothly and without a hitch.

The highlight for me this year was to have dinner on Friday evening with Adam Grimm, John Harris and Tim Taylor and their spouses, along with NDCS member Murray Touche, who attends the contest almost annually, despite the fact that he lives in Scotland!

All three artists were excited and anticipating the following day because they had all made the cut and were in the next round on Saturday. Adam has been very busy fixing up his new home in South Dakota, his study was the first to be completed. He and his wife were a most pleasurable couple to dine with.

John Harris a fellow Floridian, as well as his wife were reserved but, when coached, were most animated about the wildlife art program and the conservation efforts sustained by the Duck Stamp Programs.

Tim Taylor has been my buddy and during many of the past ten art contests. Tim was thrilled for having received five "Ins" in the first round. It has been a while since Tim

Continued on page 13



Adam and Janet Grimm with daughter, Madison, at the Big Arts Center.



L-R Adam Nisbett (JDS12) and Adam Grimm (RW67) view the contest entries while awaiting the final announcement.

Letters continued from page 2 like to share the information with other duck stamp collectors. Mrs. Fisher's responds:

The Federal Duck Stamp Program's sole mission is to produce and sell an annual Duck Stamp to benefit waterfowl conservation. Revenue raised from Duck Stamp sales is used to help purchase wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Many other wetland dependent animals and plants also benefit from these funds.

Stamp sale revenue also provides the funds for the cost of stamp production. Since the sale of the first Federal Duck Stamp in August 1934, our goal has been, and continues to be, to raise money for wetland conservation. We also strive to keep the cost of stamp production and distribution low to return 98 percent of the funds collected to purchase disappearing waterfowl habitat.

With the advent of the Congressionally-mandated pilot program to sell electronic duck stamps and the recent change in availability of the Water Activated Gum (WAG) stamps, some of our valued customers are concerned that the Federal Duck Stamp Office might discontinue the printing of the WAG stamp. However, despite the change in the WAG stamp's availability or the start of the "E" Stamp pilot program, we will continue to print WAG Federal Duck Stamps.

For the past several years, we have been monitoring the destruction rate for WAG stamps and found that we have been destroying 80 percent annually. At the same time, printing costs have continued to increase each year. Since we had been printing one million WAG stamps per year but destroying 80 percent, in the interest of conservation, we decided to reduce our printing costs and the percentage of stamps we have to destroy. The most efficacious way to do this was to decrease our WAG stamp print run to 500,000.

Before proceeding, however, we consulted our historic partner, the United States Postal Service (USPS). The USPS advised us that with the new 500,000 print run, WAG stamp distribution to its 40,000 local post offices would be challenging because it would occur at the same time as USPS was planning to make some of its own changes in philatelic customer service. In fact, recently *Linn's Stamp News* reported that there are now fewer than 40 philatelic sales windows in post offices across the country, down from almost 300. Also, in the past, WAG stamps were not automatically sent each year to every post office;



A well centered RW74, the type the author would like to find at the post office.

rather the USPS required each postmaster or station manager to specifically order his or her own inventory from regional USPS distribution centers. However, since the WAG Duck Stamp price is \$15 compared to 41¢ for a postage stamp, USPS explained that many local managers decided against keeping Duck Stamps on hand due to associated higher accountability costs.

The Federal Duck Stamp Program values our dedicated collectors and remains grateful for their continued contribution to wetland conservation. We understand collectors enjoy being able to look through their local post office's WAG Federal Duck Stamp inventory to find those with acceptable VF quality and now are concerned this hands-on opportunity may no longer be available. The WAG stamp is still sold through the USPS Philatelic Center in Kansas City and through the Amplex Corporation in Dallas, Texas. We continue working with both to ensure our collectors can still buy high quality stamps in the configurations they seek and that they may easily exchange stamps to meet any personal preferences.

The Federal Duck Stamp Program and its partners seek to ensure high quality customer service while increasing the program's conservation benefits to meet today's escalating real estate market.

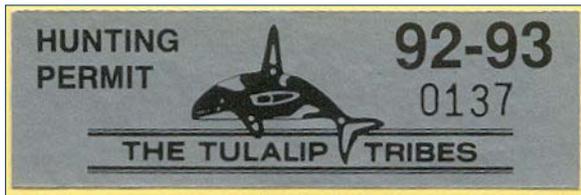
Finally, right before going to press, we received this note that Mr. Moss directed to Pat Fisher in response to her answer.

Dear Ms. Fisher,

At the outset let me thank you for taking the time to respond and apologize to you for taking so long to get back to you. I appreciate your considered letter but you still did not directly answer my question. Who made the

Continued on page 8

Tulalip Tribes hunting stamp was required to hunt waterfowl



by Charles Souder

The Point Elliott [Washington] Treaty of January 22, 1855, established the Tulalip Reservation. The tribe currently operates under their constitution and bylaws that were adopted January 24, 1936. The board of directors supervise tribal affairs. The active committees administer lands, leasing, loans, education, enrollment, water resources and roads, hunting and fishing and recreation.

Attempting to determine if a stamp is legitimate and what it is required for can often be difficult. In the case of Tulalip's hunting stamp, in order to connect-the-dots, you first have to look at CFR 50 Part 20 [dated October 20, 2000].

It reads "All waterfowl hunters, members and non-members, must obtain and possess while hunting a valid hunting permit from the Tulalip tribes. Also, non-tribal members sixteen years of age and older, hunting under Tulalip Tribes' Ordinance No. 67, must possess a validated Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and a validated State of Washington Migratory Waterfowl

Stamp. All Tulalip tribal members must have in their possession while hunting, or accompanying another, their valid tribal identification card. All hunters are required to adhere to a number of other special regulations enforced by the tribes and available at the tribal office." CFR 50 part 20 has read similarly throughout the mid-1980s through early 2000s.

At least as early as the 1988-89 through the 2000-01 hunting seasons, the Tulalip Tribe adopted a requirement for tribal members in the Tribe's Annual Hunting Regulations [this is one of the "other special regulations" referred to in CFR 50], if they were hunting, to obtain a Hunting Permit Stamp. This Hunting Permit Stamp was required to be affixed to the member's tribal identification card.

The Tulalip Hunting Stamp was required for tribal members in lieu of the state of Washington Migratory Waterfowl Stamp. When the state's waterfowl stamp was no longer required to be affixed to the hunting license, neither was the Tulalip Hunting Stamp for tribal members. There was a Tulalip Hunting Permit Stamp printed for the 2001-02 season, but since the state of Washington dropped the requirement to affix their stamp to the hunter's license, the Tulalip Tribe also dropped the requirement, and the 2001-02 season stamps were not used.

The Tulalip Tribe printed Hunting Permit stamps (all self-adhesive) as follows:

Season	Design (colors)	Format	Expired	Printed
1988-89	Orca (black [black]/red)	imperf, die cut	3/31/89	750
1989-90	Orca (black [black]/light blue)	imperf, die cut	3/31/90	400
1990-91	Orca (black [black]/light purple)	imperf, die cut	3/31/91	400
1991-92	Orca (black [black]/red)	imperf, die cut	3/31/92	300
1992-93	Orca (black [black]/silver)	imperf, die cut	3/31/93	500
1993-94	Orca (black [black]/light blue)	imperf, die cut	3/31/94	750
1994-95	Orca (white [black]/maroon)	imperf, die cut	3/31/95	750
1995-96	Orca (black [black]/pink)	imperf, die cut	3/31/96	750
1996-97	Orca (black [black]/yellow)	imperf, die cut	3/31/97	750
1997-98	Orca (black [black]/white)	imperf, die cut	3/31/98	500
1998-99	Orca (black [black]/white)	imperf, die cut	3/31/98	500
1999-00	Orca (black & white [black]/red)	imperf, die cut	3/31/00	300
2000-01	Orca (black & white [black]/red)	imperf, die cut	3/31/01	300
2001-02	Orca (black & white [black]/yellow)	imperf, sht10 (1x10)	na	250

Gummed stamps continued from page 6

decision to stop the sales of WAG stamps at the post office? I can infer from your letter that it was the post office. That inference comes from this statement by you: "Also, in the past, WAG stamps were not automatically sent each year to every post office; rather the USPS required each postmaster or station manager to specifically order his or her own inventory from regional USPS distribution centers. However, since the WAG Duck Stamp price is \$15. compared to 41¢ for a postage stamp, USPS explained that many local managers decided against keeping Duck Stamps on hand due to associated higher accountability costs."

The first sentence is true. Two years ago, our post office didn't have many on hand and when I asked the postmaster to order some more, he happily did so. The second sentence is meaningless. When I asked several desk clerks and the postmaster about the "higher accountability costs," they said "What? There's no such thing. A stamp is a stamp and we have to account for them all." There is no increased cost.

Paul Schmidt had this to say before congress in July, 2005: "The Service would also like to emphasize that the customary retail purchase of the traditional duck stamp will continue.

"The electronic duck stamp is meant to supplement, not replace, the distribution and sale of the 'traditional' duck stamp.

"For those collectors, conservationists, and hunters who prefer buying the artwork of the duck stamp in person, they may still do so at any participating retailer and many United States Post Offices. Catalog, telephone, and online sales through the United States Postal Service and the Service's consignment contractor, Amplex Corporation, will also continue by mail."

(Testimony of Paul R. Schmidt, Assistant Director for Migratory Birds, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, before the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, regarding H.R. 1494, the Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005 and H.R. 3179, reauthorizing the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act. July 21, 2005)

I would like to think he was speaking about the WAG

stamp and the pressure version but, apparently, that's not the case. Who made the decision and why? Could it have been a contract issue with Amplex?

You state, "With the advent of the Congressionally- mandated pilot program to sell electronic duck stamps and the recent change in availability of the Water Activated Gum (WAG) stamps, some of our valued customers are concerned that the Federal Duck Stamp Office might discontinue the printing of the WAG stamp. However, despite the change in the WAG stamp's availability or the start of the "E" Stamp pilot program, we will continue to print WAG Federal Duck Stamps."

As I understand it, the electronic stamp will not replace the issuance of a printed stamp which will be sent to the user at a later date. The electronic stamp is temporary until the regular stamp arrives. I've been using them for out of state hunts for years and that's how it works. I have a lot of nice, unsigned Arkansas and Texas stamps that I received after the hunt.

I am glad to see you are concerned that "hands on opportunit(ies)" are not now available, but I can assure you that the "easy exchange" idea will be difficult, given the quality problems we have seen in the past few years.

Last year, I went through 20 panes before I found one VF+ block. I might get lucky, but I can envision ordering (and paying for) a pane and sending it back numerous times, then giving up and keeping a few singles, maybe a block or two, then returning the remainder and waiting a while for a refund. Not to mention the accounting cost increase that could cause!

Your letter says, "For the past several years, we have been monitoring the destruction rate for WAG stamps and found that we have been destroying 80 percent annually. At the same time, printing costs have continued to increase each year. Since we had been printing one million WAG stamps per year but destroying 80 percent ..."

How many WAG's are we selling annually? The above says 200,000. I recall other references to 100,000.

We have about half a year left. Why not implore your counterparts in the Post Office to allow local offices to order WAG stamps from Kansas City if they want to. And publicize it.

Thanks again,
John Moss

Few birds dive deeper than eiders. King eiders can reportedly descend to 100 feet or more, though their dives are normally much more shallow.

Contest continued from page 1

"We're going to continue to move this contest around the country to give the public a chance to own this."

The competition was surrounded by a week of public events at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and BIG Arts celebrating the life of artist, conservationist and creator of the Duck Stamp, J.N. "Ding" Darling.

Born in 1876 in Michigan, Darling was a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for his conservation-themed cartoons. He also served as Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, the forerunner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from 1934-1935. Darling's conservation legacy remains the foundation for the broad-based support and strategic vision of North America's successful waterfowl management efforts.

Joe Hautman won the Federal Duck Stamp contest in 1992 and 2002. His work is also featured on state duck stamp for Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey, South Carolina and Texas. His brothers, Bob and Jim, are also multiple Federal Duck Stamp Contest winners.

Hautman attended the Federal Duck Stamp contest this year with his family. The audience gave him a standing ovation when his art was chosen as the winning piece.

"I've been to a lot of Duck Stamp contests, and this is the most exciting one I've been to," Hautman said. "I'd like to thank my family, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, who turns this artwork into wetlands and ducks."

Hautman's winning art depicts two pintails—a male and female—nestled gracefully atop reeds in a marsh.

Second place went to Harold Roe, of Sylvania, Ohio, who painted an acrylic of a lone green-winged teal. Roe has previously placed highly in the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. Third place went to Scot Storm of Freeport, Minn., who painted a pair of mallards in acrylic. Storm's work appeared on the 2004 Federal Duck Stamp.

Eligible species for this year's contest were the mallard, northern pintail, canvasback, green-winged teal and harlequin duck.

The five judges for the competition were selected by the Secretary of the Interior for their dedication to conservation and professional expertise. They were:

Jim Sprankle of Sanibel Island, Fla., is one of the best-known wood sculptors of wild birds in the world and a former pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cincinnati Reds.

Matt Hogan is executive director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Matt is an avid hunter, angler

and fly-fisherman.

Jeanie Morris from Springfield, Mo., is president of the Springfield Arts Council and has studied painting with many well-known artists in both the United States and Europe.

Cheryl Ganz is the chief Curator for Philately at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. She co-chaired the Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History and was curator of National Postal Museum exhibits at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition and the American Philatelic Society Stamp Show 2006.

Eugene Hester of Springfield, Va., is a former Deputy Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He is an avid wildlife photographer and outdoor writer, his photographs and articles appearing in many national and state magazines, as well as books, calendars and other publications.

Richard Slaughter, (the alternate judge), from Easton, Md., is the publisher of the nature and conservation-focused Attraction Magazine. He is an avid waterfowler, collector of working decoys, wildlife art expert and collector of Federal and State Duck Stamps.

The 2008 Contest will be held in Bloomington, Minn., October 17-18.

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President continued from page 3

at least two of which portrayed waterfowl. The image is rather crude in the 1935 state resident hunting license and seems somewhat improved on the 1938 license. I can't tell what the hunter on the 1941 license is shooting at, but it could be waterfowl! (Note: these badges are not shown to scale.)

The waterfowl image on this lifetime North Carolina hunter and sportsman badges is more iconic in nature, rather than picturing any particular species. The four icons together do a rather good job, I think, of portraying the broad hunting privilege conveyed by the license.



North Carolina hunter and sportsman badges

South Carolina has issued pictorial license badges for both hunting and fishing, as shown below. These are the



South Carolina has issued pictorial license badges for both hunting and fishing,

only two I have seen thus far, though it seems possible that waterfowl are shown on some hunting badges in the series.

Finally, there are a variety of unofficial badges issued by various sportsman organizations and hunt



Badge from the Keystone Rod & Gun Club in Bath, Penn.

clubs. This example of one such badge from the Keystone Rod & Gun Club in Bath, PA, portrays a duck rising from the water. I am certain there are other examples of club or society badges portraying waterfowl, and they are all collectible in addition to the official state issues.

Hunting license badges are frequently offered on eBay and may also be found at antique stores and numismatic shows and bourses. Old badges in fine condition command high prices, as might be expected, but a significant collection of wildlife license badges can also be assembled with modestly priced badges.

Most of the books dealing with hunting licenses of a particular state also cover badges. (Email me for a list.) However, I am not aware of any handbook focused on license badges for all the states that issued them, so I am working on such a volume. If you already collect license badges, please contact me at Cotton@Novia.net, if you are willing to share information and scans of badges.

State Duck News

Alabama

A pair of hooded mergansers painted by Jim Denney will adorn the 2008 Alabama Waterfowl Stamp. Denney is a first-time participant in the contest and faced competition from 17 other paintings, including one from his brother John Denney.

All licensed waterfowl hunters are required to be in possession of state and federal migratory waterfowl stamps signed in ink across the face. Like the federal stamps, state issued stamps are popular with collectors.

The annual Alabama contest is open to residents only.

Massachusetts

Gregg Coppolo's colored pencil rendition of a black duck hen decoy has taken top honors in the 2008 Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp Contest. The decoy was crafted by Russ Burr (Hingham, 1887-1955).

Coppolo was stunned and delighted to learn his entry

had won first place this year. "It's unbelievable that I won considering the incredible entries that were submitted," he said.

The Massachusetts waterfowl stamp is the only waterfowl stamp series in the country requiring designs to be of working decoys - ducks, geese or shorebirds - made by deceased Massachusetts decoy makers. Coppolo's artwork will be reproduced on Massachusetts' 2008 waterfowl stamp. The \$5 stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters. Revenues from the sale of the stamp fund projects that enhance waterfowl habitat both in Massachusetts and in the Canadian Maritime Provinces. Stamp collectors and other conservationists also purchase these stamps for their beauty and to assist in the wetland conservation.

Ohio

A pair of green-winged teal by Jeffrey Klinefelter of Etna
continued on page 13

Are your ducks insured?

by David Kempff MSgt, USAF - Retired

It does not take much to turn your duck stamp collection into a duck stamp investment.

Early issues are not cheap and even a few recent issues (RW72b for example) can put a sizable dent in your bank account. At some point in time, insurance becomes a wise choice.

Purchasing stamp insurance is a fairly easy process. Google "Stamp Collection, insurance" and you will receive over 2 million hits! The choice is yours to make. Of the few insurers that I researched for this article, not one insurer wanted a detailed inventory of the collection. A description of the collection, your estimate of the replacement value, together with information on how and where the stamps are stored seemed to be all they required concerning the collection. However, should you make a claim for a lost or stolen item, you may be asked to provide additional support documentation.

The following quote is from an insurer and is typical of what you might expect:

- When a loss takes place it is your responsibility to prove your loss.
- We ask you for a written description of the loss and a list of what was lost and your estimate of its replacement value at the time of loss.
- We investigate the loss and check the values you gave us with others knowledgeable about the type collectible.
- If other information is needed from you, such as a

sample of purchase receipts, we will ask you for this information

It's at this point that an inventory of your collection becomes very important. I strongly recommend photographs. With a digital camera, the process is simple and inexpensive.

The following photograph is a 13" x 19" poster and displays most of my collection.

I started by mounting my camera on a tripod, placing an individual stamp on the floor with a black paper background, added a couple of side lamps for lighting, and took a photo of the stamp. Be sure that the dogs, cats, kids, and spouse are safely away from the area before placing that RW1 on the floor for it's photo shoot!

I then transferred the images to my PC for processing. Almost all digital cameras come with software that will allow you to crop (cut off unwanted areas), resize, and rotate the picture. I used PhotoEd and Paint, two very basic and easy to learn applications that came with Microsoft Windows.

First ... load the image into an editor (PhotoEd) and crop the edges so that only the stamp image remains.

Next, you may need to rotate the image to place it as close as possible to horizontal. At this point, you can either print the individual image or resize it to a smaller, more manageable picture size for use in the poster. I resized my images to approximately 3.6" x 2.4" depending on the size of the margins. I then performed a "Save As" and converted the pics to a bitmap (.bmp) format.

For the self-adhesive singles and the artist signed sheets, using trial and error, I reduced the image size until the stamp size was a near match for the size of the previously saved stamps. Don't forget to save each individual image.

I then created a blank bitmap image and resized it to 13" by 19". This served as the "canvas" for the poster.

Load the "canvas" file into Paint and then select Edit ... Paste From. Locate the first stamp and load it into Paint. Move the image to whatever location on the canvas you desire. Repeat for each stamp in your collection.

Use the Fill property in Paint to color the background black (or the color of your choice), and

continued on page 13



Poster created by the author to record his duck stamp collection for insurance purposes.

Ashton Potter will print next duck stamp

Stamp manufacturer Ashton Potter, of Williamsville, N.Y., won the contract to produce the next federal duck stamp, the 2008 that will picture a Joe Hautman painting of pintail ducks.

The design will likely be issued in a water-activated pane of 20, in a water-activated pane of one (artist signed) and a self-adhesive pane of one.

2008 marks the 75th federal duck stamp. This will be the second duck stamp printed by Ashton Potter. It previously produced RW70 the 2003 Snow goose stamp by Ron Louque.

The Snow goose stamp was issued in two formats, the gummed stamp in a pane of 20 and as a self-adhesive stamp in a pane of one. A number of errors exist for RW70 in the gummed version, including color varieties, reverse inscription omitted and imperforates – the first imperforate federal duck stamp since RW1!

RW75 will be issued on July 1, the location of the first day ceremony has not yet been announced.

Secretary column continued from page 4

Membership Renewal Invoices – We continue to use the *Duck Tracks* mailing to send a renewal invoice 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* envelope to renew today, if applicable.

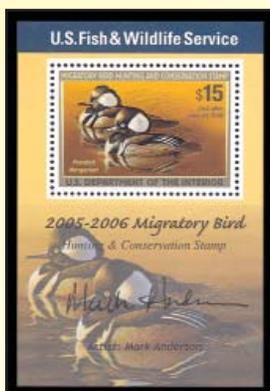
Mailing Labels – The Membership Summary Table provides the details on the current membership by type. The mailing labels used for this issue of *Duck Tracks* were generated around February 1, 2008. All membership renewals received through that date are reflected on the mailing labels. If you feel there 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, except 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.

Continued success in your collecting adventures!

DUCK STAMP MINI-SHEETS

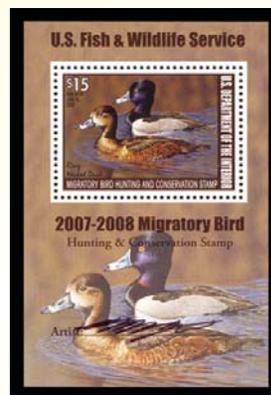
All with Graded XF 90 NH PSE Certificates!



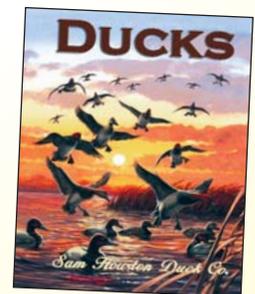
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75th Contest continued from page 5

actually entered the contest, but it became very apparent that between his studies, the contests and the art forums he has attended, he is on his way up in the art world!

The final day and everyone in the audience is paying particular attention the judging. By now most of the audience has identified the contenders by their style, brush stroke, choice of color and poses.

There is a buzz in the air, one of the Hautman's is in the finals. Some differ as to which Hautman it is - Bob or Joe?



Joe Hautman; Vaughn Collins of Ducks Unlimited and Adam Grimm.

When the three-way tie for the first place was taking place, the anticipation was electric. The audience kept looking up at the upper rear of the auditorium where the Hautman clan was seated.



Joe Hautman begins his acceptance speech as the judges look on. Dale Hall and Sec. Kempthorne are behind Hautman.

When the results were announced a roar went up from the crowd with spontaneous applause. Ironically, Joe's name had not been announced but almost everyone knew that the winner was Joe Hautman and the Hautman Dynasty continues.

It is fitting that the next Duck Stamp Art Contest will be in Minnesota, the home state of the Hautman's, this coming October. Eligible species in the 2008 contest will be the brant, Northern shoveler, ruddy duck, Canada goose and Long-tailed Duck (oldsquaw).

Insurance continued from page 11

you have a poster size bitmap image of your collection.

If your printer does not accept 13" x 19" photo paper, then copy the poster image to a portable media (Compact Flash Cards work nicely) and go to your local photo store. They should be able to load the picture into their system and print it for a reasonable price.

Any "canvas" size can be used, but you will need to reduce you stamp image size in order to fit everything onto a smaller canvas. The more you reduce the stamp image, the more the image becomes blurred.

I recommend storing a copy of the picture at a friend or family member's home or in your safety deposit box. If you ever lose your collection, the poster will be worth it's weight in gold when submitting that insurance claim.

About the author

David Kempff is a retired United States Air Force Master Sergeant as well as a retired Senior Software Engineer with MasterCard Worldwide.

Mr. Kempff is a veteran of the Viet Nam war and has served in Japan, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Taiwan, England, Germany, Italy, Greece, Crete, and Turkey. He completed 20 years with the Air Force and 21 years with MasterCard and has been "retired" for the last two years.

He started stamp collecting when he was 16, and collecting interests include federal duck stamps, Missouri duck stamps, U.S. singles and plate blocks.

Mr. Kempff is a member of APS and is a lifetime member of NDSCS. He and his wife Mary live in Maryland Heights, Missouri.

He can be reached via e-mail at: dmkempff@swbell.net.

State News continued from page 10

Green, Indiana won first place in Ohio's Wetlands Habitat Stamp Design Competition. Klinefelter's painting will appear on the Ohio wetlands stamp issued in fall of 2008.

This was Klinefelter's second win in an Ohio conservation stamp competition.

Approximately 28,000 Ohio wetland stamps were purchased last year, according to the Division of Wildlife.

Proceeds help fund vital wetland habitat restoration projects in Ohio.

Wyoming

A black-footed ferret by Jenny Forge-Schmalstieg will be pictured on the 2008 Wyoming conservation stamp.

Next year's competition subject for the 2009 stamp will be the great gray owl.

... And the winner is ...

The votes have been counted and here are the choices of NDSCS members for the best and worst of the 2006 duck stamps (see *Duck Tracks* #48). Thanks to all who participated.

2006 Favorite!



Wisconsin's green-winged teal by Tim Schultz

Other favorites included: the federal mini-sheet, California, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Texas.

Voter Comments

“Worst is Louisiana. It would be great if this was a dog stamp contest, but it is not.”

“Many artists are focusing so much on the background that the ducks get lost and the design is too busy.”

Additional votes suggested by members go to:

“Are North and South Dakota so devoid of ambition that a pictorial stamp is too much trouble?”

“I was sorry to have to vote for my home state as the worst stamp (among real stamps that feature ducks, others are below Iowa just on principal). The image and background are way too dark and the Iowa stamp is not appealing.”

“Please take note Mississippi, Louisiana, New Jersey,

2006 Worst



No questions here - the largest number of votes for the worst stamp went to South Dakota.

“Dishonorable Mentions” go to: North Dakota (second place); Connecticut; Iowa and Wyoming.

and to a lesser extent, Ohio: these are WATERFOWL stamps and retrievers, if present, should be secondary to the waterfowl. (Wyoming is in a world of its own.)”

“The Russian stamp looks like a paint-by-numbers picture with composition and background designed by a committee.”

“I left out North and South Dakota - no class, just get the money!”

“Why can't Vermont and Connecticut kick in for full color stamps?”

Best Dog on a Stamp - Ohio; Best Recycled Design - Washington “This looks a lot like a similar stamp from a few years ago by the same artist.”; Best Retro Look - Connecticut; Worst Background - Michigan; Worst Margin - Canada; Best Color Blend - Wisconsin.

Glowing ducks continued from page 4

specifications is available to finish a press run of stamps. Either way, Duck stamps aren't supposed to be tagged.

Phosphor tagging on stamps is a coating of (usually) zinc-orthosilicate, a mineralogical derivative that is suspended in lacquer, printing ink or paper coatings that makes stamps glow under shortwave UV light. The primary purpose of tagging is so that automated facing and canceling machines, which are equipped with shortwave UV lights, can “find” a stamp and cancel it.

Since Federal Duck stamps are not intended to travel through the mail, there is no reason for them to be tagged.

Additional reports of this variety, as well as how strong-

ly they glow, would be welcomed.

About the author

Youngblood is a freelance author/editor who has written seven books (including Stamps that Glow) and thousands of articles and columns. He is currently editor of the Airpost Journal and Across the Fence Post publications and serves on the boards of directors for the American Philatelic Society (as secretary) and the Arizona Philatelic Rangers. He previously was publisher of Stamp Collector newspaper and six other hobby publications, and served as editor of Scott Stamp Monthly after beginning his career as associate editor of Linn's Stamp News. Youngblood served as a federal duck stamp judge in the 2001 contest.

Junior Duck Contest at the San Diego Zoo

Each year since 1991, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service works with educators to teach wildlife conservation through the arts to schoolchildren.

Each state then holds a competition to select the Best of State painting and the winner is automatically entered into the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

This year the national judging will be held at the San Diego Zoo. During this time, all state entries – as well as those from the District of Columbia and several U.S. territories – will be on display prior to, during, and following the contest.

The national first place art is made into the Junior duck stamp. The proceeds are used solely to support the program and conservation education. The winning student receives a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond. Last year nearly 30,000 students participated in this art and science course, learning about waterfowl and the habitat on which ducks and many other birds and animals depend.

The San Diego Zoo and the USFWS are working on this project as part of their ongoing efforts to bring people and wildlife together. Call 619-685-3291 for more information.

Classified Ads

● **Wanted: Nebraska licenses and ephemera** for new handbook, especially non-resident, trapping, and short-term licenses. Will pay fair price for all items I need. If you have an interesting license you don't want to sell, I would appreciate a high-resolution (300 dpi) scan of both sides and permission to picture it. Ira Cotton, 9939 Broadmoor Road, Omaha, NE 68114 (Cotton@Novia.net)

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

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

Membership Categories

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

Privacy Information

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

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- Collecting Interests E-mail Address

Online application and dues payment at ndscs.org

Collecting Interests

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

Event Participation

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

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

Send completed application to:

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