

April 22, 2013



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

Jr. Duck Stamp Art Winner Chosen

Since the start of the Jr. Duck Stamp Program in 1989, and particularly since the start of a nationwide art contest in 1993, the effort has inspired hundreds of thousands of youngsters in conservation and the arts. Today, more than 27,000 students enter state Jr. Duck Stamp Art Contests annually.

State contests were run through the middle of March, and the most recent winner of the overall Federal contest was chosen on April 19 at a judging at the National Conservation and Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The winning artist is Madison Grimm from Burbank, South Dakota. Her winning artwork, an oil painting of a Canvasback, is shown below. The amazing thing is that she is only six years old. Her very favorite subject is science. For the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service press release on the contest results - including runners-up - see [here](#).

Artwork certainly runs in the family. Madison Grimm's father, Adam Grimm, is a renowned wildlife artist who also began drawing and painting at an early age. He was 21 years old at the time when he won the Federal Duck Stamp Contest in 1999, with an image of a Mottled Duck.



Madison Grimm's artwork for the Jr. Duck Stamp for 2013-14

for national contest winners, state programs, marketing, and environmental education materials.

While the program is profoundly exciting and inspirational, the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp is concerned that

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Did You Know?

1) Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia is almost 400,000 acres in size. (Over 350,000 acres of the NWR is designated as National Wilderness Area.) Some 86.2% of the refuge, or 344,000 acres was acquired through Stamp/MBCF dollars.

2) The last time the stamp price was raised was 1991, when it went up from \$12.50 to \$15.

3) In 1992, after noting that some waterfowl species were frequently depicted on Duck Stamps while others never appeared, the Federal Duck Stamp office began a program of prescribing which species could be painted in any given year.

4) While four waterfowl species are eligible for depiction in the art competition, the 2001 contest was an exception. That year, a single species, the Black Scoter, was the only eligible waterfowl. It had been the only

the funding for the Jr. Duck Stamp Program is in serious jeopardy within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In a recent letter to Dan Ashe, Director of the Service, the Friends asked him to use the power of his position to "reverse any adverse funding decision and to continue to give the Jr. Duck Stamp program the support it so richly deserves." For more on the Jr. Duck Stamp Program and the letter, see [here](#).

North American waterfowl never previously depicted.

5) Only two women artists have won the competition: Nancy Howe in 1990 (King Eider) and Sherrie Russell Meline in 2005 (Ross's Goose).

Earth Day 2013

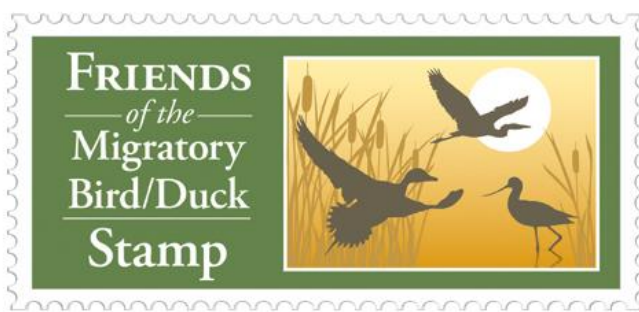
Since 1970, Earth Day has given us the opportunity to re-commit to sharing our appreciation and knowledge of the environment, wildlife, and birds.

The concept for Earth Day came to founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after he witnessed the results of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. As a result, on the 22nd of April, 20 million Americans participated at events from coast to coast in parks, campuses, and auditoriums to speak out for a healthy, sustainable environment.

Earth Day 1970 achieved an important political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, tycoons and labor leaders, city dwellers and farmers. The first Earth Day helped to lead to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. "It was a gamble," Gaylord Nelson recalled years later, "but it worked."

Today, promoting the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp is one very important way to engage in Earth Day. Remember, it's a way to help build a future for bird-and-habitat conservation. Find out how you can engage in this issue of *Wingtips*, not just on Earth Day but any day you wish!

About the Friends



The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion, preservation, sales, and better understanding of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called the Duck Stamp). The organization fosters an appreciation of how the funds collected through the Stamp build the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Part of our emphasis is that the purchase of a Stamp is not something that will just benefit ducks. Among scores of other bird species, numerous kinds of shorebirds, long-legged waders, and wetland and grassland songbirds are dependent on habitat secured through Stamp purchases.

But it's not only birds that benefit from the Stamp. Reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, all flourish through Stamp investments. Water quality is also strengthened.

One 15-dollar purchase of a Stamp goes a very long way!

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW: There are many ways you can help support the growth and appreciation of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp. For starters, become familiar with the Stamp on the [Federal Duck Stamp Office website](#). Then review the content of our [Friends website](#). You can download our flyers and posters for distribution. You can also forward *Wingtips* to friends (See the forwarding tool on the very bottom of the page.) And if you know others who wish to receive this irregular *Wingtips* newsletter, direct them [here](#).

Of course, buy a Stamp - or two - and use/display it proudly. And become a Friend (visit our [website](#)).