

April 5, 2013



# WINGTIPS

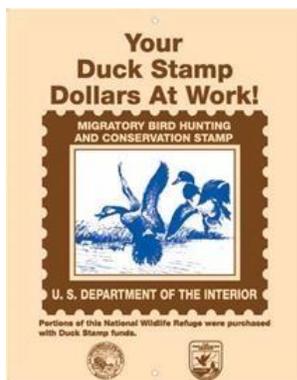
Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

## MBCC Selects New Refuge Properties

Late last month, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) officially approved the addition of more than 2,223 acres in fee-title (direct purchase) and easements to four units of the National Wildlife Refuge System:

- San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge (Texas - 264 acres fee)
- Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge (Texas - 230 acres fee)
- San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge (California - 367 acres easement)
- Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (South Carolina - 1,362 acres fee)

All properties, of course, depend upon willing sellers, and the money for these acquisitions comes from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, commonly understood as the account where Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp funds are deposited.



The property at San Bernard NWR, located about 50 mile south of Houston, provides habitat for wintering waterfowl, nesting habitat for some of them (including Mottled Ducks and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks), and tracts for wading-birds, Neotropical migrants, and other wildlife. The Trinity River NWR acquisition, about 45 miles NE of Houston, preserves wetland for waterfowl as well as breeding colonial waterbirds. The San Joaquin

River NWR property, about 10 miles west of Modesto, California, consists of five fairly small tracts and is expected to protect habitat for native grassland and riparian species as well as geese (e.g., Ross's and Cackling) and Sandhill Cranes. The largest tract approved last month is at the Waccamaw

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## Did You Know?

- 1) Usually, four waterfowl species are eligible for depiction in the stamp 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 North American waterfowl never previously depicted.
- 2) The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC), the body which decides how Stamp/MBCF dollars are spent, usually convenes three times a year during the months of March, June, and September.
- 3) The 1950-1951 stamp was the first one to be chosen by an open art competition.
- 4) The last time the stamp

NWR in Georgetown County in South Carolina. It will help secure tidal wetlands offering protection for waterfowl (e.g., American Black Duck) and other birds.

Everyone who bought a stamp last year actually contributed to acquiring these valuable properties. As the standard sign shown here indicates, these investments represent "Your Duck Stamp Dollars At Work!"

price was raised was 1991, when it went up from \$12.50 to \$15.

5) There are approximately 444,115 acres of NWR land in Texas (13 refuges). Of these, 320,920 acres have been acquired through stamp investments. This is about 75% of refuge land in the Lone Star State.

6) The first national Jr. Duck Stamp contest began with eight states participating in 1993.

## Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition Site Chosen

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has selected Maumee Bay State Park Conference Center in Oregon, Ohio, as the site for the very next Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition, to be held on Sept. 27-28. The eligible waterfowl for this year's art competition are Mallard, Canvasback, Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, and Blue-winged Teal.

The selection of the site, in part, pays homage to long-time Fish and Wildlife Service employee and acclaimed wildlife artist Bob Hines (1912-1994), who spent his formative youth outdoors in the area around nearby Fremont, Ohio.

Without formal training, Hines first used his artistic talents for the Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources, starting in 1939, and then joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1948 as their artist-illustrator in residence. He was asked to draw the 1946-1947 Migratory Bird Hunting [Duck] Stamp; he fully illustrated Rachel Carson's *The Edge of the Sea*, and he drew birds, mammals, fish, and other wildlife that even today is available as free clip-art.

His dedication to the "Duck Stamp" led to a formal selection process with judges, standards, and clear rules for the art contest, starting in the early 1950s.

The Maumee Bay State Park is also close to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, just 15 miles away on the shore of Lake Erie. Ottawa NWR is an exciting refuge, packed with waterfowl, other waterbirds, songbirds, and other wildlife.

More on the art competition can be found [here](#).

## Jr. Duck Stamp Contest Judging

The 2013 National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest is scheduled to be held on Friday, April 19, at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The judging, free and open to the public, will begin at 10 am Eastern time. The contest will also be broadcast live on the Web.



More details and broadcast connections can be found [here](#).

The current stamp, shown here on the left, has an image of a flying male Northern Pintail, was created by Christine Clayton of Sidney, Ohio.

## 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). Our organization fosters an appreciation of how the funds collected through the Stamp build the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The purchase of a Stamp is not something that will just benefit ducks, of course. Among the many other bird species, numerous species of shorebirds, long-legged waders, and wetland and grassland songbirds are dependent on habitat derived from Stamp purchases.

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

A 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](#). You can 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, have them ask to be added to our mailing list. See [here](#).

Of course, buy a Stamp - or two - and use/display it proudly. And become a Friend. To find out how to do so, you can visit our [website](#).

Our "Regular Friend" fee is modest, equal to the cost of one current Stamp (\$15), but all Friends are also asked to pledge to buy *two* stamps per year, joining with other individuals and organizations across the country with that promotional effort.

You can also become a "Supporting Friend."

**[Become a Friend Today!](#)**