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WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

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Hautman Brothers Sweep the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest

A trio of brothers from Minnesota made history on Saturday, 19 September, as the [Hautman brothers](#) swept the top three spots in the 2015 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest. The contest, which ran over two days, was held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Joseph Hautman, of Plymouth, Minnesota, won the contest with his acrylic painting of a pair of flying Trumpeter Swans, shown above. This is Hautman's fifth Federal Duck Stamp contest win (previous wins covered the contests in 1991 [Spectacled Eider], 2001 [Black Scoter], 2007 [Northern Pintail], and 2011 [Wood Duck].) From an early age Joe loved to draw and paint, but he quickly became fascinated by the sciences as well. His artistic talents took a back seat during his academic life. He studied physics and astronomy at the University of Minnesota, and eventually earned a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Michigan. His surprise victory in the 1991 Federal Duck Art Contest provided the incentive he needed to return professionally to his love of wildlife art. Among his many activities, Joe Hautman is also on the board of our Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp.

Hautman's fine painting will be made into the 2016-2017 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and

Conservation Stamp, commonly called the Duck Stamp, which will go on sale in late June of next year. The USFWS produces the Stamp, which now sells for \$25. The Stamp should raise \$25-\$42 million annually to provide critical dollars that go into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) to conserve and protect wetland and grassland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of people.

Robert Hautman of Delano, Minnesota, placed second in the contest with his acrylic painting of a pair of Mallards. He has won the Federal Duck Stamp contest twice (1996 [Canada Goose] and 2000 [Northern Pintail]).

The third brother, Jim Hautman of Chaska, Minnesota, secured third place this year with his acrylic painting of another pair of Mallards. He is a four-time winner of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest (1989 [Black-bellied Whistling Duck], 1994 [Mallard], 1998 [Greater Scaup], and 2010 [Greater White-fronted Goose].)

Among the three of them, the Hautman brothers have won 11 Federal Duck Stamp Contests over the years.

All three winning pieces from the contest can be viewed and compared on the USFWS Federal Duck Stamp [webpage](#).

Eligible species for this year's contest were Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, Mallard, and Trumpeter Swan. Of 157 entrants in this year's competition, there were 71% male artists making submissions and 29% female artists. Almost a third of the artists (31.2%) were between 60-69 years of age; 29% were 50-59 years of age. There were 10 entries that made it to the final round of judging: three Blue-winged Teal, one Cinnamon Teal, one Gadwall, three Mallards, and two Trumpeter Swans.

"Buying Federal Duck Stamps remains the simplest way to make a difference in conserving our nation's birds and their habitats," said Jerome Ford, USFWS Assistant Director for Migratory Birds, at the end of the contest. "For more than 80 years, hunters, bird watchers and millions of people who simply care about the environment have 'put their stamp on conservation' with their Duck Stamp purchases."

MBCC Makes Crucial National Wildlife Refuge Investments

On September 9, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) approved nearly \$6.5 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to conserve 3,274 acres for five National Wildlife Refuges through fee title land acquisitions and easement acquisitions. The \$6.5 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) was raised in large part through the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps (Duck Stamps).

"Hunters, birdwatchers and refuge supporters have once again demonstrated the important role they play in conserving our nation's wildlife," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "The National Wildlife Refuge System preserves some of our nation's most diverse and valuable wildlife habitat... The money generated through the sale of Duck Stamps is essential in helping maintain and grow this unique network."

The five Commission-approved refuge projects are as follows:

- Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Maryland: Price approval to acquire 758 acres for \$2.235 million. The fee-title acquisition consisted of five tracts of tidal marsh and freshwater creek, areas to be managed for waterfowl and other wildlife. To date, the

USFWS has acquired 21,010 acres at the NWR with MBCF/Stamp dollars, or about 75% of the entire refuge.

- Brazoria NWR, Texas: Boundary addition and price approval to acquire a 1,090-acre tract for \$1,962,000. The property from one landowner consists mainly of tidal wetlands, providing wintering, migration, and resident habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, neotropical migratory birds, and other wetland-dependent wildlife species. To date, the USFWS has acquired a total of 44,414 acres at this NWR, the lion's share (42,641 acres) secured by MBCF/Stamp dollars.
- Klamath Marsh NWR, Oregon: Boundary addition and price approval to acquire 400 acres for \$400,000, or \$1,000 per acre. The fee-title acquisition should provide habitat for a number of waterfowl (e.g., Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, and White-fronted Goose). The NWR is also an important migration and nesting area for Sandhill Cranes and Bald Eagles. The habitat consists primarily of marsh composed of cattail and hardstem bulrush. To date, the USFWS has acquired a total of 41,045 acres at this NWR, including 18,289 acres with MBCF/Stamp dollars.
- Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area, California: Price approval to acquire approximately 205 easement acres for \$580,000. The Tulare Basin Wildlife Management Area supports the last remnant of wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in a dramatically altered Tulare Lake watershed. The three tracts in this arrangement are either immediately adjacent to the boundary of Kern National Wildlife Refuge or in close proximity to other lands that the USFWS has acquired with MBCC approval.
- Turnbull NWR, Washington: Price approval to acquire a tract of 821 acres for \$1,298,000. This NWR benefits waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, neotropical migrants, and other wildlife (including Threatened and Endangered species). The two tracts acquired are currently being used for grazing and hay production and will be restored to wetlands and associated uplands. To date, the USFWS has acquired 14,618 acres here through MBCF/Stamp dollars, or about 75% of the entire refuge.

According to the USFWS, these actions will not only help provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, but they will also increase opportunities for refuge visitors who hunt, watch birds and other wildlife, and photograph wildlife.

If you bought a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp last year, your purchase went to secure these properties. You may now take a well-deserved bow.

Connect with the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to two fundamental goals:

1. To increase promotional and educational efforts among various target audiences concerning the stamp and the National Wildlife Refuge system.
2. To increase the regular, voluntary purchase of the stamp among hunters and non-hunters alike.

Membership is annual, corresponding to the year of validity for the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp), namely from the beginning of July to the end of the following June. Our "Regular Friend" fee is modest, only \$15.

You can access a secure online form to join the Friends - or to make a contribution - [via Razoo](#). Or you can access a simple mail-in membership form [here](#).



When you join our Friends you will receive a stamp-holder, sticker, and/or other supporting material (as supplies last). You can use these to "spread the word" about the stamp to your colleagues and co-workers.

A Creative Way to Support the Jr. Duck Stamp Program



"AmazonSmile" is a simple concept that works like this: When you shop through the Amazon website, the folks at Amazon will donate to your favorite designated tax-exempt organization or charity.

The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp is now a registered charitable organization with AmazonSmile. You can designate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to be donated to the Friends, at no cost to you. In turn, these funds will be re-donated by the Friends to sustain the creative activities of the the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program.

You can find a lot more details [here](#).

Please consider sharing this information to supporters of the Jr. Duck Stamp Program, whether they are environmental educators, art teachers, hunters, bird watchers, or Refuge Friends.

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