

December 18, 2015



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

Million Dollar Duck to Premiere

Slamdance Festival in January



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At the beginning of this month, Brian Davis, the force behind *The Million Dollar Duck*, the documentary about the Federal Duck Stamp and its contest, announced that his film will have its world premiere in January. This will be at the Slamdance Film Festival which takes place January 22-28 in Park City, Utah. The festival, launched in 1995 as an alternative to the Sundance Film Festival, has included a number of notable premieres in the past. [Slamdance](#) has helped to foster the development of unique and innovative filmmakers. The impressive line-up for next month was recently outlined in [Variety](#).

The film festival, which takes place at the Treasure Mountain Inn in Park City, Utah, will include 12 world premieres, two North American premieres, and one U.S. premiere. The narrative competition has 12 titles and eight have been selected in the documentary category.

The description of *The Million Dollar Duck* reads as follows: "Artists from different walks of life vie to win the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, the only art competition of its kind sponsored by the U.S. government. Cast: The Hautman Brothers, Rebekah Nastav, Tim Taylor, Dee Dee Murry, Rob McBroom, Adam Grimm."

Those people lucky enough to attend September's Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, were able to see a preview of the film. That version still awaited some minor editing and musical background additions, but the results were most impressive.

To find out more about the documentary, visit [the documentary's home page](#).

Artist Trends in the Federal Duck Stamp Contest

Below you will find a list of the entries and winners for the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest over the last 35 years. For each contest year (the year *before* the artwork would appear on the stamp), we have compiled the number of art entries, the contest winners, and the species depicted. Also indicated are the years for when entry fees were applied.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ENTRIES</u>	<u>WINNER</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>
1981	2099	David Maass	Canvasback
<u>1982: \$20 fee</u>			
1982	1564	Phil Scholer	Northern Pintail
1983	1582	William Morris	American Wigeon
1984	1515	Gerald Mobley	Cinnamon Teal
1985	1242	Burton Moore	Fulvous Whistling-Duck
1986	798	Arthur Anderson	Redhead
1987	884	Daniel Smith	Snow Goose
1988	682	Neal Anderson	Lesser Scaup
1989	603	Jim Hautman	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
1990	626	Nancy Howe	King Eider
1991	585	Joe Hautman	Spectacled Eider
1992	629	Bruce Miller	Canvasback
1993	434	Neal Anderson	Red-breasted Merganser
1994	585	Jim Hautman	Mallard
1995	435	Wilhelm Goebel	Surf Scoter

1996: \$100 fee

1996	477	Bob Hautman	Canada Goose
1997	380	Bob Steiner	Barrow's Goldeneye
1998	337	Jim Hautman	Greater Scaup
1999	243	Adam Grimm	Mottled Duck
2000	316	Bob Hautman	Northern Pintail
2001	246	Joe Hautman	Black Scoter
2002	250	Ron Louque	Snow Goose
2003	213	Scott Storm	Redhead
2004	223	Mark Anderson	Hooded Merganser
2005	229	Sherrie Russell Meline	Ross's Goose
2006	297	Richard Clifton	Ring-necked Duck
2007: \$125 fee			
2007	248	Joe Hautman	Northern Pintail
2008	270	Joshua Spies	Long-tailed Duck
2009	224	Robert Beale	American Wigeon
2010	236	Jim Hautman	Greater White-fronted Goose
2011	190	Joe Hautman	Wood Duck
2012	192	Bob Steiner	Common Goldeneye
2013	201	Adam Grimm	Canvasback
2014	186	Jennifer Miller	Ruddy Duck
2015	157	Joe Hautman	Trumpeter Swan

Over the last 35 years, as the information above attests, we have seen some wonderful art and some extremely talented artists win the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest. You can view all these wonderful Stamps [here](#). But as the entries indicate, the number of artists engaged in the contest has declined almost steadily. A quick glance at the figures above should be enough to confirm that fact.

What's the problem? And is there one?

It could be the entry fee. But the fee may have simply weeded out some of the original bottom-tier entries rather than discourage general interest. It could be that some waterfowl artists always seem to appear at the top end of the judging process. But surprises abound, and newer artists have also won. It could be a feeling that the image demanded for the stamp is static, lacking in previous glamour. But some innovative and creative presentation for waterfowl have also been chosen in the last 35 years.

In any case, the entries for 2015 were just 157 pieces of waterfowl artwork. That's a low number, indeed. Why aren't there today the number of submissions that were averaged, say, 20 years ago, in the mid-to-high 400s?

Let us know what you think. Send us some comments, and we may share them with you all in the near future in *Wingtips*. Send comments to us at contact.us@friendsofthestamp.org.

Three Holiday Gift Ideas for this Year

If you are still looking for some holiday gifts, here are three not-too-late ideas to consider:

Classic Stamp T-shirt

The Friends has created a new stamp-support t-shirt. It features the classic first stamp, with the wonderful artwork by Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling. The message on the shirt is simple - "Securing Wildlife Habitat Since 1934." The price (\$11.20 plus shipping and handling) is being kept as low as possible, to get the t-shirt in the hands - and on the backs - of bird advocates and conservationists across the country. You can find [t-shirt images and more details](#) at the Friends' web site.



Stamp

Simply buy a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp as a gift. The easiest place to find a stamp is usually your main U.S. Post Office where you live. (Smaller Post Offices may or may not have "Duck Stamp." Call up and find out!) The Stamp is an easy, cost-effective way for anyone to make a tangible contribution that will protect natural habitat - wetlands and grasslands - for the benefit of migratory birds and other wildlife. Money collected from sales of the Stamp goes directly into a fund, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, set aside specifically for expansion of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In lieu of a "regular gift" it's a fine way to show support for a friend or family member. Buy one, give it as a gift, and let the recipient know why the Stamp is important. Find [more options](#) for buying a Stamp.

Membership in the Friends

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, and 2. To increase the regular, voluntary purchase of the stamp among hunters and non-hunters alike.

When you buy a Friends membership - for yourself or as a gift - the member will receive a stamp-holder, sticker, and/or other supporting material (as supplies last). For more details, you can go to our [online membership form](#).

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