

April 18, 2016



# WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

## Earth Day Thoughts



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### Where the stamp fits in...

In 1968, during the Apollo 8 mission to orbit the Moon, astronaut William Anders took a photograph of Earth that came to be known as "Earthrise." That original showed the Earth and parts of the Moon's surface. Nature photographer Galen Rowell declared it "the most influential environmental photograph ever taken." It showed, essentially, a fragile blue planet in a dark sea of space. (The NASA photo above is not that original image, but is one of many inspirational shots taken since.) We may have become inured to such an image today; still, its historic impact cannot be denied.

In fact, the image and its implications helped inspire the start of Earth Day a couple of years later. In 1970, San Francisco activist John McConnell and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson separately suggested that Americans join in efforts to take care of the Earth and its resources. McConnell chose the spring equinox (March 21, 1970) and Nelson chose April 22. Millions of people participated in these first activities, and Earth Day continues today, mostly celebrated on April 22.

As the late April 2016 Earth Day celebrations are held, we suggest two concepts for consideration:

(1) One simple and creative way to celebrate Earth Day, to emphasize our connection to the natural world, is to buy a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, a Duck Stamp! Buying a stamp or buying a second stamp, and getting friends and co-workers to buy a stamp, is a sure way to show support for wetland and waterfowl-driven conservation. It is the most effective way to guarantee that funds are spent wisely on fee-title and easement properties in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It's a way to secure wetland and grassland habitats today and for future generations. It's a way to make sure that these habitats, essential for waterfowl conservation, also benefit many other birds (e.g., shorebirds, long-legged waders, rails, raptors, and songbirds) and wildlife. It's also a way to defend essential water quality in the country.

The dollars from the Duck Stamp go into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF). Today, more than 250 National Wildlife Refuges owe at least part of their existence to Stamp/MBCF dollars. These include such popular and well-known NWRs as Sacramento (CA - 99.6% of total acres), Parker River (MA - 97.7%), Santa Ana (TX - 94.9%), Okefenokee (GA - 86.4%), Ottawa (OH - 85.3%), Cache River (AR - 73.5%), Blackwater (MD - 73.0%), Bear River (UT - 35.0%), and Malheur (OR - 25.8%).

Also, the security of close to three million acres of Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) in the Refuge System can be attributed to MBCF/Stamp dollars.



Over 1/4 of Malheur NWR was created through Stamp/MBCF dollars. A view from the Buena Vista Overlook at Malheur - photo: Jeff Sor

(2) While focusing on the survival of Earth and focusing on security for our natural resources may have been a novelty in 1970, it is a necessity today. We have come a long way since that time when it comes to air quality, water quality, pesticide use, recycling, sustainable energy, wildlife

conservation, and so many other concerns. One day a year is fine to accentuate the issues, but, frankly, *every day should be Earth Day.*

### USFWS Responding to 'Secondary Species' Ideas and Comments

Responding to artists' concerns about content uncertainty as they work on this year's entries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced that including a secondary species - besides the dominant waterfowl - would *not* be a requirement for the 2016 competition, to be judged this September. The Service anticipated that the 2016 contest rules will be published in time for the June 1, 2016, start of the entry submission period. Those species are Brant, Canada Goose, Northern Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, and Steller's Eider.

The Service is in the process of addressing all the comments received in consideration of the proposed art rule change. At the same time, the Service informed artists wishing to begin work prior to the release of the official 2016 rules that "an appropriate, identifiable non-waterfowl migratory bird species will remain an optional element for 2016. Inclusion of a secondary species will not confer an added benefit and is at the artist's discretion." Also, the USFWS clarified that Canada Goose, one of the eligible species for 2016, will be separated from Cackling Goose as an eligible species. Therefore, Cackling Goose will not be considered as an eligible waterfowl species in 2016.

These and other related announcements concerning art content are all available [here](#).

### T-shirt with Classic Stamp Image Available from the Friends

The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp still have its more recent stamp-support T-shirt available. 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.

Through the T-shirt, we wish to spread the word about the unique role that the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp provides.

By using the original 1934-1935 stamp image on this T-shirt, our Friends acts as a Nonexclusive Licensee of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, with the Stamp design the property of the United States Government. Right now, our T-shirts come in traditional men's style only. They are available in five sizes: S, M, L, XL, and 2XL.

You can find T-shirt images and specifics [here](#).

### While online shopping, you can help the Jr. Duck Stamp Program

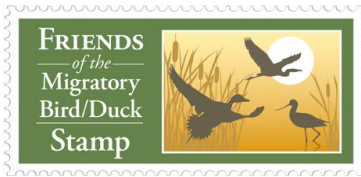
"AmazonSmile" is a simple concept that works like this: When you shop through the Amazon website, the folks at Amazon will donate to your favorite designated tax-exempt organization or charity.

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.

## About the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp



Our Friends Group is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to two basic 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.

Our "Regular Friend" fee is kept modest, only \$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. Our "Friend's Year" also corresponds with the "year" of a valid Stamp - from July to July. [Join our Friends group!](#)

## Sharing and Adapting Our Content



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