

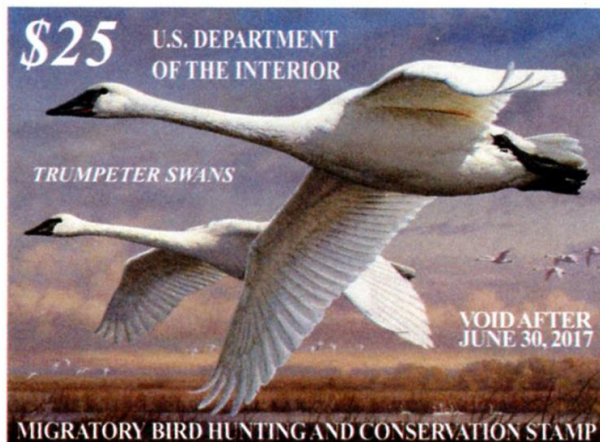
June 27, 2016



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

The New 2016-2017 Stamp



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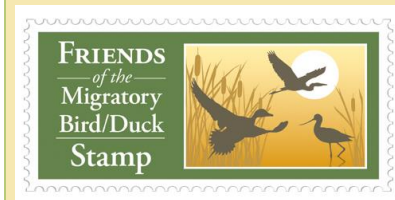
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The new Federal Duck Stamp just released

The latest Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (popularly called the "Duck Stamp" and costing \$25) was released on the morning of June 24 in Springfield, Missouri. The ceremony was at the conference center associated with the huge Bass Pro Shops in Springfield.

Almost all the revenue for the sales of this Stamp - adding up to an estimated \$40 million for the stamp year - will go directly to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF). (The MBCF receipts come mainly from the sales of the Stamp and from import duties collected on arms and ammunition.) This dedicated funding will secure vital breeding, stopover, and wintering habitats for waterfowl, other bird species, and other wildlife across the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Today, parts of 252 National Wildlife Refuges (accounting for more than 2.37 million acres) and over 200 Waterfowl Production Areas (with over 3.0 million acres secured) owe their existence to the Stamp investments made through the MBCF. It is encouraging to know that every time you buy a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp you are helping secure valuable habitat for birds, wildlife, and for future generations of Americans enjoying the Refuge System.

The artwork on the 2015-2016 Stamp shows a pair of flying Trumpeter Swans painted in acrylic by Joseph Hautman, of Plymouth, Minnesota. This is the fifth time that Joe Hautman's artwork has graced the Federal Duck Stamp. His four previous Stamps were for 1992-3 (Spectacled Eider), 2002-3 (Black Scoter), 2008-9 (Northern Pintail), and 2012-13 (Wood Duck). From an early age he 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 when he studied physics and astronomy at the University of Minnesota, eventually earning a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Michigan. His surprise victory in the 1991 Federal Duck Art Contest provided just the incentive he needed to return professionally to his love of wildlife art. Joe is also known as part of the trio of famous brothers, all great artists and all previous winners of the Federal Duck Stamp Art contest. To find out more about Joe and his brothers, Bob and Jim, access their art-oriented [website](#). Finally, among his many activities, Joseph Hautman is also on the board of our Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp.

The species pictured this time, Trumpeter Swan, is especially significant. It represents a significant American conservation success story. This swan historically suffered huge population declines. By 1933, fewer than 70 wild Trumpeter Swans were known to exist, and extinction seemed a real possibility. Aerial surveys, however, discovered a Pacific population of several thousand trumpeters in Alaska. Increased conservation efforts have resulted in native western populations recovering. In addition, multiple reintroductions to the central part of the continent - mostly around the Great Lakes - have also proven to be highly successful. You can find out a lot more about this species from the [Trumpeter Swan Society](#). It is also important to appreciate that this swan species is not hunted, emphasizing the fact that the stamp is not simply "for hunting," but its purpose is essentially to secure valuable habitat to conserve waterfowl and other species through the National Wildlife Refuge System.

For a lot more on the Stamp program, go directly to the website for the [Federal Duck Stamp Office](#).

How to Support 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.

You can consider four simple things to support the activities of our Friends and raise awareness of the entire Stamp program:

1 Join or renew your membership. Our membership is annual, corresponding to the year of validity for the Federal Duck Stamp, namely from the beginning of July to the end of the following June. Our "Regular Friend" fee is modest, only \$15, but all Friends are also asked to *pledge to buy TWO stamps per year*, joining with other organizations across the country with that effort.



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

Since the new Stamp has just appeared, and since it is the start of a new "stamp-year," it's also time to commit yourself to the promotion of the Stamp program, the Friends, and smart conservation through the sales and promotion of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp.

2 Spread the word about the grand history and the potential future of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp. Besides joining our Friends, you can connect through [Facebook](#) which will keep you connected with Stamp and National Wildlife Refuge activities. You can have your like-minded friends and colleagues [sign up](#) for this *Wingtips*, our near-monthly newsletter. (We have just over 1,500 recipients and would like to grow that number to 2,000 over the next few months.)

3 You can build support for the Jr. Duck Stamp through AmazonSmile. Under this program, 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 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. This is an great way to benefit young wildlife artists and students of conservation while you shop. You can find a lot more details [here](#).

4 You can wear a classic 1934-1935 Duck Stamp T-shirt. It features an image of the very 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. Also, 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. Also, as part of our use of the stamp image, five percent (5%) of the price of this T-shirt is deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, the fund where Duck Stamp dollars are sent for acquisition of wetland, bottomland, and grassland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Yes, by buying a T-shirt you will also help secure actual refuge habitat! 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](#).

There are [many other things to do](#), but these four are great places to start, with the launch of the latest Stamp. Please consider sharing these ideas to others, whether they are hunters, anglers, birders, environmental educators, art teachers, or Refuge Friends.

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