

August 16, 2016



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

MBT: August 16, 1916 - August 16, 2016

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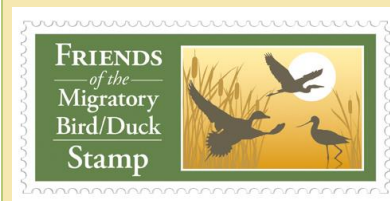
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The Centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty

Exactly 100 years ago, on August 16, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Migratory Bird Treaty (MBT) with Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) for the protection of the "many species of birds which in their annual migration traverse certain parts of the United States and Canada." After the passage of the Lacey Act of 1900, this treaty became the most significant federal action taken to save birds in North America. It was officially called the "Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds."

The treaty formally recognized what we almost take for granted today, that migratory bird conservation depends upon meaningful cooperation across international borders, and the treaty outlined the conditions for a unified conservation strategy between the U.S. and Canada. This set the stage for the United States' Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which was ratified by Congress and which implemented the Migratory Bird Treaty to further the protection of our native birds. The basis for the Treaty was also upheld in 1920, through a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Today, the United States holds migratory bird treaties with Canada, Mexico, Russia, and Japan. Despite the differing environmental politics, legislation, and conservation initiatives of each of these countries, these agreements promote international cooperation between governments and partner organizations so that bird conservation can occur along expansive migratory routes.

The MBT provided the basis for all significant bird-related conservation legislation which followed. These acts include the crucial Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (1934), Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (1940), Endangered Species Act (1973), North American Wetlands Conservation Act (1989), Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (2002), and so much more.

You can keep up to speed with this year's continued centennial MBT activities through the [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website](#).

Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest: September in Philadelphia



The 2016 Federal Duck Stamp Contest will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 9-10, at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. There, a panel of five judges will select the waterfowl artwork that will appear on the 2017-2018 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as the Duck Stamp. This is the most prestigious federally-sponsored art contest in the country.

Of course, the Federal Duck Stamp Program is one of the most successful conservation programs in our nation's history, and it has generated more than \$900 million to help protect and conserve over 6 million acres of wetland, bottomland, and grassland habitat for waterfowl and for many other birds and wildlife.

Viewing of the original artwork in Philadelphia and watching the judging proceed is free and fully open to the public. It is an amazing event. (Our Friends Group intends to be present with an information table.)

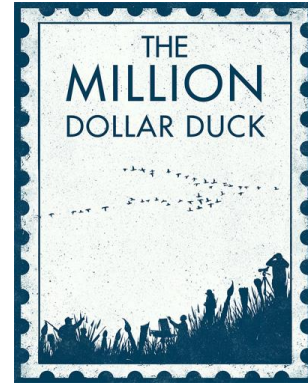
The contest will culminate on Saturday in the selection of the waterfowl art that will grace the nation's 84th Duck Stamp.

In honor of the Contest, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University is providing free general admission to the museum on September 9 and 10. We will publicize more details on the contest and the artwork in *Wingtips* in early September. In the meantime, you can check the [USFWS website](#).

The Million Dollar Duck is Out!

Fans of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp have known that the documentary, *The Million Dollar Duck*, has been in the works for at least two years. You will be pleased to know that it's been worth the wait.

This film examines the unique motivations of the skilled contestants who enter each year for a chance at a bit of wildlife art stardom. The documentary also reflects on the history and challenges facing the future of this highly successful conservation program.



The film, which had its world premiere in the documentary feature competition at the Slamdance Film Festival in January, follows half a dozen wildlife artists from different walks of life as they vie to win the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. The documentary is directed by Brian Golden Davis and executive produced by Mark Jonathan Harris and Richard Prager. It is now available to rent or buy on iTunes and Amazon. You can find out more information from the [film's official website](#).

And you can also watch the [movie trailer](#).

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 recently 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.

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. Please consider sharing these ideas to others, whether they are hunters, anglers, birders, wildlife photographers, environmental educators, art teachers, or Refuge Friends.

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