

June 26, 2017



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

2017-2018 Stamp Released



The new 2017-2018 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, also known as the Duck Stamp, was released at a ceremony at Bass Pro Shops in Little Rock, Arkansas, on Friday, 23 June.

James Hautman, a skilled wildlife artist from Chaska, Minnesota, had had his stunning artwork chosen last September to grace this year's stamp. His work was chosen among 152 art pieces at a contest evaluated by five judges. This painting of three flying Canada Geese is now the third Duck Stamp to be priced at \$25.

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Did You Know?

1) The 1950-1951 stamp (showing Trumpeter Swans by Walter Weber) was the first one to be chosen by an open art competition.

2) The 1959-1960 stamp, with artwork by Maynard Reese, depicted a Mallard, but it really showed a Labrador retriever, King Buck. The required theme for the 1959-60 stamp was "Retrievers save game," and there were 110 entries by 64 artists in the open competition.

This is also the fifth time that Jim Hautman's waterfowl artwork appears on a Federal Duck Stamp. (He ties his brother, Joseph, in having artwork appearing five times on the stamp.) Jim's art previously appeared on the stamps for 1991-1992 (Black-bellied Whistling-Duck), 1995-1996 (Mallard), 1999-2000 (Greater Scaup), and 2011-2012 (White-fronted Goose).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service produces the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp, which sells for \$25. The annual proceeds collected can run to nearly \$42 million, depending on the number of stamps sold. The money goes to conserve wetland, bottomland, and grassland habitats for the National Wildlife Refuge System for the benefit of waterfowl as well as other birds and wildlife. Investments of stamp dollars have gone into securing habitat at 253 different National Wildlife Refuges and have helped preserve about three million additional acres in smaller Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs).

Also, last Friday, the new Junior Duck Stamp was released, featuring a lovely pair of Trumpeter Swans, created by Isaac Schreiber, 12, of Duffield, Virginia.



Finally, in recognition of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp last week, the Department of the Interior released a listing of [five cool things about the Duck Stamp](#).

3) Our three species of scoters - black sea-ducks - have appeared on stamps, but only one time each: 1969-1970 (White-winged Scoter by Maynard Reese), 1996-1997 (Surf Scoter by Wilhelm Goebel), and 2002-2003 (Black Scoter by Joseph Hautman). In the last case, all the artists in the 2001 contest were instructed to illustrate Black Scoter. There were no other options.

4) The first year for the self-adhesive - as well as the gummed - stamp was for the 1998-1999 stamp (Barrow's Goldeneye, by Robert Steiner). That self-adhesive format dominates the sales and distribution.

5) The first Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest open to the general public was in 1966. The winning image that year was of a trio of flying Canvasbacks, a black-and-white wash drawing by Ron Jenkins.

6) The highest number of stamps sold in one year was for the 1971-1972 stamp. There were 2,445,977 stamps sold.

Get your 2017-2018 Federal Duck Stamp...

The easiest way to buy a stamp is to get yours at your local post office. Also, we at the Friends Group currently have a modest supply of stamps on hand. Just send us a \$25 check (made out to "Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp") along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and we'll send you your stamp. Please include a note with your e-mail address if there is a problem and if we have to get back to you:

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp
P.O. Box 2143
Columbia, MD 21045

It's time to join or renew your membership!

Our Friends Group membership corresponds with the "year" of the valid stamp, that is, basically July to July. Our group 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.

Our "Regular Friend" annual 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. It's time to join or renew your membership. [Join our Friends group!](#)

Help the Jr. Duck Stamp Program through AmazonSmile

The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp is a registered charitable organization with AmazonSmile.

If you're a customer of Amazon.com, 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 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.

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