

July 1, 2015



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

The New 2015-2016 Stamp



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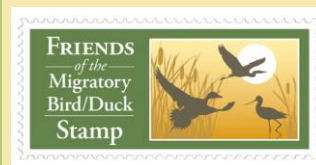
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Challenges and Opportunities with the new "Duck Stamp"

The new Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (popularly called the "Duck Stamp") was released last week at the Memphis, Tennessee, Bass Pro Shops.

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

This year's stamp, however, is the first one to cost \$25, increasing the price by \$10. By law, the \$10 increase will be spent on wetland and grassland easements in the Refuge System.

The price increase will present conservationists with two problems. First, there is the possibility that because of the price increase sales will drop, that fewer Stamps will be sold. While this may not result in fewer total dollars deposited into the MBCF, it could mean that regular Stamp buyers, especially non-waterfowl-hunters not required to buy a Stamp, have decided that the Stamp simply costs too much. Second, there is some confusion about the vital importance of easements to preserve wetlands and grasslands.

Both of these issues will have to be addressed if the Stamp is to continue to perform a modern and effective land-conservation function. The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp intends to be part of that discussion, part of that effort.

It is crucial to realize that 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) already owe their existence to the Stamp investments made through the MBCF. It is comforting to know that every time you buy a new Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp you will be helping secure valuable habitat for birds, wildlife, and for future generations of Americans.

Finally, the new Stamp solidifies a connection between wildlife-art enthusiasts and with collectors. The artwork on this 2015-2016 Stamp shows a pair of lovely Ruddy Ducks painted in acrylic by Jennifer Miller of Olean, New York. Miller is only the third woman to have her waterfowl art grace a Stamp since its creation in the mid-1930s. You can find out more about Miller and her work on her [website](#). And you can follow her "[Duck Stamp Adventure](#)," a blog about her work and travels upon winning the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest .

Join - or Rejoin - 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.

Membership is annual, corresponding to the year of validity for the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (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 a simple mail-in membership form [here](#).



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.

Also, when you join our Friends you will receive a stamp-holder, sticker, and/or other supporting material (as supplies last). Please use these to "spread the word" about the stamp to your colleagues and co-workers and to advance the message of the Friends.

A Way to Support 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.

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](#).

Please consider sharing this information to supporters of the Jr. Duck Stamp Program, whether they are environmental educators, art teachers, hunters, birders, or Refuge Friends.

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