

September 12, 2016



# WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

## Art Contest Winner Chosen Last Weekend



James Hautman, a skilled wildlife artist from Chaska, Minnesota, became the winner of the 2016 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest on Saturday. The winning painting was chosen by five judges from 152 entries to the contest, which was held at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Jim Hautman's acrylic painting of three flying Canada Geese - shown above - will be made into the 2017-2018 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or "Duck Stamp," which will go on sale in late June of next year. This is actually Jim Hautman's fifth Federal Duck Stamp Contest win, tying him with his brother Joseph, whose art with Trumpeter Swans appears on the 2016-2017 Federal Duck Stamp. (Jim Hautman's art previously appeared on the 1991-1992, 1995-1996, 1999-2000, and 2011-2012 Federal Duck Stamps.)

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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 its true subject was 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.

Rebekah Knight of Appleton City, Missouri, placed second with her acrylic painting of a single Brant. (She has been captivated by the program at least since she won the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest, with a Redhead appearing on the 2006-2007 Junior Duck Stamp.)

And the third place winner was Robert Hautman of Delano, Minnesota, with his acrylic painting of a pair of Canada Geese. Robert, brother of James and Joseph, previously won the contests for the 1997-1998 and 2001-2002 stamps.

Eligible species for this year's Federal Duck Stamp Contest were Canada Goose, Brant, Northern Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, and Steller's Eider.

The five judges for this year's Federal Duck Stamp Contest were Jan Martin McGuire, an internationally renowned wildlife artist; Keith Russell, program manager for urban conservation with Audubon Pennsylvania; Dr. Nathan H. Rice, Ornithology Collection Manager at the Academy of Natural Sciences; John P. Booth, executive director of the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art; and Sue deLearie Adair, an artist, birder, and avid naturalist.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service produces the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp, which currently sells for \$25. The annual proceeds range from \$25 million to nearly \$42 million, depending on the price of the stamp. The proceeds go 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)

In addition, this has been a particularly significant year for bird conservation in that 2016 marks the centennial celebration of the first Migratory Bird Treaty, which was signed between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) in 1916.

3) The first "certificates of appreciation" from the USFWS were sent to post-season purchasers of the 1959-1960 Stamp. This was to reward buyers who bought the stamp after the hunting season was over. This was at a time when severe droughts were devastating waterfowl populations. The certificate was 5"x7", printed in black and white on imitation parchment.

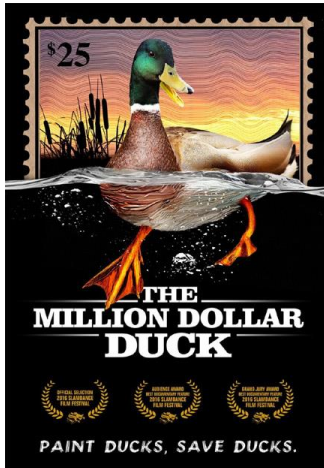
4) Our three species of scoters - black sea-ducks - have appeared on stamps, but only one time each: 1969-1970 (White-winged Scoter by Maynard Reese), 1996-1997 (Surf Scoter by Wilhelm Goebel), and 2002-2003 (Black Scoter by Joseph Hautman). In the last case, all the artists in the 2001 contest were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

5) 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 currently dominates the sales and distribution.

6) 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.

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

## The Million Dollar Duck appearing on Animal Planet this Week



Animal Planet will premiere the award-winning film, *The Million Dollar Duck*, this Wednesday, September 14, as part of Animal Planet Presents, the network's programming event that features some of the finest new films exploring a wide range of animal and conservation-oriented topics.

The film examines the delightfully eccentric world of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest - the only juried art competition run by the U.S. government - and it follows six different artists as they engage in the most intense art competition of their lives. *The Million Dollar Duck* received the coveted Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature in addition to the Jury Award for Documentary Feature at the 2016 Slamdance Film Festival.

*The Million Dollar Duck* was directed by Brian Golden Davis and executive produced by multiple Academy Award winning filmmakers Mark Jonathan Harris and Richard Prager. The editor was Derek Boonstra, the cinematographer was Christian Bruno, and Laura Young Lee and Kye Woo Lee were co-producers.

Animal Planet has the television rights to this film, while Lionsgate will distribute *The Million Dollar Duck* on digital home entertainment.

If you want more details on the film, including times for viewing, and a set of short and entertaining clips, [see this page from Animal Planet website](#).

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

The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp still has a stamp support T-shirt featuring 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.

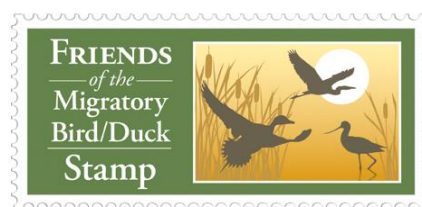
Also, by using the original 1934-1935 stamp image on this T-shirt, our Friends acts as a Nonexclusive Licensee of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, with the Stamp design the property of the United States Government. Also, as part of our use of the stamp image, five percent (5%) of the price 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!

Our T-shirts come in traditional men's style only. They are available in five sizes: S, M, L, XL, and 2XL. And, you can find T-shirt images, order-form, and more details [here](#).

## 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" 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. Our "Friend's Year" also corresponds with the "year" of a valid Stamp - from July to July. [Join our Friends group!](#)

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