

September 6, 2016



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

UPCOMING ART CONTEST!



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Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest: September in Philadelphia

The national contest to choose the artwork for the 2017-2018 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp will take place in Philadelphia, on Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10. This year's art contest also corresponds with the [1916 Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial](#). This formal recognition of long-lasting cooperation between the U.S. and Canada acknowledges the essential early groundwork providing national and international solutions to protect our migratory birds.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is a highly successful program that helps demonstrate how we value birds and the habitats they need. No matter how we enjoy birds - as artists, hunters, birders, anglers, environmental educators, nature photographers, general naturalists, other outdoor recreationists, or just because we delight over how wild birds touch

our lives - the Duck Stamp is one excellent way to renew an annual commitment to wildlife conservation.

The host site, the [Academy of Natural Sciences](#), was established in 1812 and is "dedicated to advancing research, education and public engagement in biodiversity and environmental science." As such, this is an ideal place to hold the art contest, a way to share the Duck Stamp program and increase the conservation investment in wetland and grassland habitat that the Duck Stamp helps sustain.

Fortunately, the Academy is providing free admission to the general exhibits on Friday and Saturday. As the Fish and Wildlife Service partners with Ducks Unlimited, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Audubon, Friends of Heinz Refuge, and the William Penn Foundation in this event, there are several additional events planned, including youth activities, special museum exhibits, and free public screenings of *The Messenger* and *Million Dollar Duck*.

If you are able to attend, you can visit the contest website to view the [schedule](#) and register for the space-limited events.

If you are not able to attend, you can still link to the [live broadcast](#) on Friday and Saturday mornings.

Whether or not you can attend these events later this week, you can [view the scanned and uploaded art entries](#). The eligible species this year are Canada Goose, Brant, Northern Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, and Steller's Eider. (Scans have not been color-corrected or otherwise adjusted, and they are not meant to be a faithful rendition of the original entry. It is also important to remember that artwork will not be judged from the scans but from the original artwork.) Please share this information with friends and family and especially those who are not familiar with the Federal Duck Stamp Program - and the degree to which proceeds from the stamp go toward wetland and grassland habitat acquisition in our National Wildlife Refuge System.

There are 152 art entries this year (#23 does not exist), a fairly low number. Curiously, over a dozen of these entries also illustrate a "secondary" bird species in the background, stressing the Migratory Bird Treaty centennial and the bird species beyond waterfowl that benefit from stamp investments. (Red-winged Blackbird seems to be an illustrated favorite.)

Of course, those artists who took the plunge and decided to illustrate such a secondary species this year do not know whether any of the individual judges in the contest will favor this novel approach. The secondary bird species is *optional and not required*. Without such a requirement, all the artists are engaging in an art competition with an uneven or shifting "playing field."

In any case, this should be an interesting contest for the artwork to grace the 2017-18 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp. Our Friends Group will be at the contest with a display table. If you are attending the event, be sure to drop by!

Support the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

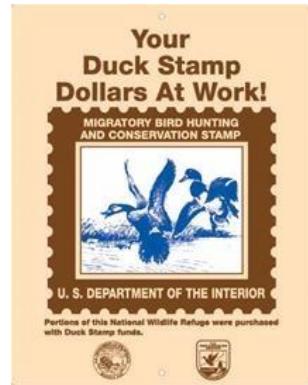
The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to two fundamental goals:

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.

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 in 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](#).

We encourage you 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.



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