

September 11, 2018



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

MBCC Secures More Refuge Lands



Blackwater NWR

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MORE HABITAT FOR SIX NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Last week, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, chaired by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, approved more than \$13.1 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to secure 5,802 acres for six national wildlife refuges. These funds were raised largely through the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps."

The funds raised from the sale of the stamps go toward the acquisition or lease of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Duck Stamps - while required by waterfowl hunters as an annual federal license - are also voluntarily purchased by birders, hunters who are not waterfowlers, other outdoor enthusiasts, and fans of national wildlife refuges who appreciate the value of preserving some of the most diverse and important wildlife habitats - mainly wetlands, bottomlands, and grasslands - in the country.

Property on the following national wildlife refuges were approved for acquisition:

- Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana: \$9,928,536, 1,912 acres (fee title)
- Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland: \$833,000, 438 acres (fee title)
- Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge, Tennessee: \$873,878, 246 acres (fee title)
- Erie National Wildlife Refuge, Pennsylvania: \$215,000, 144 acres (fee title)
- San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, Texas: \$1,255,500, 510 acres (fee title)
- Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, Utah: \$34,300 (per year, lease)

If you bought a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp last year, you had a direct role in making these acquisitions a reality. Pat yourself on the back!

Since 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp Program and Migratory Bird Conservation Fund have provided more than \$1 billion for habitat conservation in the Refuge System.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST THIS WEEK!

The 2018 Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition will be held Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15, at the [Springs Preserve](#) in Las Vegas, Nevada. Contest judging will begin at 10 a.m. (Pacific time) each day. The winner will be announced at approximately noon (Pacific time) on Saturday.

Springs Preserve will offer free admission to its 180-acre site for all visitors on those two days. Visitors can enjoy the art contest and explore Nevada history, culture, and wildlife in the preserve's botanical gardens, museums, and trails. At the same time, visitors can learn about wise water use and other sustainable lifestyle choices to be made in the region.

At least one of the five eligible waterfowl species must be the dominant feature in the artwork (in the foreground and clearly the focus of attention). Eligible species for 2018 are: Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Lesser Scaup. For this year, artists are required to include a hunting-related accessory and/or portray the theme "Celebrating Our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage" in the artwork.

You can view all 154 entries in this contest through an [online gallery](#). (These images were scanned at the Duck Stamp Office, and were not color corrected in any way. The originals are sharper and do not have occasional stray color marks or streaks. The contest judges will review the actual art at the contest.)

If you can't make it to the Preserve in Las Vegas, the contest will be live-streamed! You can find more information and the live-stream link on the USFWS stamp [website](#).

Monomoy NWR: Stamp Success Story ... and some recent controversy

Hanging from the elbow of Cape Cod, Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge consists of a dollop of barrier island habitat in the Refuge System's Region 5. Situated in the town of Chatham, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, Monomoy was established in 1944, and it is managed as part of the Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex.

Composed of ocean, salt and freshwater marsh, dunes, and freshwater ponds, it now comprises 7,921 acres, [99% of which were acquired with MBCF funds](#). Somewhat unusually, the fixed western boundary encompasses open water in Nantucket Sound, while the eastern boundary follows the mean low water mark, and hence shifts with the sands. As evidence of how critical the refuge is to protecting wildlife and its habitat, it has been designated a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) regional site, an Important Bird Area (IBA), and a Marine Protected Area (MPA). Nearly half of the refuge acres are designated as wilderness.

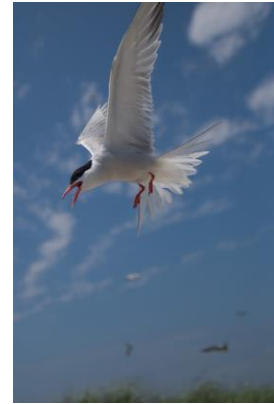


Photo: James Weliver/USFWS

Species of conservation concern on the refuge include Piping Plover, Red Knot, and Roseate Tern. (The region has produced an illuminating video about its monitoring activities [with Common and Roseate Terns](#).) Conservation of invertebrates is important, too: key taxa are Horseshoe Crab and the predacious Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle, listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. [The beetle was re-established on Monomoy](#) by transplantation from Martha's Vineyard, beginning at the turn of this century.

Unfortunately, in recent months the refuge's western boundary has become a point of contentious dispute with Chatham residents and businesses, with commonwealth-level officials weighing in as well. As recently [reported by Tim Wood](#), town selectmen fear new federal restrictions on traditional fin and shellfishing in the waters, although the refuge says it has no plans to impose new restrictions. Indeed, certain activities, like kiteboarding and blue musselling, are prohibited by the refuge's management plan.

Enjoy a very fine [gallery of images from Monomoy NWR](#). Certainly, the refuge has earned its place on our roster of Stamp Success Stories.

ORDER A STAMP THROUGH US

Of course, you can get your own current Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp at most large Post Offices, at many National Wildlife Refuges, and through a number of vendors.



If you want another easy way to get a current Stamp, send a check for \$25 made out to Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to us (at P.O. Box 2143, Columbia MD 21045), and a note with your phone number and your e-mail address in case there are any problems.

We'll send you the stamp ASAP... as long as our supply of stamps lasts!

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.



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 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.

And don't forget support for the Jr. Duck Stamp Program which reaches tens of thousands of youngsters. One way to help is described here, on the right, through AmazonSmile.

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:

The Junior Duck Stamp Program
through our Friends

Get started

amazonsmile

9/11 Day of Remembrance



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