

February 21, 2019



# WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

## CONG JOHN D. DINGELL JR. - ALREADY MISSED!



John D. Dingell Jr. was the longest-serving member of Congress in our country's history, representing his Michigan district for almost 60 years, from 1955 to 2015. He passed away on February 7th. John Dingell fought for comprehensive healthcare legislation, supported civil rights, battled public fraud, and advocated consistently for wildlife conservation. Indeed, Dingell was the architect of some of the most important conservation laws of our nation.

### In This Newsletter Issue

JOHN DINGELL - ALREADY MISSED!

ORDER A STAMP

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS

### Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Join Friends of the Stamp](#)

[Resources](#)

[Connect via Facebook](#)

[Tweaking Future Art Rules](#)



### WHAT PERCENTAGE?

Here is an eye-opening sample list of just 30 of the 154 refuges across the country with at least 35% of the property acquired through MBCF/Stamp dollars

#### REFUGE

Tamarac (MN)	99.9%
Sacramento (CA)	99.6%
Bosque del Apache (NM)	99.2%
Pea Island (NC)	99.2%

Dingell was the main architect of the Clean Water Act; he drafted the Endangered Species Act; he wrote the National Environmental Policy Act; he authored the Refuge Administration Act of 1966; and he sponsored the Refuge Improvement Act in 1997.



John F. Kennedy and John Dingell

Among his many legislative achievements, John Dingell crafted perhaps the most important, yet little known, revision to the Duck Stamp Act, [Public Law 85-585](#) in 1958, guaranteeing that proceeds from the Stamp be dedicated to fee-title and easements for migratory bird refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas. No more could the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund be "raided" for other purposes.

He served on the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission from 1969 until his retirement, making sure that those vital funds collected through the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp were invested appropriately for wetlands and associated grassland acquisition. During that tenure, Dingell was instrumental in adding millions of acres to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Among his refuge passions was the establishment of the [Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge](#) - the only international wildlife refuge in the system. It virtually became his personal project, and he turned what was a Chrysler engine plant into a fine waterfowl refuge, centered at the Refuge Gateway Property. It is an example of creative urban restoration that other large cities could emulate.

In May 2014, the National Wildlife Refuge Association recognized Congressman Dingell's vast contributions by awarding him with the

Quivira (KS)	99.1%
Muscatatuck (IN)	98.9%
Monomoy (MA)	98.8%
Horicon (WI)	98.7%
Parker River (MA)	97.7%
Bombay Hook (DE)	95.2%
Santa Ana (TX)	94.9%
DeSoto (IA & NE)	90.8%
Laguna Atascosa (TX)	86.3%
Montezuma (NY)	85.9%
Okefenokee (GA)	85.6%
Edwin B. Forsythe (NJ)	84.3%
Ottawa (OH)	83.8%
Anahuac (TX)	79.9%
Great Meadows (MA)	75.4%
Blackwater (MD)	73.7%
Chassahowitzka (FL)	73.1%
Cache River (AR)	70.4%
Chincoteague (VA)	69.9%
Nisqually (WA)	56.3%
Seney (MI)	46.4%
Aransas (TX)	42.7%
Lake Umbagog (NH & ME)	42.2%
Cape May (NJ)	37.6%
Bear River (UT)	36.9%
J. Clark Salyer (ND)	36.5%

## DID YOU KNOW?

1) The dollars reflected in the percentages above are from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF) where stamp dollars are the major, but not the only, contributor. A portion also comes from excise/import fees and some other minor sources. But the stamps are central to the MBCF.

2) Our three species of scoters have all appeared on the stamp,

organization's first "Lifetime Achievement Award." He also became an Honorary Life Member of our own Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp.



Board Member Paul Baicich Presenting Congressman Dingell with our award in the spring of 2014, with artwork by Joseph Hautman

Highly regarded for his acumen and profound legislative abilities, the 92-year-old Dingell also retained a keen sense of humor. Upon his retirement from Congress he became [very active on Twitter and amassed a huge following](#) of almost 260,000 followers for his biting critiques of politics and commentary on popular culture.

His wife and successor in Congress, Debbie Dingell, informed the media that he remained feisty to the very end. "He is John Dingell. He is in charge. Ordering everyone around. Doing it his way," she said on the day before he passed, noting that he even continued to dictate missives for his unexpectedly funny Twitter feed. [John Dingell's](#)

but only one time each: 1969-70 (White-winged Scoter by Maynard Reese), 1996-97 (Surf Scoter by Wilhelm Goebel), and 2002-03 (Black Scoter by Joseph Hautman). In the last case, all the artists in the 2001 contest had to illustrate Black Scoter, since this was the last of our waterfowl species to make an appearance on the stamp.

3) The last time that stamp sales topped the two-million mark was the 1980-1981 stamp, when 2,045,114 stamps were sold across the country.

4) 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" x 7", printed in black and white on imitation parchment.

5) Only three women artists have ever won the Federal Duck Stamp Competition: Nancy Howe in 1990 (King Eider), Sherrie Russell Meline in 2005 (Ross's Goose), and Jennifer Miller in 2014 (Ruddy Duck).

6) The first national Jr. Duck Stamp contest began with only eight states participating in 1993: Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, South Dakota, and Vermont.

8) In April 1921, Frederic C. Walcott of Connecticut had an article in the Bulletin of the American Game Protective Association (AGPA) advocating a \$1 hunter stamp with proceeds to be used to secure waterfowl habitat. This article was accompanied by a model stamp-like sketch (by Belmore Browne)

[profoundly meaningful last words to his fellow Americans were also dictated and widely published.](#)

John Dingell was one of the finest conservation champions that our country has ever known. The National Wildlife Refuge System would not be what it is today without his vigilance and dedication. We already miss his wisdom, experience, humor, passion, and dedication to our country and its wildlife heritage.

[A more extensive version of this remembrance](#) is at Friends of the Stamp.

showing a flying Canada Goose. This is the first recorded effort to establish such a federal stamp.

9) The historic bill to create the stamp was championed by Senators Peter Norbeck (R-SD) and the same Frederic C. Walcott (R-CT). In the House, Congressman Richard Kleberg (D-TX) took the lead. It was signed into law on March 16, 1934.

10) Bob Hines (1912-1994) created the original rules for a Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest and managed the competition for over three decades.

## ORDER A STAMP THROUGH US

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 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

**amazon**smile

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