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WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

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Wood Duck and decoy - by Scot Storm

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NEW STAMPS - FIRST DAY OF SALE - JUNE 28TH

The 2019-2020 Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp go on sale on Friday, June 28, 2019. The First Day of Sale ceremony and event will occur, starting at 10:30am, at the [Bass Pro Shops store in Springfield, Missouri](#).

Stamps with the winning designs will be available for purchase starting on that Friday. Scot Storm, a native of Freeport, Minnesota, was selected as the winning artist of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, and 16-year-old Nicole Jeon of Scarsdale, New York, was selected as the winner

of the Junior Duck Stamp Contest. The Federal Duck Stamp costs \$25, and the Junior Duck Stamp is \$5.

Of course, the Federal Duck Stamp program began during the era of the Depression and Dust Bowl as a way to curb the widespread destruction of wetland habitats that were vital to the survival of America's waterfowl.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (or "Duck Stamp Act"). The Duck Stamp Act requires anyone 16 or older to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp for waterfowl hunting. Of course, you don't have to be a waterfowl hunter to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp! Anyone who values wildlife and the habitats they depend on can help conserve habitat by purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp. This includes members of Refuge Friends groups, birders, wildlife photographers, and others.

Artists and stamp collectors have also taken great interest in the Federal Duck Stamp. In 1949, the first Federal Duck Stamp art contest was held. Today, 70 years later, the tradition of hosting a nationwide contest, open to anyone and sponsored by the U.S. government, continues. A Junior Duck Stamp Program was initiated in 1989 to encourage education and nationwide participation by students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

And in addition to the waterfowl hunting license, conservation benefits, appeal to collectors and artists, the current Federal Duck Stamp also grants you free entrance into any National Wildlife Refuge that charges an entry fee!

The theme of this year's 86th annual Federal Duck Stamp has been "Celebrating our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage." With that in mind, this year's stamp features a Wood Duck with a decoy.

Given the mandatory licensing requirement for waterfowl hunters over the age of 16, waterfowl hunters have surely been the primary group responsible for raising over \$1 billion to conserve wildlife and healthy wetland habitats within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

We at the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp have felt that there was nothing wrong in requiring art rule changes to draw attention to the importance of the stamp; however, when the hunting heritage requirement was suggested last year, [we doubted](#) that this specific proposal, *viewed alone*, would serve to "grow" the stamp, producing greater appreciation and increasing sales. It certainly didn't grow the number of entries, let alone the general quality of the majority of entries. The stamp program really deserves a broader vision, reaching a broader audience.

This year's Junior Stamp features a Harlequin Duck by Nicole Jeon. This \$5 stamp is sold to raise awareness and funds for the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program. This program raises awareness of wildlife and conservation across the U.S. and its territories.

Federal Duck Stamps are available online, in post offices, and in many sporting goods and large-scale retail stores that sell hunting and fishing licenses and equipment. Many refuges sell Federal Duck Stamps, as well. And, yes, Federal Duck Stamps are available from Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp.

REMEMBERING SENATOR THAD COCHRAN

Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi retired from the U.S. Senate at the start of April, 2018. He had started his career as an attorney and was a politician who served as a United States Senator for Mississippi from 1978 to 2018. A Republican, he served in the U.S. House of Representatives previously from 1973 to 1978.

Sen. Cochran retired as the longest-serving Senator on the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) in its history, having served since 1982. The MBCC, of course, is responsible for overseeing land acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System through the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF - where Duck Stamp dollars are deposited). The MBCC is also responsible for overseeing NAWCA project funding.

His role on the MBCC was not an anomaly. As a past Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition, the Senator was a consistent and strong congressional supporter for conservation. In every Farm Bill debate, he was a solid guardian of wetlands. Just one such example was his role in launching the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), which continues in its present name as Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE).

We published a full appreciation of the Senator by Ed Penny, Director of Public Policy for the Southern Regional Office of Ducks Unlimited (DU) and one of our Friends Board Members, in the May 4, 2018, issue of *Wingtips*. We highly recommend that you [review that article](#) on the Senator's impressive Congressional work in wildlife and wetland conservation.

Senator Thad Cochran passed away on Thursday, May 30, at the age of 81.

ORDER A STAMP THROUGH US

As we've indicated above, in the lead article of this *Wingtips*, you can get your new 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.

Support the Friends and Renew your Membership!

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

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