

May 31, 2019



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

NATIONAL JR. DUCK STAMP CONTEST



Harlequin Duck by Nicole Jeon

Last month, the National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest was held at the Patuxent Research Refuge just outside of Washington, D.C. in Maryland.

A panel of five judges reviewed all the entries from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

A talented young artist from Scarsdale, New York, took top honors. It was a male Harlequin Duck painted by Nicole Jeon, 16, and it will grace the 2019-2020 Junior Duck Stamp. The stamp raises funds to go back into the program, educating and

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DID YOU KNOW?

- 1) The first national Jr. Duck Stamp contest began with 8 states participating in 1993: Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, South Dakota, and Vermont.
- 2) The Jr. Duck Stamp program was actually recognized by Congress with the 1994 enactment of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act.
- 3) Bob Hines (1912-1994) created the original rules for a Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest and

engaging our nation's youth in wildlife and wetlands art, conservation, and recreation. Some 3,000 Junior Duck Stamps are sold annually for \$5 each.

Students annually participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Program at school, at home, in after-school groups and at refuges, parks and nature centers. After learning about wetlands, waterfowl and wildlife conservation, they express their learning through a drawing or painting of a duck, goose, or swan.

Jasmine Kang, 16, of River Vale, New Jersey, took second place with an acrylic image depicting a Wood Duck.

Third place went to Paige Collins, 14, of Mountain Top, Pennsylvania, for a pastel rendition of a Long-tailed Duck.

This year, the number of art submissions dipped a bit, a fact that was ascribed to the January/February, 35-day U.S. government shutdown; however, there was also a dramatic increase in submissions from Puerto Rico. In fact, for many students in Puerto Rico, participation and submission in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest served as a *de facto* healthy alternative to the ongoing concern over the impact of Hurricane Maria. (We expect to have a story about this trend in a future *Wingtips*, with thoughts on why so many students in Puerto Rico may have responded so positively to the art contest.)

In addition to the art contest, a Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Message Contest encourages students to express in words the spirit of what they have learned through classroom discussions, research, and planning for their Junior Duck Stamp Contest entries. This year's winner is Haley Chandler, 18, of Vilonia, Arkansas, who wrote: "Environment is our

managed the competition for over three decades.

4) Before the 1958 revisions of the law covering the Federal Duck Stamp (effective 1 July 1960), land acquisition was only one of several programs financed at least in part with stamp dollars. Previously, about 20 percent of these funds were used to acquire refuge lands and approximately 50 percent had been used to develop and maintain migratory bird refuges after acquisition.

5) Still, Stamp funds don't simply go to refuges. Since 1958, the funds also go to acquire smaller wetland and grassland habitats (the Small Wetlands Acquisition Program - SWAP) within the Prairie Pothole Region of the upper Midwest and northern Great Plains. In this way, over 3.6 million acres of wetland and grassland habitat have been added to Refuge System. These units are commonly referred to as Waterfowl Production Areas or WPAs.

6) Backgrounds in the stamps have often been significant. Sometimes sea-loving waterfowl stamp images have included lighthouses in the background: 1963-4 (Bodie Island, NC), 1996-7 (Barnegat, NJ), 2003-4 (Assateague, VA)

7) The official name of the stamp changed from the "Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp" to the "Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp" in 1977 to better reflect the full impact of the program and to encourage non-hunters (e.g., photographers and birders) to buy the stamp.

8) The Stamp is usually released on or about the start of July of each year. One exception, however, was for the 1949-1950 stamp. This stamp was released on the first of September 1949,

foundation, wildlife is our inspiration, conservation is our aspiration."

The Junior Duck Stamp Contest winner receives \$1,000. The second-place winner receives \$500; the third-place winner receives \$200; the Conservation Message winner receives \$200.

"It is exciting to see the creative young artists who participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Program, and this year is no exception," said Assistant Director for Migratory Birds Jerome Ford. "From across the nation, young people artistically express their knowledge of the beauty, diversity and interdependence of wildlife through their art and their conservation messages."

A wonderful gallery of all state Best of Show entries to the contest [can be found here](#).

NEW PROPOSED DUCK STAMP RULES?

We understand that the USFWS is likely to propose a [new set of rules](#) for the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. This set of rules "will make mandatory the theme Celebrating our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage, as described in the 2018 Duck Stamp Art Contest (Contest), for the 2020 Contest and beyond. Edits will be made to the Contest language to eliminate ambiguities from the earlier, one-time rule. The proposal will require, in addition to the central eligible waterfowl species, one or more waterfowl hunting specific elements or a waterfowl hunting scene as part of the design. It will also make permanent the additional requirement that all judges have a background and understanding of waterfowl hunting and the elements that are

due to delays caused by Congress deliberating on raising the stamp price from \$1 to \$2. (Yes, the proposal passed!)

9) In April 1921, Frederic C. Walcott of Connecticut published 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) showing a flying Canada Goose. This is the first recorded effort to establish a federal stamp.

10) The artwork for the first stamp, a pair of landing Mallards and called "Mallards Dropping In," was created by Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling in about an hour, due to a sudden printing deadline.

11) The 1959-60 stamp - the first \$3 dollar stamp - was the first of a series of five stamps designed to conserve waterfowl and promote habitat protection during a serious drought period.

12) The 1996-7 stamp, showing two Surf Scoters and Barnegat Lighthouse, was based on an oil painting by Wilhelm Goebel, and it was the very first stamp to raise more than \$23 million for refuge habitat.

WHAT PERCENTAGE?

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

REFUGE

Tamarac (MN)	99.9%
Sacramento (CA)	99.6%

consistent with the theme, in addition to the other five panel requirements."

If the official proposal appears in July, there should be a public comment period before a final rule.

Stamp supporters will remember that the "hunting heritage" element was proposed for a single year - for last year's art contest. We of the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp did *not* oppose the concept, but we felt that a broader approach to expand appreciation and sales, would be far more meaningful. A "hunting heritage" change, simply proposed *alone*, represented a missed opportunity. There were other potential conservation-oriented lessons to combine with "hunting heritage" to make the contest and the stamp more interesting, educational, and informative. Our ideas from December 2017 [can be found here](#).

Also, just yesterday, Andy McGlashen; Associate Editor of *Audubon* magazine, [wrote on the subject](#), after interviewing, among others, some of our Friends board members.

If the "hunting heritage" proposal officially emerges this summer, we will surely comment again and in some detail. And we will share our thoughts with you in *Wingtips*.

Bosque del Apache (NM)	99.2%
Pea Island (NC)	99.2%
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%

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 annually. One way to help is through the AmazonSmile program described here, on the right. The money we collect through AmazonSmile goes to help support the Jr. Duck Stamp Program.

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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